



**2024 51A -
Resolution in
Support of Local
Governments 004**

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature places a long list of responsibilities on counties to provide vital functions of government and mandates the expenditure of .65 for every \$1 of property taxes collected; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County must enforce the laws through its Sheriff's Office, build and operate the jails and support the state's criminal and civil court system; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County must protect the integrity of, and provide public access to, property ownership and transaction records and other vital public documents, including the provisions of expedited death certificates as provided by 87th (R) HB 1011; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County must conduct state, federal and local elections, register vehicles, assess and collect taxes, and provide legal counsel and pay medical bills for the indigent; and

WHEREAS, in Fort Bend County, road construction is a large and growing expense because state and federal transportation programs have not kept pace with our rapid population growth in providing adequate highway construction and maintenance funding, and counties do not have the ability to choose the best overall bid in the contracting process; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature mandates that Fort Bend County provide many services but provides little or no state funding on a number of these items, including funding for the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, psychiatric emergency center and/or psychiatric inpatient unit(s) and tuberculosis funding; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County collects about 17% of the total property tax revenue collected in the county each year, and Fort Bend taxpayers have seen reductions in the county's property tax rate for over 20 years, from 65.7 cents per hundred in 1994 to 46.0 cents per hundred in 2020; and

WHEREAS, revenue caps, state-mandated property tax increases, and other similar measure would provide little, if any, relief to Texans and would seriously diminish local control by limiting the county's ability to provide non-mandated services like roads, drainage and flood control, libraries, EMS response, parks and other essential services; and

WHEREAS, such measures would shift critical project funding decisions to the Texas Legislature in Austin, thereby placing significant control of local spending in the hands of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the importance of local response to emergencies, such as hurricanes, has highlighted the need for local flexibility; and

WHEREAS, Texas has the highest rate of uninsured and underinsured in the United States, and 23% of the residents in Fort Bend County are uninsured, and expanding Medicaid coverage ensures the economic stability and future of Texas families; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

This ___ day of November 2024, the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court, meeting as a body in _____, Texas:

1. Supports efforts in favor of allowing locally elected officials to make decisions that are beneficial to the interest of county residents; and
2. Opposes any further attempts to impose revenue or appraisal caps upon Texas counties and expresses deep appreciation to all legislators who oppose these unsound measures; and
3. Opposes unfunded mandates or other legislation that preempts or erodes the authority of county government or is detrimental to the county's ability to pursue citizen priorities or respond to local citizen concerns; and
4. Supports the Legislature in moving decisively to lower the amount of uninsured and underinsured by expanding Medicaid coverage and, to alleviate the burden on the county's budget and taxpayers, provide funding or additional funding for the Texas Indigent Defense Commission; for the creation and support of psychiatric/mental health care for indigent populations; and grant additional funding for the Health and Human Services Tuberculosis Division.

SIGNED, THIS ___TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.

County Judge KP George

Commissioner Vincent Morales, Precinct 1

Commissioner Grady Prestage, Precinct 2

Commissioner Andy Meyers, Precinct 3

Commissioner Dexter McCoy, Precinct 4

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk



2024 OPEB Resolution

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PENSION OBLIGATION BONDS

WHEREAS Fort Bend County has an unfunded liability for Other Post-Employment Benefits (“OPEB”) totaling \$330.4m as of September 30, 2023, and revenue caps cause significant constraints on the County’s ability to fund this liability from the maintenance and operating tax rate, and the ability for the County to issue pension or OPEB obligation bonds would allow the County to fulfill its fiscal responsibility for funding this liability within the interest and sinking tax rate;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

This _____ day of November 2024, the Fort Bend Commissioners Court, meeting as a body in _____, Texas:

1. Supports legislation to authorize counties to issue pension or OPEB bonds as currently authorized for municipalities by Chapter 107 of the Local Government Code with a stipulation that the debt service shall not be funded by ad valorem taxes.

SIGNED, THIS _____ TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.

County Judge KP George

Commissioner Vincent Morales, Precinct 1

Commissioner Grady Prestage, Precinct 2

Commissioner Andy Meyers, Precinct 3

Commissioner Dexter McCoy, Precinct 4

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk

DRAFT



2024 Public Libraries

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
ENACTING LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS AND
WEAPONS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

WHEREAS, public libraries are gathering places for children and all community members and are spaces dedicated to peace and learning, where individuals of all backgrounds and perspectives come to seek knowledge and share ideas without fear; and

WHEREAS, public libraries should remain safe havens for education, reflection, and community engagement, free from the intimidation or risk posed by firearms and weapons; and

WHEREAS, allowing weapons on library premises could create a threatening environment, deterring patrons—especially families and children – from using library resources, and the presence of weapons could also escalate conflicts, putting both staff and visitors at unnecessary risk; and

WHEREAS, prohibiting firearms and weapons helps maintain an atmosphere where everyone feels secure and respected;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County supports legislation to prohibit the carrying of firearms or weapons in public libraries.

