

## **Bastrop County Open Government Pledge**

Open government is the basis for all just and rational governmental decisions. The public's right to know is inadequately protected without a right to participate in the core issues protecting prosperity, liberty, and community. I pledge personally to support and implement the following:

1. **Compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act is imperative, even when inconvenient, and especially when our community is at a crossroads.**
  - a. I will oppose efforts to minimize public comment by opposing strict limitations on public comment time that require speakers to cover multiple agenda items in one comment limit all public comment to a single period, and/or deprive any speaker of the right to comment at all.
  - b. I will oppose all viewpoint or subject matter discrimination, including using time limitations or limitations on the number of speakers to eliminate diversity of viewpoint.
2. **Open Government is essential to accountability- but not sufficient by itself. I will go beyond the minimum required by law and protect the public's right to know.**
  - a. I will support videos of all commissioner court meetings and other meetings subject to the Open Meetings Act on a convenient online platform and on the county website.
  - b. I will work with the court and this community for an ordered plan for industrialization of western Bastrop County, including the appointment of one or more affected community members to any official [industrialization] planning committee - to create shared prosperity and prevent enrichment of powerful private interests at public expense.
  - c. I will further support state-wide legislation in the 2027 session that grants Bastrop County expanded regulatory and land control authority to manage, restrict, or condition large-scale industrial developments in unincorporated areas to protect local natural resources and public health.
  - d. I will support at least one community member joining the committee currently working on the county's lobby plan

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3. **Our community and freedom are not served by complacency. I will affirmatively engage with the public and open the doors of government to all residents.**
- a. I fully support and will make every effort to schedule Bastrop Commissioners Courts' public meetings in the evening, like every city in Bastrop County currently does to allow working people to attend their meetings.
  - b. I will support the commissioners court critically discussing every part of the economic development process, including related tax abatements and other economic incentive awards considered for data centers and co-located power plants, SpaceX projects, and all other major development projects since 2024 assuring that financial incentives, tax abatements, or any other major policies receive additional, specific notice and opportunity for **public input prior to any official court action**.
  - c. Major public decisions require public input. I will support increasing the ability of residents to participate in core decisions through court-sponsored committees, workshops, and outreach.

Date Signed:\_\_\_\_\_ Candidate Signature:\_\_\_\_\_