

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

25-0045

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL/VIDEO CONFERENCE  
COUNCILMEMBER MAXIE JOHNSON, PRESIDING

PRESENT: [7] Johnson, Mendelsohn, Resendez, Bazaldua (\*\*9:22 a.m.), Blackmon (\*\*9:10 a.m.), Roth, Ridley

ABSENT: [0]

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m. with a quorum of the committee present.

The meeting agenda, posted in accordance with Chapter 551, "OPEN MEETINGS," of the Texas Government Code, was presented.

After all business properly brought before the committee had been considered, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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Chair

ATTEST:

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City Secretary Staff

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Date Approved

The agenda is attached to the minutes of this meeting as EXHIBIT A.

The actions taken on each matter considered by the committee are attached to the minutes of this meeting as EXHIBIT B.

The briefing materials for this meeting are filed with the City Secretary's Office as EXHIBIT C.

**\*\* Note: Indicates arrival time after meeting called to order/reconvened.**

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

EXHIBIT A

**RECEIVED**

2025 DEC -2 PM 3:59  
CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS

**City of Dallas**

*1500 Marilla Street  
Council Chambers,  
Dallas, Texas 75201*

*Public Notice*

251068

POSTED <sup>CITY SECRETARY</sup>  
DALLAS, TX



**Committee on Government  
Efficiency**

**December 8, 2025**

**9:00 A.M.**

## 2025 CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

AD HOC COUNCIL COMMITTEES	COUNCIL COMMITTEES
<b>AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS</b> Moreno (C), Cadena, M. Johnson, Mendelsohn, Stewart <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b> Moreno (C), Ridley (VC), Blair, Cadena, Gracey, Roth, West <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>
<b>AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GENERAL INVESTIGATING AND ETHICS</b> Willis (C), Blair, Cadena, Mendelsohn, Stewart <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>	<b>PARKS, TRAILS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT</b> Stewart, (C), West (VC), Bazaldua, Blackmon, Blair, M. Johnson, Ridley <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>
<b>AD HOC COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS</b> Ridley (C), Resendez, Roth, Stewart, West <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>	<b>FINANCE</b> West (C), Stewart (VC), Gracey, M. Johnson, Moreno, Resendez, Willis <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>
<b>AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</b> Mendelsohn (C), M. Johnson, Moreno, Ridley, Stewart <p style="text-align: right;">* Assigned: 07/17/25</p>	<b>HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS</b> Mendelsohn (C), Blair (VC), Bazaldua, Gracey, Moreno, Resendez, Willis <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>
<b>AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS</b> Stewart (C), Blackmon, M. Johnson, Mendelsohn, Moreno, Resendez, Roth, West, Willis <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b> Mendelsohn (C), Moreno (VC), Cadena, M. Johnson, Resendez, Roth, Stewart <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>
<b>AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL SPORTS RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION</b> West (C), Bazaldua, Blackmon, Blair, Cadena, Resendez, Ridley <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>	<b>QUALITY OF LIFE, ARTS, AND CULTURE</b> Gracey (C), Cadena (VC), Bazaldua, Ridley, Roth, West, Willis <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>
	<b>TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b> Ridley (C), Roth (VC), Blackmon, Blair, Cadena, Gracey, Mendelsohn <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>
	<b>GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY</b> M. Johnson (C), Mendelsohn (VC), Bazaldua, Blackmon, Resendez, Ridley, Roth <p style="text-align: right;">**Assigned: 08/29/25</p>

(C) – Chair, (VC) – Vice Chair

\* Assigned: 07/17/25

\*\*Assigned: 08/29/25

Note: A quorum of the Dallas City Council may attend this Council Committee meeting.

## General Information

The Dallas Council Committees regularly meet on Mondays beginning at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 6th floor, City Hall, 1500 Marilla. Council Committee agenda meetings are broadcast live on [bit.ly/cityofdallastv](http://bit.ly/cityofdallastv) and on Time Warner City Cable Channel 16.

Sign interpreters are available upon request with a 48-hour advance notice by calling (214) 670-5208 V/TDD. The City of Dallas is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. **The Council agenda is available in alternative formats upon request.**

If you have any questions about this agenda or comments or complaints about city services, call 311.

## Rules of Courtesy

City Council meetings bring together citizens of many varied interests and ideas. To insure fairness and orderly meetings, the Council has adopted rules of courtesy which apply to all members of the Council, administrative staff, news media, citizens and visitors. These procedures provide:

- That no one shall delay or interrupt the proceedings, or refuse to obey the orders of the presiding officer.
- All persons should refrain from private conversation, eating, drinking and smoking while in the Council Chamber.
- Posters or placards must remain outside the Council Chamber.
- No cellular phones or audible beepers allowed in Council Chamber while City Council is in session.

