



**City of Dallas Legislative Program for the
84th Session of the Texas Legislature**



City of Dallas

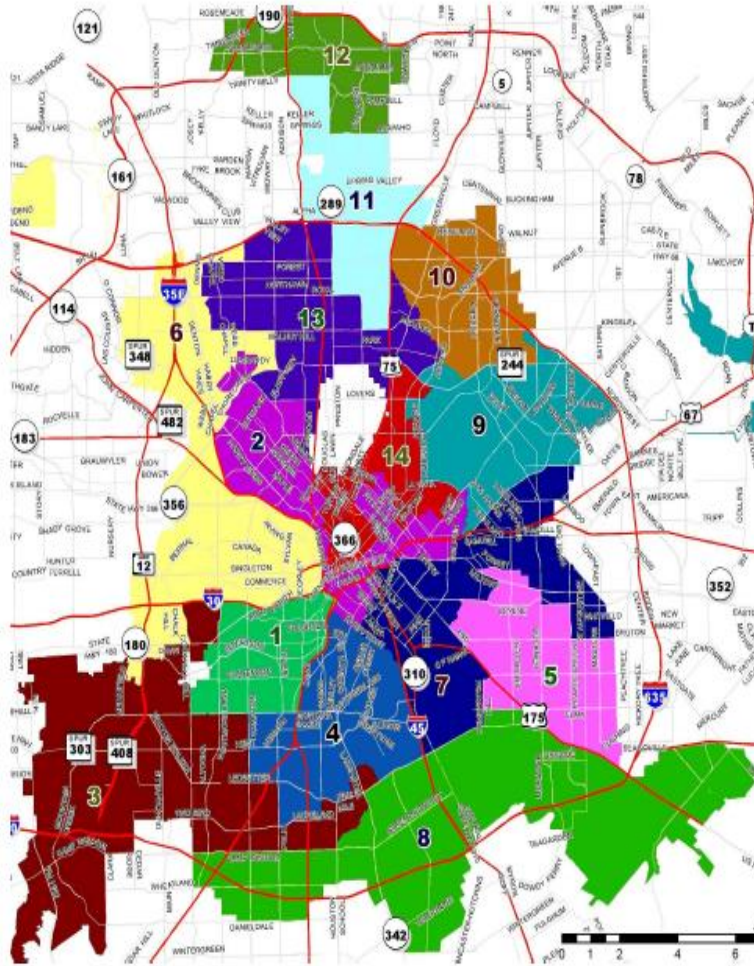
**As approved by the Dallas City Council
October 22, 2014
Resolution # 141796**

**CITY OF DALLAS 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
84th SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE**

**Mayor and City Council
2013-2015**

City of Dallas

2013 - 2015 Dallas City Council



Vonciel Jones Hill
Chair, Legislative
Committee
District 3



**Mayor Pro Tem
Tennell Atkins**
District 8



**Jennifer S.
Gates**
District 13



Adam Medrano
District 2



Scott Griggs
District 1



Sandy Greyson
District 12



**Dwaine R.
Caraway** District 4



Jerry R. Allen
District 10

Lee Kleinman
District 11



Rick Callahan
District 5



Mayor Mike Rawlings



**Deputy Mayor Pro
Tem
Monica R. Alonzo**
District 6



Sheffie Kadane
District 9



Philip T. Kingston
District 14



Carolyn R. Davis
District 7



CITY OF DALLAS 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
84th SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

City of Dallas

**Mayor and City Council
2013 - 2015**

**City Hall, Room 5EN
Dallas, TX 75201**

Michael S. Rawlings
Mayor
214.670.7702

Tennell Atkins
Mayor Pro Tem
Council District 8
214.670.4066

**City Hall, Room 5FS
Dallas, TX 75201**

Vonciel Jones Hill
Chair, Legislative Committee
Council District 3
214.670.0777

Carolyn R. Davis
Council District 7
214.670.4689

Rick Callahan
Council District 5
214.670.4052

Jerry R. Allen
Council District 10
214.670.4068

Lee M. Kleinman
Council District 11
214.670.7817

Jennifer S. Gates
Council District 13
214.670.3816

Monica R. Alonzo
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Council District 6
214.670.4199

