



Webb County, Texas State Legislative Agenda 2025



Webb County, Texas 2025 Legislative Agenda to the 89th Texas Legislature

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, County Judge
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Commissioner Pct. 1
Honorable Rosaura Tijerina, Commissioner Pct. 2
Honorable John C. Galo, Commissioner Pct. 3
Honorable Ricardo Jaime, Commissioner Pct. 4

2025 Webb County Legislative Committee

Honorable Tano Tijerina, County Judge/Co-Chair
Honorable John Galo, Comm. Pct. 3/Co-Chair
Adelaido "Lalo" Uribe, III, Budget Officer/Chief Exec. Administrator
Leroy R. Medford, Commissioners Court Exec. Administrator
Nathan Bratton, Civil Legal Division Director
Marah Mendez, Communication Officer
Nancy Cadena, Public Health Services Director
James Flores, Economic Development Director
Jorge A. Calderon, Planning Director

Adopted: November 25, 2024



**Webb County, Texas
State Legislative Agenda 2025
89th Texas Legislature**

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2025 State Legislative Agenda for the 89th Legislature



FORWARD

This document represents Webb County's State Legislative Agenda for the year 2025. Webb County has identified legislative priorities that are specific to county interests and have included these on its Legislative Agenda with detailed information as to the issues and rationale for support.

The information provided in this agenda has been prepared by Webb County's Legislative Affairs Committee, which is comprised of elected officials, directors and administrators with first-hand knowledge of important issues affecting Webb County. The committee has prioritized several key points of legislation for which the county will be petitioning during the 89th Legislative Session.

The Webb County Commissioners Court believes that these legislative initiatives will significantly enhance county government, improve the public well-being and advance the quality of life of the county's residents. Through this document, Webb County seeks the support of the State's 89th Legislature on the following legislative issues.

**RESOLUTION & ORDER
OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS**

ADOPTED November 25, 2024

**SUPPORTING WEBB COUNTY’S PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
FOR THE 89TH LEGISLATURE**

WHEREAS, the Webb County Commissioners Court has adopted a local policy that proposed legislation affecting county government should be brought before the Commissioners Court for consideration and possible action to adopt an official position; and

WHEREAS, the Webb County Commissioners Court has appointed a Legislative Affairs Committee to identify, analyze and recommend priority legislation to address matters of public interest or the enhancement of county government; and

WHEREAS, the county’s Legislative Affairs Committee has petitioned the participation of local elected officials and department heads in the development of a proposed legislative agenda; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Affairs Committee has identified and presented key issues to the Webb County Commissioners Court for consideration in the county’s legislative agenda.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners Court of Webb County, that:

- I. The Webb County Commissioners Court hereby adopts the following to be included in Webb County’s State Legislative Agenda 2025:

Local Government

1. Creation of a Groundwater Conservation District in Webb County
 2. Establish Limited Concurrent Jurisdiction between Webb County Court at Law II and Webb County District Courts
- II. The Commissioners Court hereby directs the Legislative Affairs Committee to prepare the legislative agenda for submission to our state legislators; and
- III. Through this Resolution & Order, the Webb County Commissioners Court respectfully requests the support of our State Legislators to enact passage of the county’s priority legislation for 2025.

On motion of **Honorable**, seconded by **Honorable Commissioner**, duly put and carried, **THIS RESOLUTION & ORDER IS HEREBY ADOPTED** by the Webb County Commissioners Court, duly convened and acting in its capacity as governing body of Webb County, Texas on this **25th** day of November, 2024.

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge

Honorable Jesse Gonzalez
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 1

Honorable Rosaura “Wawi” Tijerina
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 2

Honorable John C. Galo
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 3

Honorable Ricardo A. Jaime
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 4

ATTESTED:

