

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF POLK §

Resolution in Opposition to Unfunded Mandates

WHEREAS, Texas counties are responsible for the operation and management of many various governmental programs as required or authorized by state law; and

WHEREAS, some county government programs are fully or partially supported with funds disbursed by the State of Texas pursuant to the state appropriations process; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas, acting through the Texas legislature or through a state agency or executive order, may enact laws or promulgate rules that have the effect of imposing mandatory financial obligations upon Texas counties; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas, acting through the Texas legislature or through a state agency or executive order, mandates that counties implement certain governmental programs or perform certain duties and obligations including financial commitment by a county to expend county funds in connection therewith; and

WHEREAS, during each regular session of the Texas legislature, all state funds that support county programs are reviewed through the state appropriation process and by other budgetary review systems; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned review process may result in a reduction, or cessation, of state financial support of county government programs causing an unforeseeable disruption and reduction of the county budget and operations; and

WHEREAS, Texas counties cannot achieve reliable financial planning and the necessary bond ratings sufficient to support county-related obligations when the state mandates a new program that is not fully funded or under conditions where the state reduces or fully withdraws prior funding and disbursement for county government programs; and

WHEREAS, substantial funding is mandated from county taxpayers and diverted every year from local services for the benefit of the citizens of Polk County to support these mandatory financial obligations imposed by the State of Texas, including in the most recent year:

Approximately \$458,000 to support the appointment of attorneys in criminal cases;

Approximately \$22,000 to support the appointment of attorneys in Child Protective Services (CPS) cases;

Approximately \$701,000 to support and maintain state prisoners in county jails pending transfer to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, according to the regulations imposed by the Texas Jail Standards Commission;

Approximately \$2,504,000 to fund the State judicial system;

Approximately \$82,000 to fund the cost of housing parole violators held by order of the State of Texas (blue warrants) in the County Jail awaiting transport to a state penitentiary;

Approximately \$411,000 to fund the operations of the Central/County Appraisal District which operates at the direction of the State of Texas to appraise all real property and certain personal property for purposes of assessing property taxes;

Approximately \$56,000 to support the services of Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department (Adult Probation) and the Juvenile Probation Department;

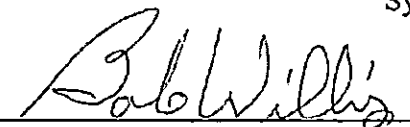
Approximately \$66,000 to provide support staff, office facilities, utilities, and equipment for locally stationed Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) troopers;

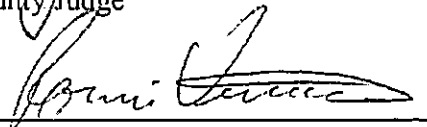
These and other state mandatory services require approximately \$4,300,000 from Polk County property taxpayers and amount to approximately 22% of the county tax rate.

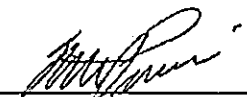
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Polk County Commissioners Court does hereby resolve that for the foregoing reasons, it is in the best interest of Texas counties and their taxpayers to support and favor passage of legislation in the form of an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas that would expressly prohibit the imposition of a mandatory governmental program on Texas counties, whether by an act of the Texas Legislature or a state agency or by executive order, unless the State of Texas has fully funded and disbursed all necessary funds to enable Texas counties to operate said governmental program.

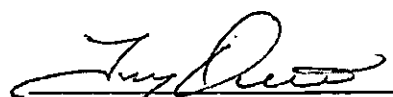
APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Polk County Commissioners Court on this the 8th day of January, 2019.


Sydney Murphy, County Judge


Robert "Bob" Willis
Commissioner, Pct. 1


Ronnie Vincent
Commissioner, Pct. 2


Milton Purvis
Commissioner, Pct. 3


Charles "Tommy" Overstreet
Commissioner, Pct. 4