



Resolution

- Whereas, Texas counties are responsible for the operation and management of many and various governmental programs as required or authorized by state law; and
- Whereas, some county government programs are fully or partially supported with funds disbursed by the State of Texas pursuant to the state appropriations process; and
- Whereas, the State of Texas, acting through the Texas Legislature or through a state agency or executive order, may enact laws or promulgate rules that have the effect of imposing mandatory financial obligations upon Texas counties; and
- Whereas, the State of Texas, through the Texas Legislature or through a state agency or executive order, mandates that counties implement certain governmental programs or perform certain duties and obligations including financial commitments by a county to expend county funds in connection therewith; and
- Whereas, during each regular session of the Texas Legislature, all state funds that support county programs are reviewed through the state appropriation process and by other state budgetary review systems; and
- Whereas, the aforementioned review process may result in a reduction, or cessation, of state financial support of county government programs causing an unforeseeable disruption and reduction of the county budget and operations; and
- Whereas, Texas counties cannot achieve reliable financial planning and the necessary bond ratings sufficient to support county-related obligations when the state mandates a new program that is not fully funded or under conditions where the state reduces or fully withdraws prior funding and disbursement for county government programs; and

Whereas, the Williamson County Auditor’s Office has calculated that county taxpayers were responsible for a net amount of \$87.6M in 2018 due to unfunded mandates from the State of Texas, as seen below; and

Indigent Health Care Costs	\$7,207,733
Justice System (Includes Indigent Defense)	\$27,558,867
Court Appointed Attorneys for CPS	\$680,000
Victim Assistance	\$407,291
Jury Payments	\$83,707
Jail Operational Costs	\$26,302,650
Indigent Health Care in Jail	\$2,739,825
Prescription Drug Costs in Jail	\$300,000
Medical Staff in Jail	\$1,335,232
Training of Jail Staff	\$51,000
Facilities Maintenance of Jail	\$2,082,996
State Mandated Training	\$694,957
Adult Probation Expenditures	\$333,873
Juvenile Probation Expenditures	\$12,259,798
Autopsies	\$964,000
DPS Office	\$120,886
Veterans Affairs/ Veterans Services Office	\$374,748
Tax Office - Motor Vehicle Division Only	\$1,818,696
Mandatory Newspaper Advertising	\$22,505
Open Meeting Expenditures	\$9,540
County Elections - State and Federal	\$2,255,327
TOTAL	\$87,603,632

Whereas, based on an approximate county population of 600,000, this amount comes to almost \$150 for every man, woman, and child living in Williamson County; and

Whereas, the three biggest unfunded mandated cost drivers to Williamson County taxpayers- our county Justice System (including indigent defense costs), our jail operational costs, and juvenile probation expenditures- is equal to over \$66.1M or 75.5% of the total net amount of unfunded mandates;

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court believes it is in the best interest of Texas counties and their taxpayers to support and favor the passage of legislation in the form of an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas that would expressly prohibit the imposition of a mandatory governmental program on Texas counties, whether by an act of the Texas Legislature or a state agency or by executive order, unless the State of Texas has fully funded and disbursed all

necessary funds to enable Texas counties to operate said governmental program; and

Be it further resolved, that this Commissioners Court asks that the Williamson County legislative delegation take the lead in fighting against unfunded mandates from state government and vote for an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas that would expressly prohibit unfunded mandates as outlined above.

Signed on this date: _____

Bill Gravell, County Judge

Terry Cook, Commissioner Precinct 1

Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct 3

Cynthia Long, Commissioner Precinct 2

Russ Boles, Commissioner Precinct 4