

Research Assessment #9

Date: February 28, 2019

Subject: Texas Property Tax Bill in the House

MLA Citation:

Najmabadi, Shannon. "In the Texas House, Property Tax Legislation Is Being Handled with a Different Speed - and Tone." *The Texas Tribune*, Texas Tribune, 28 Feb. 2019, www.texastribune.org/2019/02/28/texas-house-committee-considers-property-tax-rollback-proposal/.

Assessment:

As I continue to work on my Final Product, I seem to be learning more and more about the facts of the Texas property tax bills. I think before this project started, within my mentorship I thought that property taxes must be a pretty big deal because they were such a prominent thing that Will and Shona spoke about, but I didn't have much understanding of how much bearing they had on the work that the two of them do. Shona recently went to Austin and testified at this House meeting to argue against the property tax bill, which represents just how important this is to her and the city of Frisco.

One thing I was surprised to learn after reading this article is how far back this situation goes. One quote from the report said that a lot of the outdated tax laws and expectations are left over from the 1980s in some cases. Another thing that kept being repeated by the representatives quoted in the article was how Texas shouldn't be treating their modern-day property taxes like that of 2017. To me, it doesn't seem like 2017 was that far away at all, so it's interesting to hear it be referred to as if it was ages ago and anything that came out of 2017 is too outdated to function well currently. I will have to remember to ask Will and Shona about the massive changes that must have occurred over the past few years because it seems to me that a big difference is being suggested. Even when Shona filled out the mentor evaluation form for my product proposal, I thought it a little confusing at the time that she wanted me to look into the history of local control and the way they work with property taxes. Now after reading this article too, I really get the impression that the history of the property tax policy is a major facet and I should prioritize looking into it more for my Final Product.

Another aspect of the article that I feel like I've worked around a lot but don't always think of in these terms is the split between big and small cities. In my Original Work I touched on the differences between the political parties and how democrats and republicans feel about local control, but for it to be presented as a solely big/small city split as opposed to a liberal/conservative city split was an interesting and valuable perspective. Moving forward into my project I think I need to remember this when discussing Frisco specifically. It was difficult for me to look at political parties being the determining factor when it came to local control because of the right-leaning policies of Frisco even though the municipality supports local control.

Hopefully this article will help me continue to work on my Final Product, using some of these examples and descriptions to clarify the work that I'm doing. Coming out of it the article helped me understand how the House and Senate have been treating the property tax bills and also, as I mentioned above, widened my view at some of the lenses I can look at local control through with the big/small city contrasts as well as the history of the arguments.