



2019

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

86TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

TOGETHER, WE EXCEL!

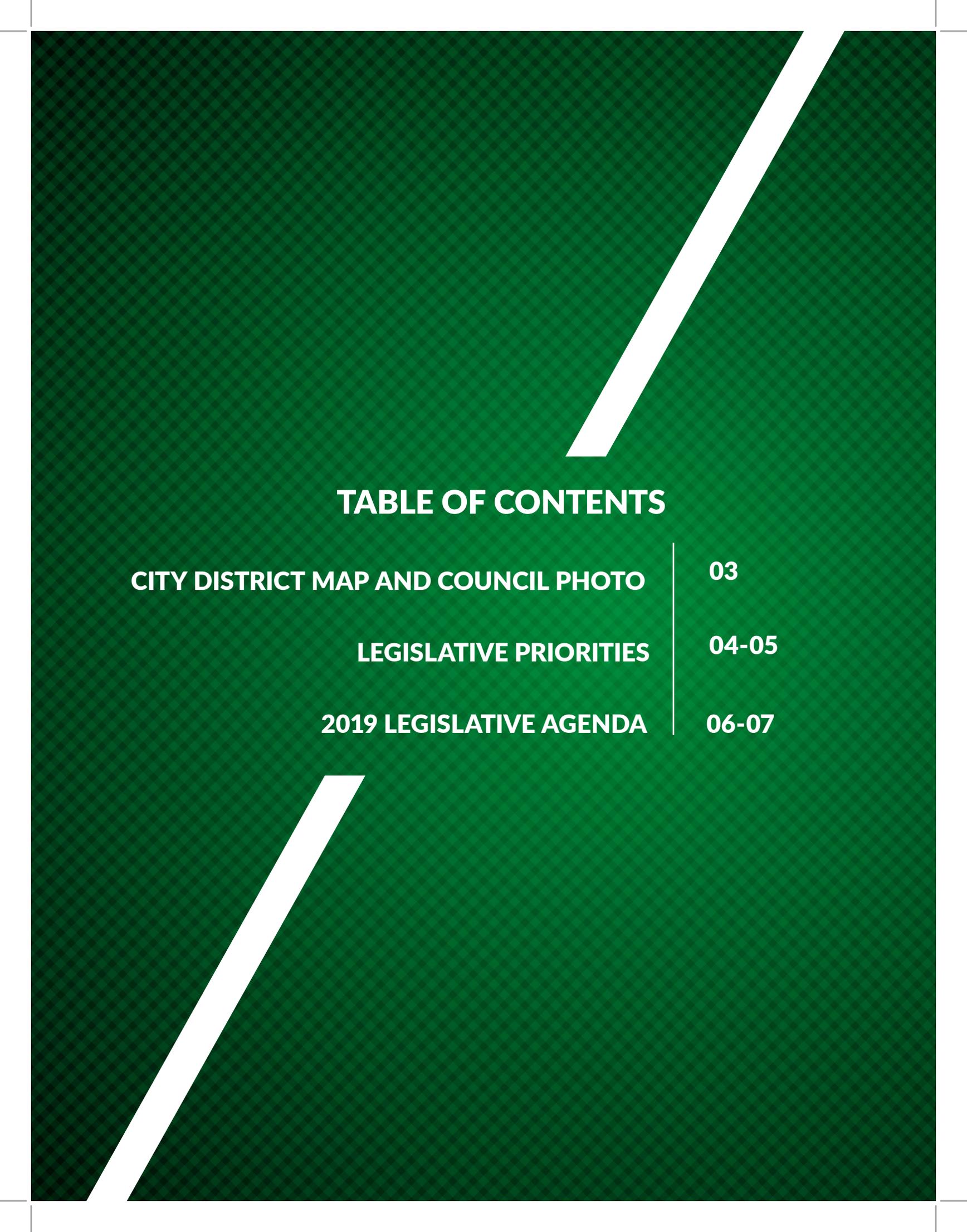


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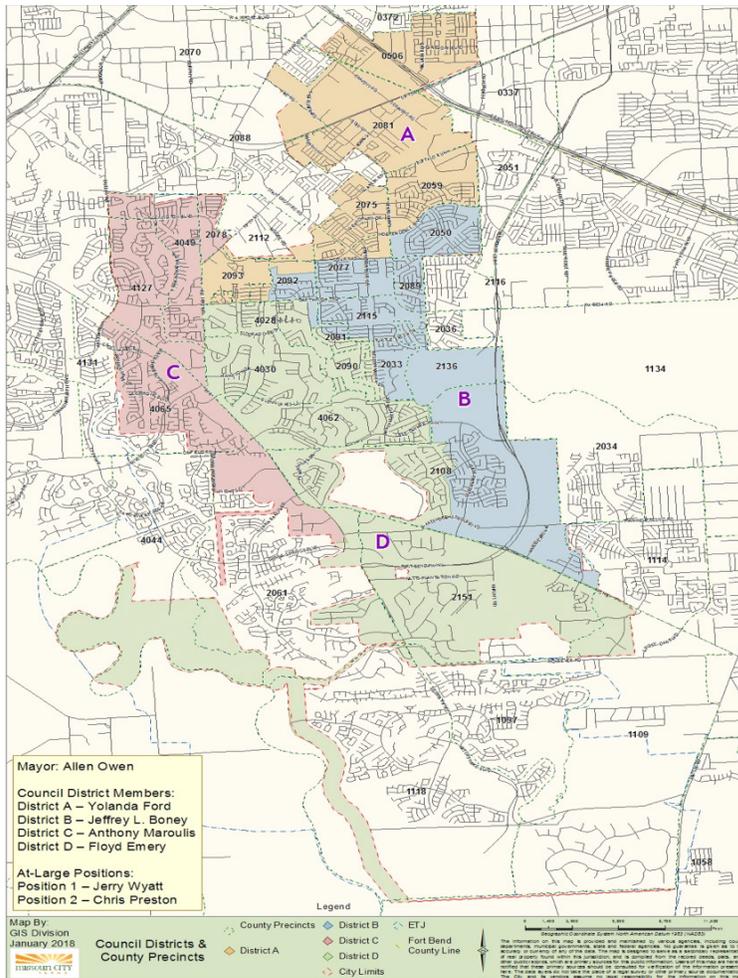
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LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

04-05

2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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First row: Floyd Emery, District D; Allen Owen, Mayor; and Yolanda Ford, Mayor Pro Tem, District A, Second row: Chris Preston, Councilmember-At-Large Position #2, Jerry Wyatt, Councilmember-At-Large, Position #1; Jeffrey Boney, District B; and Anthony Maroulis, District C

CITY COUNCIL'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The City of Missouri City's 86th Texas Legislative Agenda encapsulates the City's highest priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The agenda serves, not only as an explicit authorization, but as a roadmap for the City's staff and representatives to act on behalf of the City during the 86th session of the Texas Legislature. The City of Missouri City also strives to work with other entities, including, but not limited to, other cities and the Texas Municipal League, in a spirit of collaboration and teamwork when the positions of such entities are consistent with the City of Missouri City's priorities. The City of Missouri City's legislative priorities are as follows:

- Preserve local control and home-rule city authority.
- Maintain local funding mechanisms.
- Reject unfunded state mandates.

In consideration of those priorities, Missouri City supports and opposes, as applicable, the following:

Support

- Support legislation that would preserve local control.
- Support legislation that enhances the City of Missouri City's ability to solve problems and improve the quality of life for its residents.
- Support legislation that would allow local governments to meet statutory notice requirements by providing public notices on the websites of such local governments.
- Support legislation that allows the City of Missouri City to set its budget and levy its taxes in accordance with the needs of Missouri City's residents.
- Support additional funding options for city and regional transportation programs.
- Support state-funded and local-option funding choices for economic development and transportation purposes.
- Support legislation that would protect the City of Missouri City's previous and future investments in the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS).
- Support legislation advocated by entities to which the City of Missouri City belongs that is consistent with the priorities set forth by the City. Such legislation may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Legislation relating to regulating pay day lending establishments;
 - b. Increasing the efficiency of intergovernmental relationships between local governments and state agencies; and

CITY COUNCIL'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- c. Preserving and protecting municipalities' zoning, extraterritorial, and annexation authority.
- Support legislation that promotes the general interests of the City's residents, including, but not limited to, initiatives that:
 - a. Address the public school finance system;
 - b. Allow home-rule cities to provide adequate, as determined by the duly elected local governing body, fire, police, code enforcement, and park services;
 - c. Foster economic development; and
 - d. Increase efficiency in the provision of open meetings and records.

