
2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



City of Georgetown

89th Legislative Session



Program Overview

The City of Georgetown's Intergovernmental Affairs Program advocates, coordinates, and advances the City's legislative agenda to enhance the City's ability to govern and provide essential municipal and community services and to ensure the City's interests are communicated proactively and enhanced through active participation in the legislative process through strong intergovernmental relationships. The City of Georgetown's 2025 State Legislative Program is formed collaboratively by community leaders to advocate for the best interests of the citizens of Georgetown to continue the long standing state tradition of local control and a responsive government, which helps the city to plan for growth and maintain a high quality of life for our citizens.

The 2025 Legislative Agenda was developed by the Legislative Task Force, a group of active leaders in the community, with many members serving in positions of leadership on other City Boards and Commissions and who represent a wide range of interests. The Legislative Task Force members apply to serve on this board and are chosen by the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) subcommittee, a standing subcommittee of the City Council, and then voted on by the entire City Council. The IGR subcommittee is comprised of Mayor Josh Schroeder, Councilmember Kevin Pitts, District 5, and Councilmember Jake French, District 6. The Task Force met in June and July 2024 to hear presentations from city departments and to develop a draft agenda for the Subcommittee's consideration, with final input from the full City Council.



2024/2025 Legislative Task Force

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Executive Summary

Legislative Task Force members focused on key themes to communicate to members of the Legislature in advance of the 89th Legislative Session, and the central message was for the Legislature to continue the long-standing tradition of ceding authority to local government and respecting local control for elected officials to make decisions at the level closest to their citizens. This proximity to citizens ensures that decisions are made with maximum citizen input and allows the city to plan thoughtfully for future growth and development in a way that ensures property rights are protected and all voices are heard. Planning for growth ensures that the historic charm and character of Georgetown are continued for the future and that a high quality of life is attainable for all our citizens. These priorities are reflected in the legislative agenda. We look forward to working with all our partners, from elected officials, to business owners, to residents, to find ways to achieve these goals and serve our shared constituents so that Georgetown continues to be a thriving community now and in the future.

Preserving Local Control

The City of Georgetown (City) supports legislation that does not hinder our ability to respond to the needs and demands of the citizens who elect us, and ensures the City's ability to abide by the principle of self-government including our ability to budget effectively and ensure appropriate city services for our residents. The City opposes any legislation that would be detrimental to this authority, such as bills with unfunded mandates. Additionally, the city opposes bills impacting property taxes or appraisal caps that further limit city government's ability to provide essential services like police or fire, bills further eroding the city's ability to debt finance large projects, and bills prohibiting advocacy efforts paid for by the city.

Planning for Growth

The City supports legislation that allows our staff, in conjunction with citizens, to plan for future land use with fiscally responsible methods to ensure future growth is responsibly and thoughtfully managed and meets the needs of our citizens now and in the future. Legislation that is detrimental to our ability to plan for growth includes further changes to the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction and the enhanced ability of individuals to disannex from the city ETJ; and removing city authority to plan and zone in city limits and city ETJ, leading to a lack of thoughtful, effective long-term planning in water, wastewater, and city services that will ultimately be more expensive and less efficient for all citizens.

Preserving a High Quality of Life

The City supports legislation that supports a strong, healthy, vibrant, and economically resilient community where people of all ages and interests can live, work, and play safely. Legislation that would be detrimental to the City's high quality of life would include any attempts to divert HOT tax revenue and economic development incentives, or budget cuts to the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The City would also oppose legislation that makes changes to the local authority the City has to require parkland dedication by developers to ensure green spaces in neighborhoods.



Preserving Local Control

The City of Georgetown (City) supports legislation that does not hinder our ability to respond to the needs and demands of the citizens who elect us, and ensures the City's ability to abide by the principle of self-government, including our ability to budget effectively and ensure appropriate city services for our residents.

- The City supports legislation that ensures the rights of locally elected municipal officials to enact ordinances that address the policy needs and priorities of city residents and businesses at the level closest to the citizenry with maximum citizen input and timely response.
- The City supports the continuance of the City's ability to advocate on behalf of the community through trade associations and consultants.
- The City supports legislation allowing for the local sourcing of sales and use taxes for internet orders.
- The City supports legislation that upholds the tradition of municipal elections being nonpartisan contests, and that the uniform election dates for municipal elections shall remain in place.

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Planning for Growth

The City supports legislation that allows our staff, in conjunction with citizens, to plan for future land use with fiscally responsible methods to ensure future growth is responsibly and thoughtfully managed and meets the needs of our citizens now and in the future. As the Legislature embarks upon the 89th Legislative Session, the City of Georgetown asks our legislators to consider these specific issues and the most pressing concerns to our residents and customers.

Electric

- The City supports legislation that ensures the City can continue to own and operate the City of Georgetown Utility Systems and does not affect the City's authority over the use of enterprise funds.
- The City supports the Legislature's continued efforts to ensure that the state's electric grid demand is met with reliability and that costs to do so are fairly distributed between all ratepayers in Texas.

