



Office of Ellis County Judge Todd Little
For Immediate Release

March 21st, 2023; Ellis County Staff Reports
Corey Rogan - Public Information Officer

“County Commissioners Oppose Municipal Utility Districts in Resolution”

Ellis County, TX – On Tuesday, March 21st, Ellis County commissioners adopted a resolution requesting that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) not create any new Municipal Utility Districts (MUD’s) without Commissioners’ Court approval. MUD’s are special taxing districts that impose a permanent assessment against local properties to provide water & utilities coverage, but they often strain municipal & county resources with high-density developments while affording local citizens no means by which to govern them. With at least 23 special districts existing or proposed within Ellis County, the Commissioners’ Court resolution requests legislative action to require local government approval prior to the creation of any new MUD’s by TCEQ.

“The exploding prevalence of special districts has left the Ellis County Commissioners’ Court to sort out the impact of high-density development on [county infrastructure]...to the degree that forbearance ceases to be a virtue,” declares the resolution, which calls upon the Legislature to “reform the way that Municipal Utility Districts are created, administratively or legislatively, and to provide for greater transparency and local input.”

Typically, Municipal Utility Districts are created by TCEQ after a local developer petitions the agency for approval. Prospective home-buyers are notified of the assessment against properties within the district, but they have no means of ever changing that assessment through locally-elected representatives. Instead, MUD’s are governed by a board of directors appointed by TCEQ administrators in Austin, who often include the original MUD applicants as board members – a practice considered to be a conflict of interest by County Judge Todd Little.

On February 27th, Judge Little sent a letter asking the Texas Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs to halt the creation of new MUD’s in Ellis County. “Our citizens, through their locally-elected representatives, should be able to guide the development of housing and business in their own community,” he wrote. “However water resources are provided in Ellis County, the interests of our local citizens must be represented.”

Following the letter, Little’s office drafted a resolution to be considered by the Commissioners’ Court as an official policy position opposing new MUD’s and calling for changes to the district approval process. After hearing several public comments in favor of the resolution, including from citizens representing “Ellis County Citizens Against MUD’s,” commissioners unanimously adopted “A Resolution by Ellis County Commissioners’ Court Opposing the Formation of Municipal Utility Districts” at their regularly-scheduled meeting on March 21st. Little then sent copies to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, House Speaker, and Senate committee members.

“This is about our ability to maintain the quality of life our citizens enjoy,” said Little. “Our infrastructure, our water resources, and our rural heritage are all impacted by the proliferation of Municipal Utility Districts. Commissioners will continue to support sound housing and economic development for the benefit of our local citizens.”

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Caption: “Judge Todd Little presents a resolution opposing Municipal Utility Districts at the March 21st, 2023 Ellis County Commissioners’ Court meeting.”

Credit: Corey Rogan, Ellis County Public Information Officer