**City Hall, Room 5FN
Dallas, TX 75201**

Scott Griggs
Council District 1
214.670.0776

Dwaine R. Caraway
Council District 4
214.670.0781

Adam Medrano
Council District 2
214.670.4048

Sheffie Kadane
Council District 9
214.670.4069

Sandy Greyson
Council District 12
214.670.4067

Philip T. Kingston
Council District 14
214.670.5415

**CITY OF DALLAS 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
84th SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE**

City of Dallas

**City Manager, City Attorney and
Intergovernmental Services Staff**

A.C. Gonzalez
City Manager
Room 4EN
214.670.3297

Ryan S. Evans
First Assistant City Manager
Room 4EN
214.670.3302

Eric Campbell
Assistant City Manager
Room 4CN
214.670.3390

Jill A. Jordan, P.E.
Assistant City Manager
Room 4DN
214.670.1204

Mark McDaniel
Assistant City Manager
Room 4CN
214.670.3390

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager
Room 4BN
214.670.3009

Warren M.S. Ernst
City Attorney
Room 7CN
214.670.3491

Larry Casto
Assistant City Attorney
Room 7CN
512.415.6123

Brett Wilkinson
Managing Director
Intergovernmental Services
Room 4BN
214.670.5797

Anna Lamberti Holmes
Legislative Manager
Intergovernmental Services
Room 4BN
214.670.5099

Francisco J. Rodriguez
Legislative Coordinator
Intergovernmental Services
Room 4BN
214.670.5363

Eric Dominguez
Legislative Coordinator
Intergovernmental Services
Room 4BN
214.670.9582

**CITY OF DALLAS 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
84th SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE**

COUNCIL CHAMBER
141796
October 22, 2014

WHEREAS, the 84th Session of the Texas Legislature will convene in January 2015; and,

WHEREAS, many legislative issues affecting local government will be considered; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas has historically adopted a legislative program for consideration by the Legislature;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

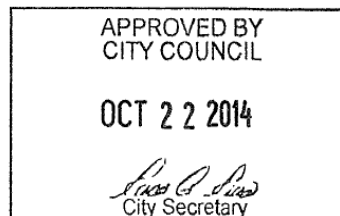
SECTION 1. That the City of Dallas Legislative Program for the 84th Session of the Texas Legislature is adopted.

SECTION 2. That the City Attorney is directed to communicate the items included in the state legislative program, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A, to members of the Texas Legislature.

SECTION 3. That the City Attorney is directed to support legislation that upholds the City of Dallas' home-rule authority, as well as oppose legislation that diminishes resources or home-rule authority.

SECTION 4. That for those issues that arise during or prior to the Session for which there is no official City position and there is insufficient time to convene a meeting of the Legislative Ad Hoc Committee or the City Council, the Chair of the Legislative Ad Hoc Committee is authorized to represent and protect the interests of the City.

SECTION 5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas and it is accordingly so resolved.



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The City of Dallas will:

- Support legislation to expand home-rule authority and facilitate the provision of services to Dallas residents
- Oppose legislation that preempts home-rule authority
- Form strategic alliances with other jurisdictions and stakeholders to advance the City's legislative goals
- Support legislative recommendations from City Task Forces (including, but not limited to, the Domestic Violence Task Force, the Education Task Force, the Fair Park Task Force, the LGBT Task Force, the Transportation-for-Hire Task Force and the Poverty Task Force) that are consistent with the policies of the City Council

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

The City of Dallas will support the following initiatives:

FOCUS ON THE COMMUNITY

Promoting the development of vibrant, safe and sustainable neighborhoods is a priority for the City of Dallas. Pursue legislation related to:

- Removal of Blight – especially dealing with abandoned, vacant and nuisance properties
- Urban Land Bank – expand allowable uses, shorten timeframes, and reduce costs for conveying properties to end users
- Code Enforcement – expedite notice and cure of code violations
- Group Homes – expand authority to inspect and regulate retirement facilities and group homes

CULTURE, ARTS, RECREATION & EDUCATION

- Promote efforts to support the Arts
- Allow greater flexibility for public parks to work with private organizations to enhance public use of park lands
- Continue telecommunications discounts for libraries and programs that promote shared digital content and workforce development and training in public libraries
- Support Tuition Revenue Bonds for UNT Dallas campuses and other public institutions

CLEAN, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

- Reduce nitrogen oxide ["NOx"] emissions in non-attainment regions of Texas through regulation and inspections of diesel-powered on-road and off-road sources
- Reduce solid waste going into municipal landfills
- Establish "Texas Recycles Tires" program, similar to computer and TV recycling programs
- Enhance enforcement of civil citations

