

A Property Tax Message to Governor Abbott and the Legislature

[Editor's Note: The following message was sent to Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas State Legislature on July 5, 2017.]

Let's discuss property taxes. Although Texas ranks 46th in total state and local taxation, we depend heavily upon property taxes to support our public education system and local services. In recent years, the state has reduced its share of public education funding from 45% to 38%, compelling higher school property taxes. With S.B.1, the state budget for the next two years, the legislature required, and the Governor approved, a 7.04% school property tax increase for 2017 and a 6.77% school property tax increase for 2018. These school tax increases will be imposed through higher appraisals with no hearings or roll back elections.

School property taxes already account for 56% of the property tax burden. During the special session, the Governor and the legislature should address these mandated school property tax increases. Relief from these escalating school property taxes should be the highest priority.

Instead, some will ignore this serious problem and attempt to blame county and city officials for property tax increases. County property taxes account for approximately 16% of the burden. It would require a 40% increase in county property taxes to equal the amount of increased school property taxes imposed by the legislature and the Governor. Nonetheless, revenue caps upon counties will be offered as the fake solution.

Of course, revenue caps do nothing to reduce the costs of local governments. Most county expenditures are mandated by the state legislature for indigent defense, indigent health care, jails, courts, and other state responsibilities. Property taxes are the only means available to fund these state mandates. While the House of Representatives approved a proposed constitutional amendment to stop future legislative unfunded mandates, the Senate ignored this common-sense measure and continued to pass additional mandates. Ending unfunded mandates should be the first step toward reducing the county tax burden.

Governor Abbott and the state legislature should stop using smoke screens and diversions like local revenue caps and address the real causes of property tax increases. Fund the state responsibility for public education and end the unfunded mandates on local government.

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VP looking for new members

Vision with a Purpose is looking for and needing new members and the return of past members. This is a community help group only wanting the best for Robert Lee.

A few dedicated people are trying their best to provide improvements for our community, but we need more help. A good portion of our membership is older and cannot do all of the physical things that are required and needed.

If you want improvements for Robert Lee, please come and see what you can do to help. The group wants to take on improvements for our city park so our children will have a safe and fun place to go, but we need more help to do this. A few people can't do this alone. Please consider volunteering to or joining this wonderful

organization.

We welcome new ideas also, so please come to our meetings. They are held the first Thursday of each month at the Family Life Center of the First United Methodist Church in Robert Lee. We want your input, not just your muscle.

For more information, call Dianne Hefner at (325) 453-2171 or an VP member. Hope to see you there.

Donations needed for fire departments

The Robert Lee and Bronte Volunteer Fire Departments are requesting donations of water and Gatorade in preparation of the upcoming fire season.

Donations may be dropped off at the City Hall in each city or with any fireman. Your support of the area's Volunteer Fire Departments is greatly appreciated.

Robert Lee Mini Cheer Camp set for August

The Robert Lee Mini Cheer Camp will be held Monday through Friday, August 7-11, 2017. It will be held each day from 9 am to 11 am at the Robert Lee High School Tennis Courts.

The camp is for children going into Pre-K through 6th grade. The children will learn cheers, chants, sideline routines and dance from the Robert Lee High School cheerleaders.

Thursday has been designated as Crazy Day with Friday being Steer Spirit Day. Presentations and awards will be held at 10:30 am Friday, August 11.

Campers will be able to perform at one High School pep rally and for 5 minutes at a home football game. The game performance is tentatively set for September 1, 2017.

Each camper is urged to bring

a water bottle or drink. Snacks will be for sale. Children must bring their money in a purse/sling-pack or baggie with their name on it.

New Steer Football t-shirts will be available in August. For more information on the shirts or camp, contact Maranda Hood at maranda.hood@rlisd.net.

RL Cemetery needs assistance

There are several curbed lots at the Robert Lee Cemetery whose owners are unknown. These lots are in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 10. The lot in Section 2 includes the name "Spencer" in the curbing.

Anyone who has information on the ownership of these plots is urged to call George Grim at (325) 453-9902. The ownership of the plots will revert to the cemetery association if not identified by September 1, 2017.

IVEY MOTORS

Annual 4th Of July Golf Tournament

Mountain Creek Golf Course

• Robert Lee, Texas

RESULTS



Place	Name
Championship Flight	
1st	Brian Heidelberg
2nd	Barry Ledbetter
3rd	Don Hodge
First Flight	
1st	Darin Clawson
2nd	Konner Lovette
3rd	Lupe Torres
Second Flight	
1st	Tressa Henson
2nd	Tommy Antilley
3rd	B. W. Roe
Third Flight	
1st	Donna Bivins
2nd	Brent Terry
3rd	Charlie Ledbetter
Closest to the Pin Winners	
Hole #8	Don Hodge
Hole #9	Kagan Maxcey
Hole #10	Jessie Flores
Longest Drive Winners	
Women	Brady Clawson
Men	Brian Heidelberg

A Big Thank You to All Who Entered to Make This Tournament a Great One! We Appreciate Each One of You!