Honorable Margie Ramirez Ibarra
Webb County Clerk

**Webb County General Information
State and Local Officials**

TEXAS

The Honorable Judith Zaffirini
Texas Senator, Senate District 21

The Honorable Richard Peña Raymond
Texas House Representative, District 42

The Honorable Tracy O. King
Texas House Representative, District 80

The Honorable Don McLaughling Jr.
Texas House Representative-Elect, District 80

WEBB COUNTY

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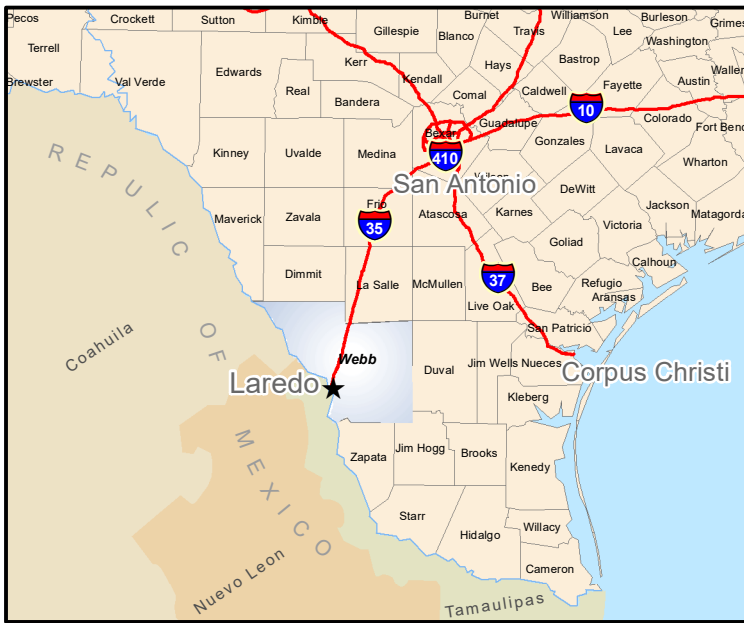
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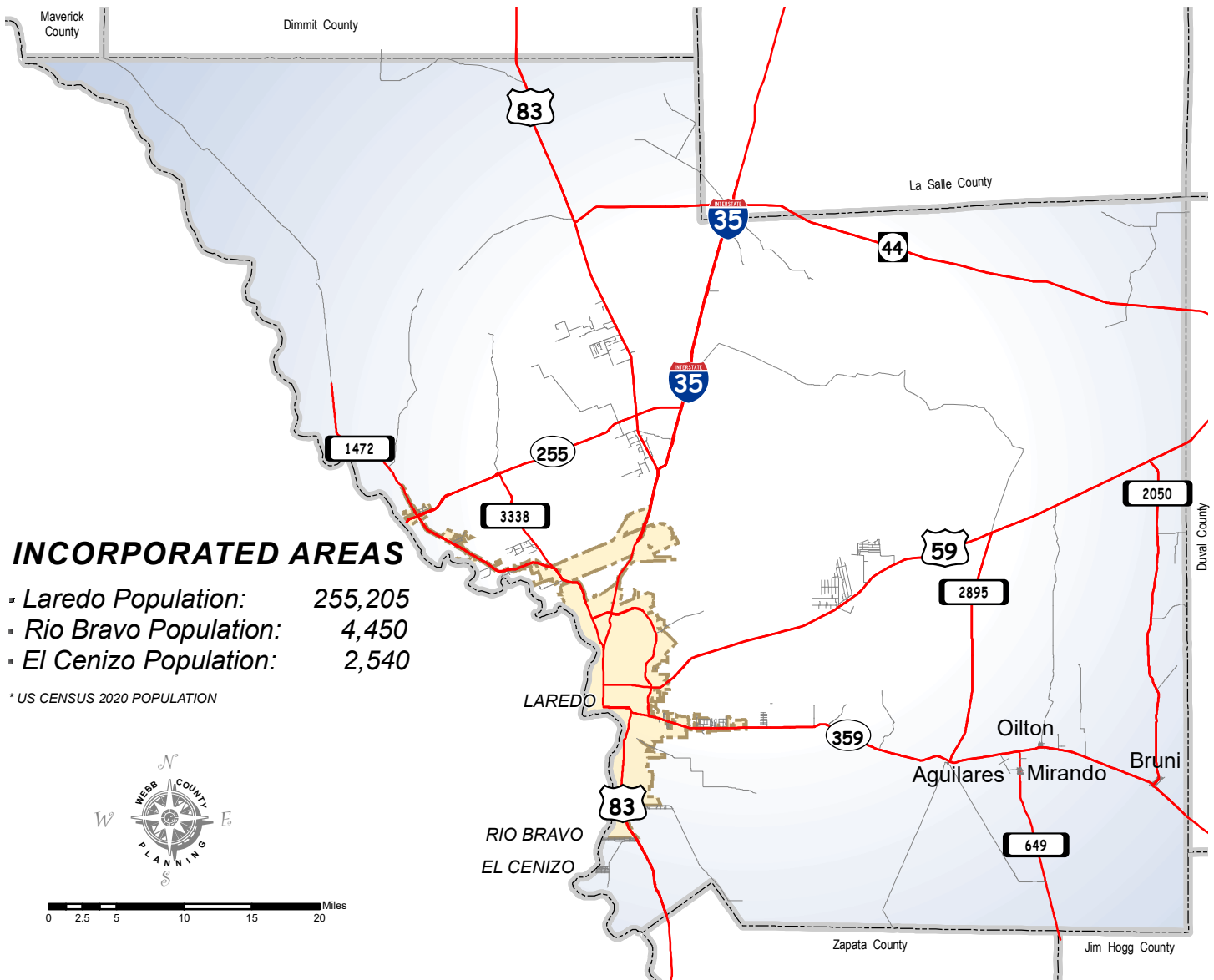


