

STATE OF TEXAS

§

COUNTY OF TOM GREEN

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Resolution in Opposition to Unfunded and Underfunded Mandates

WHEREAS, Texas counties are responsible for the operation and management of many various governmental programs as required or authorized by state law; and

WHEREAS, some county government programs are fully or partially supported with funds disbursed by the State of Texas pursuant to the state appropriations process; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas, acting through the Texas legislature or through a state agency or executive order, may enact laws or promulgate rules that have the effect of imposing mandatory financial obligations upon Texas counties; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas, acting through the Texas legislature or through a state agency or executive order, mandates that counties implement certain governmental programs or perform certain duties and obligations including financial commitment by a county to expend county funds in connection therewith; and

WHEREAS, during each regular session of the Texas legislature, all state funds that support county programs are reviewed through the state appropriation process and by other budgetary review systems; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned review process may result in a reduction, or cessation, of state financial support of county government programs causing an unforeseeable disruption and reduction of the county budget and operations; and

WHEREAS, Texas counties cannot achieve reliable financial planning and the necessary bond ratings sufficient to support county-related obligations when the state mandates a new program that is not fully funded or under conditions where the state reduces or fully withdraws prior funding and disbursement for county government programs; and

WHEREAS, substantial funding is mandated from county taxpayers and diverted every year from local services for the benefit of the citizens of Tom Green County to support these mandatory financial obligations imposed by the State of Texas, including in the most recent year:

\$2,251,407 to support the appointment of defense attorneys in criminal cases and defense witness expenses ordered by the Courts;

\$700,000 to support the appointment of attorneys in Child Protective Services (CPS) cases;

\$1,789,865 to fund and provide mandated indigent health care services to qualified residents of the County;

\$999,500 to fund and provide indigent health care services to inmates held in the County jail, including prescription drugs and mental health evaluations;

\$13,018,377 to fund the State judicial system;

\$592,454 to fund the operations of the Central/County Appraisal District which operates at the direction of the State of Texas to appraise all real property and certain personal property for purposes of assessing property taxes;

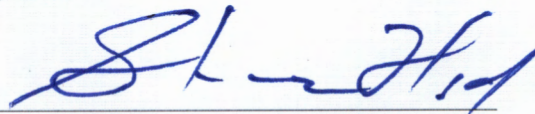
\$2,619,667 to support the services of Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department (Adult Probation) and the Juvenile Probation Department;

These and other state mandatory services require \$26,966,620 from Tom Green County property taxpayers and amount to 86% of the county maintenance & operations tax rate,

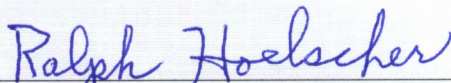
WHEREAS, Tom Green County fully supports Governor Abbott's initiative, in his inaugural address on January 15, 2019, to end unfunded mandates in the State of Texas, thereby providing true and meaningful property tax relief,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tom Green County Commissioners Court does hereby resolve that for the foregoing reasons, it is in the best interest of Texas counties and their taxpayers to support and favor passage of legislation in the form of an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas that would expressly prohibit the imposition of a mandatory governmental program on Texas counties, whether by an act of the Texas Legislature or a state agency or by executive order, unless the State of Texas has fully funded and disbursed all necessary funds to enable Texas counties to operate that governmental program.

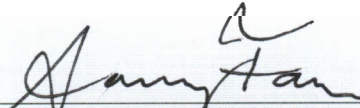
APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Tom Green County Commissioners Court on this the ____ day of 1-22, 2019.



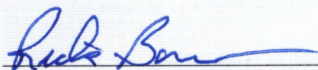
Judge Stephen C. Floyd



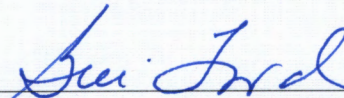
Commissioner Ralph Hoelscher, Precinct 1



Commissioner Sammy Farmer, Precinct 2



Commissioner Rick Bacon, Precinct 3



Commissioner Bill Ford, Precinct 4

