

Sarah Eckhardt



Texas State Senator

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Press Release

Senator Eckhardt votes for \$140,000 Homestead Exemption while Urging Accountability from State to Taxpayers

AUSTIN – Today, Senator Eckhardt joined her colleagues in the Texas Senate to pass SB4, a permanent \$140,000 homestead exemption, providing relief to the nearly 1.6M Texas homeowners who are defined as “cost-burdened” (spending over 30% of their income on housing costs inclusive of mortgages, utilities, and property taxes).

Appropriately set, flat dollar homestead exemptions help the homeowners who need it the most by shifting the overall tax burden onto higher value homeowners, non-homestead homeowners and commercial property owners. Permanently increasing the burden on all the other property tax payers runs the risk of creating more inequity. For instance, small business owners and the 50% of renters who are cost burdened will sag under the shifting burden.

Senator Sarah Eckhardt released the following statement:

“Homestead Exemptions are a good tool, but they are not the most powerful ones we have. **The best, most meaningful, and long-lasting property tax relief the Legislature could provide is for the state to fully fund state obligations.** Texas must fully fund public education, increasing the basic allotment and indexing it to inflation. Texas should expand Medicaid so more Texans can receive the care they need and hospital districts can stop hurting. **When the state pays its fair share, local taxpayers, whether homeowners or not, won’t be left to pick up our slack.”**

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Sarah Eckhardt is the second-term Democratic State Senator representing District 14, comprising Austin and surrounding areas. She serves on the Administration, Border Security, Nominations, and Veterans Affairs committees in the 89th Legislative Session, and has previously served on the Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs and Local Government committees. A proud UT Law and Public Affairs alum, Senator Eckhardt was the first woman to serve as Travis County Judge from 2014-2020.