Oppose

- Oppose unfunded state mandates.
- Oppose legislation that erodes the City of Missouri City's ability to govern its affairs.
- Oppose legislation that changes the current property or sales tax systems, as well as, other income producing structures in a manner that would cause the City of Missouri City to lose revenue or the ability to raise revenue.
- Oppose legislation that would further lower the appraisal cap.
- Oppose legislation that would preempt municipal franchise fee authority.
- Oppose legislation that erodes the authority of home-rule cities.
- Oppose preemptive legislation that either limits the scope of existing authority or that would weaken the City of Missouri City's ability to sustain the land use character of the City of Missouri City. Such legislation may include legislation relating to the following:
 - a. Contract licensing/registration;
 - b. Permitting;
 - c. Zoning; and
 - d. Short-term rentals.
- Oppose legislation that would restrict the use of economic development tools available to local governments such as tax abatement, tax increment reinvestment zones and Chapter 380 agreements.
- Oppose legislation that erodes municipal authority over municipal right-of-ways or prevents the City from being compensated for the use of its public property.
- Oppose legislation that erodes municipal sovereign immunity.

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The specific areas of interest for the City of Missouri City 2019 Texas Legislative Agenda* are as follows:

1. **Property tax reform:** The City of Missouri City opposes legislation that would limit the City's ability to fund services for its residents and businesses, including, but not limited to, legislation that reduces the rollback rate from eight percent to a lower rate.
2. **Public safety:** The City of Missouri City supports legislation that would repeal § 1702.134 of the Texas Occupations Code, which allows a license holder or an employee of a license holder for alarm system sales to solicit in cities without obtaining a permit or license from such cities.
3. **Crime district:** The City of Missouri City supports legislation that would allow a city to impose a sales and use tax rate that exceeds the current maximum combined allowable sales and use tax rate prescribed by §321.101(f) of the Texas Tax Code to create a crime district for enhanced security.
4. **Sales tax elections for economic development and other purposes:** The City of Missouri City supports legislation that would allow municipalities to hold elections to increase the sales tax above the current limit for the purpose of economic development or for other governmental purposes.
5. **Special district annexation:** The City of Missouri City supports legislation that allows a municipality to annex land within a special district without dissolving the district and without taking on the debt obligations of the district. Additionally, the City of Missouri City supports legislation that would prevent all special districts from annexing land within a city's extraterritorial jurisdiction without the consent of the city.

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6. **Abatement of weeds:** The City of Missouri City supports legislation that would amend §342.008 of the Texas Health and Safety Code to allow a city to abate weeds that are either 48 inches or higher or weeds that are an immediate danger to the health, life, or safety of individuals.

7. **Vesting of certain permits:** The City of Missouri City supports legislation that would clarify that Chapter 245 of the Texas Local Government Code does not apply to a permit issued for the construction of a structure intended for human habitation that is issued under regulations adopting uniform building, fire, electrical, plumbing or mechanical codes adopted by national code organizations.

8. **Redevelopment incentive program:** The City of Missouri City supports legislation that would provide an incentive for investing in redevelopment projects. Such legislation may offer a state franchise tax credit for investments in qualifying projects in certain redevelopment areas. Such program could serve as a pilot project patterned after the federal new market tax credit program. Several states, including Alabama, Kentucky, Florida, and Missouri have similar programs.

* **Missouri City's legislative agenda may be adjusted from time to time during the legislative session.**

CITY OF MISSOURI CITY



ADDRESS

1522 Texas Pkwy.
Missouri City, TX
77489

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

CONTACT

Phone: 281.403.8500
Website: www.missouricitytx.gov

QUALITY VALLEY