

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF POLK

§  
§  
§



**Resolution of the Polk County Commissioners Court  
Support of Local Decision-Making and Opposition to Revenue Caps**

**WHEREAS**, 54 percent of the average taxpayer's property tax burden is due to school taxes while only 16 percent is due to county taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, revenue caps diminish local decision-making and tie the hands of county officials and limit their ability to provide essential services to address the needs and emergencies of their citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, county government is already struggling to meet the demands of under-funded and unfunded state mandates such as indigent health care and indigent defense and federal mandates such as the Help America Vote Act and the Clean Air Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the demands on county budgets continue to increase including health care, motor fuel, road materials, and all other products and services purchased by counties; and

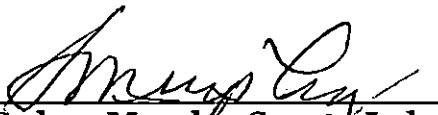
**WHEREAS**, artificial revenue caps result in a shift of taxes from fluctuating properties, such as volatile mineral values, to those remaining relatively stable in value, such as residential properties; and

**WHEREAS**, revenue caps will result in a severe impact on county services; and

**WHEREAS**, it is inequitable for the Texas Legislature to impose additional revenue caps on local governments without alternative funding sources and unfunded mandate relief.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Polk County Commissioners Court does hereby express its opposition to limits in the past legislative session to local decision-making, does hereby oppose any further unreasonable revenue caps upon Texas counties and does hereby express its deep appreciation to all legislators who oppose these unsound measures.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sydney Murphy, County Judge

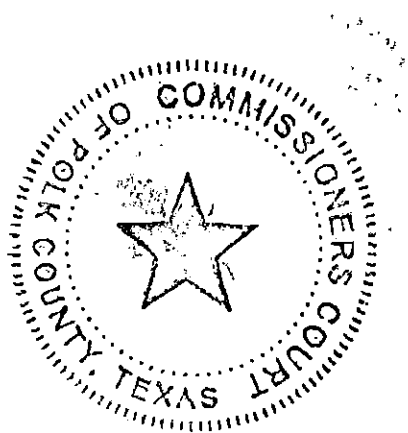
Guylene Robertson  
Guylene Robertson, Precinct 1

Ronnie Vincent  
Ronnie Vincent, Precinct 2

Milt Purvis  
Milt Purvis, Precinct 3

Tommy Overstreet  
Tommy Overstreet, Precinct 4

Attest: S Hock  
(seal) Schelana Hock, County Clerk



STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF POLK

§  
§  
§



**Resolution of the Polk County Commissioners Court  
Indigent Health Care**

**WHEREAS**, revisions have been proposed regarding the Texas system of indigent health care;  
and

**WHEREAS**, some revisions propose an assessment upon counties to support a regional indigent health care system; and

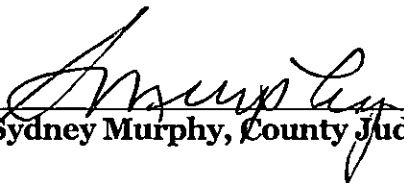
**WHEREAS**, such assessment would constitute an unfunded mandate, requiring property tax increases in those counties; and

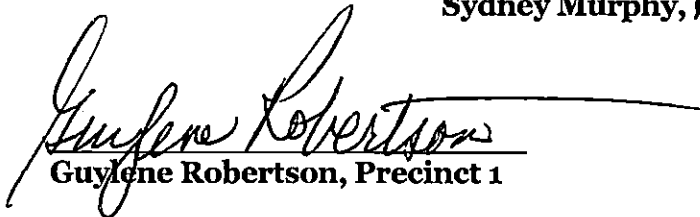
**WHEREAS**, such regional systems would not be efficient or responsible to local taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the present Section 1115 Waiver provides voluntary opportunities to participate in health care innovation projects.

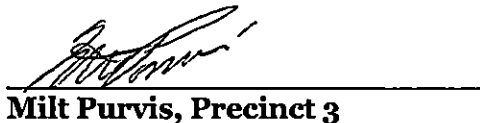
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Polk County Commissioners Court opposes any attempt to impose a mandatory assessment upon Texas counties to fund a regional or statewide health care system and instead supports the continuation of the voluntary Section 1115 grants.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021.

