

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Ways & Means
For HB 2

Compiled on: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 1:21 PM

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Hearing Date: July 11, 2023 12:15 PM

Tim Hardin
Texans for Fiscal Responsibility
Fort Worth, TX

This effort will ultimately benefit taxpayers but the House as chosen to offer less than they did under the amended version of SB 3 from the regular session and not put Texas on a path to elimination. This bill falls billions short of being the largest cut in history, it does not obey the call of the special to put us on a path to elimination, and will ultimately result in us back here again next session needing more in relief. We urge you to increase the compression amount and add a provision that puts us onto a path to elimination of school M&O by 2035.

David Vrshek
Self, Retired
Richmond, TX

To the House Ways and Means Committee,

I am 81 and my school taxes have been capped since 2007.

I retired in 2010 and moved from Harris County to Fort Bend County. That meant a change in school districts from CyFair ISD to Lamer ISD and that increased my school property tax by \$1000 per year.

The appraised value of my old house was \$150k and the new house was \$168K. Based on those appraised values I expected my school property tax to go up about \$300. Instead, my taxes went up from \$1200 to \$2200 because the "over 65" exemption decreased from \$80k to \$15k.

In 2015 a homestead exemption increase was passed and that did reduce my school tax by \$130 to \$2070.

The 2019 "compression" bill, HB 3, should have reduced my LCISD tax by \$109 but it didn't because the bill needed a constitutional amendment.

In 2021 the Senate submitted legislation that would grant the 2019 "compression" to "capped" homeowners

Also in 2021 the Senate submitted legislation to increase the homestead exemption by \$25k.

The two 2021 Senate proposals were covered by Prop 1 and Prop 2 in the 2022 election and the Constitutional Amendments were approved by more than 80% of the voters.

But there was a problem with the bill language and those of us who are "capped" DID NOT receive a tax reduction from either the "compression" or the increased exemption tax decrease and (this hurt!) homeowners NOT 65/disabled or "capped" DID receive both the compression and increased exemption and reduced their 2022 taxes paid in 2023.

In the 88th Regular Session the Senate included both corrective actions and a new increase in the homestead exemption in bills SB 3 and SB 4. That was to retroactively correct the 2021 language errors that prevented "capped" homeowners from receiving the tax reduction. The House amended the Senate bills. The House and Senate established conference committees to reconcile the bills but ran out of time.

My wife and I have not seen a penny of school tax relief since 2015 in spite of the 2019 and 2021 tax bills approved by the House and the Senate!!!

I support HB 2, which includes both exemption increases and compression, and ask you to pass it on the Senate. I expect that HB 2, HB 3 and HJR 2 will require discussion and probably be resolved by conference committee. Please complete this important tax relief to the benefit of all taxpayers in Texas.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my situation as a senior citizen hoping for some much needed tax relief.

David P. Vrshek
Richmond, Texas

Vines Randy
Self quality engineer
Waxahachie, TX

Texans are tired of renting their property from the little s state
This is borderline communism where the state determines how long you can own private property.
They determine ownership by raising prices and forcing people out.
Eliminate Property Taxes

Chris Brannan
Self, Teacher
Abilene, TX

I am against school vouchers. They are just another way our state government is trying to dismantle our public education system.

Lisa McCollum
Self
Jacksonville, TX

Property Taxes MUST be eliminated. Texans have the right to OWN their homes. Anything less than elimination is a failure. Corrupt CAD's and Chief appraisers will completely white out any homestead exemption with a higher valuation. You all KNOW THIS and so do we! For once, do the right thing!

Susan Gutierrez
Self, Educator
Spring, TX

Texas public schools and the students being educated therein need funding, not vouchers. Texas is among the lowest in the nation in funding per student. That is sad considering the size and prominence of our great state in the U.S. Please increase the funding to our schools. As a parent and taxpayer, I would expect the funding in Texas to go to public education, not the voucher system. Please do right by our students. They need more than what is currently being provided.
Thank you.

Nova Olson
Self
Godley, TX

THIS IS NOT ENOUGH!! stop compromising with MY money. ELIMINATE PROPERTY TAX is my demand. NOTHING LESS is failure on your part.

Kris McGinty
Texans
Crosby, TX

Republicans overwhelmingly voted to eliminate Property taxes and yet the legislature refuses to deliver!

Steve Armstrong, Retired
Real Issues Affecting Real People
Denison, TX

Our Governor and Lieutenant Governor along with the majority of you are out of touch with real people who must budget their income and simply can not afford the already high property taxes. A mere cap and reform will not work and has not worked and has only served to be a political reelection ploy again and again. The social media controllers are keeping you from seeing the real messages being sent to you as we have had enough. The property tax and the county appraisal system has proven that those who control this system do not care what damage they do to property owners and seem to enjoy the process of forcing people out of their homes, farmland and small businesses. The only solution to the property tax is to eliminate it, not doing so is an irresponsible and criminal neglect of your position of power as this rogue tax is hurting more people than it serves.

