



April 12, 2019

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas

**RE: Permanent Property Tax Relief**

Dear Governor Abbott:

With billions in excess revenue flowing into state coffers over the next two years, Texas lawmakers have an unprecedented opportunity to provide **permanent property tax relief** to all Texas families, but rather than return money to taxpayers in the form of meaningful property tax relief, legislators have gone on a spending spree.

According to an analysis by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, the Texas House plan for spending (HB1) is up 13.8% in all funds (all state funds + federal funds) and 14.4% in just state funds (**excluding Harvey recovery dollars**), meaning both far exceed the [Conservative Texas Budget limits](#) of 8% in population growth plus inflation. The Senate's budget at \$239.1 billion, excluding Harvey money and including supplemental appropriations, is up 10 percent in total, also above the Conservative Texas Budget limit, but closer than the House's budget.

So far, this legislative session, little has been done to protect taxpayers or encourage conservatives to fight for Republicans in 2020. **We call on you to demand better of our Republican legislators before they surrender the state to Democrat control.**

***Republican lawmakers have a choice; spend the new windfall and grow government or return it to taxpayers in the form of lower school tax bills.***



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Unfortunately, current proposals, such as House Bill 3, plan to spend up to 70 percent of this surplus on higher spending, rather than on reducing school property tax bills. That's \$6.3 billion in new public education spending *in addition to* another \$2 billion to pay for student enrollment growth.

Only 30 percent—or \$2.7 billion of the \$9 billion of new state spending—would go toward reducing local school property tax rates by an average of 4 cents per \$100 of property valuation. For a Texan with a \$200,000 home, they could see annual savings of \$80; however, **if their appraisal value increases 3 percent or more over the next two years, homeowners will never see or feel permanent tax relief.**

As proposed by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, Republican lawmakers should pass a bill that would force the State of Texas to make relief permanent, by **dedicating 90 percent of all surplus state revenue to lowering school tax bills.**

In addition to failing to propose significant and permanent tax relief, Republican lawmakers are not pushing to phase out the unfair and unpopular wealth redistribution scheme known as the “Robin Hood” property tax, which overtaxes an increasing number of Texas families each year.

While lawmakers supporting HB 3 claim it would “reduce Robin Hood recapture by 38 percent,” their own numbers prove this to be false. HB 3 would only *prevent recapture from increasing*; **it would *not* reduce recapture!**

According to the Texas Education Agency, total recapture statewide was **\$4.74 billion** in the 2018-19 biennium. Upon passage of HB 3, recapture would remain flat at **\$4.7 billion** over the next two years (2020-2021).

Governor, along with Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, you have supported an important property tax *reform* to help slow the growth of property tax bills. A necessary component of any such reform is empowering taxpayers with more control over tax burdens by requiring cities, counties, and school districts to obtain voter approval for annual tax hikes of 2.5 percent or more – a policy supported by 77 percent of Texans (Quinnipiac University poll released 02.26.19). These tax hike elections must be required to be held on a November uniform election date.

***But property tax reform is not enough. Slowing the growth of stifling tax bills is not enough.***



***Texans are taxed enough already and will not be satisfied with lawmakers if they merely protect the status quo. Texans want, need, and deserve a net reduction in their property tax bills, and the state has the money through existing revenue streams to provide permanent tax relief, without raising new taxes or fees.***

We call on you to push Republican lawmakers to pass property tax reform (SB2/HB2) with the 2.5 percent rollback rate applied to **every local taxing entity** in the state—including school districts—and require automatic November tax ratification elections. **We strongly oppose any effort to water down the legislation.**

We recognize that whether funding comes from state coffers or local coffers, it all ultimately comes from the wallets of taxpayers. Statewide, property tax increases have greatly outpaced the average taxpayer's ability to pay. From 2012 to 2017, **local property tax revenues soared by almost 40 percent across the entire state**, according to the Comptroller's Biennial Property Tax Report. That's well above population growth and inflation increases, which rose just 15.3 percent.

We call on Republican lawmakers to pass permanent tax relief by increasing the state's share of public education spending. A *majority* of surplus state revenue—\$4.6 billion, or more—should be dedicated to buying down school M&O property tax rates.

