



# TPPF's Government for the People Agenda

## Limited, Accountable Government. Unlimited Prosperity.

TPPF's Government for the People campaign strives to protect Texans' constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property while keeping government limited and accountable.

### **FISCAL**

**Pass a Conservative Texas Budget.** The state budget should not grow faster than Texans' ability to pay for it. Texas should limit the total budget growth to a maximum of population growth plus inflation so that we can keep spending in check and return excess funds to taxpayers.

**Limit local spending.** Most local governments spend too much. To instill fiscal discipline, local elected officials should voluntarily limit spending growth to a maximum of population growth plus inflation, or the statehouse should establish it as a requirement.

**Eliminate property taxes.** Texas can eliminate school district M&O property taxes by replacing them with surplus state revenue and redesigning the system with a broader sales tax base, and by requiring local governments to eliminate their property taxes with their surplus funds.

**Conduct city and county efficiency audits.** Texas should require all cities and counties to conduct third-party efficiency audits of their budget and operations, seeking opportunities to improve their finances and managerial processes.

### **LOCAL**

**Sunset special purpose districts.** To stop the proliferation of unaccountable governments, the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission should conduct a review of existing special purpose districts and require certain new special purpose districts to be periodically reauthorized by a public election.

**Prohibit tax dollars from funding lobbyists.** Local governments spend tax dollars to hire lobbyists to advocate for higher taxes, more spending, and greater regulatory authority. The Texas Legislature should ban the practice to ensure that Texans do not fund the special interests that work against them.

**Reform extraterritorial jurisdictions (ETJ).** Texans in an ETJ are governed by people they did not elect and subject to regulations they did not approve. Texas should reform ETJs to ensure they respect property rights.

**Allow areas to disannex from local governments.** Texans residing in home-rule municipalities and in the ETJ need a fair disannexation process that enables citizen choice and esteems consent of the governed.

### **PERSONAL**

**Secure the integrity of election results.** Texas should continue to improve its system for collecting and counting votes to ensure only legal votes are accepted, fundamental democratic rights are protected, and violations of election law are fully prosecuted.

**Conduct comprehensive emergency powers reform.** The COVID-19 pandemic saw an aggressive expansion of government control over the everyday lives of citizens. What Texans need is a responsible government that protects citizens' liberties and prohibits unnecessary intrusions by state and local executive orders.

**End Daylight Saving Time (DST).** DST is an antiquated system created during wartime to support that effort. Since the adoption of the Uniform Time Act of 1966, states are only allowed to opt out of DST and revert to standard time. The Lone Star State should opt out and switch to “Texas Time.”

**Protect the right of employees to negotiate for benefits.** City governments are interfering with the ability of employees and their employers to negotiate for the employment benefits that work best for them by imposing one-size-fits-all mandates. The Texas Legislature should prohibit local governments from denying the freedom to negotiate employment benefits packages.

**Improve accountability with open public records.** Access to information is a cornerstone of democratic society and allows the public to hold government officials accountable. The Texas Legislature should ensure that Texans have complete access to public information, with minimal exception, and know how public officials are conducting business and spending money.

**Define success in homelessness policy.** Texas should better define success with regard to its homeless policies so citizens and public officials can hold agencies responsible for the growing problem across the state.

**Create a homeless-family definition.** Texas should require that agencies include all homeless families in the annual homeless count to have a better idea of the resources needed and available.