



## 85<sup>th</sup> 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. Support funding for TxDOT for the continued investment in the development of Interstate 69 (along US Highway 59, US Highway 77, US Highway 281, US Highway 84, Interstate 2 and State Highway 44) and Marine Highway 69 (the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway) as an international freight corridor providing strategic intermodal connections from the Texas-Mexico border and ultimately through eight states to the US-Canada border.
12. 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.
13. Pass a constitutional amendment (authorize referendum) to protect local governments from unfunded mandates.

14. Oppose legislative or budget decisions that shift the cost of state-funded programs to local governments.
15. Oppose State cuts in Behavioral Health Center funding, Juvenile Probation, Community Supervision and Corrections Department, and Indigent Defense.
16. Oppose diversion of County fees and taxes, including mixed beverage alcohol taxes.
17. Oppose changes to Jail Standards that cause an undue burden or increased costs on sheriffs or county commissioners courts.
18. 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.
19. Oppose any limitation of county authority to regulate fireworks and/or outdoor burning.
20. Limit court reporter salary increases to the average amount provided for all county employees.
21. Oppose changes that would weaken the disaster declaration authority of county judges.
22. Support legislative efforts to enhance disaster recovery programs, including support of state recovery programs designed to provide state assistance of local jurisdictions in meeting their 25% cost match of federally declared disasters.
23. Oppose unreasonable minimum storage conditions for county records.
24. 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.

### **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.