Likewise, we also call on Republican lawmakers to make property tax relief permanent, by amending law to require that 90 percent of future surplus state revenue be dedicated to lowering school M&O property taxes, until it's entirely repealed. Once repealed, Robin Hood would be eliminated, and the average Texan would see a 40 percent reduction in their total property tax burden.

Governor Abbott, whether this session will be remembered as one in which legislators delivered on long-made promises to taxpayers ***or marked the end of Republican control of the Texas legislature, it rests in your hands.*** We are counting on you.

Respectfully, the undersigned Texas grassroots political leaders, \*

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Michael Quinn Sullivan, CEO, Empower Texans

Cathie Adams, 1st VP, Eagle Forum, Former Chairman, Republican Party of Texas, HD 89, SD 8, Parker

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum, HD 98, SD 9, Grapevine



Joe Adams, Chair, Delta County Republican Party, HD 62, SD 2, Cooper

Sam Anderson, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Flower Mound Area Republican Club, HD 63, SD 12, Flower Mound

Tami Andrews, Community Affairs Chair, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Margie Arens, 1st VP, Denton Republican Women's Club, HD 64, Argyle

Sharon Armke, Concerned Parents of Texas, HD 45, SD 25, Dripping Springs

Jennifer Audet, Treasurer, East Texans for Liberty PAC, HD 7, SD 1, Gladewater

Janet Baber, Prec. Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Russ Bafford, Sr., President, Robson Ranch Republican Club, HD 64, SD 12, Denton

Deborah Bailey, Secretary, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Brett Baldwin, Precinct Chairman, Collin County Republican Party, HD 66, SD 8, Plano

Dottie Barnes, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 89, SD 22, Frost

Marcia Barnett, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Parliamentarian, Republican Women of Denton, Collin & Dallas County, HD 65, SD 12, Carrollton

Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Jimmy & Jean Bassinger, HD 65, SD 12, Highland Village

Peter Batura, Vice President, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 132, SD 17, Katy

Susan Bayne, Precinct Chair, Bexar County Republican Party, HD 122, SD 25, San Antonio

Annette Bennett, Prec. Chair, Gillespie County Republican Party, Fredericksburg Tea Party; HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Beth Biesel, Co-Chair, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 108, SD 16, University Park

Bill Bingham, past Vice President, Bryan/College Station Tea Party, HD 14, SD 5, College Station

Tammy Blair, past Chairman, Cherokee County Republican Party, East Texans for Liberty, HD 11, SD 3, Bullard

Elena Blake, Irving Republican Women, HD 105, SD 16, Irving





Richard Bohnert, Fredericksburg Tea Party, Llano Tea Party, Convention of States, HD 53, SD 24, Comfort

Joanna Bowen, Secretary, Lake Country Republican Club, Hawkins/Holly Lake Republican Club, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Judy Brady, President, Central Texas TEA Party, HD 54, SD 24, Salado

Barrett Breedlove, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Sherry Breedlove, East Texans for Liberty, Big Sandy

Janie Brittain, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party, HD 112, SD 16, Garland

Wes Brumit, Chairman, Voices of Conservatism and Liberty PAC (VOCAL), HD 9, SD 1, Longview

Dennis Cable, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Adam Cahn, Austin political blogger, Cahnman's Musings, HD 51, SD 21, Austin

Art Cameron, former Prec. Chair, Smith Co. Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Tyler

David Carter, Central Texas TEA Party, John Birch Society, HD 55, SD 24, Temple

Cindi Castilla, President, Dallas Eagle Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

Ramiro Castillo, Pastor, Southern Oaks Baptist Church, HD 14, SD 5, College Station

Janna Castloo, Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Della Clark, Charter Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Anne Coker, Board Member, Project Fort Worth, HD 93, SD 10, Arlington

Dr. Dwayne "Doc" Collins, Founder & Chairman, Edom TEA Party, HD 2, SD 2, Ben Wheeler

Wayne Coltrane, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, HD 67, SD 8, Plano

