

# A Quick Guide to Councils of Governments in Texas



## KEY FACTS

- Texas has 24 councils of governments that represent all 254 counties. These organizations were formed more than 50 years ago.
- Councils of governments' planning activities vary among regions, but typically include: planning for economic growth, emergency preparedness, disaster recovery, emergency communications, criminal justice, environmental quality and services for the elderly.
- Each council's policy decisions are made by its board of directors. At least two-thirds of this governing body must be elected officials from participating counties or municipalities.
- In fiscal year 2019, Texas' 24 councils of governments collectively received, administered and awarded approximately \$957.8 million in revenue from federal, state, and local sources.



## STATUTORY REFERENCES

*The Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 391.*

Councils of governments (COG), regional councils, or regional planning commissions are political subdivisions created under Texas statute to improve the health, safety, and general welfare of residents and to plan for future development. These councils were organized to guide unified development and improve efficiency within regions. Regional councils are not governments and have no authority to make laws, levy taxes, or exercise police powers. Texas has 24 COGs that represent all 254 counties. These regions are made up of counties, cities, school districts, and special districts and were developed from 1966 to the early 1970s.



## REVENUE SOURCES

COGs primarily receive funding from federal sources, but the councils also receive funding from state and local sources. On the local level, a COG collects dues from and for its member governments. A COG may receive direct or indirect federal grants through the state.



## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

COGs are authorized to conduct planning; assist local governments in implementing plans; contract with local, state, and federal governments and other public and private agencies to provide community services; and assist local governments in solving governmental problems. Texas' COGs conduct regional planning activities that vary among regions. Typically, these activities include:

- Community and economic development
- Criminal justice planning
- Developing regional emergency preparedness strategies
- Disaster recovery
- Maintaining and improving regional 9-1-1 systems
- Services for the elderly
- Overseeing regional planning for environmental issues



## TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Regional councils are subject to audits and monitoring based on the grants they receive. In addition, Texas Local Government Code requires that each COG report annually:

- The amount and source of funds received.
- The amount and source of funds expended.
- The results of an audit of the RPC's affairs prepared by an independent certified public accountant.

## COORDINATION

The Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) is the statewide association of regional councils, whose members are focused on enhancing quality of life through regional strategies, partnerships and solutions. The 24 regional councils, also known as councils of governments (COGs), are comprised of city, county and special district members working together to implement cost-effective, results-oriented strategies that address statewide and local needs on a regional scale.

### Finding common ground across Texas

From the statehouse to the firehouse, TARC members work with state and federal partners on vital projects and initiatives, harnessing local expertise to tackle important issues.

### Statewide coverage, regional focus

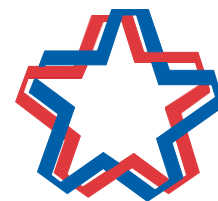
The 24 regional councils help local governments across Texas find solutions to pressing issues, from homeland security to environmental quality to emergency communications and services for seniors.

### Local expertise solving regional challenges

TARC members are a bridge between federal, state and local governments, helping cities and counties solve challenges and impact the future regionally.

### Building regional partnerships to enhance collaboration among communities

Regional councils help spur economic development across Texas by strengthening efficiency and cooperation across geographic boundaries.



Texas Association  
of Regional Councils

[www.txregionalcouncil.org](http://www.txregionalcouncil.org)

