



# BAYTOWN LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## 86<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### LOCAL CONTROL

- ✓ Oppose legislation that would erode municipal authority in any way.
- ✓ Oppose legislation that would impose a revenue cap of any type or negatively expand appraisal caps.
- ✓ Oppose legislation that would expand requirements for issuance of any city debt or that would erode the ability of a city to issue debt in any way.
- ✓ Oppose legislation that erodes municipal authority in the areas of municipal annexation, municipal zoning, eminent domain, building codes, health and safety, or extraterritorial jurisdictions (ETJs).

### REVERSE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AID

- ✓ Oppose legislation that would require municipalities to fund former State and Federal programs without providing a means to recapture the associated costs.
- ✓ Oppose legislation that would impose additional state fees or costs on municipal court convictions or require municipal courts to collect fine revenue for the state.

### MUNICIPAL ANNEXATION

- ✓ Support legislation that clarifies the impacts of S.B. 6 from the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session related to municipal annexation and ensure that any legislation impacting a city's ability to annex provides an exemption for industrial district areas.

### ELECTRIC AND GAS RATEMAKING

- ✓ Oppose legislation that would eliminate cities' jurisdiction over electric and gas utility rates and/or eliminate the reimbursement of cities' rate case expenses.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Support legislation that extends the sunset date for Chapter 312 tax abatement authority.
- ✓ Oppose legislation that would erode a city's incentive options to enhance its economic development efforts to promote retention and expansion of existing retailers, restaurants, developers, commercial businesses and primary employers and to attract new business.

### PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

- ✓ Support legislation that would authorize a council-option property tax exemption of a portion of the appraised value of property damaged by a disaster.
- ✓ Support legislation that would increase the maximum local residence homestead exemption from 20 percent of a property's appraised value to 30 percent.



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### TRANSPORTATION

- ✓ Support legislation that would eliminate reauthorization provisions for the collection and use of the street maintenance sales and use tax.
- ✓ Support legislation that distributes Federal transportation funding in a way that provides local governments with long term funding, sends the funding directly to localities, gives local leaders a stronger role in the decision making process and streamlines the entire process.
- ✓ Support legislation that provides additional funding to the Texas Department of Transportation for transportation projects that would benefit cities.

### ELECTIONS

- ✓ Support legislation that clarifies language related to the reauthorization of local sales taxes for special districts (Street Maintenance Sales Tax, Crime Control & Prevention District, and Fire Control, Prevention, & Emergency Medical Services District) to more clearly define when a reauthorization election is to be held.
- ✓ Support legislation that reduces the number of early voting days required for runoff elections to five days.

### PEG FUNDS

- ✓ Support legislation that would expand the use of public, educational, and government (PEG) fees to include operational and related costs associated with PEG channels.

### OIL AND GAS REGULATIONS

- ✓ Oppose legislation that would diminish municipal authority to reduce the effects of oil and gas development on city residents.

### CITY SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

- ✓ Oppose legislation that would erode a city's sovereign immunity.

### RIGHTS-OF-WAY

- ✓ Oppose legislation that would decrease a city's authority to be adequately compensated for the use of its rights-of-way.
- ✓ Oppose legislation that would erode municipal authority over the management and control of rights-of-way.

### QUALITY OF LIFE

- ✓ Support legislation that expands a city's ability to regulate low-income housing, halfway houses, and the abatement of substandard structures.