

# HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLES

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August 21, 2025

Chairman Cecil Bell  
House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs  
State Representative, District 3  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Chairman Bell:

As the eight elected Constables of Harris County, we respectfully wish to inform you of our **full and bipartisan support** of House Bill 26 filed by the Honorable State Rep. Tom Oliverson, District 130. The Senate companion to this bill has been filed as Senate Bill 46 by State Sen. Paul Bettencourt, Senate District 7.

Not all of us could be present at the hearing of your committee regarding this matter, but we are represented by our elected colleagues. They can speak for us and share our passion for passage of this vital legislation.

We humbly ask that our full and bipartisan support be spread upon the record of this committee and be remembered as you consider this matter.

House Bill 26 is bracketed to Harris County and would allow our Sheriff and elected Constables the authority to independently contact to provide law enforcement services to neighborhood associations, businesses, school districts, municipal utility districts and other acceptable entities.

These contracts – paid for mostly by the parties seeking the services and also supported by the county – are the backbone of our popular and successful “contract deputy” program. This program augments our law enforcement manpower to the tune of about 1,200 additional officers, provides additional neighborhood protections, betters response times and improves law enforcement cooperation and coordination.

Allowing elected law enforcement leaders direct responsibility for contracting as part of this program would remove it from the threat of any volatile partisan whims of our Commissioners Court. This would also protect the stability of the rates paid by those who contract for law enforcement services. They are, in many cases, homeowners who also support county services as taxpayers.

HB 26 also reinforces law enforcement funding protections previously put into place by the Texas Legislature to prevent police defunding.

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Please consider supporting this important legislation. Our colleagues are there to answer your questions but please do not hesitate to contact any of us if we might be of assistance.

Thank you for your service to the people of Texas and your consideration of HB 26.

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Harris County Precinct 2

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Harris County Precinct 3

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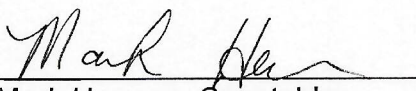
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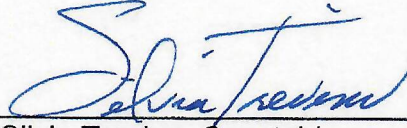
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