"Citizens and other visitors attending City Council meetings shall observe the same rules of propriety, decorum and good conduct applicable to members of the City Council. Any person making personal, impertinent, profane or slanderous remarks or who becomes boisterous while addressing the City Council or while attending the City Council meeting shall be removed from the room if the sergeant-at-arms is so directed by the presiding officer, and the person shall be barred from further audience before the City Council during that session of the City Council. If the presiding officer fails to act, any member of the City Council may move to require enforcement of the rules, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the City Council shall require the presiding officer to act." Section 3.3(c) of the City Council Rules of Procedure.

## Información General

Los Comités del Concejo de la Ciudad de Dallas se reúnen regularmente los lunes en la Cámara del consejo en el sexto piso del Ayuntamiento, 1500 Marilla, a partir de las 9:00 a.m. y la 1:00 p.m. Las reuniones de la agenda del Comité del Consejo se transmiten en vivo por la estación de [bit.ly/cityofdallastv](http://bit.ly/cityofdallastv) y por cablevisión en la estación *Time Warner City Cable Canal 16*.

Intérpretes para personas con impedimentos auditivos están disponibles si lo solicita con 48 horas de anticipación llamando al (214) 670-5208 (aparato auditivo V/TDD). La Ciudad de Dallas se esfuerza por cumplir con el decreto que protege a las personas con impedimentos, *Americans with Disabilities Act*. **La agenda del Ayuntamiento está disponible en formatos alternos si lo solicita.**

Si tiene preguntas sobre esta agenda, o si desea hacer comentarios o presentar quejas con respecto a servicios de la Ciudad, llame al 311.

## Reglas de Cortesía

Las asambleas del Ayuntamiento Municipal reúnen a ciudadanos de diversos intereses e ideologías. Para asegurar la imparcialidad y el orden durante las asambleas, el Ayuntamiento ha adoptado ciertas reglas de cortesía que aplican a todos los miembros del Ayuntamiento, al personal administrativo, personal de los medios de comunicación, a los ciudadanos, y a visitantes. Estos reglamentos establecen lo siguiente:

- Ninguna persona retrasará o interrumpirá los procedimientos, o se negará a obedecer las órdenes del oficial que preside la asamblea.
- Todas las personas deben abstenerse de entablar conversaciones, comer, beber y fumar dentro de la cámara del Ayuntamiento.
- Anuncios y pancartas deben permanecer fuera de la cámara del Ayuntamiento.
- No se permite usar teléfonos celulares o enlaces electrónicos (*paggers*) audibles en la cámara del Ayuntamiento durante audiencias del Ayuntamiento Municipal

"Los ciudadanos y visitantes presentes durante las asambleas del Ayuntamiento Municipal deben de obedecer las mismas reglas de comportamiento, decoro y buena conducta que se aplican a los miembros del Ayuntamiento Municipal. Cualquier persona que haga comentarios impertinentes, utilice vocabulario obsceno o difamatorio, o que al dirigirse al Ayuntamiento lo haga en forma escandalosa, o si causa disturbio durante la asamblea del Ayuntamiento Municipal, será expulsada de la cámara si el oficial que este presidiendo la asamblea así lo ordena. Además, se le prohibirá continuar participando en la audiencia ante el Ayuntamiento Municipal. Si el oficial que preside la asamblea no toma acción, cualquier otro miembro del Ayuntamiento Municipal puede tomar medidas para hacer cumplir las reglas establecidas, y el voto afirmativo de la mayoría del Ayuntamiento Municipal precisará al oficial que este presidiendo la sesión a tomar acción." Según la sección 3.3 (c) de las reglas de procedimientos del Ayuntamiento.

## **Handgun Prohibition Notice for Meetings of Governmental Entities**

"Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun."

*"De acuerdo con la sección 30.06 del código penal (ingreso sin autorización de un titular de una licencia con una pistola oculta), una persona con licencia según el subcapítulo h, capítulo 411, código del gobierno (ley sobre licencias para portar pistolas), no puede ingresar a esta propiedad con una pistola oculta."*

"Pursuant to Section 30.07, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with an openly carried handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a handgun that is carried openly."

*"De acuerdo con la sección 30.07 del código penal (ingreso sin autorización de un titular de una licencia con una pistola a la vista), una persona con licencia según el subcapítulo h, capítulo 411, código del gobierno (ley sobre licencias para portar pistolas), no puede ingresar a esta propiedad con una pistola a la vista."*

"Pursuant to Section 46.03, Penal Code (places weapons prohibited), a person may not carry a firearm or other weapon into any open meeting on this property."

*"De conformidad con la Sección 46.03, Código Penal (coloca armas prohibidas), una persona no puede llevar un arma de fuego u otra arma a ninguna reunión abierta en esta propiedad."*

## EXECUTIVE SESSION NOTICE

A closed executive session may be held if the discussion of any of the above agenda items concerns one of the following:

1. seeking the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or any matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act. [Tex. Govt. Code § 551.071]
2. deliberating the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the city in negotiations with a third person. [Tex. Govt. Code § 551.072]
3. deliberating a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the city if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the city in negotiations with a third person. [Tex. Govt. Code § 551.073]
4. deliberating the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee unless the officer or employee who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public hearing. [Tex. Govt. Code § 551.074]
5. deliberating the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices. [Tex. Govt. Code § 551.076]
6. discussing or deliberating commercial or financial information that the city has received from a business prospect that the city seeks to have locate, stay or expand in or near the city and with which the city is conducting economic development negotiations; or deliberating the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect. [Tex Govt. Code § 551.087]
7. deliberating security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology, network security information, or the deployment or specific occasions for implementations of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices. [Tex. Govt. Code § 551.089]
8. deliberating cybersecurity measures, policies, or contracts solely intended to protect a critical infrastructure facility. [Tex. Gov't Code § 551.0761]

This Council Committee meeting will be held by video conference and in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

The Public may attend the meeting virtually; however, City Hall is available for those wishing to attend the meeting in person.

The meeting will be broadcast live on Spectrum Cable Channel 16 and online at [bit.ly/cityofdallastv](https://bit.ly/cityofdallastv).

The public may also listen to the meeting as an attendee at the following video conference link:<https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall/j.php?MTID=m553c8ae294377d4e78c293907aee9706>

## Call to Order

## MINUTES

1. [25-3515A](#) Approval of the November 6, 2025, Special Called Joint Meeting of the Public Safety Committee and Government Efficiency Committee

**Attachments:** [Minutes](#)

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. [25-3516A](#) Review Committee on Government Efficiency Direction from Mayor [Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer, City Manager's Office]

**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)

## BRIEFING ITEMS

- B. [25-3517A](#) Overview of the Functions of a Texas Home Rule City [Laura Morrison, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office]

**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)

- C. [25-3518A](#) Overview on Roles and Responsibilities of Other Government Entities, Including Federal, State, County Governments, School Districts, and Dallas Area Rapid Transit.

[Jake Anderson, Interim Director, Office of Government Affairs]

**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)

## ADJOURNMENT

**EXECUTIVE SESSION NOTICE**

A closed executive session may be held if the discussion of any of the above agenda items concerns one of the following:

1. seeking the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or any matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act. [Tex. Govt. Code § 551.071]
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MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

EXHIBIT B

OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 8, 2025

Item 1:           Approval of the November 6, 2025, Special Called Joint Meeting of the Public  
                    Safety Committee and Government Efficiency Committee

There was no action taken on the item.

OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 8, 2025

DISCUSSION

Item A: Review Committee on Government Efficiency Direction from Mayor

The committee discussed the item.

OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 8, 2025

BRIEFING ITEMS

Item B: Overview of the Functions of a Texas Home Rule City

The following individual briefed the committee on the item:

- Laura Morrison, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 8, 2025

BRIEFING ITEMS

Item C: Overview on Roles and Responsibilities of Other Government Entities, Including Federal, State, County Governments, School Districts, and Dallas Area Rapid Transit.

The following individuals briefed the committee on the item:

- Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office; and
- Kevin Oden, Director, Emergency Management & Crisis Response

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

EXHIBIT C



**City of Dallas**

# **Review Committee on Government Efficiency Direction from Mayor**

**Government Efficiency Committee  
December 8, 2025**

Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
City Manager's Office  
City of Dallas

# Presentation Overview



- Mayor's policy priority
- Committee members
- Committee meeting schedule
- Committee forecast
- Next steps



# Mayor's Policy Priority for Committee on Government Efficiency



*“Drive operational efficiency and reduce the size and scope of the City budget by identifying operational and mission overlap with local government partners such as Dallas County, Dallas Independent School District, and Dallas College, leveraging the services these partners provide and eliminating duplication of effort for the benefit of the taxpayers of Dallas”*

Source: Mayor's August 29, 2025 memorandum regarding City Council Committees



# Committee Members



- Maxie Johnson (Chair)
- Cara Mendelsohn (Vice Chair)
- Adam Bazaldua
- Paula Blackmon
- Jaime Resendez
- Paul Ridley
- Bill Roth



# Committee Schedule



- Monday, January 12, 2026, 9:00 AM
- Monday, February 9, 2026, 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 9:00 AM
- Monday, April 13, 2026, 9:00 AM
- Monday, May 11, 2026, 9:00 AM
- Monday, June 8, 2026, 9:00 AM
- Monday, August 10, 2026, 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 9:00 AM
- Monday, November 9, 2026, 9:00 AM
- Monday, December 7, 2026, 9:00 AM



