



**Galveston Island Park Board of Trustees
Legislative Agenda 2013**

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

The Park Board of Trustees will support any legislation viewed as advancing the organization's goals of protecting and enhancing Island beaches, supporting the sustainable growth of the local travel and tourism industry and improving the quality of life for Galveston residents through the provision of invaluable recreational services in Park Board managed facilities.

The Park Board of Trustees will oppose any legislation viewed as detrimental to the local travel and tourism industry, or that otherwise have a negative impact on the management and enjoyment of local beaches.

FORM COALITIONS

The Park Board of Trustees will form strategic partnerships with not for profit organizations, industry associations, political subdivisions, and private sector entities that share common goals with the Park Board of Trustees.

PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

State Initiatives

Support availability of Affordable Windstorm Insurance. Monitor all legislation related to Texas Windstorm Insurance Agency (TWIA) and actively support proposed TWIA reform legislation that is beneficial to residents, local businesses and regional development.

Advocate for the full \$60 million in State Funding for Tourism Promotion. Support full funding for the State funded Tourism Trust Program that provides rebates of state and local tax revenues for city-wide or very significant events that meet certain criteria. The rebates are from the surplus revenue (all new money) that is created only from the special event.

Speak out Against Later School Start Dates. Deter current proposals to repeal the later school start date, currently schools are required to start no earlier than the fourth Monday in August pursuant to legislation passed by the Texas Hotel and Lodging Association in 2001.

Advocate for Coastal and Beach funding. Support full funding of the General Land Office grant program for Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA) and the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funding.



Support funding and requirements for water conservation. Support funding of the State water plan through whatever means will produce sufficient revenues to ensure a viable future for economic development in Texas and distribute the costs fairly and equitably among all users and beneficiaries in the state; support efforts to ensure that water users are required to develop and enforce stringent water conservation measures as a condition of receiving any state financial or technical assistance for water resource planning or development.

Advocate for an Increase in State Per Diem. Advocate for an increase to \$85 maximum rate for CONUS areas in Texas, and the higher NSA rate for all other Texas markets for State employees and business.

Support the Continuation of the Event Trust Fund. Oppose any repeal of the State of Texas Trust Fund which provides rebates of state and local tax revenues for city-wide or very significant events that meet certain criteria.

Support Continued Funding for State Agencies for Programs Benefitting Tourism. Preserve State Funding For Programs That Benefit Travel And Tourism at the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TP&WD), Texas Historical Commission (THC), Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and Texas Commission On The Arts (TCA).

Support the Creation of the Lone Star National Recreation Area.

Support the Adoption of the Texas Bottle Bill.

Federal Initiatives

Advocate for Funding of Beach/ Bay Surge Protection Systems. Actively support the allocation of state and local funding for the Texas A&M University feasibility study for the "Ike Dike" project.

Advocate for Increased funding for Coastal Restoration and Protection. Support increased funding for the Corps' Coastal Flood Protection Program to \$450 million in FY 2013 and an overall Corps budget of at least \$6 million. Wide, long beaches and a healthy dune system are the best protection against coastal damage, flooding, and death from hurricanes and other storms.

End