

# ***CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI***

## ***2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES***

### ***Recommended Category: PRIORITY***

- ✓ Exempt the Corpus Christi Aquifer Storage and Recovery District from the requirement of developing a “desired future condition” of the aquifer in Chapter 36, Water Code.
- ✓ Expand authority of Joint Airport Zoning Board in Chapter 241, Local Government Code, to prevent and mitigate electromagnetic and radar interference.
- ✓ Validate actions of the Lower Nueces Water Supply District to protect City’s real property interests near Lake Corpus Christi.
- ✓ Allow a County to use its Texas Enterprise Zone designations for a company that is in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a City that is not in that County. (Re-file HB 1560 from 82<sup>nd</sup> Session)
- ✓ Allows Texas Enterprise Zone designations to be broken down into halves or quarters. (Re-file HB 2493 from 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session)
- ✓ Constitutional amendment authorizing gaming at destination locations in Texas.
- ✓ Windstorm Insurance reform.
- ✓ Authorize local governments to levy a fee or tax for transportation infrastructure projects.
- ✓ Create a dedicated funding source to implement long-term water management strategies in the 2012 State Water Plan.
- ✓ Eliminate the population bracket limitation in the Local Government Code to allow smaller cities to use alternative procurement methods for design and construction.

### ***Recommended Category: ACTIVELY SUPPORT***

- ✓ Limitation on boating sales tax to create incentive for large boats to be registered in Texas.
- ✓ Funding to protect Texas military installations from future budget cuts or BRAC-like actions by purchasing development rights or land outright to ensure compatible land use strategies.
- ✓ Fair and equitable school finance system that strives for excellence, maximizes local control and encourages students to achieve academic success and prepares them for career opportunities in the future.
- ✓ Texas should enhance existing formula funding to increase efficiency and encourage graduates from Texas Universities and community colleges to support the critical role of providing a skilled workforce for the Texas Economy.

- ✓ Reinstatement of the dispersal of Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (LEOSE) funds to law enforcement entities across the state to defer the cost of the required continuing education of Texas peace officers.

***Recommended Category: ACTIVELY OPPOSE***

- ✓ Changes to the Public Education and Government one percent franchise fee for state cable franchises.
- ✓ Flow control restrictions in solid waste management.
- ✓ Changes in funding that might weaken the long-term viability of the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS).
- ✓ Changes to the school start date.
- ✓ Limitations on local control and restrictions on city's extra-territorial jurisdiction.
- ✓ Revenue Caps or erosion of local control over budgeting process.
- ✓ Limits on land use regulatory authority.
- ✓ Limits on building and construction permit fees.
- ✓ Reduction in revenue collected for right of way rental (i.e. Franchise fees).
- ✓ Elimination or limits on the use of economic development tools.

***Recommended Category: ENDORSE***

- ✓ City employee benefits plan flexibility.
- ✓ Continuation of economic development incentives and funding for the Governor's Office.
- ✓ Continuation of funding for State agencies that provide critical services in the Coastal Bend, including Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Commission on the Arts, Texas Historical Commission, Texas Health and Human Services agencies, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas General Land Office, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Department of Public Safety, and others.

**OTHER IDEAS CONSIDERED, NO ACTION TAKEN**

- Amend Chapter 451, Transportation Code, to change city appointment to rapid transportation authority board representing transportation disadvantaged individuals.

*NOTE: Suggested by Abel Alonzo. Will affect Corpus Christi, Austin, Houston, and San Antonio*

- Amend Chapters 1251 and 1331, Texas Government Code, to give municipalities flexibility to group subjects for bond ballot language.

*NOTE: Bond Counsel Jeffrey Kuhn believes passage will be difficult and is not recommended.*