# Committee Forecast



- Committee will identify opportunities to drive operational efficiency and reduce the size and scope of the City budget by considering the following areas:
  - City programs that overlap with other government entities
  - City partnerships with non-profit organizations
  - Programs receiving stipends or financial support from city
  - City programs that are duplicative or that could be consolidated
  - Current or recent efficiency studies



# Next Steps



- Receive committee feedback and requests for future briefings to Committee on Government Efficiency
- January Committee:
  - Overview of WIC Program
  - Update on Fleet Optimization Study
- February Committee:
  - Review partnerships and stipends
- March Committee:
  - Discuss programs aligned to Drivers of Opportunity





**City of Dallas**

# **Review Committee on Government Efficiency Direction from Mayor**

**Government Efficiency Committee  
December 8, 2025**

Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
City Manager's Office  
City of Dallas



**City of Dallas**

# **Home Rule Authority**

**Committee on  
Government Efficiency  
December 8, 2025**

Laura Morrison, Municipal Regulatory Deputy Chief  
City Attorney's Office

# Overview



- Source of authority
- Requirements and adoption
- Authority and powers
- General law vs. home rule comparison
- Limits and oversight
- Texas Regulatory Consistency Act
- Summary



# Source of Authority



- Dallas is a home rule municipality as it operates under a municipal charter adopted and amended as authorized by the Texas Constitution. [Art. XI § 5]
  - Has the full power of local self-government. [Texas Local Government Code § 51.072]
- A municipal charter is the basic document that defines the organization, powers, functions, and essential procedures of city government.
  - Amendable not more often than every two years. [Tx. Const. Art. XI § 5(a)]
  - At intervals of not more than 10 years, the charter shall be reviewed by a commission. [Dallas City Charter Ch. II § 3]
- Dallas City Charter includes:
  - Powers of the city.



# Requirements and Adoption



- To qualify to become a home rule municipality, a Texas city must have at least 5,000 residents and may then hold an election to approve a home rule charter.
- Adoption of a charter requires voter approval and is governed by procedures set out in the Texas Local Government Code and the Texas Constitution.
- Dallas' original 1907 charter marked Dallas' change to home rule status with more autonomous local control from the earlier aldermanic system.



# Authority and Powers



- Home rule cities may do anything authorized by their charter that is not specifically prohibited or preempted by the Texas Constitution or federal or state law, including the Texas Regulatory Consistency Act.\*
- The authority includes local matters such as annexation, taxation, and governance structure (creating specific departments, establishing terms and term limits, etc.), enabling cities to tailor government to local needs.
- Home rule cities often grant their residents certain tools, such as referendum and recall, empowering voters to propose, amend, or repeal ordinances or remove officials, which is not available to citizens in general law cities.

\* Multiple cities are currently challenging this law.



# General Law vs. Home Rule



	General law city	Home rule city
<b>Source of authority</b>	State statutes only	Local charter; anything not prohibited by law
<b>Minimum population</b>	No minimum (usually <5,000)	5,000 to adopt charter
<b>Power limitation</b>	Only what state law explicitly authorizes	Any power not forbidden by law
<b>Flexibility/structure</b>	Rigid, prescribed by statute	Flexible, locally determined
<b>Resident power</b>	No initiative, referendum	May allow initiative, referendum, recall
<b>Amendable charter</b>	No	Yes
<b>Ordinance authority</b>	Limited to state-granted powers	Broad, unless/until preempted



# Limits and Oversight



- While home rule authority grants broad local powers, home rule cities are still subject to constitutional and statutory limitations imposed by state and federal law.
  - A home rule city's actions cannot conflict with higher levels of government.
- The Texas Legislature retains the power to preempt local action in areas of statewide concern.





- **Article XI, Section 5:** Home-rule cities cannot adopt laws “inconsistent” with the Texas Constitution or general state law.
- **Texas Supreme Court:** State must show “unmistakable clarity” to preempt city regulation.
- **Traditional test:** State must show direct and irreconcilable conflict.



# Texas Regulatory Consistency Act



- Signed by Governor Abbott: June 14, 2023
- Effective: September 1, 2023
- Occupies the field of regulation in specifically identified state statutes (field preemption).
- Limits home rule authority unless *expressly authorized* by state law, which has the effect of changing a home rule city into a general law city in specifically identified state statutes.



# Preemption Framework Under the Act



- Prohibits cities and counties from regulating within “fields” governed by specific state statutes.
- Shifts burden to cities to show “consistency” with state law.



# Preemption Framework Under the Act, cont'd.



- State statutes named in the Act:
  - Agriculture Code
  - Business & Commerce Code
  - Finance Code
  - Insurance Code
  - Labor Code
  - Natural Resources Code
  - Occupations Code
  - Property Code



# Summary



Texas home rule cities have the constitutional privilege of broad local self-government, subject to federal and state preemption, including the Texas Regulatory Consistency Act.



