

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CURTAILING EXCESSIVE STATE SPENDING

WHEREAS, an objective measure of the size, scope, growth, and power of government is how much taxpayer money it spends, and Texas state government spending has surged in recent decades, growing far beyond what is sustainable and diverting resources that could provide meaningful taxpayer relief; and

WHEREAS, the Texas state budget has nearly tripled since 2003, rising from \$118 billion in all funds to approximately \$338.5 billion in all funds and \$236.5 billion in state funds for the 2026-2027 biennium, representing a nearly 200% increase, while cumulative inflation has been about 75% and population growth has been around 44% over the same period; and

WHEREAS, state spending has increased at an unsustainable rate, especially in recent years, more rapidly than inflation and population growth combined, with initial appropriations of state funds rising more than 42% from 2021 to 2025 and initial appropriations of all funds increasing nearly 28% during the same period; and

WHEREAS, despite record surpluses—including over \$32 billion in 2023 (of which only about \$12.7 billion was used for new property tax relief) and \$24 billion in 2025 (of which only \$6-7 billion was directed to property tax relief)—the Legislature has repeatedly prioritized expanded state spending on agencies, bureaucracy, and other programs, consuming record budget surpluses that could and should have been returned to taxpayers through substantial and more permanent property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, the more the state spends, the less revenue is available for property tax relief, directly undermining legislative efforts to reduce local property tax burdens and allowing unchecked growth in state government to offset potential savings for hardworking Texans; and

WHEREAS, limiting budgetary growth does not truly limit the size of government but only slows the expansion of an already bloated budget, while truly limiting government requires active spending cuts, halting further growth, and returning to core constitutional functions; and

WHEREAS, the current budgeting process starts from the previous biennium's budget, assuming all prior spending by state agencies was necessary and efficient, largely excluding the voices of taxpayers who fund it and perpetuating waste, fraud, abuse, and expenditures outside the proper role of government; and

WHEREAS, Plank 62 of the 2024 Republican Party of Texas Platform explicitly states that "Government spending is out of control at the federal, state, and local levels, and action is needed to reduce spending," and calls "on the Texas Legislature to freeze state spending;" and

WHEREAS, excessive state spending fuels bigger government, increased bureaucracy, and corporate welfare schemes, while failing to deliver the full property tax relief Texans demand, contradicting calls for fiscal responsibility, limited government, and protecting taxpayers from overreach;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Republican Party of Texas strongly supports and calls for immediate and aggressive action to curtail excessive state spending, including freezing state spending, identifying and cutting all waste, fraud, abuse, inappropriate expenditures, and spending that falls outside the proper constitutional role of government, enacting stricter spending limitations on all revenues and expenditures by the state, and dedicating 90% or more of any state budget surplus to property tax relief (beginning with buying down school maintenance and operations taxes) until such taxes are phased out and eliminated; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Republican Party of Texas call upon all Republican legislators to prioritize and advance legislation achieving these reforms without loopholes, carve-outs, or dilutions, decline influence from special interests benefiting from big government spending and their PACs, reject irresponsible spending increases, allow the free market and personal responsibility to drive economic growth, 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.