



2021 State Legislative Priorities



87th Legislature

City of New Braunfels, Texas

Legislative Priorities for the 2021 Session

Adopted August 19, 2019

Barron Casteel, Mayor

Shane Hines, District 1

Matthew Hoyt, District 4

Justin Meadows, District 2

Wayne Peters*, District 5

Harry Bowers, District 3

Leah Garcia, District 6

***Mayor Pro Tem**

Robert Camareno, City Manager

Kristi Aday, Assistant City Manager

Jordan Matney, Assistant City Manager

Our Home, Our Decisions

Government closest to the people can best serve and respond to the needs of its citizens. This has been the tradition of the USA since the Declaration of Independence. The City of New Braunfels agrees with this philosophy and, therefore, opposes any bill that would erode authority of municipalities to implement rules and regulations in the service of their respective citizens or that would undermine the principles of self-government.

Support

- The City of New Braunfels supports the continued ability to protect residential neighborhoods from activities that would degrade home-owner property values, including but not limited to, the ability to regulate the location and development standards of short-term rentals/vacation rentals/overnight rentals.
- The City of New Braunfels supports legislation that would provide municipalities the authority to:
 - regulate sober living homes in residential neighborhoods through zoning
 - require local registration of sober living homes to include the property owner/landlord contact information as well as tenant listing
 - require annual safety and fire inspections of sober living homes
 - require the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for sober living homes
 - require notification of surrounding property owners when a sober living home is entering a neighborhood

Oppose

- The City of New Braunfels opposes legislation that would erode municipal authority to regulate the permitting, placement, size or height of billboards.

Growth

The City of New Braunfels is presently the 2nd fastest growing city in the nation. The city must be able to respond to citizens and surrounding residents with services, and guarantee quality infrastructure that the citizens demand with the same speed. The City supports legislation that would promote orderly, logical and safe development practices.

Support

- The City of New Braunfels supports legislation that would prevent substandard or unsafe development, infrastructure and housing in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).
- The City of New Braunfels supports legislation that would provide municipalities tools to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and facilitate streamlined development processes

while continuing to ensure safe, affordable, quality, fair and equitable development practices.

Oppose

- The City of New Braunfels opposes legislation that would erode a City's ability to enforce subdivision platting ordinances in the ETJ.
- The City of New Braunfels opposes legislation that would eliminate ETJs in Texas.
- The City of New Braunfels opposes legislation that would render comprehensive plans or master plans ineffective as guides for community growth and partnerships.

Safety

In terms of local development review, ensuring safety of the citizenry is paramount. Citizens expect its local government to ensure at least a minimum level of safety through adherence to rules, laws, permits and ordinances.

Support

- The City of New Braunfels supports legislation that would allow a city to reduce the prima facie speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph.
- The City of New Braunfels supports legislation that would expand state funding and grants for services and programs that ensure access for people with disabilities.

Finance

Texas cities are partners with the state to maintain the economy and quality of life desired by our citizens, but receive little to no direct state funding. Local officials, therefore, are best positioned to determine the revenue necessary to provide the services demanded by their citizens for their protection, safety and welfare.

Support

- The City of New Braunfels supports legislation that would provide municipalities and the state the authority to collect accurate hotel occupancy tax from overnight lodging entities including the ability to audit hosts as well as their third party booking platforms, and to enact stricter penalties on those who do not remit their taxes.
- The City of New Braunfels supports legislation that would expand the state's efforts at ensuring collection of hotel occupancy tax from overnight lodging providers, to include capture of taxes due to both counties and cities.

- The City of New Braunfels supports legislation that would expand the sales tax base, but only if the city tax base fully benefits from the expansion.

Oppose

- The City of New Braunfels (1) opposes legislation that would alter the city share or the calculation or sourcing of city sales taxes; and (2) opposes legislation that would expand the sales tax base without fully benefitting the city tax base.
- Without financial assistance from the state, the City of New Braunfels opposes legislation that would impose a stricter “revenue cap”, which would further limit the City’s ability to meet the needs of its rapidly growing population with services demanded by the citizenry.
- In light of revenue limits imposed by the state, the City of New Braunfels opposes legislation that would impose any additional unfunded mandates.