

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF POLK §

Opposition to Unfunded Mandates

WHEREAS, Texas counties are responsible for the operation and management of many and 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 commitments 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:

\$95,129 to support general election costs and voting equipment;

\$659,200 to support indigent health care;

\$3,462,033 to support and maintain the county jail according to the regulations imposed by the Texas Jail Standards Commission;

\$3,546,964 to fund the State judicial system;

\$444,452 to fund the operations of the Central 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;

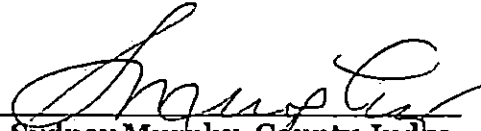
\$73,000 to support the services of the Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department (Adult Probation) and the Juvenile Probation Department;


\$91,460 to provide support staff, office facilities, utilities, and equipment for locally stationed Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) troopers;

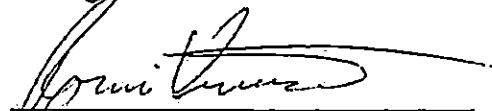
These and other state services require \$9,658,004 from Polk County property tax payers and amounts to 44% of the county tax rate.


NOW THEREFORE, the Commissioners Court of Polk County, Texas does hereby resolve that for the foregoing reasons, it is in the best interests of Texas counties and their taxpayers to support and favor the 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.

Adopted this 26th day of January, 2021.


Sydney Murphy, County Judge


Guylene Robertson, Precinct 1


Ronnie Vincent, Precinct 2


Milt Purvis, Precinct 3


Tommy Overstreet, Precinct 4

Attest: 
(seal) Schelana Hoek, County Clerk

