



BORRIS L. MILES

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: Criminal Justice, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development and Nominations

OFFICIAL STATEMENT **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Senator Miles Statement on Senate Bill 2- Property Tax Bill

"I voted against SB 2, the property tax bill. This bill is an attack on local governments and their ability to provide basic services to their communities.

In the City of Houston, I have watched locally elected officials grapple with balancing a budget with the hindrance of the local revenue cap, which makes it a challenge to provide basic city services like picking up trash and filling potholes. SB 2 will add another restriction and will only further exacerbate the current situation.

And to add insult to injury, the governor double-downed on a proposal to increase the state's sales tax to generate billions of dollars to fund property tax relief. I strongly oppose raising the sales tax because it is a direct attack on low income and minority communities, especially those that live paycheck to paycheck. Those Texans will be hit the hardest by this tax increase. That is unacceptable! Further, property taxes are tied directly to public school finances. Real property tax reform starts with the state paying its fair share by fully funding our public education system. In 2011, the Texas Republican leadership cut public education to the tune of \$5 billion. That massive budget cut reverberated throughout Texas. Restoring the 2011 budget cuts should come first before we even begin discussing property tax reform.

I believe in allowing locally elected officials to decide what is best for their community. The community has the opportunity to voice their pleasure or displeasure at the ballot box. State leaders need to heed that lesson, as many found out in November 2018. Keep local governments local and stop this attack on local governments which limits their revenue and hinders their ability to provide essential services."

SB 2 will head to the Texas House for further consideration.

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