



## Harris County GOP Local Government Committee Platform

### Principles:

1. Every level of local government should be as responsive as possible to the voters they represent.
2. Every local government should respect property rights by refusing to enact burdensome regulations and taxes.
3. Every local government should oppose all wasteful, unnecessary, or otherwise superfluous public expenditures.
4. Every local official should uphold a commitment to transparency and open governance.
5. Every local official should be committed to delivering high quality constituent service at all times.

### Harris County Platform:

1. Republican County Commissioners should vote to oppose, or if there are only two Republicans on the Commissioner's Court, deny quorum, for ad valorem tax increases under SB2.
2. Republican County Commissioners should vote to remove the office of Election Administrator for the county and return elections to the County Clerk and Tax Assessor's offices.
3. Expenditures for flood mitigation should be based only on science and engineering, and not social or equity concerns.
4. Taxpayer money should not be used to defend illegal immigrants from the enforcement of our nation's laws and immigration policies.

### City of Houston Platform:

1. We oppose a strong-mayor form of government because it politicizes the provision of basic city services to all citizens of Houston. We support proposals to allow individual or groups of City Council members to add items to a meeting agenda without approval from the Mayor.
2. The Houston police chief, and if one is ever hired, a City Manager, should be hired by the City Council and subject to retention elections at regular intervals.
3. Component units such as TIRZes or corporate entities created by the City should not be able to issue bond debt without approval from the voters.
4. We oppose the expansion of existing management districts within the City without approval of the voters in the areas being added to the management districts.
5. All subsidiary entities (component units and management districts) should have their meeting notices, agendas, and minutes posted in a common location on the City website.
6. The City of Houston should not contract for or participate in any lobbying or advocacy activities conducted by the Texas Municipal League, which represents the interests of governments and not of taxpayers.

**Small Cities and Special Purpose Districts:**

1. All small cities and districts should have their meeting notices, agendas, and minutes posted electronically.
2. All elections should take place on the common ballot in the election run by the County. Local governments should not run their own elections.
3. Firms should not be eligible to bid for projects funded by a bond issue if they contributed to a campaign or PAC in the election that approved that bond.
4. Small cities should not contract for or participate in any lobbying or advocacy activities conducted by the Texas Municipal League, which represents the interests of governments and not of taxpayers.

**School Districts:**

1. All elections should take place on the common ballot in the election run by the County. School districts should not run their own elections.
2. Firms should not be eligible to bid for projects funded by a bond issue if they contributed to a campaign or PAC in the election that approved that bond.
3. School districts should not contract for or participate in any lobbying or advocacy activities conducted by the Texas Association of School Boards, which represents the interests of governments and not of taxpayers.

**Local Law Enforcement:**

1. We oppose any efforts to defund the police.
2. Law enforcement entities should cooperate with immigration enforcement authorities.
3. As our population grows, police departments should grow at a commensurate rate to ensure adequate coverage of all areas by law enforcement.
4. Local law enforcement should not conduct property seizure or asset forfeiture without a criminal conviction.
5. Law enforcement entities should not conduct no-knock raids unless they are intervening in a life-threatening emergency.
6. We support the continuance of the Contract Deputy Program partnerships between Constable offices and local neighborhoods and homeowners' associations.