Mickey Fisher

Self

Keene, TX

HB2 Property Tax Relief - I don't think this is Good Enough. Isn't this just a "compromised" bill between Patrick and Phelan? Isn't it "worse" than what they proposed during the Regular Session?

Does it Accomplish the Special Session Agenda?

Does it Become the Largest Relief in History?

Does it Use Even Half the Surplus?

Does it Provide Permanent Relief?

Does it Put Us On a Path to M&O Elimination?

Does it Put Us On a Path to Eliminate Property Tax?

April Phillips

Self-Public School Teacher

SPRING, TX

I have been a public school teacher in Texas for 36 years. I am writing to beg you to fully fund our public schools and to vote "no" on vouchers. The way to improve our schools is to decrease class size (which can only be done if districts have a larger budget), to reduce emphasis on the STAAR test, stop the culture war on teachers, and increase teacher pay so that quality instructors remain in education. Texas has a budget surplus and Texas taxpayers overwhelmingly support public education. It's time for legislators to provide the finances needed to our public schools. Thank you.

sherryl bankhead

self retired

elm mott, TX

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Jennifer Liggitt

Self - Telecom Voice Analyst

KRUGERVILLE, TX

"That's Not Good Enough." This is the "compromised" bill between Patrick and Phelan. And it's "worse" than what they proposed during the Regular Session. Here are some points about how it's so wrong.

- Does NOT Accomplish the Special Session Agenda
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No Relief. No Reform. #EliminatePropertyTax

Mike Hillin
Self-Eleccrician
Buna, TX

Historically, bills for the relief and reform of property taxes have always failed to actually provide any relief at all. The House and Senate bills from last session that the Legislature and the Governor were so proud of actually did little to nothing to help property owners. The proof is that we are here once again with property appraisals and increased property tax crushing Texans dreams of home and property ownership!!!

We should not have to fight the Appraisal Districts and the County Governments year after year just to maintain ownership of property that we have paid for and should rightfully OWN beyond the reach of bureaucrats.

Governor Abbott as well as many of our Representatives have claimed to want to ELIMINATE PROPERTY TAX AND REPLACE IT WITH CONSUMPTION TAX yet here we are again talking about relief that will probably be vaporized by the Appraisal Districts, Schools and County Courts.

There is a better way to fund all that property tax funds while providing true property ownership in Texas and that is a consumption tax. HB52 by Representative Terri Leo-Wilson will ELIMINATE PROPERTY TAX AND REPLACE IT WITH CONSUMPTION TAX. This will only require a small increase in State sales tax according to studies done by economists, not the huge increases claimed by Lt. Governor Patrick. But the big payoff is for property owners who no longer have to protest their property tax yearly and will no longer worry about how they will be able to afford the property tax on a home that they have already worked to pay for. This will be good for Texas and will share the tax burden among all who purchase products in the State of Texas. Our State will restore property rights as the Forefathers intended and the hero's of Texas Independence gave their lives for. Texas can be the first of many states to follow who will restore property rights to the rightful owners beyond the reach of those bureaucrats who would seize our property against our will and our God given rights as well as our Constitutional rights of Life, Liberty and Pursuit of PROPERTY!!!

Let's go further than "relief and reform", let's give the citizens what we have asked for so many times by passing Propositions to ELIMINATE PROPERTY TAX. It is the responsibility of the Texas House and Senate to do the maximum for the citizens not the bare minimum, just enough to get re-elected.

Please use the power that the people have awarded you to do something great, something to be remembered for generations! Please hear and pass HB52...for the good of Texas...Texas is too great of a State to burden it's people with property tax when we can provide all our needs with revenue from consumption tax.

ELIMINATE PROPERTY TAX HB52

Roger Tomplait
Jasper county / Texas property owners
Kirbyville, TX

Does not fix the problem of appraisal districts , they will outrun any relief voted in !!! Just look at the history or past" relief legislation bills " only HB 52 will fix the problem and return power back to the people ! Homeowners are losing their homes and history/heritage of life long families passing down something they have paid for with many years of sweat and tears !!!

Sharon McDaniel
Self
Arlington, TX

ELIMINATE PROPERTY TAXES!!

I'm beginning to think BETO might be better because y'all can't get anything done.

Sharon McDaniel
Self
Arlington, TX

Quit playing these games & doing nothing.

ELIMINATE PROPERTY TAXES!

Karen Parker
Self/Retired
Cleburne, TX

Do what is right and fair. It's not that hard to vote you out.

Russell Bennett
EliminatePropertyTax.com
Houston, TX

Give HB52 (88-2) a hearing instead.

