



City Administrator's Update

HIGHLAND HAVEN

July 4, 2025



Legislative Impacts & Budget Update for FY 25-26

A look at key state laws affecting Highland Haven and how to review our proposed city budget

Dear Highland Haven Residents,

As we continue working through the FY 2025–2026 budget process, I want to briefly update you on a few legislative items that may impact Highland Haven in the coming year.

During the most recent session, over 2,189 bills were filed that would have affected cities across Texas. Of those, 262 passed into law, and we carefully reviewed each one to determine which might directly affect our operations. After narrowing down to about 85 bills of interest, we've refined that list further to 34 bills that could meaningfully impact our city. Among those, a few stand out as especially relevant to Highland Haven:

- **HB 1522** – Expands public notice requirements for meetings under the Open Meetings Act.
- **SB 1202** – Allows third-party review of property development documents and inspections, including home backup power systems.
- **SB 1252** – Limits a municipality's authority to regulate the installation or inspection of residential energy backup systems.
- **SB 785** – Addresses how new HUD-code manufactured housing is regulated within cities. This bill will require us to allow HUD-code manufacture homes in our community in a least one residential zoning area.

We'll be reviewing each of these carefully and making any necessary updates to local processes or ordinances to remain compliant ahead of their effective dates. This process is time consuming and takes input from our city attorney to make sure that we are staying compliant with everything that has passed.

We are hoping to have a comprehensive list of all bills which will effect us here in the next few weeks, focusing on those that will require ordinance changes by September 1, 2025.

Budget Materials Available Online

As a reminder, our budget presentation and all proposed budget documents for the FY 2025–2026 fiscal year are available online for public review. We encourage residents to stay informed, participate in upcoming meetings, and provide input as we approach final adoption. I am free to meet with anyone who has questions or concerns about the budget, and welcome any and all feedback.

[\[Click here to view the FY25-26 Budget Proposal\]](#) [\[Click here to view the City's Financial Transparency Page for all Budget Documents\]](#)

As always, stay informed, stay involved, and thank you for being an engaged part of our community! Enjoy the 4th!!

City Administrator
Highland Haven, TX
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Next BOA Meeting

The Board of Aldermen will have their next regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday July 15, in the community center.

A copy of the agendas will be available online, as well as the packets.

Next P&Z Meeting

The next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday July 10 at the Community Center.

A copy of the agenda will be available online, as well as the packet.

Water Investment Bond

Proposed \$1,000,000 Bond for Water System

- **Purpose:**
 - Purchase 8.25 acre parcel located next to our water plant
 - Invest in water infrastructure updates that may include:
 - New water system generator
 - Build out of Well #6
 - Variable Frequency Drives for distribution pumps
 - Fire Hydrants
- **Importance:**
 - 2 of the city's wells are located on this property, eliminates royalty payments
 - Ensures we control all aspects of our water infrastructure, keeping drinking water safe and reliable
 - Has been a priority in the City's Comprehensive Plan since 2004
 - Adds controlled acreage for future groundwater permits or system expansions
- **Key Facts:**
 - 15-year bond, repaid through revenues from water system
 - **No Debt Service Tax** created through issuance of this bond
 - **No Increase** in water rates
 - **Required Ballot Language:** "This is a Tax Increase" (Texas law mandates this wording, but no debt service tax is being created and no rate hikes are proposed)
- **Why it Matters:**
 - Ensures safe, reliable water for all residents without added costs
- **When to Vote:**
 - This Bond will be voted on during the November 4, 2025 election



Stay in the Loop & Reach Out!

We appreciate you taking the time to stay informed about what's happening in Highland Haven. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to chat about city matters, we're always happy to hear from you! Feel free to reach out, and we'll do our best to provide answers and keep you in the know.

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Stay engaged, stay involved, and thank you for being a part of what makes Highland Haven a great place to live!