



CITY OF TOMBALL

Office of the Mayor & City Council

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January 14, 2025

The Honorable Dr. Tom Oliverson
Texas House of Representatives
PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910

Representative Oliverson,

The City of Tomball appreciates the opportunity to communicate with you and your office regarding the 89th regular session of the Texas Legislature and the City's priorities. You and your team have always been valued members our community and we are sincerely grateful for the work you have done for Tomball.

We know that the work of a legislator is difficult, and requires you to weigh many competing interests in order to vote on the thousands of bills that come before you. As such, we feel it is necessary to communicate our position on a number of legislative issues. Over the past few sessions, the Legislature has taken up a number of bills that restrict cities' ability to govern themselves. As a democratically elected body, the City Council of Tomball strongly opposes these efforts.

Like yourself, we have been elected to represent and respond to the needs of our community. The families and businesses that make up our city have put their trust and faith in us and they expect us to make decisions, adopt ordinances, enforce policies, and fund programs that directly benefit them and our community as a whole. When the Legislature removes this ability, our community suffers.

We are particularly concerned with the following:

- Bills that restrict our ability to participate in statewide organizations, such as the Texas Municipal League, that provide valuable and cost-effective services for our community;
- Bills that preempt municipal authority and restrict our ability to respond to the needs and wants of our citizens;
- Bills that erode our ability to collect needed revenues, including bills that further revenue caps or tax caps of any kind;
- Bills that restrict our ability to issue debt for critical infrastructure projects, including bills that would further limit the use of certificates of obligation;
- Bills that allow for voluntary deannexation of property and lead to inefficient service gaps in our community;
- Bills that remove or restrict our ability to use eminent domain; and
- Bills that remove or restrict our ability to make land use or zoning decisions for our community, including bills that restrict our ability to make decisions regarding lot size, tree preservation, accessory dwelling units, short term rentals, and building codes.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding our positions. We stand ready to provide you and your office information as to how these bills impact Tomball and are willing and available to be present in Austin to testify if needed.

Lastly, we sincerely appreciate your tireless efforts to support Tomball. Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Lori Klein Quinn
Mayor

John Ford
Councilman, Position 1

Paul Garcia
Councilman, Position 2

Dane Dunagin
Mayor Pro Tem/Councilman, Position 3

Lisa A. Covington
Councilman, Position 4

Randy Parr
Councilman, Position 5