Authored by Rep. Terri Leo-Wilson, and Joint-Authored by Steve Toth and Cody Vasut, it will Eliminate Property Tax. That's what Texans have overwhelmingly voted for, twice, on propositions, and told the TXLEGE that we want.

This "compromised" bill between Patrick and Phelan is "worse" than what they proposed during the Regular Session. Here are some points about how it's so wrong.

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Janie Brittain
Self
Garland, TX

Not good enough. We need a path to the complete elimination of property tax. This plan does not help those without property or those without homesteads on their property. Also, we deserve *all* of the revenue surplus returned to us, and not in the form of a temporary property tax reduction. This past regular session (88R) brought the highest spending in history. That is not remotely conservative. *Reduce* spending for long term relief to taxpayers!

Paul Vincent
Self
Beaumont, TX

What you are agreeing to is not good enough for all of Texas Home owners, especially SENIOR CITIZENS that live on a fixed income. This is a slap in the face of your constituents. HB 52 is what we need. Do what is right thing. Bettencourt should not be allowed to vote on anything pertaining to taxes. Everyone knows he owns a company that fights for lower taxes. He would lose his business if he voted for HB 52. Eliminate taxes on homeowners permanently.

Steve Felfe

Myself as a Citizen of Texas

Marble Falls, TX

The proposed bill/s relating to reducing taxes does not actually do much for the average citizen. While the 100k HS exemption is nice on the surface it will be short lived by next years appraisals unless they are done using realistic values. Listing prices are being slashed all over the state which means market value is down.

The 5% cap should be added instead of using the current 10% for HS.

The new spots to be added to the CAD boards even if those are ELECTED position wont mean much if the Entities still get to vote in their own hand picked people. All those positions should be voted on by the people not the taxing entities . If need be it can be done by District with each one having an open seat for anyone in that district to run for the seat.

HB does not give a pathway for total elimination of property taxes as was requested by Governor Abbott. Property should be replaced by a Sales tax only system.

Teresa Cornelison

Self

Surfside, TX

ELIMINATE PROPERTY TAX that is the only solution these number games are not helping.

Melissa Rowell

Self, Precinct 480

Houston, TX

Just because you all talk about how historic this bill is and how it is the biggest and best and all, does NOT make it so. The way y'all are praising the bill sounds like you all are just patting each other on the back and hoping it helps us to believe you. We will take the extra exemption for homeowners but you still did not give the common man what we wanted. Our property values are going to continue to rise the max 10% every year for those of us with a homestead. This compromise was NOT all that what we wanted.

If y'all think the landlords are going to pass this along to their tenants, you are fooling yourselves. Do companies pass savings on to the common man and lower prices when they end up building or making something cheaper? NO. Inflation is at an all time high and when our economy improves, I don't see prices going down, though, I sure hope they so. I'm not trying to offend any landlord, but I can assure you rent won't go down for most tenants. With regards to real estate, other things are rising, like flood insurance, the COST OF WATER and such, so I just do not see rent going down.

We wanted more.

Wanda Lee

Self - Retired

Broadus, TX

These compromise property tax bills achieve none of the goals for the special session and is clearly not putting us on a path of eliminating property taxes. Exemptions only work if they are expressed as 100% of homesteaded property. \$100,000 will get washed out in skyrocketing appraisal values before the governor's ink is dry if he is so politically misguided to actually sign this bill. Texans voted to have no income taxes and yet this bill is putting forth property tax burdens that are tied to income. If circuit breakers are constitutionally sound—which I doubt—it certainly isn't in the spirit of what Texas homeowners want and need. This whole approach is a cop out protecting businesses at the expense of senior citizens such as myself who are literally being taxed out of our homes. Meanwhile you aren't given back even half of those billions of dollars of surplus that represent monies Texans were overcharged and that the State of Texas shouldn't have had in the first place. This isn't good enough. Send these compromise bills to the trash bin where they belong and pass a bill that eliminates property taxes! #eliminatepropertytaxes

Phil Williams

Self

Cleburne, TX

That's Not Good Enough. This is the "compromised" bill between Patrick and Phelan. And it's "worse" than what they proposed during the Regular Session. This bill as currently written:

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Craig Hundley, Owner

Texas non partisan political group from the horse barn tax reform

Cleburne, TX

By the time HB2 becomes law another over inflated appraisals will be going out and no one will see their taxes going down! A 5% cap must be applied to all business and residential property now to stop the suffering and all appraisals rolled back to 2019 level's immediately

Dara Jones

Self

Sachse, TX

Please make sure take care of those of us who pay the third of our income to property taxes. Increasing the homestead exemption is nice this year, but please do something to reign in out-of-control appraisals that are driving a lot of escalating taxes!!! Please do some kind of income based rebate for property taxes so some of us can stay in our homes and not move to Oklahoma... the bills are a great start, but please address the appraisal rises.