

To: Speak Up Volunteers
From: Mayor Elsie Thurman

Sent: April 4, 2025

Thank you for your tremendous response to our recent call to action! The number of you who contacted your representatives regarding the proposed legislation that threatens our property values, homeowner rights, and community standards was truly remarkable.

Your swift action demonstrates how much we all value the high standards we've collectively worked to establish and maintain in HSB. Your voices are making a difference in protecting our community's character and your investment.

This week I'm asking for your help with two bills described below: Senate Bill 4 and House Bill 1189.

Senate Bill 4 is actually good news! This bill seeks to increase the residence homestead exemption up to \$140,000. SB 4 has passed the Senate and will be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee soon. Your House Representative, Ellen Troxclair, is on the Ways and Means Committee. Please let both of your House Representatives (Ellen Troxclair and Wes Virdell) know you support this bill by contacting their offices (details below).

House Bill 1189, authored by your House Representative Ellen Troxclair, seeks to remove the city's ability to use a resource that saves taxpayers thousands of dollars every year: the Texas Municipal League (TML). TML provides extensive legal advice, training, and many other resources to cities in Texas. In an effort to silence the teachers' union, bills like HB 1189 have been introduced with the unintended consequence of depriving small cities like Horseshoe Bay of a valuable resource that costs taxpayers less than \$2,000/year. Without the advocacy efforts of TML, the concerns of our city will not be heard in Austin or would require that we hire additional personnel to track and analyze the 8,600+ bills that have been proposed. Please let both of your House Representatives (Ellen Troxclair and Wes Virdell) know you oppose this bill by contacting their offices (details below).

What can you do?

Click on your Representative's name below to be taken to their "Contact Me" webpage. It is helpful if you send a separate message for each bill, but you can combine them if time is an issue.

In the form, provide the requested information (Title=Citizen, Company (if asked) = Horseshoe Bay, TX) in the form. In the Subject line, type the bill number (**SB 4** or **HB 1189**).

In the message portion, include at least the bill number and the fact that you oppose or support it. We **support SB 4** (tax exemption) and **oppose HB 1189** (removal of cost-saving resource).

[House Representative Wes Virdell \(Llano County citizens\)](#)

[House Representative Ellen Troxclair \(Burnet County citizens\)](#)

SB 4 Support Message: I support SB 4, which will increase my homestead tax exemption up to \$140,000.

HB 1189 Opposition Message: I am opposed to HB 1189, which seeks to remove my community's right to advocate for itself at the state capitol. Please amend this bill to allow the Texas Municipal League to continue advocating for Texas communities.



More resources online!

We are building a new page on the city's website to include comprehensive information and updates about the session. Please visit the link below when you have time and let us know what you think (email: speakup@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov).

Speak Up Horseshoe Bay webpage: <https://horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/974/Speak-Up-Horseshoe-Bay>

We will continue to monitor these bills closely and keep you informed of any developments. Your engagement is our community's greatest strength.

With sincere appreciation,

Elsie Thurman
Mayor
City of Horseshoe Bay
(505) 690-5705