# QUESTIONS?





**City of Dallas**

# **Roles and Responsibilities of Other Governmental Entities**

**Government Efficiency Committee  
December 8, 2025**

Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff  
City Manager's Office

Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
City Manager's Office

# Presentation Overview



- Background
- Responsibilities of Each Governmental Entity
  - Federal Government (United States)
  - State Government (State of Texas)
  - County Government (Dallas County)
  - Special Districts (ISD, Dallas College, Parkland Hospital)
  - Regional Transit Authorities (DART)
- Next Steps



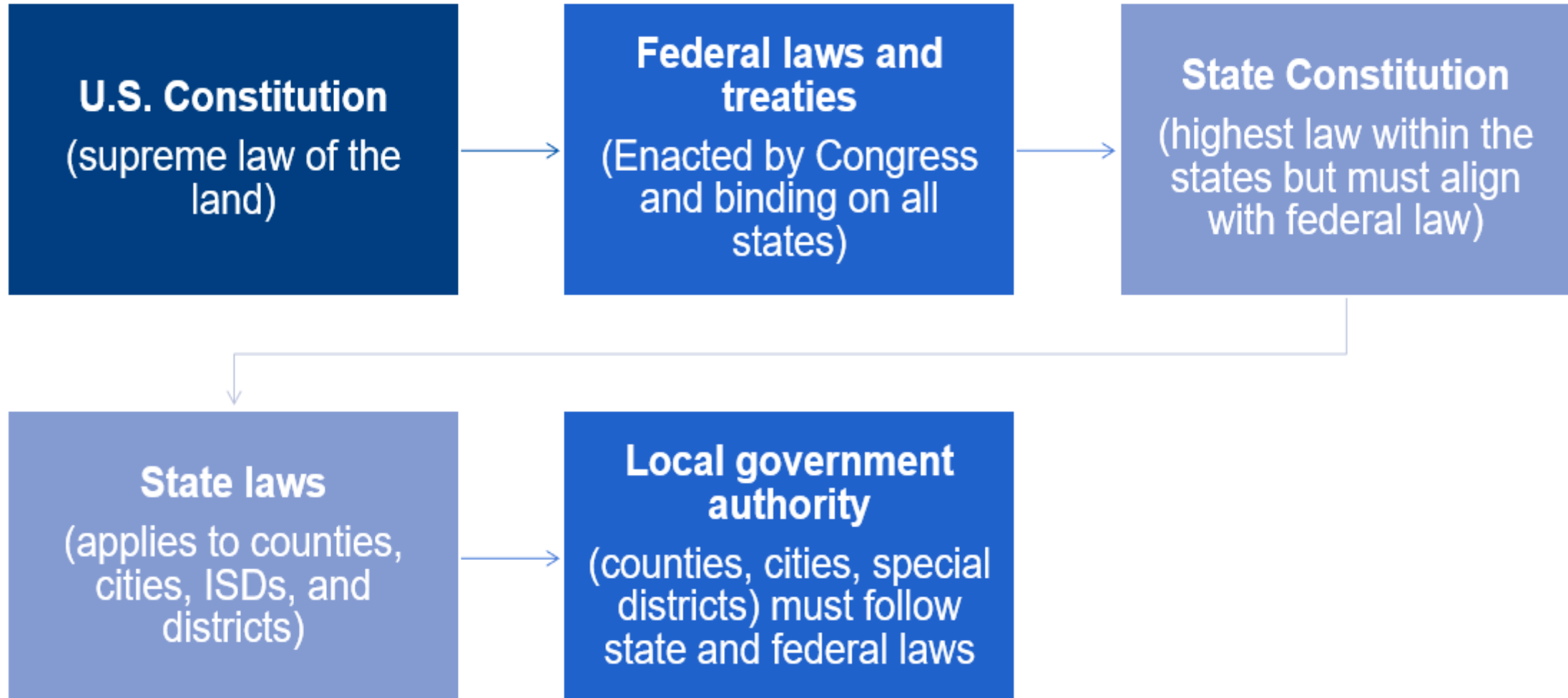
# Background



- There are 5 levels of government in the U.S. political system.
  - Federal – United States of America.
  - State – Texas is second most populated state in the country with 30 to 31 million residents.
  - Local:
    - County – Texas has 254 counties, the most of any state in the United States.
    - Municipal – Texas has approximately 1,200 cities with Dallas being the 3rd most populated within the state and 9th most populated in the United States.
    - Special Districts – Texas has over 3,250 special districts (including hospital districts, utility districts, regional transit authorities, etc.)



