



The City of Missouri City

Missouri City has a strong, proud history of being self-reliant and providing cost-effective services for the greater good of its citizens. Those that serve in elected and staff capacities at the local level are closest to the needs and desires of its constituents as they develop their community together. The resources and authority to conduct the daily work for the betterment of our community comes from our city charter and the codes of the great State of Texas. We look forward to a legislative session where our ability to better the lives of those in our city is protected and we work together with our state government to develop resources to further our economic development.

Agenda for the 83rd State Legislature

BUILDING A STRONGER TOMORROW



1 Local Control For Local Government

Missouri City is able to meet the high demands of its citizens for a quality community because our elected officials have the authority to set a balanced budget, levy tax rates appropriate with the community’s needs, annex, provide zoning and much more. These tools available to the city council are the result of an unofficial agreement between Texas and its cities that allows for the cities to exercise its needed authority to control growth and raise revenues for services, while Texas takes care of the state. We ask that this handshake agreement between the cities and the State remain through this legislative session.

- Maintain existing local control over tax rates
- Maintain the current constitutional provision limiting increase in appraised values
- Protect local taxpayers from bearing the burden of paying for unfunded state mandates
- Maintain the ability of local officials to protect the interests of property owners, neighborhoods, and the public in decisions regarding the permitted uses of property through zoning and code enforcement
- Protect the current annexation laws that allow for municipalities to expand their borders, grow their tax base, and provide safe-guards for adjacent properties
- Consider opportunities to consolidate municipal utility districts under the city to reduce redundant operational costs while maintaining their current district tax rates

2 Keep Families Safe and Healthy

Missouri City has built a strong reputation as being a safe environment for families to call home. Multiple generations remain in our community because we provide excellent public safety through police, fire, and code enforcement, while providing multiple parks and recreational services for all ages to enjoy. We ask that the State also consider the importance of water in this session as the State Water Plan is considered, and not impose any unnecessary burdens for local governments or water systems.

- Provide resources for collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies to combat criminal and gang activity that crosses jurisdictional borders
- Advocate for Texas Parks and Wildlife to maintain grant funding capacity for municipal and county park creation
- Maintain local control over water management and protect our ability to provide an adequate water supply for our citizens

- Provide resources and coordination for collaborative efforts with fire departments to respond to hazardous materials and technical rescue incidents within the region
- Increase support and funding for the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, thereby preventing cities from paying additional fees to support the agency
- Support the initiatives of the Texas Police Chiefs Association to enhance law enforcement's ability to investigate and process crimes

3 Expanding Business Growth

Cities have been the economic engines for this state during the past couple of decades, as we provide incentives and land for business recruitment and expansion. We intend to continue with our economic development successes in cooperation with the State.

- Expansion of funds toward transportation infrastructure improvements by support of state-funded and local participation funding options
- Maintain the local control over use of property tax abatements for the purpose of business recruitment or expansion

- Protect the capacity of municipalities to use eminent domain for the greater good of the community for infrastructure improvements
- Assist with any local initiated legislation that encourages development of key commercial corridors

4 Increase Efficiency and Reduce Waste

Especially in light of the changing economy during the past decade, cities such as Missouri City have looked inward to find answers on how to balance our budgets. There are mandates and restrictions that come from the State that add to our cost of doing business. We ask that the State be considerate of opportunities to increase efficiencies for cities and not impose any unfunded mandates on local government.

- Maintain the open meetings and open records requirements that allow transparency in government
- Allow municipalities to rely more on posting notices online rather than through print media

- Expand use of reuse water from wastewater treatment plant effluent for park and wetland use