

Legislative Priorities Workshop

84th Regular Session



September 16, 2014



Key Dates

Monday, November 10, 2014	Pre-filing of legislation for the 84th Legislature begins
Tuesday, January 13, 2015	84th Legislature convenes at noon Attorney General, Comptroller, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner and Railroad Commissioner(s) sworn in
Tuesday, January 20, 2015	Governor and Lieutenant Governor are sworn in
Friday, March 13, 2015	Deadline for filing bills and joint resolutions other than local bills, emergency appropriations, and bills that have been declared an emergency by the governor
Monday, June 1, 2015	Last day of 84th Regular Session; corrections only in house and senate
Sunday, June 21, 2015	Last day governor can sign or veto bills passed during the regular legislative session
Monday, August 31, 2015	Date that bills without specific effective dates (that could not be effective immediately) become law



City SUPPORTS State & Federal legislation which

- Protects & enhances City revenues.
 - Reduces or eliminates costs to the City.
 - Supports local control.
 - Protects policies previously established by City leadership through the Charter, Ordinances, Resolutions or Master Plans.
 - Provides increased educational opportunities for the citizens of Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend region by supporting its public schools, community colleges and universities.
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City OPPOSES State & Federal legislation which

- Undermines the principles of Home Rule and Local Control.
 - Results in the loss of revenue or negatively impacts potential revenue growth.
 - Diminishes the authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development.
 - Nullifies or undermines the City's policies contained in existing provisions of the Charter, Ordinances, Resolutions and Master Plans - unless such changes expand the City's ability to manage its own affairs.
 - Imposes unfunded mandates that requires any expenditures by the City unless all costs are full reimbursed by the mandating governmental entity.
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Levels of Importance

Priority – means the City will actively pursue and support/oppose the policy, including, if necessary, seeking introduction and passage of legislation. This would include purely local Corpus Christi bills, as well as very important legislation of statewide application.

Actively Support/Oppose – means the City will aggressively attempt to influence passage/defeat of a measure if it is introduced by some other entity.

Endorse – means the City will make its support or opposition known, but will not actively pursue the issue.



Policy Topics

Transportation

- Support the passage of new, long-term, sustainable funding sources for transportation infrastructure; and the dedication of existing revenue generated from taxes, fees, or receipts related to transportation to the maintenance, improvement and expansion of roads, rail and public transportation.
 - Provide cities and counties with additional local funding options and resources to address transportation needs that are not otherwise met by current funding sources or to offset any new transportation related costs or requirements by state or federal government. Examples: gasoline tax, vehicle registration fee, an exemption of the sales tax cap, or other options.
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Policy Topics

Appropriations

- Seawater Desalination – Appropriate adequate funding to partner with local project sponsors to implement one or more seawater desalination projects.
 - Appropriate \$150 million in grant funding to Texas Military Preparedness Commission to assist defense communities with military value projects.
 - Funding for TxDOT for passing lanes for SH 361 and for improvements to the ferry system.
 - Continue investing in Texas tourism promotion in the Governor’s Office of Economic Development and Tourism.
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Policy Topics

Windstorm Insurance

- Restructure the governing board of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) to put consumers on equal footing with insurance company members;
- Creates incentives to promote voluntary coverage of windstorm and hail policies in the Texas seacoast; and
- Establishes a financial structure to cover on an annual basis up to \$4.3 billion in loss claims at TWIA, would cover a 1-in-100 year storm; requires member insurance companies pay assessments sooner; establishes a small statewide catastrophic storm fund, and creates a more financially beneficial re-insurance program.



Policy Topics

Tourism

- Secure for Corpus Christi (and Port Aransas) an equitable two percent (2%) portion of the state's Hotel Occupancy Tax for Gulf and Bay beach cleaning, maintenance and coastal erosion exactly as already provided to other barrier island municipalities.
- Maintain the existing public school start date, which is vitally important to the tourism economy of the Coastal Bend.



Policy Topics

Natural Resources

- Change notice requirements for public oil and gas waste disposal permit applications in watersheds.
 - Amend Texas utilities code to allow municipalities to purchase energy wholesale from a co-generation facility to provide low-cost power for seawater desalination plant.
 - Amend statutes to eliminate impediments to development of water supply sources to meet the long-term needs of the State, whether it is through conservation, surface water, groundwater, aquifer storage and recovery, interbasin transfers, rainwater harvesting, or other strategies.
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Policy Topics

Municipal Authority

- Increase in the administrative change order authority from \$100,000 to the larger of \$500,000 or 5% of the base contract value.
- Amend statutes to empower municipalities to regulate development of wind farms within a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).



Policy Topics

Higher Education

Support appropriation requests by TAMUCC for:

(a) capital projects (Life Sciences Research and Engineering Building and Arts and Media Building) whether funded through tuition revenue bonds or other sources,

(b) \$11.5 million exceptional item funding for the Lone Star Unmanned Aircraft System Center for Excellence and Innovation;

(c) \$3 million exceptional item funding for expansion of engineering programs; and

(d) \$400,000 exceptional item funding for two staff positions and operational funding to support clients and the continued development of the Coastal Bend Innovation Center program.



Questions/Discussion

