



## **LEGISLATIVE POLICIES**

### **Tarrant County Commissioners Court**

**SUBJECT: TARRANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT POLICIES**

**DATE ADOPTED: February 7, 2023**

**COURT ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

Each new legislative session presents opportunities for the County to work with the Legislature to meet the needs of the Tarrant County community. The following legislative principles will guide the Commissioners Court legislative activity to meet the needs for Tarrant County residents. Therefore, we the Commissioners Court do hereby adopt the following policies and positions:

Government should efficiently, effectively, and prudently use taxpayers' funds

- SUPPORT legislation that increases government efficiency by lessening the financial burden on taxpayers
- SUPPORT increased transparency and disclosure of the use of public funds
- OPPOSE legislation that reduces transparency or disclosure of the use of public funds
- OPPOSE legislation that diminishes the ability of County government to respond to the immediate needs of its community while safeguarding the constitutional rights of citizens
- OPPOSE legislation decreasing the County's authority to inspect and regulate firework sellers

Public safety is an essential government service and law enforcement must be supported to keep Tarrant County safe

- SUPPORT legislation that assists members of law enforcement who have been injured in the line of duty
- SUPPORT legislation that will give law enforcement additional tools to combat the fentanyl and human-trafficking crises

Legislative and administrative mandates without state funding make it difficult to cut property taxes

- SUPPORT the recoupage of state funds for the cost of housing inmates that are awaiting competency restoration or are ready to be transferred to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- SUPPORT a Constitutional prohibition on state mandated property tax increases

- OPPOSE legislatively mandated services without the necessary state funds to provide those services

Support efforts to fund essential county government services from revenue sources other than taxes

- SUPPORT a local option sales tax for the purpose of reducing property taxes if a mandatory corresponding property tax decrease is required upon passage
- SUPPORT property tax reforms that will decrease the tax burden on local taxpayers
- Support appraisal reforms that lessen the tax burden on homeowners and small businesses
- SUPPORT full state appropriations for essential county services including public safety programs, criminal justice grants, mental health services, and indigent defense programs

Behavioral healthcare, transportation, and economic development are key priorities for the 88<sup>th</sup> Session

- SUPPORT extending postpartum Medicaid eligibility for women and infants from six months to twelve months
- SUPPORT legislation that connects pregnant women of limited means with prenatal and postnatal care
- SUPPORT additional adoption resources in Tarrant County
- SUPPORT additional state resources for behavioral healthcare
- SUPPORT a study considering the creation of a State Mental Health Hospital in Tarrant County
- SUPPORT maintaining economic development tools that are transparent, assure a measurable return on investment, and protect taxpayers' dollars

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE HAVE HEREUNTO SET OUR HANDS AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF TARRANT COUNTY TO BE AFFIXED THIS \_\_\_ DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.**

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**Tim O'Hare**  
**County Judge**

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**Roy C. Brooks**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 1**

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**Gary Fickes**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 3**

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**Alisa Simmons**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 2**

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**Manny Ramirez**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 4**