



**FARMERS
BRANCH**

CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH 2017 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Principle #1: Maintain municipal authority regarding local government revenue sources

1. Support legislation that would allow TMRS cities more options in regards to employee benefits.
2. Oppose legislation that limits local control and would enact a mandated reduction in the current ten-percent appraisal growth cap on residential property.
3. Oppose legislation that limits local control and would reduce the current eight-percent property tax roll-back rate or would require mandatory elections to increase the property tax rate.
4. Oppose legislation that limits local control and would impose a revenue cap of any type.
5. Oppose legislation that would result in the creation of unfunded mandates.
6. Oppose legislation that would impose a property tax freeze that can be implemented by any mechanism other than council action.
7. Oppose legislation that would enact sales tax exemptions that substantially erodes the sales tax base.
8. Oppose legislation that would not allow exemptions for "new growth" in the effective tax rate calculation.

Principle #2: Maintain municipal authority over municipal land use issues

1. Oppose legislation that would limit or remove the rights of Texas cities to control land uses, businesses, development, or environmental impacts that affects their land or citizens.
2. Oppose legislation that would erode municipal authority over rights-of-way or erode municipal authority to collect compensation for use of rights-of-way.
3. Oppose legislation that would erode the authority of cities to condemn property for a public purpose.
4. Oppose legislation that would restrict cities' ability to adopt or amend zoning regulations.
5. Oppose legislation that would erode municipal annexation authority.
6. Oppose legislation that would erode municipal authority to make amendments to model building codes.
7. Oppose legislation that would erode municipal authority to regulate the construction, location, placement, size, height, aesthetics, and landscaping of all residential structures.

8. Oppose legislation that would delete the requirement of utility companies to relocate their infrastructure at the request of cities.
9. Support legislation that would address the failure of utility companies to relocate their facilities in a timely manner as required by current law.

Principle #3: Maintain municipal authority in determining how best to operate a city (local control)

1. Oppose legislation that would curtail economic development authority.
2. Oppose legislation that would erode the authority of a city to impose a civil penalty on the owner of a vehicle if the vehicle's license plate is photographed while the vehicle is running a red light.
3. Oppose legislation that would erode municipal sovereign immunity.
4. Oppose legislation that would limit or prohibit the authority of city officials to use municipal funds to communicate with legislators.
5. Oppose legislation that would reduce the number of uniform election dates.
6. Oppose legislation that would erode existing municipal authority relating to sex offender residency restrictions, or create state standards that preempts current or future municipal sex offender residency restrictions.
7. Oppose legislation that would limit management rights in employment matters.
8. Oppose legislation that would mandate employment benefit enhancements such as health insurance mandates.
9. Oppose legislation that would subject cities to statutes of limitations.
10. Oppose legislation that would restrict or limit indemnification clauses in construction contracts.
11. Support legislation that would allow municipalities the options of using a newspaper or an official website for the publication of official notices of the city.