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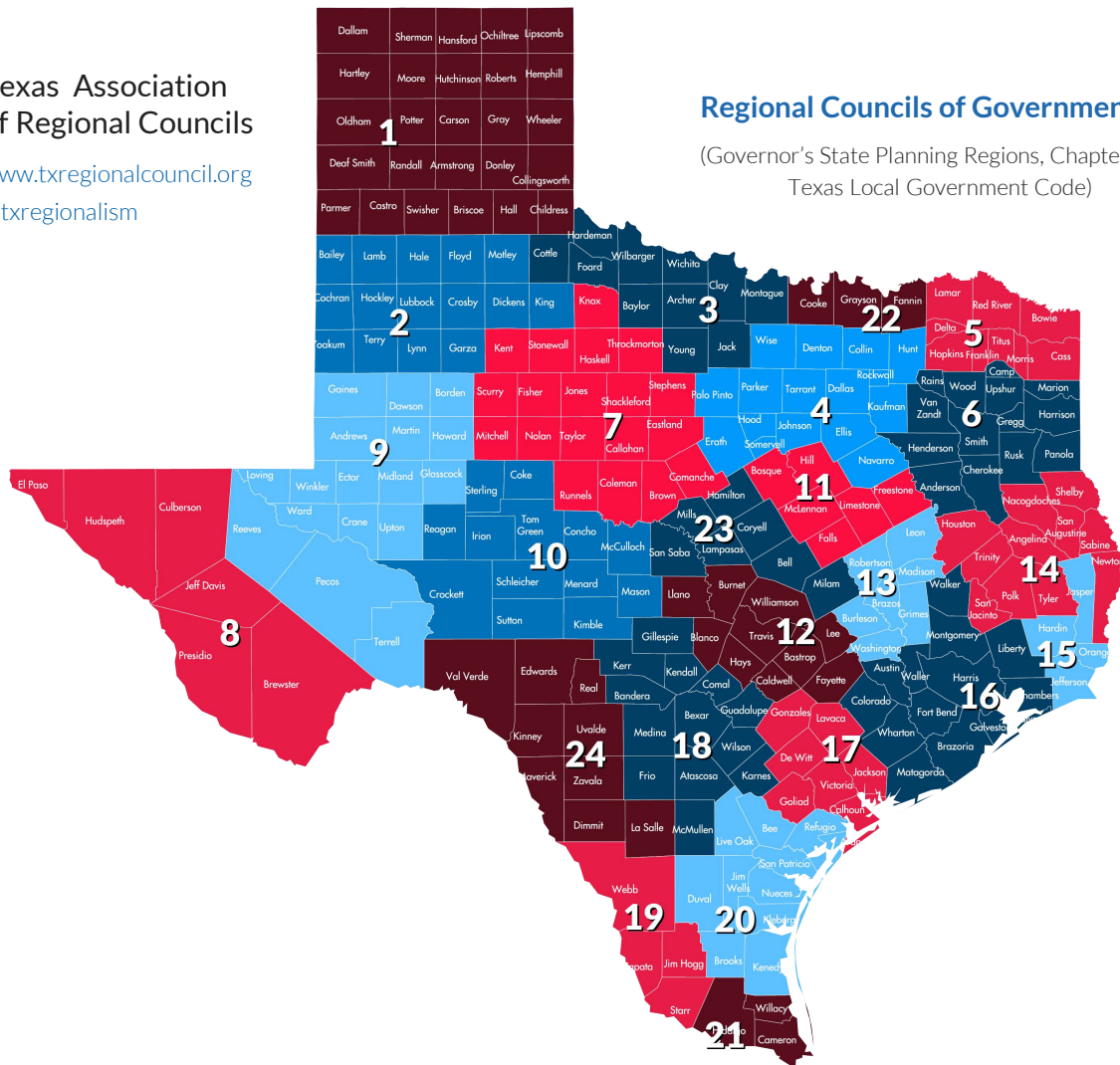
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## Regional Councils of Governments

(Governor's State Planning Regions, Chapter 391,  
Texas Local Government Code)



### Region Name

1. Panhandle Regional Planning Commission
2. South Plains Association of Governments
3. Nortex Regional Planning Commission
4. North Central Texas Council of Governments
5. Ark-Tex Area Council of Governments
6. East Texas Council of Governments
7. West Central Texas Council of Governments
8. Rio Grande Council of Governments
9. Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission
10. Concho Valley Council of Governments
11. Heart of Texas Council of Governments
12. Capital Area Council of Governments
13. Brazos Valley Council of Governments
14. Deep East Texas Council of Governments
15. South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
16. Houston-Galveston Area Council
17. Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission
18. Alamo Area Council of Governments
19. South Texas Development Council
20. Coastal Bend Council of Governments
21. Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
22. Texoma Council of Governments
23. Central Texas Council of Governments
24. Middle Rio Grande Development Council

### Abbreviation

- PRPC  
SPAG  
NORTEX  
NCTCOG  
ARK-TEX  
ETCOG  
WCTCOG  
RGCOG  
PBRPC  
CVCOG  
HOTCOG  
CAPCOG  
BVCOG  
DETCOG  
SETRPC  
HGAC  
GCRPC  
AACOG  
STDC  
CBCOG  
LRGVDC  
TCOG  
CTCOG  
MRGDC

### Website

- [www.theprpc.org](http://www.theprpc.org)  
[www.spag.org](http://www.spag.org)  
[www.nortexrpc.org](http://www.nortexrpc.org)  
[www.nctcog.org](http://www.nctcog.org)  
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