

Austin Central Labor Council

Resolution to Establish Support In Favor of the City of Austin's Tax Rate Election

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's Budget and Organizational Excellence Department published in April 2025 that the City is projecting a budget deficit ballooning up to \$79.9 million dollars by FY 2029-30.

WHEREAS, this deficit is in part caused by attacks from the Texas Legislature which in 2019 capped the amount of property taxes that can be collected each year to 3.5% and because of President Trump and Elon Musk's DOGE federal funding cuts to grants that were already awarded to the City.

WHEREAS, these anticipated deficits will have serious implications for City services, City staffing levels, and job security for several of the Austin Central Labor Council's affiliates, including AFSCME Local 1624, Austin EMS Association (CWA Local 6914), and United Workers of Integral Care (CWA Local 6154).

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council passed on August 14, 2025 a budget that includes an additional property tax of \$.05 per \$100 dollars of assessed property value over the 3.5% allowed by state law, triggering a tax rate election to be held on November 4, 2025.

WHEREAS, the adopted budget not only addresses the anticipated deficit but also allocates money for City of Austin cost of living adjustments, restores programs affected by federal funding cuts, increases emergency medical services funding, and expands important community priorities.

WHEREAS, the adopted budget can only be implemented with voter approval on the November 4th election, meaning in order to protect union jobs and provide critical City services a strong coalition will be needed to wage an effective campaign to ensure passage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Austin Central Labor Council endorses the position of "In Favor" or "Yes" on the City of Austin's Tax Rate Election ballot measure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Austin Central Labor Council, and all of its affiliates, shall encourage their members that are eligible to vote in the election do so as "In Favor" or "Yes".

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Austin Central Labor Council shall employ all its campaign resources and strategies, in the same manner as it would any other endorsed campaign measure, to ensure the Tax Rate Election is victorious.