

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Ways & Means
For HB 30

Compiled on: Monday, April 21, 2025 9:12 PM

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Hearing Date: April 21, 2025 1:00 PM

Cheryl Johnson, Galveston County Tax Assessor Collector
Galveston County Tax Office
Galveston County, TX

I support passage as this is good public policy and long overdue.

Courtney Sladek
City of El Campo
El Campo, TX

On behalf of the City of El Campo, I respectfully register in opposition to H.B. 30 (Troxclair).

This bill would eliminate a critical tool that allows cities to respond quickly and effectively to disasters by repealing the authority to exceed the voter-approval tax rate without an election in the year following a disaster. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, local governments must be able to act swiftly to restore essential services and repair damaged infrastructure without facing procedural delays or costly elections.

For example, following Hurricane Beryl, the City of El Campo incurred approximately \$1.6 million in damages and recovery-related expenses. The ability to respond financially without waiting for a voter-approved tax rate increase is essential in times like these.

Stripping away this authority would significantly hamper our ability to protect and serve our community during its most vulnerable moments. We urge lawmakers to preserve this vital flexibility by opposing H.B. 30.

Samuel Sheetz, Legislative Director
Americans for Prosperity
Austin, TX

AFP thanks Representative Troxclair for bringing this important reform forward. We support House bill 30 because it makes some much-needed changes to the landmark SB 2 from the 2019 session. Under S.B. 2 taxing units in a declared disaster area are allowed to utilize the prior law's eight percent voter-approval tax rate in order to respond to disaster related expenses. However, this practice has been abused as an excuse to increase taxes without voter approval for non-disaster related expenses. We support House Bill 30 because it requires taxing units to be more responsive to the voters and limits how much they can raise taxes without having to go to the voters for approval. Under HB 30, taxpayers will have more say in the process of their property taxes.