



# Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, March 19, 2013  
**Prepared By/Phone Number:** Deece Eckstein, 854-9754  
**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:** Deece Eckstein, 854-9754  
**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** Judge Biscoe

## AGENDA LANGUAGE:

AT 11:00 A.M.:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS, INCLUDING:

- A. UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES; AND,
- B. ADDITIONS TO THE PRIORITIES, POLICY POSITIONS AND THE POSITIONS ON OTHER PROPOSALS SECTIONS OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.

## SUMMARY AND IGR COORDINATOR RECOMMENDATION:

IGR recommends that the Court modify the Travis County Legislative Agenda as proposed in the attached Motion in Writing, and specifically include the following:

Oppose legislation or budgeting decisions that:

- a) weaken local control of taxpayer dollars;
- b) require that local intergovernmental transfers be dedicated to any specific, statewide hospital supplemental funding streams;
- c) mandate how IGT dollars are distributed across hospital funding streams; or
- d) jeopardize 1115 Waiver efforts to transform the health care delivery system.

## BACKGROUND:

1. Travis County has seven legislative priorities on which it is taking the lead, and six others on which it is working with CUC, TAC and CJCAT. Bills have been filed to accomplish all those priorities, and we are working with the authors to develop bill analyses and talking points, line

up witnesses, and begin preliminary briefing of committee members and their staffs.

2. Last Wednesday, the Senate Finance Committee reported out their Committee Substitute for SB 1, the 2014-15 state budget. Chairman Williams plans to bring the bill to the full Senate before the end of the month. The House Appropriations Committee is also marking up its version of the budget bill and is expected to report it out next week.
3. As of Thursday, March 14, 5,874 bills and joint resolutions have been filed. We are tracking 1,428 of them through the ATLAS system, and have received 1,135 analyses from the county's policy experts. A spreadsheet detailing this information is attached.

### **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

4. Last week, the Court approved and executed a letter to the state leadership regarding proposals to mandate that hospital districts, including Central Health, prioritize continuation of the DSH program over other funding priorities in their transfer payments. The backup materials also suggested an addition to the Court's Legislative Agenda, but the Court did not discuss that. IGR recommends this addition to the legislative agenda under the Health and Human Services subsection of the Policy Positions section:

Oppose legislation or budgeting decisions that:

- a) weaken local control of taxpayer dollars;
  - b) require that local intergovernmental transfers be dedicated to any specific, statewide hospital supplemental funding streams;
  - c) mandate how IGT dollars are distributed across hospital funding streams; or
  - d) jeopardize 1115 Waiver efforts to transform the health care delivery system.
5. IGR recommends that the Court adopt the changes to the Travis County Legislative Agenda contained in the attached Motion in Writing. These changes, with the exception of the DSH local control position, have all been previously approved by the Court. That date of the Court's action in all those cases is indicated.

**FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Not applicable.

**REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:** None.

**NAMES, PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES OF PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY OR BE INVOLVED WITH THIS REQUEST:**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Bill Status Report, March 14, 2013.
- B. Motion in Writing regarding amendments to the Travis County Legislative Agenda, March 19, 2013.

| AS OF                | WEEK            | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5     | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9     | 10     |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| <b>THURSDAY</b>      |                 | 10-Jan | 17-Jan | 24-Jan | 31-Jan | 7-Feb | 14-Feb | 21-Feb | 28-Feb | 7-Mar | 14-Mar |
|                      | <b>HBs</b>      | 446    | 550    | 686    | 845    | 1,035 | 1,282  | 1,582  | 2,001  | 2,841 | 3,862  |
|                      | <b>HJR</b> s    | 39     | 43     | 44     | 51     | 58    | 63     | 72     | 83     | 106   | 130    |
|                      | <b>SB</b> s     | 149    | 162    | 209    | 268    | 386   | 528    | 669    | 906    | 1,305 | 1,823  |
|                      | <b>SJR</b> s    | 11     | 13     | 16     | 20     | 22    | 29     | 30     | 36     | 45    | 59     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>BILLS</b>    | 645    | 768    | 955    | 1,184  | 1,501 | 1,902  | 2,353  | 3,026  | 4,297 | 5,874  |
| <b>TRAVIS COUNTY</b> |                 |        |        |        |        |       |        |        |        |       |        |
|                      | <b>TRACKED</b>  | 167    | 281    | 305    | 368    | 474   | 551    | 636    | 712    | 1,064 | 1,428  |
|                      | <b>ANALYSES</b> | 109    | 137    | 281    | 346    | 430   | 485    | 627    | 723    | 878   | 1,135  |
|                      | <b>SUPPORT</b>  | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0     | 3      |
|                      | <b>OPPOSE</b>   | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 1     | 1      | 1      | 2      | 14    | 14     |

| AS OF                | WEEK            | 11     | 12     | 13    | 14     | 15     | 16     | 17    | 18    | 19     | 20     |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>THURSDAY</b>      |                 | 21-Mar | 28-Mar | 4-Apr | 11-Apr | 18-Apr | 25-Apr | 2-May | 9-May | 16-May | 23-May |
|                      | <b>HB</b> s     |        |        |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |
|                      | <b>HJR</b> s    |        |        |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |
|                      | <b>SB</b> s     |        |        |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |
|                      | <b>SJR</b> s    |        |        |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>BILLS</b>    |        |        |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |
| <b>TRAVIS COUNTY</b> |                 |        |        |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |
|                      | <b>TRACKED</b>  |        |        |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |
|                      | <b>ANALYSES</b> |        |        |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |
|                      | <b>SUPPORT</b>  |        |        |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |
|                      | <b>OPPOSE</b>   |        |        |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |

Travis County Commissioners Court  
Voting Session, March 19, 2013  
Motion in Writing

Move that the Travis County Commissioners Court adopt the following amendments to its **Legislative Agenda for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature**:

1. Add the following to the **Health & Human Services** subsection of the Policy Positions section:

Support legislation and budgeting decisions to include Texas in the Medicaid expansion program.

*(2/26/13)*

Oppose legislation or budgeting decisions that:

a) weaken local control of taxpayer dollars;

b) require that local intergovernmental transfers be dedicated to any specific, statewide hospital supplemental funding streams;

c) mandate how IGT dollars are distributed across hospital funding streams; or

d) jeopardize 1115 Waiver efforts to transform the health care delivery system.

*(no action taken on 3/12/13)*

2. Add the following to the **Taxation, Revenues, Budget and Administration** subsection of the **Policy Positions** section:

Support legislation to allow Travis County to impose a filing fee of up to \$15 for all civil cases, with proceeds dedicated to helping pay for the construction, renovation, or improvement of the facilities that house the Travis County civil courts.

*(2/12/13)*

3. Add the following to the **Positions on Other Proposals** section:

Support legislation to give the Travis County Sheriff permissive authority to enforce certain federal laws and regulations regarding commercial motor vehicles.

*(2/26/13)*

4. Add the following to the **Priorities** section:

Support legislation to allow Travis County to impose a filing fee of up to \$15 for all civil cases, with proceeds dedicated to helping pay for the construction, renovation, or improvement of the facilities that house the Travis County civil courts. (TRBA-13)

*(2/12/13)*

Support legislation to give the Travis County Sheriff permissive authority to enforce certain federal laws and regulations regarding commercial motor vehicles. (POP-1)

*(2/12/13)*