



Texas Legislature is at Work

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WBNA held the summer meeting on July 15. An excellent summary is available (thanks to Susan Rojan!) and is posted on our Facebook page. This is accessible by anyone even if you do not use Facebook, Click on the following link and it will take you there! <https://www.facebook.com/notes/williams-borden-neighborhood-association/notes-from-july-15-2017-general-meeting/1805914746387677/>

A hot issue that came up was related to the Texas State Legislature's special session. Two bills in particular are of concern to Galveston. One bill before the Senate would limit cities' ability to protect mature trees on private property. Probably nowhere in the State are people as aware of the importance of trees as we are post-Ike. In fact, legislation has also been proposed to limit municipalities for enacting and enforcing ANY local codes, and instead would be required to follow rules set down at the State level. This would create a disastrous situation for cities who would not be able to adequately govern themselves.

If you have concerns about these issues, it is important to call your legislators and let them know you want municipalities to continue to be allowed to govern themselves. You can get contact information [HERE](#). Or go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

Our neighbor Mike Howell has asked that we share his letter to the Governor about the issue of local governance; he has also sent it to several newspapers. Read it below:

Governor Abbott:

You may not remember me, but I was a Catholic seminarian at St. Mary's seminary in Houston 1990-1992. I met your wife, Cecilia, in 1990-91 while she was attending classes at St. Mary's. The seminarians were invited to your house several times and we met you. You impressed me as being an honest and understanding person.

I am writing to obtain your opposition to the numerous pre-emption bills in the regular and special sessions of the legislature, which effect city councils and local governing boards across the State of Texas. The proposed legislation reeks of the State dictating how the cities of Texas should govern. These bills take away the ability of local authorities to respond to the needs of their constituents and give all governing power to the those who are unaware and unconcerned with local needs and regulations.

You are keenly aware of this argument because you routinely make similar arguments against the Federal government's intrusion into regulations effecting the State of Texas!

Please do not allow representatives who do not represent our local interests dictate what we can or should do. The only power we as constituents have is to vote our representatives and the governor out of office. And we will.

I appreciate your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Howell

3624 Avenue O 1/2

Galveston, Texas 77550

About Williams-Borden Neighborhood Association:

WBNAGalveston.com: please let us know if you see something that should be added or updated.

[Nextdoor](#) is an excellent online forum for communication with neighbors. If you are not signed up you are missing out!

[Facebook](#) page with WBNA updates is available even if you do not participate in Facebook.

Williams-Borden neighborhood Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The boundaries of WBNA are 35th to 39th Streets, from Avenue

M to S (voting membership includes both sides of boundary streets). All are welcome to help us work for a better neighborhood.

Dues of \$10 for individuals/\$15 for families can be paid at a meeting, via [Paypal](#) on our website, or by mail to:

Williams-Borden Neighborhood Association

PO Box 3039

Galveston, TX 77552-0039

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