



Galveston County Legislative Priorities 2025

89th Texas Legislative Session

We, the Commissioners Court of Galveston County, support the following Legislative measures:

End Taxpayer Funded Lobbying: Ban the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying that allows governments and associations representing government entities, such as the Texas Association of Counties and Texas Association of School Boards, to hire lobbyists. These groups receive tax money from government entities that is used to hire lobbyists. No taxpayer money should go to quasi-governmental groups that often lobby against the will of the people.

Public Notices: Annually, local governments in Galveston County spend nearly half a million dollars on the posting of public notices in a newspaper of record. Permitting local governments to post notices on their websites and removing the requirement to post in a newspaper of record would reduce expenses and expand access to public notices.

Additional Funding for Specialty Courts: Increase support and funding for specialty courts that improve outcomes for justice-involved residents that suffer from mental health challenges or substance abuse. Galveston County operates three successful treatment programs that include a Veterans Treatment Court, Mental Health Court, and Drug Court. When justice-involved residents receive specialized treatment for the underlying causes of their incarceration, recidivism are drastically reduced. We made investments in these programs and additional state funding would allow for growth of these important specialty courts.

Border Security: Enhance border security operations and provide funding to stop the flow of illegal immigration into the State of Texas.

Change Voting Structure of the Gulf Coast Protection District: Update legislation on the Gulf Coast Protection District to ensure that no tax rate may be created without a supermajority of voter approval.

Establish Process for Temporary Appointment of County Judge in Medium to Large Counties: Establish a process for the appointment of a temporary County Judge in the event that the County Judge is unavailable for a period of time.

Property Appraisal Reform: Provide real property tax relief by reforming the property appraisal system that drives large yearly assessment increases and creates heavy tax burdens on property owners.