South
Texas
Major
City
Map



WEBB COUNTY FACTS AND FIGURES

- Geographic Areas: 3,357 sq miles
- 6th Largest County in the State of Texas
- County Seat: City of Laredo
- Established: 1848
- Population: 267,114 (2020 Census)



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WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS



Webb County, Texas

2025 State Legislative Priorities

Local Government



**Webb County, Texas
State Legislative Agenda 2025
89TH Texas Legislature**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Create Webb County Groundwater
Conservation District**

Proposal

Bill to create a groundwater conservation district with powers provided under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code to regulate groundwater production and participate in regional water planning.

Background

Groundwater conservation districts under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code are empowered to regulate groundwater production within district boundaries based on groundwater management plans developed by the district to meet local needs. Additionally, such districts participate in joint planning activities within defined management areas, including the establishment of “desired future conditions,” which are used to determine the amount of groundwater that will be used in the regional water plan.

Webb County does not have a groundwater conservation district and does not have representation in Groundwater Management Area 13. Neighboring counties that share the same aquifers that underlie Webb County do have groundwater conservation districts and do participate in the regional groundwater planning process. Without representation on GMA 13, the amount of water allocated to Webb County for future water planning is essentially nonexistent. For example, under the desired future conditions adopted by GMA 13 in 2021, Webb County was allocated more than 100,000 acre feet and Atascosa County more than 50,000 acre feet.

By creating a groundwater conservation district, Webb County can regulate groundwater production within the County to meet local needs and participate in the regional planning process relating to groundwater production.

Webb County urges legislative support to enact a bill creating the Webb County Groundwater Conservation District.

Contacts

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Establish Limited Concurrent Jurisdiction
between Webb County Court at Law II and
Webb County District Courts**

Proposal

Establish concurrent limited jurisdiction between Webb County Court-at-Law II and the Webb County District Courts, except for cases involving felonies, elections and misdemeanors involving official misconduct--District Courts would retain exclusive jurisdiction over these cases.

Background

A request for caseload assistance at the beginning of the fiscal year 2023-2024 highlighted the need for this change. The purpose of this legislation is for an already existing court to assist with the caseload, caseload management, and increase the efficiency within Webb County courts. The National Center for State Courts weighted caseload study data did not support adding another district court or county court at law in Webb County. Adding another court in Webb County will cause hardship by adding over a million dollars a year to the Webb County budget.

Proposed solution to the district court's caseload is creating concurrent jurisdiction between the district courts and Webb County Court-at-Law II (WCC II) with the exception of felony, election and misdemeanors involving official misconduct cases. This change in jurisdiction would allow WCC II to hear cases typically heard in district courts to assist with the total caseload. Other county courts at law in Texas, like El Paso for example, have limited concurrent jurisdiction with district courts.

The establishment of concurrent jurisdiction between the district courts and WCC II for all cases (except the above exceptions) would allow more cases to be heard in Webb County because WCC II would be able to hear additional cases. Plus, concurrent jurisdiction would reduce the need for visiting judges and would not require any Webb County funds or expenditures.

Contacts

Primary:

Judge Victor Villarreal

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Texas Government Code § 25.2422

§ 25.2422. Webb County Court at Law Provisions

Effective: January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2024

(a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Webb County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

(1) family law cases and proceedings;

(2) cases and proceedings involving justiciable controversies and differences between spouses, or between parents, or between parent and child, or between any of these and third persons; and

(3) proceedings to expunge a criminal arrest record under Chapter 55, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(b) Repealed by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 3 (H.B. 79), § 4.50(a)(97).