Craig Cosgray, President, Highland Lakes Tea Party, HD 20, SD 24, Spicewood

Connie Curry, Founder, West Texas Conservative Leadership, HD 83, SD 28, Lubbock

McKenna Dallmeyer, Convention of States, HD 136, SD 5, Cedar Park

Michelle McWilliams Davis, District Captain, Convention of States, HD 24, SD 24, League City



William Decker IV, Edom Tea Party, HD 2, SD 2, Canton

Luke DiSilvestro, HD 4, SD 3, Brownsboro

Don Dixon, longtime transportation reform activist & blogger, HD 121, SD 25, San Antonio

Frank Dobrovolny, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club, HD 11, SD 3, Jacksonville

Jim & Char Doonan, Lake Country Republicans, HD 5, SD 1, Winnsboro

Carol Doucet, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County & Navarro County TEA Party, HD 89, SD 22, Frost

Terri DuBose, Precinct Chair, Real County Republican Party, former SREC SD 19, HD 53, SD 19, Leakey

Trevor Dupuy, Founder & Coordinator, Horseshoe Bay Conservative Caucus, HD 53, SD 24, Horseshoe Bay

Rick & Kathy Eisenbach, President, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

William Ely, Director, Cypress Texas Tea Party, HD 130, SD 7, Cypress

Sharon Emmert, self-retired Smith County Commissioner, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Sue Evenwel, SREC, Senate District 1; Chair, Titus County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mt Pleasant

Tom & Toni Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party, HD 106, SD 12, Frisco

Betty Fallert, Membership Chair, Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 4, SD 2, Crandall

Mary Anne Farrow, East Texans for Liberty PAC, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

Davis Ford, 1st VP, Central Texas TEA Party, HD 55, SD 24, Temple

Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall, HD 47, SD 24, Austin

Kat Fox, past Steering Committee Member, Kaufman County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 2, Mabank

Rena & David French, Founder Patriot Members, Grassroots America – We the People, HD 11, SD 3, Bullard

Bill & Patty Gallagher, Primadata Liberty Center, HD 2, SD 2, Mabank

Gary Gentz, Member, Henderson County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 3, Eustace

Jill Glover, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, HD 63, SD 12, Denton

Daniel Greer, Executive Director, Direct Action Texas, HD 17, SD 14, Elgin



Suezette Griffin, Past President, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 129, SD 11, Pearland

Suzanne Guggenheim, President, Coastal Bend Tea Party, HD 31, SD 20, Corpus Christi

Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF), HD 53, SD 24, Ingram

David Halvorson, SREC SD 12, HD 98, SD 12, Grapevine

Barbara Harless, Co-Founder, North Texas Citizens Lobby, HD 89, SD 8, Murphy

Danny & Marilyn Harris, HD 106, SD 30, Sanger

Joe Harrison, Founder & Organizer, Cass County Patriots, HD 98, SD 1, Atlanta

Carole Haynes, Ph.D., Founder, American Citizens Matter, HD 64, SD 12, Hickory Creek

Jill Youngblood Hilber, VP Legislation, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 106, SD 30, Aubrey

Martin Hilber, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 106, SD 30, Aubrey

Greg Holton, Regional Captain, Convention of States Texas, HD 2, SD 2, Sulphur Springs

Steve & Alfiya House, HD 3, SD 4, Montgomery

Connie Hudson, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, 3rd Vice Chair, Legacy Republican Club, HD 106, SD 12, The Colony

Mary & Dale Huls, Past President & current Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 129, SD 11, Friendswood

Jeremiah Hunter, 2018 Delegate, Republican Party of TX Convention, HD 7, SD 1, Longview

Bill Hussey, Founder & Vice President, Llano TEA Party, HD 53, SD 24, Llano

Eric & Mirielle Inman, Prec. Chair, Denton County GOP, HD 63, SD 26, Ponder

Rick Jackson, Precinct Chair, Kaufman County Republican Party, Vice Chairman, Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 4, SD 2, Forney

Wallace Johnson, Precinct Chair, Brazos County Republican Party, Bryan

Hannah Jones, HD 2, SD 2, Canton

Sharon Jones, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Denton County Conservative Coalition, Legacy Republican Club, HD 106, SD 12, The Colony

Jackie King, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 8, SD 22, Purdon



