



83rd Session, Legislative Agenda – Nueces County

General Policy

To the extent permitted by law, Nueces County will **SUPPORT** legislation that:

1. Fosters local decision and control.
2. Reduces costs to Nueces County.
3. Protects and enhances County revenue sources.
4. Increases economic development opportunities for the citizens of Nueces County.
5. Enhances or provides more revenue for State provided services in Nueces County.
6. Increases revenue to Nueces County for previously imposed under-funded or unfunded mandates.

To the extent permitted by law, Nueces County will **OPPOSE** legislation that:

7. Diminishes local decision and control.
8. Requires Nueces County to perform some service or task without providing the resources necessary to perform such service or task (unfunded mandates).
9. Prohibits or limits Nueces County's ability to generate revenue through taxes or fees (against unreasonable tax or revenue caps).
10. Requires Nueces County to give more County-collected revenue to the State of Texas.

Priority Issues

11. Pass the "County Efficiency Act." A non-controversial bill authored by Garnet Coleman, Chairman, County Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, to increase efficiency, improve fairness, and correct inaccuracies in current law.
12. Pass a constitutional amendment (authorize referendum) to protect local governments from unfunded mandates.
13. Oppose State cuts in Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR) funding, Juvenile Probation, Community Supervision and Corrections Department, and Indigent Defense.
14. Oppose diversion of County fees and taxes, including mixed beverage alcohol taxes.
15. Clarify subdivision regulation laws to allow unilateral enforcement of subdivision regulation in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of cities, while not hampering the ability of a city or county to apply for and receive grant funding for subdivision improvements.
16. Prescribe a clear process for cities or counties to identify colonias for inclusion in the Secretary of State's Official List

17. Oppose changes to Jail Standards that cause an undue burden or increased costs on sheriffs or county commissioners courts.
18. Support increasing the optional allowable fee on motor vehicle registrations to provide funding for county roads and bridges.
19. Pass legislation that makes Juvenile Justice Alternatives Education Programs (JJAEP) optional for counties, and/or support full funding of JJAEP's by the State of Texas.
20. Oppose any limitation of county authority to regulate fireworks and/or outdoor burning.
21. Pass provisions making the law clear that judges need not appoint a lawyer in a suit affecting a parent-child relationship unless it is clear that Child Protective Services is seeking termination of the relationship. Allow appointment of one lawyer to represent all parties known or unknown in a suit affecting a parent-child relationship, unless the lawyer notifies the judge of a conflict of interest.
22. Amend a proposal to mandate the appointment of a second attorney in all death penalty cases to limit such appointments upon a finding of necessity by the trial court.
23. Limit court reporter salary increases to the average amount provided for all county employees.
24. Oppose changes that would weaken the disaster declaration authority of county judges.
25. Oppose requiring a person to have a law degree before they are eligible to be elected and serve as justice of the peace.
26. Where possible and where interests are similar, the County will coordinate its legislative agenda with other political jurisdictions and key community stakeholders in the region and provide assistance to those entities.
27. Oppose unreasonable minimum storage conditions for county records.
28. Support changing mandatory juror pay to reflect the availability of state reimbursement provided for in the General Appropriations Bill.
29. Explore possible legislation to either dissolve or give Nueces County Commissioners Court more control over possible uses of Road District No. 4 funding and real property.

Authority

Once approved by the Nueces County Commissioners Court, the Government Affairs Officer in the Office of Commissioners Court Administration shall have the authority to approach and discuss these matters before state legislators and their staff, testify before Senate and House subcommittees, and otherwise take action necessary to foster legislative support and promote the ideals listed herein.