

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COPPELL,  
TEXAS, REQUESTING THAT THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE SEEK  
LEGISLATION PROVIDING STATUTORY CLARITY FOR MUNICIPAL  
ACTIONS TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND DECORUM DURING CITIZEN  
COMMENT PERIODS WHILE UPHOLDING CONSTITUTIONAL  
PROTECTIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING  
FOR SEVERABILITY.**

**WHEREAS**, public comment is a vital component of democratic governance, and the City of Coppel affirms its commitment to protect free speech and provide residents a forum to address their elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities across Texas have experienced increasing challenges with individuals who attend public meetings solely to provoke, disrupt, or engage in conduct inconsistent with constructive civic dialogue; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coppel has adopted local ordinances establishing rules of decorum for citizen comments, including prohibitions on personal attacks, obscenity, harassment, and disruptive behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, despite such local regulations, there remains legal uncertainty regarding the authority of presiding officers and governing bodies to act when individuals abuse the citizen comment process, raising concerns for both the preservation of constitutional rights and the integrity of public meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, legislative clarity is needed to provide municipalities with explicit statutory authority to maintain order and decorum during citizen comment periods while ensuring constitutional protections of free expression are preserved;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COPPELL, TEXAS:**

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Coppel hereby requests that the Texas Municipal League sponsor and support legislation amending Section 551.007, Public Testimony, Texas Government Code, municipalities with clear statutory authority to adopt and enforce reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on citizen comments, including the ability to address repeated or egregious disruptive conduct during public meetings.

SECTION 2. Such legislation should balance the right of individuals to address their government with the responsibility of municipalities to preserve order, transparency, and meaningful civic participation.

SECTION 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Coppell, Texas, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Wes Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Attorney

## **TML RESOLUTION COVER SHEET**

**Sponsoring Entity (City, TML Affiliate, and/or TML Region):** City of Coppell

### **Brief Background:**

Section 102.005 of the Texas Local Government Code requires a proposed municipal budget to be filed 30 days before the governing body adopts the budget and tax rate. Because appraisal districts do not deliver certified values until July 25, cities are forced to file an “initial” proposed budget based on estimated values and estimated tax rates. This initial budget can be misleading to the public and governing body since it does not incorporate certified values or official tax calculations.

### **What the Resolution is Intended to Accomplish:**

Amend Section 102.005 of the Local Government Code to reduce the required posting period for a proposed budget from 30 days to 21 days, allowing cities to file a proposed budget that incorporates certified values and official No-New-Revenue (NNR) and Voter-Approval Rate (VAR) calculations.

### **How the Resolution is City-Related/How it Addresses a Municipal Issue:**

The current timeline requires Coppell and other cities to publish preliminary budgets that can confuse residents, elected officials, and stakeholders. Reducing the posting period ensures that the public hearing and adoption process is based on accurate, certified financial data, improving transparency and decision-making.

### **Statewide Importance:**

All municipalities in Texas face the same appraisal and tax rate timelines. Adjusting the posting requirement to 21 days would improve accuracy, consistency, and public trust statewide, ensuring cities provide clear and reliable budget information to their residents and governing bodies.

### **Category: Seek Introduction and Passage**

The League will attempt to find a sponsor, provide testimony, and actively pursue passage.

### **Submitted By:**

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Title: City Manager

City: Coppell

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