

City of Denton
90th Texas Legislative Session
DRAFT Legislative Program

The City of Denton's Legislative Program outlines the City's priorities and positions for the 90th Texas Legislative Session. This program is intended to guide the City's engagement with the Texas Legislature and state agencies to advance legislation that supports the needs and well-being of Denton residents. Developed by City staff and approved by the Denton City Council, this program reflects the shared goals of the Denton community. The City supports legislation that strengthens local government's ability to serve its residents and opposes legislation that undermines that ability.

The City of Denton's legislative efforts are guided by the following principles:

- *Foster strong partnerships with state leaders, regional partners, and community institutions.*
- *Support investments in infrastructure, public safety, and economic opportunity.*
- *Advance the health, safety, and well-being of Denton residents.*
- *Support accountable and transparent local government principles and decision-making.*
- *Ensure strong financial stewardship to support dependable, high-value services for residents.*

Active Legislative Priorities

These items represent legislation the City of Denton is actively pursuing during the 90th Legislative Session.

First Responder Retirement & Property Tax Benefits

The City supports legislation providing full retirement benefits and expanded property tax exemptions to first responders catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

Housing Authority Reform (Ch. 392)

The City supports amending Chapter 392 to ensure the legislature's prior changes to Chapter 303 Public Facility Corporations also apply to Public Facility Corporations and partnerships created under Chapter 392.

Public Information Request Clarification

The City supports legislation clarifying public information request requirements regarding the release of records involving deceased suspects versus deceased victims.

Qualified Hotel Project Program Extension

The City supports extending the Qualified Hotel Project program, which is set to expire, to preserve a critical economic development tool for municipalities.

Legislative Positions

Community & Partnerships

The City of Denton values its strong partnerships with Denton ISD, Denton County, DCTA, NCTC, TWU, and UNT, and supports legislation that advances shared community priorities.

Support: mental health care access and funding; services for individuals experiencing homelessness; public school and higher education funding; local decision-making authority.

Taxation & Finance

Support: municipal debt issuance authority.

Oppose: restrictions on Certificates of Obligation; limits on necessary fee authority.

Land Use & Development

Support: cities' authority over ETJ removal requests; local control over lot sizes, density, parking, and ADUs.

Oppose: restrictions on annexation, zoning, eminent domain, building codes, tree preservation, short-term rentals, or rights-of-way management.

Utilities

Support: Texas Water Development Board grant funding; direct potable reuse and water conservation initiatives; clear definition of Dispatchable Reliability Reserve Service technology; critical infrastructure classification for electric power generation units.

Oppose: restrictions on large load interconnections to MOU distribution systems; legislation impacting General Fund Transfers.

City Services

Support: first responder designation for essential city employees like solid waste, animal control, and utility workers; TASPP reimbursement restoration to historic funding levels; Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Parks Grant Program funding, humane regulation of puppy mills and pet stores.

Oppose: restrictions on library materials decisions or community events.

Transportation & Aviation

Support: multimodal transportation funding for growing urban areas; local flexibility to fund transportation projects; state aviation capital improvement investment.