# Supremacy of Federal Law



# Federal Government Responsibilities



- **Primary role:** The federal government is responsible for managing national systems that affect the entire country, establishing laws and regulations that apply across all states, and ensuring consistent national standards.
- It oversees large-scale functions such as:
  - National defense
  - Foreign affairs
  - Immigration
  - Interstate commerce
  - Federal law enforcement
  - Monetary policy
  - Environmental and transportation regulations
  - Major social programs like Social Security and Medicare
- Source of Authority: U.S. Constitution



# State Government Responsibilities



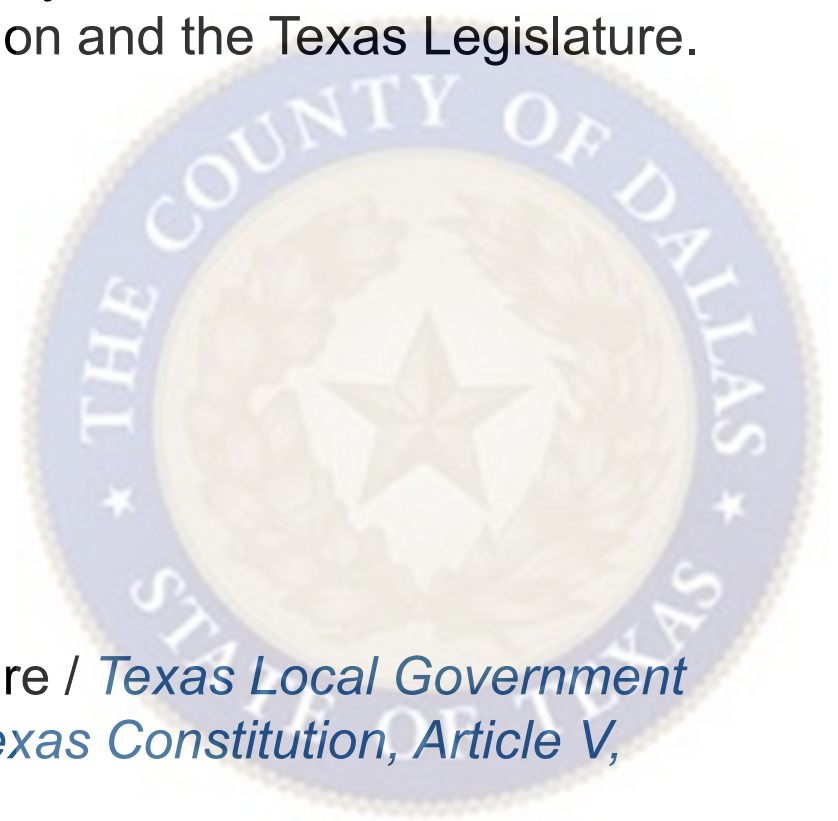
- **Primary role:** The State of Texas plays a central role in managing systems that affect all Texans, establishing rules that guide local governments, and ensuring consistency across major statewide services.
- It oversees large-scale functions such as:
  - Public education
  - Transportation
  - Health and human services
  - Criminal justice
  - Statewide law enforcement
- Source of Authority: U.S. Constitution and Texas Constitution



# County Government Responsibilities



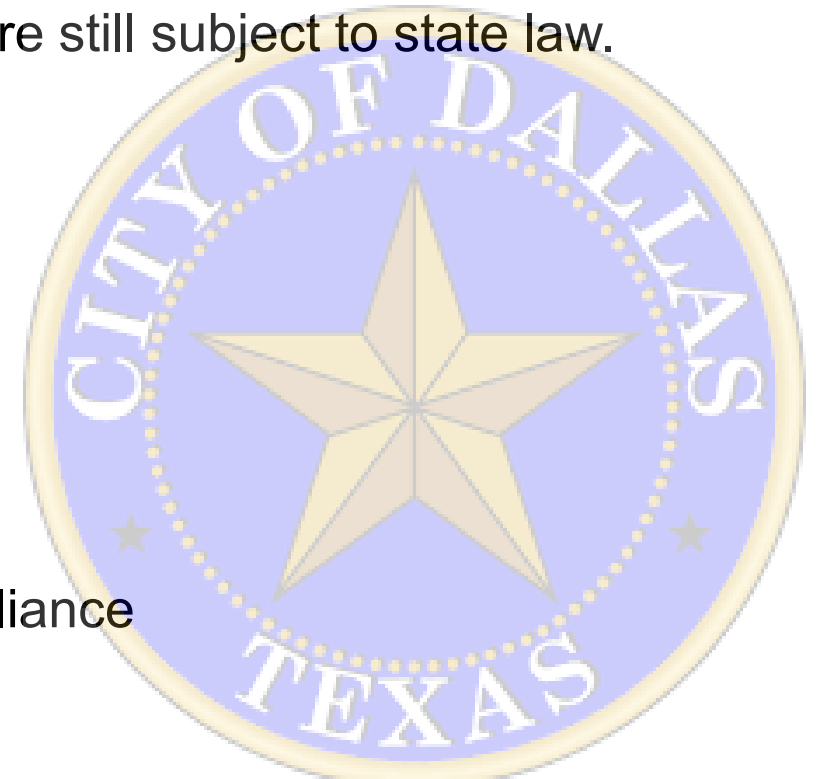
- **Primary role:** The county functions both as a general-purpose local government and as an administrative arm of the State of Texas. Counties primarily exist to enforce state law and operate within authority granted by the Texas Constitution and the Texas Legislature.
- It oversees large-scale functions such as:
  - County Budget and Taxation
  - Justice and Courts
  - Detention and Jail Operations
  - Elections Administration
  - Vital Records and Licensing
- Source of Authority: Texas Constitution and Texas Legislature / *Texas Local Government Code, Title 3, Subtitle A-C (“Organization of Counties”)* + *Texas Constitution, Article V, Sections 15–27*



