



## SENATOR PAUL BETTENCOURT

DISTRICT 7

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Contact Information

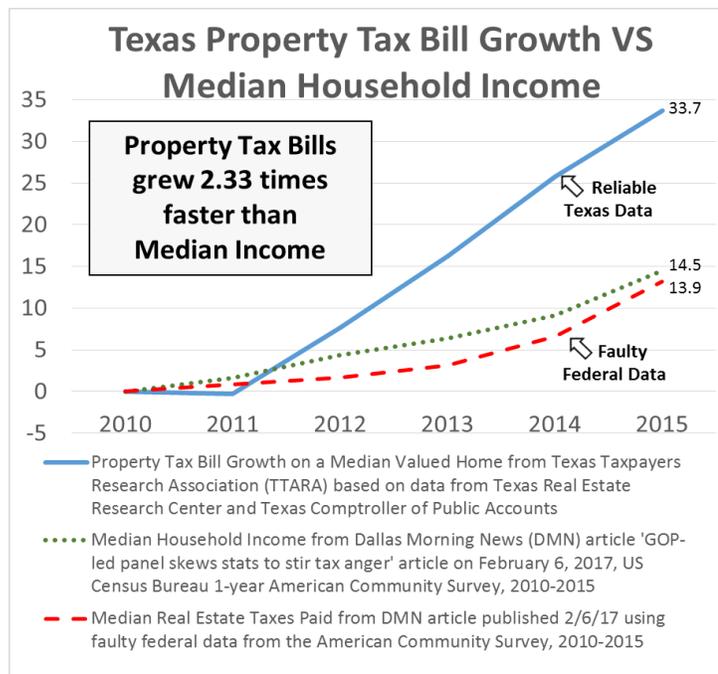
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### Property Tax Bills Really Are Growing at 2 1/3 Times Faster Than Household Income *Dallas Morning News article and editorial this week used faulty federal survey data against SB 2*

**AUSTIN** – Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) today released a data comparison chart showing that property tax bills really are growing 2 1/3 times faster than that of household income from 2010 to 2015. The new chart uses property tax bill growth for the median home in Texas versus published median household income from the Dallas Morning News this week. The rise in property tax bills was calculated by the Texas Taxpayer and Research Association and is 33.7 percent over five years on the average home. This is a median to median data comparison.

This reliable Texas data replaces faulty federal data showing only a 13.9 percent increase in property tax bills over the same five-year period. This data was published by the Dallas Morning News on Feb. 6, 2017, and repeated in an editorial on Feb. 8, 2017, entitled, "Keep Tax Power at Local Level" opposing property tax reforms in Senate Bill 2.



As clearly viewed, the reliable Texas data shows homeowner property tax bills grew 2 1/3 times faster than median household income once the correct information was substituted for the faulty federal data published previously this week.

**"I bring this to the public's attention as the Dallas Morning News article and editorial claims the year-long work of the Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform and Relief somehow has been 'misleading.' Not only does the reliable Texas data support the Select Committee's findings, but 50 hours of public testimony taken from taxpayers across the state last year proves it as hundreds of Texans expressed their frustration with ever-rising property tax bills,"** Senator Bettencourt said. **"This is a constant theme reflected by Governor Abbott in his State of the State speech, that Texans are being taxed out of their homes,"** he added.

Additionally, the Dallas Morning News and other media outlets had been provided the fact that the average home in Dallas County home has paid 25.5 percent more in the county portion of property tax bills in just three years from 2013 to 2016. The Harris County figure is 36.4 percent. **"These increases are unsustainable,"** Senator Bettencourt said. **"Senate Bill 2 empowers voters to decide how much government they want to 'buy.' This will be achieved by lowering property tax rates as appraised values increase and by voting in an automatic election if the rollback tax rate is exceeded."**

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