

CITY OF HIGHLAND HAVEN

RESOLUTION NO. 366 – EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 19

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND HAVEN, TEXAS, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 19 AND REAFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL CONTROL AND COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE.

WHEREAS,

- The City of Highland Haven is a General Law Type A municipality, duly established under the laws of the State of Texas, and governed by locally elected officials who best understand the unique needs of the community; and
- The fundamental principle of governance is that the best government is closest to the people it serves, ensuring that decisions are made with direct accountability to residents; and
- Senate Bill 19 seeks to impose state-mandated restrictions that override local authority and limit the ability of the City of Highland Haven to govern effectively in the best interests of its residents; and
- The residents of Highland Haven have entrusted their local elected officials to enact policies that reflect community priorities, and any attempt to undermine this local authority contradicts the principles of representative democracy; and
- Local control is essential for addressing municipal concerns, including community advocacy, ensuring that small cities have access to legal, legislative, and operational resources that they otherwise could not afford. The services provided by organizations such as the Texas Municipal League (TML) are critical for small cities to navigate complex state laws, legislative changes, and municipal governance. State lawmakers characterize this as ‘taxpayer-funded lobbying,’ yet they themselves use taxpayer dollars for advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C., revealing a clear double standard. The elimination of municipal advocacy groups serves only to insulate state legislators from local voices and reduces transparency in the legislative process;
- Without these resources provided by the Texas Municipal League (TML), Highland Haven would be forced to shoulder costs 20 to 30 times higher to obtain the same level of expertise, creating an unfunded state mandate that places an undue financial burden on the City’s small budget and limits our ability to effectively govern and serve our residents; and
- The ability of municipal governments to manage their own affairs should not be preempted by the state without compelling justification and direct engagement with affected communities;
- Despite outreach efforts from the City of Highland Haven, we have not received direct engagement from the state elected officials representing our area regarding this bill, further demonstrating the disconnect between statewide policymaking and local governance; and

- This resolution is aimed at Senate Bill 19; however, it also reflects our strong opposition to other bills that undermine a city's ability to advocate for itself. Our locally elected representatives firmly oppose these measures, including H.B. 309 (Leo Wilson), H.B. 571 (Cain), H.B. 671 (Shaheen), H.B. 755 (Spiller), H.B. 1189 (Troxclair), H.B. 1294 (Patterson), H.B. 3257 (Olcott), H.B. 3615 (Schatzline), S.B. 239 (Middleton), S.B. 345 (Eckhardt), S.B. 1420 (Nichols), and S.B. 1695 (Hall).

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

1. **Opposition to Senate Bill 19:** The City of Highland Haven strongly opposes Senate Bill 19 and any like-minded bills as an infringement upon the principles of local control and self-governance.
2. **Affirmation of Local Authority:** The Board of Aldermen reaffirms that local officials are best positioned to make policy decisions that reflect the needs and desires of the community.
3. **Call to Action:** The City urges members of the Texas Legislature to reject legislation that weakens municipal authority and instead support policies that empower local communities.
4. **Distribution of Resolution:** A copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the State Senator for District 24, the State Representative for District 19, the Governor of Texas, any relevant State Committee Chairs, and the Texas Municipal League to express the City's position.

PASSED AND APPROVED this [Date], by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Highland Haven, Texas.

SIGNED:

Olan Kelley

Mayor, City of Highland Haven

ATTEST:

Sarah Collard

City Secretary