# City Government Responsibilities



- **Primary role:** The City of Dallas provides direct local services within municipal boundaries and manages daily operations that affect residents' quality of life. As a home-rule city, Dallas has broad authority to govern local affairs, but all powers are still subject to state law.
- It oversees large-scale functions such as:
  - Public safety (Dallas Police, Dallas Fire-Rescue)
  - Water, wastewater, and sanitation services
  - Zoning, land use, and building permitting
  - Streets, sidewalks, and traffic management
  - Parks, libraries, and recreation programs
  - Housing, neighborhood services, and local code compliance
  - Economic development and planning
- *Source of Authority: Texas Constitution, Texas Legislature, and the City of Dallas Charter (authorized under Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 9 – Home-Rule Municipalities)*



# Special Districts



- **Primary role:** Special districts provide specific public services that are not handled by cities or counties. They are created to focus on one main service area and ensure that essential services reach residents in communities of all sizes.
- It oversees large-scale functions such as:
  - Public education (Independent School Districts, community colleges)
  - Health care services (public hospital districts- Dallas County Hospital District / Parkland Health)
  - Municipal management districts
  - Transportation and road infrastructure (road districts)
  - Water, wastewater, and river authorities (Trinity River Authority)
  - Emergency service districts
- *Example: Independent School Districts (ISDs) derive its authority from Texas Constitution – Article VII, S. 3 + Texas Education Code, S. 11.001*



# Dallas Area Rapid Transit



- **Primary role:** DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) is a regional transit authority created to provide public transportation services that extend beyond the boundaries of a single city. It is designed to plan, finance, and operate mobility systems that support economic growth, reduce congestion, and connect residents across multiple jurisdictions.
- It oversees large-scale functions such as:
  - Bus, light rail, rapid transit, and paratransit services
  - Regional transportation planning and capital project development
  - Mobility innovation (e.g., GoLink on-demand service)
  - Transit infrastructure construction, maintenance, and long-term system expansion
  - Partnerships with cities for transit-oriented development and service alignment
- *Example: DART derives its authority from Texas Transportation Code – Chapter 452, which governs metropolitan rapid transit authorities in Texas.*



# Next Steps



- Receive committee feedback and requests for future briefings to Committee on Government Efficiency
- Staff will identify city programs that may overlap with other government entities' areas of responsibility and schedule those discussions for future committee meetings
- Committee may identify opportunities to eliminate governmental overlap and improve efficiencies and make those recommendations to the City Council





**City of Dallas**

# **Roles and Responsibilities of Other Governmental Entities**

**Government Efficiency Committee  
December 8, 2025**

Jake Anderson, Director (I)  
Office of Government Affairs

Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
City Manager's Office



# Appendix A: Federal, State and County Government Responsibilities



# Federal Government Responsibilities



Title	Duties
U.S. President	Head of State, leader of executive branch, and commander in chief of the U.S. Armed Forces
U.S. Vice President	Supports the president; presides over the U.S. Senate and breaks ties in Senate votes
Congress	<p>Established by Article I of the Constitution, the Legislative Branch consists of the House of Representatives (435 elected members) and the Senate (100 members), which together form the United States Congress.</p> <p>The Constitution grants Congress the sole authority to enact legislation and declare war, the right to confirm or reject many Presidential appointments, and substantial investigative powers.</p>
Supreme Court	<p>Evaluates laws by interpreting the meaning of laws, applying laws to individual cases and deciding if laws violate the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>Article III of the Constitution, which establishes the Judicial Branch, leaves Congress significant discretion to determine the shape and structure of the Federal judiciary.</p>
Cabinet and independent federal agencies	These departments and agencies have missions and responsibilities as widely divergent as those of the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Social Security Administration, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.



