

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

Resolution Opposing Revenue Caps

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature places a long list of responsibilities on counties to provide vital functions of government 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; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County must conduct state, federal and local elections, register vehicles, assess and collect taxes, provide legal counsel for those in need 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 failed to provide adequate highway construction and maintenance funding to keep pace with our rapid population growth; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature mandates that Fort Bend County provide many services but provides little or no state funding except for a few small subsidies and grant programs; 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 47.4 cents per hundred in 2016; and

WHEREAS, revenue caps would provide little, if any tax 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, the Texas Legislature's proposed revenue cap legislation will mandate that Fort Bend County conduct an automatic election which will cost the taxpayers of Fort Bend a minimum of \$230,000 per election; and

WHEREAS, such caps 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, a repeat of the Proposition 13 results in California; and

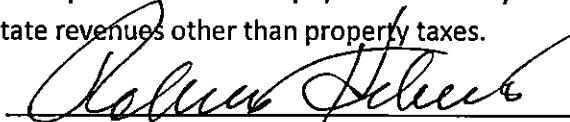
WHEREAS, as in California, a wealthy state which operates year to year on the verge of financial collapse, Texans, including the residents of Fort Bend County, will have a greatly diminished voice in the way their local tax dollars are spent, and the type, quality and quantity of services rendered by their local elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has consistently reduced state funding for education from its revenue stream, thereby forcing a multi-billion-dollar increase in local property taxes to merely hold the line in educational spending while providing no funding for expansion and improvement of our K-12 school system.


Execution Page Follows


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

This 13th day of December, 2016, Fort Bend County Commissioners Court does hereby express its opposition to efforts limiting local control of local government and does hereby oppose any attempts to impose revenue or appraisal caps upon Texas counties, and the Commissioners Court expresses its deep appreciation to all legislators who oppose these unsound measures. And furthermore, we urge the Legislature to address school funding and replace the property tax burden by appropriating other state funds and thereby alleviating the unfair taxation that has been imposed on local taxpayers in recent years by the state's failure to fund its fair share of school costs from state revenues other than property taxes.


County Judge Robert E. Hebert


Commissioner Richard Morrison, Precinct 1


Commissioner Grady Prestage, Precinct 2


Commissioner Andy Meyers, Precinct 3


Commissioner James Patterson, Precinct 4

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk

