

Texas Cities: Did You Know?

1. Texas cities **lead the nation in population growth**. In fact, six of the 13 fastest growing cities in the nation are in Texas and half of the 10 cities with the largest population gains are in Texas. On average, somewhere around **1,400 people are added to the Texas population each day**. [*U.S. Census Bureau.*]
2. **Seventy-four percent of Texas residents live in incorporated cities** (of which there are 1,215) and 89 percent of Texans live in urban areas. [*U.S. Census Bureau.*]
3. **From 1994 to 2013, the total city property tax levy rose an average of 5.83 percent per year**. This increase is closely aligned with Texas' population growth plus inflation over the same period of time, which averaged out to a 4.1 percent average yearly increase. [*Texas Comptroller, Biennial Property Tax report for 2012 and 2013, U.S. Census Bureau,, and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*]
4. From 2011-2015, **total outstanding state debt increased by 16.27 percent**, total outstanding local debt increased by 12.3 percent, and **total outstanding city debt increased only by 10.1 percent**. [*Texas Bond Review Board, 2015 Annual Report and 2015 Local Annual Report.*]
5. Sixteen percent of property taxes statewide go to cities. **The majority of property taxes (55 percent) go to fund public schools**. Of the remainder, seventeen percent goes to counties, and 12 percent goes to special districts. [*Texas Comptroller, Biennial Property Tax report for 2012 and 2013.*]
6. **Texas cities receive virtually no financial assistance from the state**. In fact, Texas ranks 47th out of the 50 states in the amount of general revenue it receives from state government. [*National League of Cities, City and State Fiscal Structure (2015).*]
7. Using a unique concept dubbed "reverse intergovernmental aid," the Texas Legislature requires **cities to generate and remit to the state over \$200 million annually to fund state programs**. [*TML article, Reverse Intergovernmental Aid Revisited, Again (2013).*]
8. In fiscal year 2015, **cities pitched in more than \$100 million** in cash and much more in right-of-way donations and in-kind services **for state highway projects initiated by TxDOT**. [*TML article, Reverse Intergovernmental Aid Revisited, Again (2013).*]
9. **Local economic development incentives dwarf the economic development incentives offered by the state**. [*Committee Testimony by Executive Director of Governor's Office for Economic Development and Tourism, House Economic and Small Business Development Committee (2014).*]