# State Government Responsibilities



Title	Duties
Governor	Texas' chief executive with authorities including signing/vetoing legislation, commanding state military forces, and appointing state officials
Lt. Governor	Presides over Texas Senate, appoints Senate Committees and Chairs, rules on procedural matters, and can break a tie vote in the Senate.
Texas Legislature	Considers proposed laws, resolutions, and constitutional amendments. Approves the state's budget, including taxing, spending, and borrowing money for public purposes.
Attorney General	As the state's top lawyer, his office is responsible for defending the state's laws and constitution, representing the state in litigation, and serving the public by enforcing child support laws and protecting citizens from fraud, waste, and abuse. The office also enforces open government laws, a role that includes providing guidance and training to government officials.
Land Commissioner	Key duties include selling state land to generate revenue for the Texas Permanent School Fund, managing veteran homes and cemeteries, and distributing funds for natural disaster relief. The office also oversees the preservation and restoration of historic sites, such as the Alamo.
Comptroller of Public Accounts	Superintends the state's fiscal affairs, including managing the state's accounts, auditing claims, and collecting taxes. Projects state revenues and must certify that the budget is balanced before the Legislature can spend money.
Secretary of State	Oversees state administrative functions, such as maintaining the official state seal, managing the state's business and commercial records, and conducting elections. Acts as the governor's lead liaison for border and Mexican affairs and is the state's primary contact for international protocol.



# County Government Responsibilities



Title	Duties
County Judge	Depending on the size of the county, the county judge has a wide range of judicial and administrative duties and is the presiding officer of the commissioner's court.
Commissioner	Conducts the general business of the county and consists of the county judge and four commissioners.
District Attorney	Analyzes and gathers evidence to determine if there are grounds for criminal prosecution of cases within their districts and presents cases at trial.
County Treasurer	Chief custodian of county finance and is charged with the safekeeping and investing of county funds. This includes the maintenance and reconciliation of all checking accounts under the care of the county treasurer and the disbursement of funds.
County Clerk	The main duties of the county clerk are to serve as clerk of the county court and the county commissioners court, act as recorder of deeds and other instruments, issue marriage licenses and take depositions. The clerk is also responsible for conducting countywide special and general elections and for handling absentee voting.
County Sheriff	The sheriff acts as a conservator of the peace and the executive officer of the county and district courts, serve writs and processes of the courts, seizes property after judgment, enforce traffic laws on county roads and supervises the county jail and prisoners. In counties of fewer than 10,000 residents, they may also serve as ex officio tax assessor and collector.
County Tax-Assessor Collector	Calculates property tax rates for the county, collects taxes for the county (and sometimes for additional local taxing entities) and collects various other fees for the state and county.
Justice of the Peace	Presides over the justice court in cases involving misdemeanors, small civil disputes, landlord/tenant disputes and more. They also conduct inquests and may perform marriage ceremonies.





# Appendix B: Federal, State and County Government Authority Examples



# Examples of Federal Government Authority



Federal Responsibility	Corresponding Federal Agency
National defense	Department of Defense (DoD), Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force
Foreign affairs	Department of State
Immigration and border security	Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
National law enforcement	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF), U.S. Marshals Service
Emergency management	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Transportation safety & regulation	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Public health & disease control	Calculates property tax rates for the county, collects taxes for the county (and sometimes for additional local taxing entities) and collects various other fees for the state and county.
National parks and public lands	National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service
Taxation & monetary policy	Federal Reserve System (The Fed), Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS)



# Examples of State Government Authority



Dept.	Duties	Sector
Texas Education Agency	Establishes statewide academic standards, student assessments, curriculum frameworks, school accountability, and overall funding distribution to school districts.	Education
TxDOT	Responsible for constructing and maintaining the state highway system, major roads, bridges, and transportation corridors. Cities and counties may maintain local roads, but the State manages the large, regional transportation network that connects communities across Texas.	Transportation
Dept. of Public Safety	The State provides statewide law enforcement support, manages driver licensing, and coordinates large-scale emergency responses. Within DPS, the Texas Rangers function as a premier investigative division assisting local law enforcement agencies and supporting major criminal investigations.	Public Safety
Health and Human Services Commission	Texas manages Medicaid, public health programs, behavioral health systems, and services for vulnerable populations. Local entities often assist with service delivery, but funding, policy, and program design come from the State.	Health and Human Services
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Regulates air and water quality, waste management, pollution control, and water rights. This ensures consistent environmental standards across regions, even as local governments manage day-to-day compliance efforts.	Environmental & Water Regulation



# Examples of County Government Authority



Service Area	Dallas County Responsibilities
Public Health	Provides countywide health services, disease prevention, vaccinations, and social support programs.
Elections & Voter Administration	Oversees elections, voter registration, polling operations, and election security for all local jurisdictions.
Courts & Justice System	Manages county and district courts, courthouse security, and judicial facilities.
Property Tax & Registration	Collects property taxes for multiple entities and administers vehicle registration/title services.
Regional Safety & Emergency Response	Coordinates countywide disaster response, emergency management, and medical examiner services.
Vital Records	Maintains birth, death, and marriage records, ensuring accurate documentation for residents.