ECONOMIC VIBRANCY

- Encourage water conservation and reuse alternatives, allow for voluntary transfer of surface water and development of new water supplies and infrastructure through streamlined processes
- Support multi-modal choices and funding options for transportation, including High Speed Rail, light rail, streetcars, surface roads, pedestrian/bicycle/trails
- Remove prohibition on city authority to build permanent structures on city rights of way
- Support legislation naming Dallas as host of the 2036 Texas Bicentennial

E-GOV

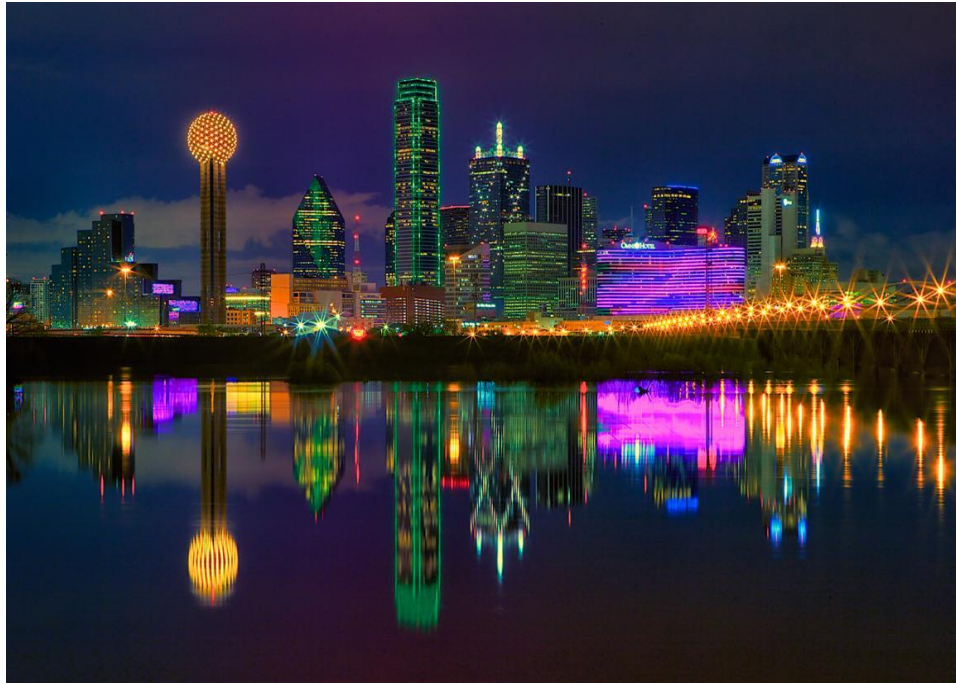
- Ensure correct allocation of sales taxes between jurisdictions
- Require disclosure of sales price for commercial property
- Reform Appraisal Process so that appraisals accurately reflect fair-market value
- Set off individual/entities debt to local governments before refund or claim payment from state
- Protect governmental entities from false representations material to a governmental proceeding and allow for treble damages
- Provide for greater transparency and allow for broader options of funding mechanisms related to pension plans
- Base appeal of a cruelly treated animal case on the record rather than de novo

CITY OF DALLAS 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
84th SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

- Allow collection of attorneys fees in frivolous ethics complaints and exempt pending ethics complaints from Chapter 552
- Satisfy notice requirement by publication on government's official website
- Allow submission of public information act requests via website and adequate charges to cover compliance costs
- Ensure lawyer-client privileged information is exempt from public information act without seeking Attorney General opinion
- Assure that protections under public information act can not be circumvented by subpoenas or requests made to third parties
- Add disclosure exception for governmental bodies regarding intellectual property that is pending patent protection
- Exempt information disclosed to adverse party in on-going litigation from public information act

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Increase penalties for graffiti repeat offenders and for burglaries of safes
- Create an on-premises "consumption only" license to allow for better regulation of the premises
- Allow for civil enforcement of handicap parking violations
- Provide State-wide oversight and funding for Texas Task Force 2
- Include obstruction of overpass, alley, bridge, and tunnels to list of passageways under offenses against public order and decency in Texas Penal Code
- Reform 911 fee statute to cover cost of service



City of Dallas Legislative Program for the 84th Session of the Texas Legislature



City of Dallas

1500 Marilla Street
Dallas, Texas 75201
www.dallascityhall.com