



City Council Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date: March 17, 2020

Submitted by: Jon Thatcher, City Attorney

Consent X	Public Hearing	Action Item
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Item Title: Consider a Resolution opposing Proposition 3 approved at the March 3, 2020 statewide election advocating for the ending of taxpayer-funded lobbying.

How this item ties-in with the City’s Mission, Vision and Values: The City of Forney elected officials and staff are accountable to the citizens in providing effective and efficient delivery of services.

Summary Statement

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Senate Bill 29 authored and introduced by Senator Bob Hall proposed a ban on taxpayer-funded legislative lobbying by public entities. The legislation failed in the House.

The measure was placed on the ballot as a proposition during the most recent statewide election. The ballot language stated that the lobbying efforts work against the taxpayer. However, this is completely false as the lobbying efforts generally come at the direction of local elected and appointed officials who represent the taxpayers at the very lowest levels. The proposition passed due in large part because of the slanted ballot language.

The matter will be brought again before the legislature during their next session stating that the taxpayers unanimously desire such a prohibitory legislative action.

Staff recommends approval of the Resolution directing same to our local legislators for consideration.