  
Sydney Murphy, County Judge

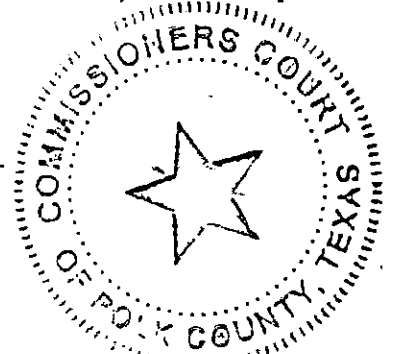
  
Guylene Robertson, Precinct 1

  
Ronnie Vincent, Precinct 2

  
Milt Purvis, Precinct 3

  
Tommy Overstreet, Precinct 4

Attest:   
(seal) Schelana Hock, County Clerk



STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF POLK

§  
§  
§



**Resolution of the Polk County Commissioners Court  
State Funds for Indigent Criminal Defense**

**WHEREAS**, the right to assistance by legal counsel is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Texas is required to implement this right to provide legal counsel to indigent criminal defendants; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Fair Defense Act, adopted by the Texas Legislature in 2001, implements this right and requires certain procedures and attorney appointments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Legislature has failed to provide sufficient funding to offset the additional costs of the Fair Defense Act and has shifted this cost to county taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, county expenditures for indigent criminal defense have increased over 200 percent since the adoption of the Fair Defense Act; and

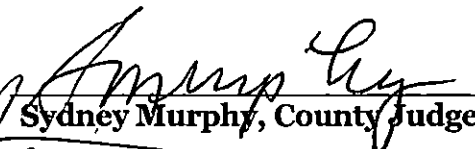
**WHEREAS**, the state funding is totally inadequate, providing approximately 12 percent of the indigent defense costs; and

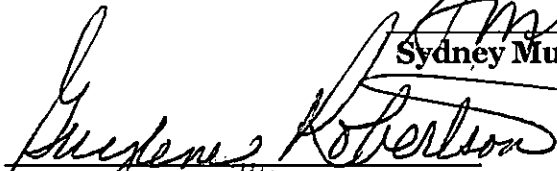
**WHEREAS**, indigent criminal defense is a state responsibility that should be adequately funded on a statewide basis, not a burden overwhelmingly borne by local property taxpayers; and

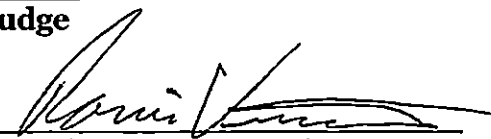
**WHEREAS**, the Texas Legislature has failed to appropriate current funds that are committed by statute to the Indigent Defense Fund;


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Polk County Commissioners Court does hereby request that the Texas Legislature fully fund the cost of indigent criminal defense, which has cost local taxpayers over \$3.2 billion from 2001 through 2019, and immediately release all funds in the Indigent Defense Fund for Distribution.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021.


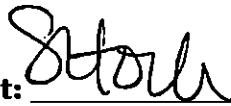
  
Sydney Murphy, County Judge

  
Guylene Robertson, Precinct 1

  
Ronnie Vincent, Precinct 2

  
Milt Purvis, Precinct 3

  
Tommy Overstreet, Precinct 4

  
Attest:   
(seal) Schelana Hock, County Clerk

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF POLK

§  
§  
§



**Resolution of the Polk County Commissioners Court  
Juvenile Probation Funding**

**WHEREAS**, the supervision of juvenile offenders is a responsibility of the State of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Legislature has consistently failed to appropriate sufficient funding to meet this responsibility; and

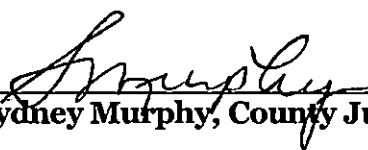
**WHEREAS**, Texas counties have increasingly met this burden by funding juvenile probation services and facilities; and

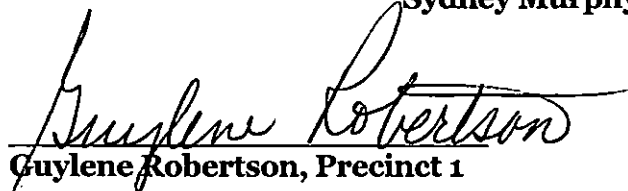
**WHEREAS**, Texas counties and their local taxpayers are now providing over 75 percent of the costs of juvenile probation; and

**WHEREAS**, current state funding formulas will continue to shift additional costs to county taxpayers unless addressed by the State of Texas;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Polk County Commissioners Court does hereby request that the Texas Legislature fully fund the cost of supervision of juvenile offenders, including the costs for juvenile probation services.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021.

  
Sydney Murphy, County Judge

  
Gylene Robertson, Precinct 1

  
Ronnie Vincent, Precinct 2

  
Milt Purvis, Precinct 3

  
Tommy Overstreet, Precinct 4

Attest:   
(seal) Schelana Hock, County Clerk

