

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4315

June 5, 2023

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
State of Texas
P.O. Box 1248
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

As Texans continue to recover from the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent inflation, we must continue to ensure that our small businesses and constituents have the resources they need to thrive. However, the recent increases in property taxes are impeding the growth of our communities and local economies.

Our small businesses, low-and -middle-class families, and elderly Texans need property tax relief now. We cannot continue to ask our families to do more with less as the increasing costs of everyday items continue to strain South Texans' budgets. I respectfully urge you again to issue an executive order to freeze all property taxes for the next calendar year, including interests and penalties. Freezing property taxes will allow our fellow Texans to pay the same amount they paid before while, at the same time, continuing to maintain the essential services that are funded with those tax dollars.

Governor Abbott – this is your opportunity to live up to your promises on the campaign trail and provide relief for millions of Texans. I understand that local officials set the property tax value, but you have the power as Governor to provide relief through executive action.

I know you understand the urgency of this matter, as exemplified by your recent call for a special session with the demand that property tax relief be addressed. As a result of this, the Texas House passed H.B. 1/H.J.R. 1, to provide property tax cuts, which awaits Senate action. Although I agree that we are in dire need of property tax reform, we cannot have legislation that eliminates the tax altogether. Property taxes provide the largest revenue for local services in the state of Texas including schools, roads, streets, roads, police, fire protection, emergency medical services, and more.

Until the Texas State Legislature comes to a consensus on how to best move forward, I urge you again to issue an executive order to freeze property taxes for the next calendar year. Texans need assistance now, and unless you act, they risk being taxed out of their homes and their livelihoods.

I urge your immediate action on this issue and look forward to working with you to better the life of all Texans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VG' followed by a stylized 'M' and a small flourish.

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress