



Will @GregAbbott\_TX let

#txlege sell you out with fake property tax reform?

**Epic Sell-out of Texas Homeowners & Small Businesses Underway with Texas House Committee kowtowing to Texas Association of Counties & Texas Municipal League, the taxpayer funded lobbyists who oppose YOU!**

The Texas Senate's reform bill ([SB 1](#)) started out requiring cities, counties, and other taxing entities other than school districts to obtain voter approval for property tax hikes of four percent (or more) per year. SB 1 did away with the onerous taxpayer burden of having to gather petitions to get a rollback election. Instead, SB 1 made rollback elections automatic and mandated they be held in November when voter turnout is higher. Because this bill gave taxpayers more local control over their property taxes, we supported the initial bill – although we also strongly believe that school taxes need reform.

SB 1 included a carve-out to exempt local governments with revenues under \$10 million. This carve-out was put in the bill as a concession to get the bill to pass. **Interpretation – there were not enough Republican Senators willing to vote for the bill without the \$10 million carve-out.**

During the public hearings, most local elected officials testified in strong opposition to the bill, declaring they just could not keep up with the cost of population growth if taxpayers had the ability to restrain spending. Never mind that documented trends in local government spending demonstrate they are already taxing at a level that exceeds the combined rate of population growth and inflation.

Local government officials pushed the notion that the carve-out needed to go from \$10 million to \$20 million in combined property tax, sales tax and use tax revenues. Sen. Charles Perry (R) successfully offered the ramped up carve-out as an amendment to SB 1.

**17 Senators voted for the extra carve-out:** Bettencourt, Birdwell, Buckingham, Garcia, Huffman, Kolkhorst, Lucio, Menendez, Miles, Nelson, Nichols, Perry, Rodriguez, Schwertner, Larry Taylor, Uresti and Zaffirini.

**Voting against the \$20 million carve-out were 14 Senators:** Burton, Campbell, Creighton, Estes, Hall, Hancock, Hinojosa, Huffines, Hughes, Seliger, Van Taylor, Watson, West, and Whitmire.

Senator Dawn Buckingham (R) successfully amended the bill to allow residents living in the “carve-out” areas to “opt-in” to the lower threshold in a May election.

Taxpayer champion Sen. Konni Burton (R), says all Texans deserve those protections. “I’m going to go back to my district and tell them that I fought for each and every one of those residents equally. I want them all to get relief.”

In an infuriating cave-in to the local government lobby, the House Ways & Means Committee led by Rep. Dennis Bonnen weakened the entire effort by making the [threshold for voter approval in HB4](#) (the rollback rate) 6 percent, rather than the 4% in SB 1. In other words, the House version would allow greater local tax increases before taxpayers ever had a chance to vote to roll them back. The House version (HB4) also raises the exemption for local governments – or the carve-out – to \$25 million. Instead of holding the automatic elections in November, HB4 puts local elected officials of the larger taxing entities in the driver’s seat to determine when the automatic elections will be held for voters to approve or disapprove of tax hikes above 6%. **Newsflash – they won’t set them in November when voters are paying attention!**

## What does Governor Abbott think of the House bill?

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**Gov. Greg Abbott** ✓  
@GovAbbott

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**Will Governor Abbott allow the Texas Legislature to pass a fake property tax reform bill and call it “Done!”?**