



City of Tomball

Lori Klein-Quinn
Mayor

David Esquivel
City Manager

Professionalism - Integrity - Respect

April 21, 2025

The Honorable Morgan Meyer
Texas House of Representatives
PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Re: Opposition to HB 19

Dear Chairman Meyer,

On behalf of the City of Tomball, I write to express our strong opposition to House Bill 19. While we appreciate the intent to enhance transparency and accountability in local government finance, this bill would significantly restrict our city's ability to respond to community needs and invest in critical infrastructure.

HB 19 imposes sweeping limitations on local debt issuance and the use of property tax revenues, including:

- Mandating that bond and tax rate elections occur only in November, restricting local governments' ability to time elections with capital needs or urgent projects;
- Capping debt service payments based on a fixed percentage of prior-year property tax collections, without consideration for future growth, changing capital needs, or the individual financial circumstances of Texas cities;
- Limits certificates of obligation to only be used for public works necessary to comply with state or federal regulations only if a notice of noncompliance has been issued.

We are concerned that HB 19 undermines local control and penalizes cities for making prudent, long-term investments. Cities like Tomball carefully plan capital improvement programs, engage with our residents, and manage debt responsibly through conservative fiscal practices. HB 19 would limit our ability to:

- Replace or upgrade aging infrastructure in a timely manner;
- Respond with flexibility to emergencies or rapidly emerging needs;
- Align project timelines with strategic development or grant opportunities;
- Maintain competitive borrowing practices that save taxpayer dollars.

Most notably, HB 19 represents a shift away from local decision-making by imposing one-size-fits-all restrictions that disregard the diverse financial landscapes of Texas communities. Our residents deserve to have their voices heard through local democratic processes. We respectfully ask the Legislature to reconsider the sweeping constraints proposed in HB 19 and support measures that preserve the ability of local governments to meet the evolving needs of our communities with fiscal responsibility and flexibility.

Sincerely,

Lori Klein Quinn
Mayor

Cc:

The Honorable Tom Oliverson, Texas House of Representatives

The Honorable Valoree Swanson, Texas House of Representatives

The Honorable Sam Harless, Texas House of Representatives