

CITY OF HIGHLAND HAVEN

RESOLUTION NO. 364

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND HAVEN, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Haven is a General Law Type A municipality operating under the laws of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Texas municipalities and counties have been empowered by the Texas Constitution and the Texas Legislature to promote public health, safety, and general welfare through the adoption of reasonable regulations; and

WHEREAS, the highest priority of the City of Highland Haven Board of Aldermen is to preserve its ability to govern effectively and efficiently in a manner responsive to its unique residents, community members, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen finds legislative involvement to be a legitimate exercise of its elected duties as the governing body serving those who live, work, visit, and own property in the city limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the City of Highland Haven ("Board of Aldermen") finds it to be in the public interest and necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare, that the city take positions on certain issues that may come before the 89th Texas Legislature in 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND HAVEN, TEXAS:

SECTION A. The City of Highland Haven Board of Aldermen Supports:

1. **Local Control:** Legislation that upholds local government authority and reinforces the ability of elected leaders to respond effectively to the needs of their community.
2. **Water Conservation:** Policies promoting sustainable water use, including stormwater harvesting, water sourcing, automatic meter reading software, and regulatory tools to manage water use during droughts. Support for native planting programs, smart water use initiatives, and funding partnerships with Texas A&M University for statewide programs. Advocate for public water systems to receive priority in groundwater district management and permitting, ensuring that

established, built-out communities have access to the water volumes necessary to meet their needs as originally platted.

3. **Infrastructure Funding:** Increased funding and legislative tools to aid in transportation, water, and sewer infrastructure projects, as well as enhanced collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation.
4. **Revenue Tools:** Legislation allowing alternative methods for publishing legal notices, eliminating reauthorization provisions for the street maintenance sales and use tax, and expanding its eligible uses.
5. **Pay-As-You-Go Financing:** Authorizing a dedicated property tax rate for capital expenditures, classified similarly to the debt service tax rate.
6. **Competitive Bidding Thresholds:** Raising the competitive bidding threshold to reflect increased costs faced by cities.
7. **Municipal Rights-of-Way Management:** Preservation of municipal authority over public rights-of-way and ensuring cities are adequately compensated for their use.
8. **Population Bracket Considerations:** Legislation recognizing the unique challenges faced by small cities with historically low tax rates, ensuring that mandates or restrictions designed for larger cities do not create unsustainable burdens on smaller municipalities like Highland Haven.

SECTION B. The City of Highland Haven Board of Aldermen Opposes:

1. **Erosion of Municipal Authority:** Any legislation that undermines local government authority, imposes unfunded mandates, or otherwise negatively impacts cities, especially legislation that:
 - Preempts municipal authority.
 - Imposes revenue or tax caps.
 - Erodes the ability of cities to issue debt.
 - Limits municipal control over development, including:
 - Annexation.
 - Eminent domain.
 - Zoning, including accessory dwelling units.

- Regulatory takings.
 - Building codes.
 - Tree preservation.
 - Short-term rentals.
 - Extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).
 - Manufactured housing.
 - Parkland dedication ordinances.
 - Impact fees.
 - Restricts municipal authority over rights-of-way management or compensation.
 - Limits cities' ability to communicate with legislators, either directly or through organizations like the Texas Municipal League.
2. **Preemption of Local Regulation:** Legislation that reduces local authority over density, zoning, permitting, inspections, or stormwater controls.
 3. **Election Requirements:** Mandating partisan elections for municipal offices.
 4. **Revenue Restrictions:** Expanding appraisal or revenue caps without thorough impact studies or alternative funding options.

SECTION C. Administration

1. **Communication with Legislators and State Leadership:** Direct City staff to provide copies of this Resolution to the State Senator for District 24, the State Representative for District 19, relevant legislative committee chairs, the Governor's Office, and the Texas Municipal League.
2. **Advocacy:** Authorize City officials to advocate for the positions expressed herein in compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

The meeting at which this Resolution was passed was open to the public, and public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this __4th_ of __February____, 2025, by a vote of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Highland Haven, Texas.

SIGNED:

Olan Kelley

Mayor, City of Highland Haven

ATTEST:

Lezley Baum

City Secretary