

Resolution in Support of Curtailing Local Government Spending

WHEREAS, Texas taxpayers cannot hope to achieve sustained property tax relief and the elimination of property taxes altogether without also addressing the runaway local government spending that necessitates such egregious taxation; and

WHEREAS, many local government jurisdictions continue to increase spending at alarming rates using a combination of faulty budget practices and indebtedness, ensuring less prosperity for future generations of Texans; and

WHEREAS, the property tax is immoral and regressive, while ultimately impacting low and fixed-income Texans the most due to the cost of property taxes compounding over time; and

WHEREAS, just in the last decade, the total property tax burden on Texans across jurisdictions has nearly doubled. Moreover, in the years between 1998 and 2023, the property tax burden exponentially increased, rising 338%, far outpacing the rate of population growth plus inflation of 136% during the same period. This growth happened despite Republican majorities in the state legislature during most of that time; and

WHEREAS, The *Tax Foundation* reported in 2023 that Texas had the 6th most burdensome property tax in the United States, while other states that also lack a personal income tax, such as Florida and Tennessee, ranked 26th and 37th, respectively; and

WHEREAS, in recent polling, 82% of Texans indicated that property taxes are a serious issue, and 3 out of 4 Republican primary voters in the 2022 Republican primary voted that they wanted to eliminate property taxes altogether; and

WHEREAS, in the most recent Texas Legislative Sessions, the Texas Legislature only passed \$12.7 Billion in new property tax relief, less than half of the State's surplus, which resulted in only slowing the growth of the property tax burden, with overall property taxes still increasing across Texas; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, _____ supports imposing a spending cap on all local government jurisdictions that are bound by the metric of population and inflation, much like the state government is supposed to abide, as government should not grow beyond the population it is intended to serve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, _____ supports lowering the voter-approval tax rate in relation to property tax to that of the No-New-Revenue tax rate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, _____ supports freezing the school district Maintenance & Operations (M&O) tax rate until compressed to zero.

Approved this __ day of March, 2024 at the Precinct # __ Convention located in
Texas Senate District # __