

**HOPKINS COUNTY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION OF A
20% PENALTY FOR COLLECTION COSTS ON DELINQUENT TAXES FOR
TAX YEAR 2025 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS**

RECITALS

Section 6.30 of the Texas Tax Code, as amended, authorizes Hopkins County to provide for compensating an attorney up to 20% of the delinquent tax, penalty, and interest collected by the attorney.

Sections 33.07, 33.08, and 33.11 of the Texas Tax Code, as amended, authorize Hopkins County to impose additional penalties secured by a tax lien to defray the cost of collection, not to exceed the amount of the compensation specified in the contract with an attorney pursuant to section 6.30 of the Texas Tax Code.

The Hopkins County has contracted with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP ("Linebarger") to collect its delinquent taxes pursuant to section 6.30 of the Texas Tax Code, as amended.

The contract provides that Linebarger's compensation shall be comprised of section 33.07 penalties, section 33.08 penalties, section 33.11 penalties and section 33.48 attorney fees awarded to and collected by Linebarger, pursuant to each statute of the Texas Tax Code.

The Hopkins County has agreed in the contract to impose section 33.07, section 33.08, and section 33.11 penalties of 20% to offset the cost of delinquent tax collection efforts. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, it is not intended to and it should not be construed so as to impose an additional penalty under Section 33.07 of the Texas Tax Code on any delinquent tangible personal property taxes that Section 33.11 of the Texas Tax Code forbids its application.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE Hopkins County THAT:

Section 1. The matters and facts related in the preamble of this order are hereby found and determined to be true and correct.

Section 2. In connection with 2025 taxes that become delinquent before June 1, 2026, and subsequent years' taxes, the Hopkins County hereby affirmatively imposes an additional 20% penalty pursuant to Tex. Tax Code § 33.07.

Section 3. In connection with 2025 taxes that become delinquent on or after June 1, 2026, and subsequent years' taxes the Hopkins County hereby affirmatively imposes an additional 20% penalty pursuant to Tex. Tax Code § 33.08.

Section 4. In connection with 2025 taxes that become delinquent on or after February 1, 2026 and subsequent years' taxes imposed on tangible personal property, the Hopkins County hereby affirmatively imposes an additional 20% penalty pursuant to Tex. Tax Code § 33.11.

Section 5. The Hopkins County Tax Assessor-Collector is authorized to mail notice of the delinquency and of the penalty to each property owner in accordance with Tex. Tax Code sections 33.07, 33.08, and 33.11.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 22 day of April 2025

ATTEST/SEAL:

By: Nacy Smith

Hopkins County

By: Robert Newsom
Robert Newsom, County Judge



Agreement for Tax Collection Services

This Agreement is made between Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP (hereinafter referred to as the "Firm") and Hopkins County (hereinafter referred to as the "Client").

Article I

Nature of Relationship

1.01 The parties hereto acknowledge that this Agreement creates an attorney-client relationship.

1.02 The Client hereby employs the Firm to provide the services hereinafter described for compensation hereinafter provided.

Article 2

Scope of Services

2.01 The Firm shall take reasonable and necessary actions to collect property taxes that are owed to the Client and to any other taxing unit whose taxes are assessed and collected by the Client, and that are subject to this agreement, as hereinafter provided.

2.02 The Client may from time-to-time specify in writing additional actions to be taken by the Firm in connection with the collection of taxes that are owed to the Client. Client further constitutes and appoints the Firm as Client's attorneys to sign all legal instruments, pleadings, drafts, authorizations and papers as shall be reasonably necessary to prosecute the Client's claim for taxes.

2.03 Taxes owed to the Client shall become subject to this agreement upon the following dates, whichever occurs first:

(a) On February 1 of the year in which the taxes become delinquent if a previously filed tax suit is then pending against the property subject to the tax;

(b) On the date any lawsuit is filed with respect to the recovery of the tax if the tax is delinquent and is required to be included in the suit pursuant to TEX. TAX CODE § 33.42(a);

(c) On the date of filing any application for tax warrant where recovery of the tax or estimated tax is sought and where the filing of an application for tax warrant by the Firm is at the request of Client's Tax Assessor-Collector;

(d) On the date of filing any claim in bankruptcy where recovery of the tax is sought; or

(e) In the case of tangible personal property, on the 60th day after the February 1 delinquency date;
or

(f) On July 1 of the year in which the taxes become delinquent.

