

## **Urgent Call to Action: Help Protect Horseshoe Bay's Voice in Austin**

**To: Speak Up Volunteers**  
**From: Mayor Elsie Thurman**

**July 24, 2025**

I need your immediate help to protect our city's ability to advocate for you while saving taxpayer dollars.

### **The Issue**

**Senate Bill 12** will remove the city's ability to work with the Texas Municipal League (TML), a critical resource that costs less than \$1,500 annually, to advocate for our community at the state level. The Senate is concerned with the amount of money the handful of large cities in Texas are spending on lobbyists. We understand that concern, but the bill has an unfortunate side effect of removing our ability to work with organizations like TML as well.

### **What We'd Lose**

TML provides expert legal advice, staff training, and tracks 8,000+ legislative bills each session. They also advocate for Texas cities directly at the Capitol during legislative sessions. Without TML, we'd either lose our voice in Austin or have to spend tens of thousands more hiring individual lobbyists to protect our interests - costs that would fall directly on us as taxpayers.

The Legislature calls this "taxpayer-funded lobbying," but that's misleading. TML is a cost-effective resource that saves money. If spending is the concern, we support annual caps on contracted lobbying expenses, not eliminating affordable advocacy for small cities like ours.

### **You Helped Us Win Before**

During the regular session, your calls helped defeat a similar bill. We need your help again—**time is running short in this special session.**

### **Take Action Now**

Please send an email to our Senator and House Representatives asking them to:

1. Vote against **SB 12** OR
2. Propose an amendment that will provide reasonable spending caps for "taxpayer-funded lobbying".
  - [House Representative Wes Virdell \(Llano County Rep\)](#)
  - [House Representative Ellen Troxclair \(Burnet County Rep\)](#)
  - [Senator Pete Flores](#)

#### **Instructions:**

1. Click your representative's link above
2. Fill out form: Title = Citizen, Company = Horseshoe Bay, TX
3. Subject: **SB 12 - Vote NO**
4. Use this message (see next page):

"I oppose **SB 12**, which eliminates my community's right to advocate at the state capitol through the Texas Municipal League. This forces small cities like Horseshoe Bay to either go without representation or spend significantly more taxpayer dollars. If controlling expenses is the goal, please support spending caps on contracted lobbyists while preserving access to cost-effective resources like TML. Vote NO on **SB 12**."

**Every Voice Counts**

Please take five minutes today to contact our representatives. Your participation protects our community's interests and your tax dollars.

Thank you once again for your engagement.

**Elsie Thurman**

Mayor

City of Horseshoe Bay

(505) 690-5705