

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CURTAILING LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING

WHEREAS, Texas taxpayers cannot achieve sustained property tax relief or the ultimate elimination of property taxes without directly addressing the runaway local government spending by cities, counties, and special districts that drives ever-higher taxation and burdens future generations; and

WHEREAS, local governments continue to increase spending at unsustainable rates through irresponsible budgeting practices, indebtedness, and unchecked growth, ensuring diminished prosperity and forcing Texans to pay more in property taxes every year; and

WHEREAS, the property tax is immoral and regressive, disproportionately impacting low-income, fixed-income, and younger Texans the most as costs compound over time; and

WHEREAS, local property taxes have increased at record rates every year over the last decade, with overall property taxes rising by nearly 78% since 2014—county property taxes increasing nearly 93%, city property taxes over 101%, special district property taxes more than 112%, and school property taxes by 58%—resulting in a staggering \$38 billion increase in Texans' property tax burden in the last decade; and

WHEREAS, even after accounting for inflation, the property tax burden has increased by 32%, or more than \$21 billion, during this period, far outpacing sustainable growth and undermining any efforts at meaningful relief; and

WHEREAS, local governments in Texas have accumulated over \$550 billion in local debt, making its taxpayers the third most indebted of any state in the nation, trailing only liberal bastions California and New York and exceeding those of Illinois. These obligations further entrench fiscal irresponsibility and necessitate higher taxes to service this debt; and

WHEREAS, between 2013 and 2022, city spending rose 72%, county spending 74%, and special district spending 84%, compared to combined population growth plus inflation of just 49%, meaning local governments grew on average 57% faster than the average taxpayer's ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, local government spending is the biggest obstacle to property tax relief, as the more local entities spend, the more they must tax, directly offsetting state-level relief efforts and perpetuating a cycle of higher burdens on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no standardized spending limits for cities, counties, and other local taxing entities, allowing unchecked growth that always necessitates more taxes; and

WHEREAS, Republican primary ballot propositions since 2019 have demonstrated overwhelming grassroots support for eliminating or phasing out property taxes, including nearly 76% approval in 2022 and nearly 78% approval in 2024 for eliminating all property taxes, reflecting consistent strong majorities among Republican primary voters; and

WHEREAS, Plank 62 of the 2024 Republican Party of Texas Platform explicitly supports imposing a spending cap on all local government jurisdictions bound by the metric of population plus inflation, aligning with the need to reduce government spending at all levels; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Republican Party of Texas strongly supports and calls for comprehensive measures to curtail local government spending and debt, including binding spending limits on all local taxing entities to the lesser of population growth plus inflation or 3.5%, requiring two-thirds voter approval for any property tax increase or new bond debt obligations, empowering voters to petition for rollback elections to lower existing property tax rates, cutting waste, fraud, abuse, and inappropriate expenditures, and prohibiting loopholes or carve-outs that allow continued unsustainable growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Republican Party of Texas call upon all Republican legislators to prioritize and advance legislation achieving these reforms, decline influence from taxpayer-funded lobbyists and special interests and their PACs that benefit from high local spending, and work to hold accountable any who obstruct or dilute this grassroots priority.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the _____ County/Senate District # _____ Convention Resolutions Committee from Precinct # _____ with the recommendation that it be passed and sent to the State Convention Platform Committee of the Republican Party of Texas.