

ONE VOICE

CENTRAL TEXAS

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See our full membership at:
www.OneVoiceCentralTx.org
info@onevoicecentraltx.org

June 29, 2016

Dear Mayor Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, and City Council Members,

One Voice Central Texas is a coalition of 90 local health and human service nonprofit organizations that provide effective programs to support the well-being of all our community's residents so that they may reach their full potential. On behalf of the many thousands of individuals and families we serve, **we ask that you carefully evaluate the impact of an 8% homestead exemption on the safety net services that support our community's most vulnerable citizens.**

One Voice deeply appreciates Austin City Council's leadership in strengthening our community's health and human services infrastructure, as well as its commitment to addressing affordability for all Austin residents. We do not have a position on homestead exemption in and of itself, but we are concerned about its potential impact on funding for critical health and human services.

Raising the exemption to 8% will save the average homeowner (of a \$250,000 home) \$22.95, but will have a \$3.8 million impact on the upcoming budget. While this amount may seem small in the context of the City's overall budget, there is very little flexibility in what programs and services can be cut to address this impact.

If critical human services funding were cut as a result of the increase in exemption, the very small savings to homeowners would likely come back many times over to the taxpayer in the form of emergency services and public safety. In 2015, City Council passed a resolution that specified the budget increases necessary to keep supporting Austin's growing population and cost of providing services. This amount is not yet in the proposed budget, so our community is already at high risk of falling even further behind supporting critical needs. **We urge you to weigh the merits of a very small tax relief against the longer term – and likely larger – negative human and economic consequences of compromising our safety net.**

We thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the highest quality life for ALL Austin citizens.

Sincerely,



Ann Howard
2016 Chair, One Voice Central Texas
Executive Director, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

ONE VOICE

CENTRAL TEXAS

Membership

Accessible Housing Austin!
ACE: A Community for Education
AGE of Central Texas
AIDS Services of Austin
Alzheimer's Texas
American Heart Association
American YouthWorks
Any Baby Can
The Arc of the Capital Area
Asian Family Support Services of Austin
Austin Area Urban League
Austin Child Guidance Center
Austin Children's Shelter
Austin Diaper Bank
Austin Speech Labs
Austin Travis County Integral Care
Autism Society of Central Texas
AVANCE
Blackland CDC
BookSpring
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area
Breakthrough Austin
Breast Cancer Resource Centers of Texas
Camp Fire Central Texas
Capital City Village
Capital IDEA
Capital Metro
CareBox Program
The Care Communities
Caritas of Austin
CASA of Travis County
Center for Child Protection
Central Texas Food Bank
Child Inc.
The Christi Center
College Houses
Communities for Recovery
Communities In Schools
CommUnityCare
Council on At-Risk Youth
Easter Seals Central Texas
ECHO
El Buen Samaritano
Explore Austin
Extend-A-Care for Kids
Family Eldercare
Foundation Communities
Foundation for the Homeless
Front Steps
Goodwill Industries of Central Texas
HealthStart Foundation
HousingWorks Austin
Interfaith Action of Central Texas
Jeremiah Program
Jewish Family Service of Austin
LifeSteps Council on Alcohol & Drugs
LifeWorks
Literacy Coalition of Central Texas
Meals on Wheels Central Texas
Mis Cuentas
NAMI Austin
Open Door Preschools
Peoples Community Clinic
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Round Rock Area Serving Center
SAFE Alliance
SafePlace
Salvation Army
Samaritan Center
Seedling Foundation
The Seton Cove
The Settlement Home for Children
Sickle Cell Association of Texas
SIMS Foundation
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Southwest Key Programs, Inc.
Spirit Reins
Standish Foundation for Child & Family
Centered Healthcare
Sustainable Food Center
Texas Association of Charitable Clinics
Texas Homeless Network
Texas Partnership for Out of School Time
Trinity Center
United Way for Greater Austin
Upbring
Vela Families
Volunteer Healthcare Clinic
Waterloo Counseling Center
Wonders & Worries
YMCA of Austin
Zephaniah Community Development
Corp/Texas Pie Kitchen

*One Voice Central Texas is a coalition of the leadership of nonprofit health and human service organizations unified by the common value that **people come first.***