Michael Kinzie, Founder, TEAParty911.com, HD 130, SD 7, Tomball

Larry Korkmas, President, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 133, SD 17, Houston

Loretta Kusek, HD 119, SD 28, Live Oak

Robin & Jim Lennon, President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc., Cleveland

Amanda L'Esperance, HD 62, SD 2, Cooper

Craig Licciardi, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party; Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Flint

Alice Linahan, Vice President, Women on the Wall, HD 63, SD 12, Northlake

Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party of Texas, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Dr. Ivette Lozano, former President, Dallas County Republican Assembly, HD 108, SD 2, Dallas

Susan Lucas, Bryan/College Station TEA Party, HD 14, SD 5, Bryan

Terry Lynch, past President, Park Cities Republican Women, HD 89, SD 8, Parker

Dalton Lytle, HD 89, SD 8, Murphy

Tom Maddox, HD 4, SD 3, Chandler

Maria Martinez, Houston Inner Loop Grassroots, HD 132, SD 13, Houston

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party, HD 98, SD 12, Grapevine

Ginger McDaniel, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, Membership Chair, Denton County Conservative Coalition, HD 64, SD 12, Argyle

Gloria McDonald, Technology Chair, Denton County Conservative Coalition, HD 63, SD 12, Bartonville

Dennis McKee, Treasurer, Lonestar Coalition SD 2, HD 4, SD 2, Kemp

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director/President, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1

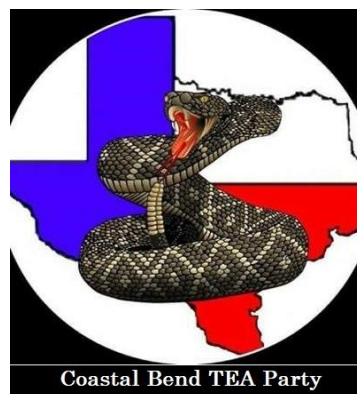
Greg McReynolds, HD 2, SD 2, Canton

Mark Metzger, Prec. Chair, Bexar Co. GOP, HD 122, SD 25, San Antonio

Terri Miller, Founder/President, STAR Republicans, HD 106, SD 12, Frisco

Dr. Royce Mitchell, Precinct Chair, Brazoria County Republican Party, HD 29, SD 11, Manvel

Thomas Morgan, Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler





Frank Motsenbocker, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Michael & Susan Najvar, Deep East Texas TEA Party, HD 17, SD 18, Gonzales

Naomi Narvaiz, Former State Republican Executive Committee SD 21, HD 45, SD 21, San Marcos

Brian Newman, President, Collin Strong, HD 70, SD 8, McKinney

Michael Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives, HD 61, SD 30, Fort Worth

Mike Openshaw, Founder, Texas Legislative Watch, HD 66, SD 8, Plano

Karla O'quin, San Angelo TEA Party, San Angelo Republican Women, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Darlene Pendery, HD 63, SD 12, Flower Mound

Tillie Perkins, President, RED Texas Forum, HD 107, SD 2, Mesquite

Jerry Phillips, HD 4, SD 3, Chandler

Rene Poe, Vice President, Hood County Tea Party, HD 60, SD 22, Granbury

Kathy Ponce, President, Freedom Tea Party Patriots, HD 10, SD 22, Maypearl

Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Founder, True Texas Elections, HD 50, SD 14, Copperas Cove

Terry & Joy Putnam, Texans 4 Truth, HD 20, SD 5, Georgetown

Jody Quimby, Board Member, Bryan/College Station Tea Party, HD 12, SD 5, Bryan

Mark Ramsey, SREC SD 7, Chair, SREC Legislative Priorities Committee, HD 150, SD 7, Spring

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cites/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

John Rappazzo, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Judson

Connie Ratisseau, Board Member, Clear Lake TEA Party & Phillip Ratisseau, HD 129, SD 11, Friendswood

Fran Rhodes, Vice President NE Tarrant Tea Party, HD 24, SD 9, Fort Worth

Marty Rhymes, Vice Chair, Republican Party of Gregg County, Treasurer, Republican Club of Gregg County, HD 7, SD 1, White Oak