Article 3

Compensation

3.01 Client agrees to pay to the Firm, as compensation for the services required herein, as follows:

(a) fifteen (15%) percent of the amount of all 2024 and prior year taxes, penalty and interest subject to the terms of this contract as set forth in Paragraph 2.03 above, collected and paid to the collector of taxes during the term of this contract, as and when collected; and

(b) twenty (20%) percent of the amount of all 2025 and subsequent year taxes, penalty and interest subject to the terms of this contract as set forth in Paragraph 2.03 above, collected and paid to the collector of taxes during the term of this contract, as and when collected.

to automatically renew for additional and successive one-year terms in the same manner at the end of each renewal period.

6.03 If at any time during the initial term of this Agreement or any extension hereof, the Client determines that the Firm's performance under this Agreement is unsatisfactory, the Client shall notify the Firm in writing of the Client's determination. The notice from the Client shall specify the particular deficiencies that the Client has observed in the Firm's performance. The Firm shall have sixty (60) days from the date of the notice to cure any such deficiencies. If at the conclusion of that sixty-day remedial period, the Client remains unsatisfied with the Firm's performance, the Client may terminate this Agreement effective upon the expiration of thirty days following the date of written notice to the Firm of such termination ("Termination Date").

6.04 Whether this Agreement expires or is terminated, the Firm shall be entitled to continue to prosecute any tax suits, applications for tax warrants or bankruptcy claims pending on the Termination Date or Expiration Date for an additional six months following termination or expiration. The Client agrees that the Firm shall be compensated as provided by Article 3 for any base tax, penalties and interest collected in the pending matters during the six-month period.

6.05 The Client agrees that the Firm shall be reimbursed for any costs advanced and shall be paid for any services performed pursuant to Article 5 when such costs are recovered by or on behalf of the Client, regardless of the date recovered. It is expressly agreed that neither the expiration nor the termination of this Agreement constitutes a waiver by the Firm of its entitlement to be reimbursed for such costs and to be paid for such services. It is further expressly agreed that the expiration of any six-month period under Section 6.04 does not constitute any such waiver by the Firm.

Article 7

Miscellaneous

7.01 *Assignment and Subcontracting.* This Agreement is not assignable, provided however, the Firm may from time-to-time obtain co-counsel or subcontract some of the services provided for herein to other law firms or entities. In such cases, the Firm will retain supervisory control and responsibility for any services provided by such co-counsel or subcontractors and shall be responsible to pay any compensation due to any such co-counsel or subcontractor.

7.02 *Arbitration.* Any controversy between the parties to this Agreement involving the construction or application of any of the terms, covenants, or conditions of this Agreement shall, on the written request of one party served on the other, be submitted to arbitration, and such arbitration shall comply with and be governed by the provisions of the Texas General Arbitration Act.

7.03 *Integration.* This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto and may only be modified in a written amendment, executed by both parties.

7.04 *Representation of Other Taxing Entities.* The Client acknowledges and consents to the representation by the Firm of other taxing entities that may be owed taxes or other claims and be secured by the same property as the Client's claim.

7.05 *Retention of Files.* The Firm will retain the files created in the course of performing the Services specified in Article 2 above according to the following schedule. After the time periods specified in this Section, Client consents to the destruction of such files, so long as such destruction is undertaken in a manner to protect the confidentiality of any personal or private information contained therein.

Tax Warrant files: Five years from the date of issuance of a warrant.

Litigation files: Two years from the date of nonsuit or dismissal of a suit occurring prior to a final judgment.
Five years from the date of sale of the last property pursuant to the judgment or other satisfaction of the judgment.