Adopted by the Fort Bend County Commissioner’s Court this ____ day of _____, _____.

By: _____
KP George
County Judge

By: _____
Vincent Morales
Commissioner Pct. 1

By: _____
James “Grady” Prestage
Commissioner Pct. 2

By: _____
W. A. “Andy” Meyers
Commissioner Pct. 3

By: _____
Dexter L. McCoy
Commissioner Pct. 4

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk

DRAFT



2024 Tx Advanced Research Institute

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
ENACTING LEGISLATION TO CREATE A
TEXAS ADVANCED RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

WHEREAS, none of the 17 national laboratories funded by the federal government are located in the State of Texas, resulting in extensive missed research opportunities for the State to participate in advancements in technology, energy, and medicine/biotech innovations for the future; and

WHEREAS, State legislation to create a Texas Advanced Research Institute (the “Institute”) could alleviate the effects of such missed opportunities by facilitating the coordination of advanced research efforts by stakeholders and position this State as a leader in all areas of research, particularly in energy, medicine and biotech; and

WHEREAS, after being initially funded by the State’s general revenue, the Institute’s operations would be funded by the State’s share of royalties, license fees and profits generated by its inventions and discoveries; and

WHEREAS, in addition to having a workforce development function to collaborate with the private sector, universities, and other stakeholders to develop skills for the jobs of the future, the Institute could benefit the State by attracting a significant portion of global and national research and development funding and a wide financial range of investors to participate in these efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, finds that this resolution serves a public purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County supports legislation to create a Texas Advanced Research Institute to promote efforts for research opportunities to participate in advancements in technology, energy, and medicine/biotech innovations for the future.

Adopted by the Fort Bend County Commissioner’s Court this ___ day of _____, _____.

By: _____

KP George
County Judge

By: _____

Vincent Morales
Commissioner Pct. 1

By: _____

James “Grady” Prestage
Commissioner Pct. 2

By: _____

W. A. “Andy” Meyers

By: _____

Dexter L. McCoy

Commissioner Pct. 3

Commissioner Pct. 4

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk

DRAFT



IDOC Resolution

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENACTING LEGISLATION TO CREATE
COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS**

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County is among the fastest growing counties in the State of Texas, with its population increasing from 590,000 in 2010 to over 900,000 residents in 2023, and growth projections show that the County will likely exceed 1 million residents before 2030; and,

WHEREAS, the County is one of the most diverse in the U.S., attracting people of various cultures, religions and socioeconomic backgrounds due to the highly desirable residential developments and modern master-planned communities, as well as excellent school districts in its communities; and,

WHEREAS, the County is a leader in the development of master planned communities, a vast majority of working residents commute to job centers in Harris County and others parts of the Houston Region, underpinning its current status as a net exporter of workers and as a “bedroom community;” and,

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County’s competitiveness is dependent on attracting more quality commercial and industrial investments and high paying jobs that will help lessen the property tax burden on residential taxpayers; and,

WHEREAS, the County’s status as a bedroom community poses unique challenges, including limited resources to transform undeveloped land into competitive, shovel-ready sites; and,

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, approved the establishment of the Industrial Development Opportunities Committee to identify pathways to attract significant investments for industrial, manufacturing, distribution and advanced research operations in the County; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee drafted legislation for the 2025 Texas Legislative Session that will enable Fort Bend County to establish Industrial Districts with financing mechanisms to fund essential infrastructure to transform undeveloped land into shovel-ready sites, including roads, power, drainage, water, sewer, and broadband; and,

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, finds that this resolution serves a public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County supports legislation that creates County Industrial Development Districts to transform undeveloped land into shovel-ready sites that are better able to compete for significant capital investments and the creation of high paying jobs across the County.

SIGNED, THIS _____TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.

County Judge KP George

Commissioner Vincent Morales, Precinct 1

Commissioner Grady Prestage, Precinct 2

Commissioner Andy Meyers, Precinct 3

Commissioner Dexter McCoy, Precinct 4

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk

DRAFT