Finance

- The City supports flexibility for local elected officials to offer targeted tax relief.
- The City supports transparency related to property taxes and financial information.
- The City opposes revenue, tax, or appraisal caps of any type which limit the City's ability to deliver public safety, enhanced infrastructure and other critical services.
- The City supports maintaining the current tax structure to ensure the City's ability to raise sufficient funds to pay for critical municipal public services.
- The City supports current provisions for debt financing to issue debt to pay for infrastructure and equipment and broadening the use of the Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax rate for capital leases.

Fire

- The City supports legislation that clarifies that firefighters should be included for mental health leave and supports other measures that enhance the safety and well-being of municipal first responders.

Planning

- The City supports maintaining local authority regulating lot sizes to ensure effective future planning and delivery of essential services.
 - If legislation on lot sizes is proposed or adopted, the bill should address the consequences to infrastructure and planning, such as the cost of water and wastewater, stormwater management and the functional issues this would create related to parking and transportation needs, as well as potential environmental concerns.



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- The City supports the continued use of infrastructure and financial planning tools to assist with the effective management of growth, including zoning and ETJ authority.
 - The City supports consistency of regulation in the city and ETJ to ensure that both developers and homeowners alike will know what their home and neighborhoods will look like as they're built out and that future annexations into the city are completed in a fiscally responsible manner for current and future residents.
 - The City supports development that preserves the character of our community, with thoughtful and diligent long range community planning providing for numerous opportunities for public comment and input.

Police

- The city supports legislation that identifies other individuals, in addition to commissioned police officers, to sign emergency detention orders.
- The City supports additional financial resources from the state for local governments to create multi-disciplinary mental health teams to alleviate strain on local government taxpayers to serve individuals in need.
- The City supports state resources to attack the root issues of homelessness (poverty, drug addiction, mental health) at the local level.

Transportation

- The City supports continued and increased State funding from TxDOT for construction, operations, and safety improvements.
- The City supports cost sharing tools like traffic impact fees for new developments and supports the continued availability of this tool by cities to fairly allocate the cost for roadways.

Water

- The City supports legislation and state funding that incentivizes water conservation and conjunctive water use, including a state wide public awareness campaign to emphasize the importance of water conservation in the same way that the state emphasizes energy conservation.
- The City supports additional state funding opportunities to help utilities meet municipal water supply needs, including funding incentives to promote regionalized planning of wastewater treatment plants and state funding of large infrastructure projects to help with the movement and development of water sources.
- The City supports the continuation of the state and regional water plans and preserving authority to continue the Georgetown Water Utility's current operational system within the current territory for the benefit of residential and business customers.

Legislation that is detrimental to our ability to plan for growth includes further changes to the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction and the enhanced ability of individuals to disannex from the city ETJ; and removing city authority to plan and zone in city limits and city ETJ, leading to a lack of thoughtful, effective long-term planning in water, wastewater, and city services that will ultimately be more expensive and less efficient for all citizens.



Preserving a High Quality of Life

The City supports legislation that supports a strong, healthy, vibrant, and economically resilient community where people of all ages and interests can live, work, and play safely.

Arts, Economic Development, Library, and Parks:

- The City supports preserving the use of Municipal Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) to fund the arts and maintain municipal autonomy in the allocation of HOT revenue.
- The City supports legislation maintaining incentives that supplement local economic development strategies to fund employee recruitment and retention, including the continuation of Type A and Type B sales tax that can be used to pursue and retain primary employer jobs.
- The City supports continued funding for the Texas Commission on the Arts for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, including the TexShare Database partnership.
- The City supports legislation that enhances the investment in parks and open spaces and conserves open spaces that connect communities safely to the mental, social, and physical benefits of outdoor and recreational opportunities, and ensures that state sporting goods sales tax dollars dedicated for parks are not diverted for any other causes.

Legislation that would be detrimental to the City's high quality of life would include any attempts to divert HOT tax revenue and economic development incentives, or budget cuts to the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The City would also oppose legislation that makes changes to the local authority the City has to require parkland dedication by developers to ensure green spaces in neighborhoods.



Bill Draft Requests

- Request legislation refiling Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) bill that was vetoed by the governor at the end of last session. (S.B. 2379: Relating to aquifer storage and recovery projects that transect a portion of the Edwards Aquifer.)
- Request legislation clarifying that municipal drought declarations supersede a Homeowners Association (HOA) authority to fine homeowners during declared periods of drought, to ensure that residents aren't being fined by their HOA for the appearance of their lawn to the detriment of water conservation efforts.
- Request legislation for a Qualified Hotel Project for Georgetown by a member of the delegation and for its inclusion into the omnibus Qualified Hotel bill.
- Request legislation that requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) guidance on regionalization of wastewater plants to be codified in statute and make best use of taxpayer dollars while also ensuring the security and reliability of package plants.