(c) Repealed by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 746, § 70, eff. Oct. 1, 1991.

(d) Repealed by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 3 (H.B. 79), § 4.50(a)(97).

(e) A judge of a county court at law shall be paid an annual salary that is at least \$20,000, but not more than the salary, including any supplements, paid to a district judge in the county. The salary shall be paid out of the county treasury by order of the commissioners court. A judge of a county court at law is entitled to receive travel and necessary office expenses, including administrative and clerical assistance, in the same manner as the county judge.

(f) Repealed by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 3 (H.B. 79), § 4.50(a)(97).

(g) The district attorney of the 49th Judicial District serves as district attorney of a county court at law, except that the county attorney of Webb County prosecutes all juvenile, child welfare, mental health, and other civil cases in which the state is a party. The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at law in the cases enumerated in Subsection (a)(2), and the county clerk serves as clerk of a county court at law in all other cases.

(h) If a family law case is tried before a jury, the jury shall be composed of 12 members.

(i) Repealed by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 3 (H.B. 79), § 4.50(a)(97).

(j) Repealed by Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., 1st C.S., ch. 3 (H.B. 79), § 4.50(a)(97).

(k) A meeting of district judges in Webb County held under Section 62.016(a) to determine the number of prospective jurors that are necessary for each week of the year may include the county court at law judges. The judges may designate a county court at law judge to be the judge to whom the general jury panels report for jury service under Section 62.016(c).

(l) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law, and except as limited by Subsection (m), County Court at Law No. 2 of Webb County has the jurisdiction provided by the constitution and by general law for district courts.

(m) A county court at law does not have jurisdiction of:

(1) felony cases, except as otherwise provided by law;

(2) misdemeanors involving official misconduct; or

(3) contested elections.

(n) If any cause or proceeding is lodged with the district clerk and the district clerk files, docket, or assigns the cause or proceeding in or to a county court at law and the county court at law does not have subject matter jurisdiction over the cause or proceeding, then the filing, docketing, or assignment of the cause or proceeding in or to a county court at law is considered a clerical error and that clerical error shall be corrected by a judgment or order nunc pro tunc. The cause or proceeding is considered filed, docketed, or assigned to the district court of the local administrative judge in the first instance rather than to a county court at law of Webb County. The judge of a county court at law of Webb County who acts in the cause or proceeding is considered assigned to the district court of the local administrative judge for that purpose and has all the powers of the judge of that district court under the assignment.

(o) In matters of concurrent jurisdiction, a judge of a statutory county court in Webb County and a judge of a district court or another statutory county court in Webb County may transfer cases between the courts in the same manner judges of district courts transfer cases under Section 24.003.

(p) A judge of a statutory county court in Webb County and a judge of a district court in Webb County may exchange benches and may sit and act for each other in any matter pending before the court.

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Monitoring



**Webb County, Texas
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MONITORING

In addition to legislative issues affecting county government generally or border counties specifically, Webb County has identified the following issues for specific monitoring:

- 1) Appraisal Boards and Taxation Issues
- 2) Border and Homeland Security Issues
- 3) Colonia Issues
- 4) County Permanent School Lands
- 5) County Subdivision Regulation
- 6) District Court Redistricting (Single Member Districts)
- 7) Floodplain management
- 8) Funding Issues
 - a. Courts
 - b. County Roads & Bridges
 - c. Flood planning and flood mitigation programs
 - d. General & Border County Funding Issues
 - e. Law Enforcement/County Sheriff
 - f. Nutrition (Elderly & Meals on Wheels)
 - g. Rural Transportation & Transit
 - h. Utility Assistance
 - i. Weatherization
 - j. Affordable Housing
 - k. Colonia Comprehensive Planning
- 9) Oil & Gas Production or Eagle-Ford Shale Issues Affecting Counties and Region
- 10) Erosion to County Sovereign Immunity/Tort Claims Act
- 11) Indigent Health Care
- 12) Open Government (open meetings, public records, posting and notices, etc.)
- 13) Regional Water Plans
- 14) Regulatory or Development standards (including building codes) made applicable to Counties
- 15) High Speed & Rural Rail Transportation Districts
- 16) Transportation and Regional Mobility Authority issues
- 17) Unfunded Mandates
- 18) Water Resources