Kathi-Ann Rivard, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, Golden Corridor Republican Women, Frisco Tea Party, HD 70, SD 30, Prosper

Tanya Robertson, SREC, Senate District 11, HD 129, SD 11, Seabrook



Ruben Salinas, SD 12, Roanoke

Barry Schlech, PhD, Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party, HD 58, SD 22, Burleson

Josie Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Republican Club, HD 11, SD 3, Rusk

Jan Shedd, Surrogate, The Remembrance Project, HD 4, SD 2, Kaufman

Bryan Slaton, Leader, SD 2 Conservative Grassroots Coalition, Vice President, Ethics and Political Economy Center (EPEC), HD 2, SD 2, Royse City

Vicki Slaton, Former (term limited) SREC SD 2; SD 2 Grassroots Coalition leader, HD 113, SD 2, Sunnyvale

Angela Smith, Founder & Steering Committee Member, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Alan Smith, Steering Committee Member, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Liz Smith, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Dr. Gregory Smith, Republican Election Clerk, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Joan Somma, Board Member, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE), HD 134, SD 17, Houston

Jim Speiran, Past Board Member, Grassroots America - We the People, Finance Committee Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Bullard

Jim Stanley, Chairman, Henderson County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 3, Chandler

Georgia Stapleton, Board Member, Project Fort Worth, HD 97, SD 10, Fort Worth

Barb Stauffer, Steering Committee, Garland Tea Party, HD 112, SD 16, Garland

Kathy Stonaker, HD 2, SD 2, Mabank

Heather Stoner, President, Smith County Republican Women, Board Member, Grassroots America - We the People, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Penny Story, founder, Constitutional Conservative Activists, HD 10, SD 22, Red Oak

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State LLC, HD 18, SD 3, Cleveland

Mike Sweeney, Central Texas Tea Party, HD 20, SD 5, Georgetown

Jimmie Taylor, HD 2, SD 2, Ben Wheeler

Debbie Terry, SREC Committeewoman, Senate District 12, HD 64, SD 12, Denton



Kaaren Teuber, Coordinator, Texoma Patriots, HD 62, SD 30, Van Alstyne  
 Elizabeth Theiss, President, Stop the Magnet, HD 134, SD 15, Houston  
 Jim Thompson, Conservative Grassroots Coalition SD 2, HD 2, SD 2, Sulphur Springs  
 Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County TEA Party PAC, HD 15, SD 4, Magnolia  
 Bela Toth, Board Member, Pearland Tea Party, Pearland  
 Jerry Trollinger, Chairman, Van Zandt County Tea Party, HD 2, SD 2, Canton  
 John Tweedell, Coordinator, Convention of the States Project, HD 5, SD 1, Hildesheim  
 Lou Vail, Chair, Knox County Republican Party, HD 69, SD 28, Knox City  
 Karl Voigtsberger, Former SREC SD 8, Board Member, McKinney Tea Party, HD 67, SD 8, Richardson  
 Carol Walliser, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler  
 David Watts, Board Member, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer  
 Desiree Watts, Legislative Committee Chair, East Texans for Liberty, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer  
 Brenda White, Precinct Chair, Tarrant County Republican Party, HD 98, SD 9, Keller  
 John White, past Master at Arms, Rockwall GOP, HD 33, SD 2, Rockwall  
 Gary Whitehorn, Board Member, We the People - Longview, HD 7, SD 1, Longview  
 Marshall Winegar, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, HD 106, SD 26, The Colony  
 Allison Winter, Montgomery County Tea Party; SREC SD 4, HD 15, SD 4, Spring  
 Maggie Wright, Founding member & past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party, HD 58, SD 22, Burleson  
 Ruth York, Vice President, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, HD 60, SD 28, Cisco  
 Pastor Greg Young, Nationally Syndicated Radio host, Chosen Generation, HD 53, SD 24, Bandera



**This letter was signed by 195 grassroots political leaders, representing 144 unique organizations, groups, and districts across Texas.**

**CC: The Honorable Lt. Governor Dan Patrick  
 The Honorable Texas House Speaker Dennis Bonnen**



The Texas Conservative  
 Grassroots Coalition  
 is the premier project  
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\*Organizations listed for  
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