

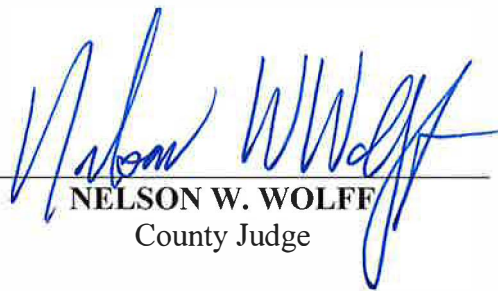


Each biennium the Commissioners Court of Bexar County adopts a program to communicate its position on federal legislation. The following document is intended to be a guide for the county's governmental affairs efforts during the 116th United States Congress.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY OF BEXAR COMMISSIONERS COURT ADOPTED ITS:**


**LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR  
THE 116TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS**

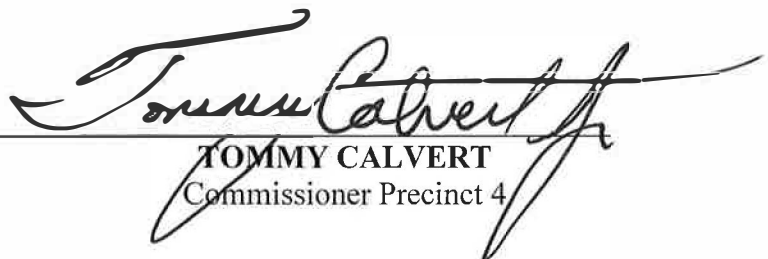
**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Commissioners Court of the County of Bexar, Texas on this the 29TH day of JANUARY, 2019.

  
NELSON W. WOLFF  
County Judge

  
SERGIO "CHICO" RODRIGUEZ  
Commissioner Precinct 1

  
JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ  
Commissioner Precinct 2

  
KEVIN A. WOLFF  
Commissioner Precinct 3

  
TOMMY CALVERT  
Commissioner Precinct 4

Direct all inquiries to:

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Additionally, Noe Garcia, the Signal Group, and Walter Serna, Serna & Serna, represent Bexar County on federal issues.

The following items illustrate the County's position on regulations or legislation that affect the County and the citizens it serves:

**Air Quality** – alleviate restrictions placed on state and local governments as a result of federally mandated air quality standards.

**Behavioral Health** – reduce the prevalence of mentally ill inmates in county jails, increase Medicaid funded psychiatric care, increase behavioral health funding, and expand health information technology. It is estimated that 64% of all jail inmates have behavioral health issues. The specialized care that is required when housing such detainees can increase the County's costs by up to 400% per inmate.

**Community Development** – increase funding for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development programs such as the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

**Criminal Justice & Public Safety** – fund criminal justice and public safety programs while simultaneously protecting the County's interest in the federal administration of grants. Also, fund efforts that promote the safety of the public and law enforcement, reduce recidivism and improve the criminal justice system's ability to deliver justice to both victims and offenders.

**Emergency Management** – reduce, or at a minimum, sustain the Federal Emergency Management Agency's thresholds, which are used for homeowners to qualify for individual or public assistance programs in instances of emergencies or major disasters

**Military** – sustain or develop the viability of area military bases to ensure they remain a valuable resource of the U.S. Armed Forces. Joint Base San Antonio alone has a \$48.7 billion impact to the Texas economy and provides a total of 282,995 direct and indirect jobs.

**Mission Reach Funding Reimbursement** – secure \$10 million annually in the Army Corps of Engineers Work Plan and Congressional Budget Bill with a long-term goal of achieving total reimbursement of funding advanced by Bexar County. (\$61.3 million is eligible for reimbursement with \$30.8 million received as of August 2018.)

**Opioid Epidemic** – increase funding for prevention and treatment of substance misuse, in support of the high degree of collaboration between the local entities cited by state and federal experts as a model for fighting the opioid crisis occurring in our community.

**Pre-Trial Inmate Medical Coverage** – allow an otherwise eligible person who is in jail awaiting trial to continue receiving health benefits until convicted and sentenced.

**State Criminal Alien Assistance Program** – increased reimbursement of local government costs for incarcerating unauthorized immigrants. This partially funded program requires the County to report undocumented inmates who have been housed for four or more consecutive days and have one felony offense or two misdemeanor offenses within a fiscal year. Federal SCAAP reimbursements to the County have continued to decrease over the last decade creating a \$22.3 million subsidy from local taxpayers to the federal government.

**Tax-Exempt Bonds** – preserve the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds; a change could result in an increase of the County’s annual debt service costs by as much as \$12 million.

**Transportation** – provide opportunities to allow the region to manage its transportation infrastructure needs. Counties own approximately 45% of public roads and 39% of bridges; in fiscal year 2018-19, the County funded approximately \$149.8 million in road and bridge projects. Additionally, the County has budgeted another \$99 million for major road projects through its regional mobility authority.

**Waters of the United States** – as it relates to Bexar County, redefine the Environmental Protection Agency’s Waters of the U.S. rule under the Clean Water Act.

**Workforce Development** – encourage workforce development to meet the employment needs of the region through flexible certification programs, academic alignment with the workforce and funding of training programs between institutions of higher education and public schools as well as veterans and other targeted populations.