

INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT - TAX COLLECTION

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into this _____ day of _____ 2011, by and between **DENTON COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as "**COUNTY**," and **DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS** also a political subdivision of the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as "**DISTRICT**."

WHEREAS, COUNTY and **DISTRICT** mutually desire to be subject to the provisions of V.T.C.A. Government Code, Chapter 791, the Interlocal Cooperation Act, and V.T.C.A., Tax Code, Section 6.24 and 25.17 and;

WHEREAS, DISTRICT has the authority to contract with the **COUNTY** for the **COUNTY** to act as tax assessor and collector for **DISTRICT** and **COUNTY** has the authority to so act;

NOW THEREFORE, COUNTY and **DISTRICT**, for and in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and agreements herein contained, do agree as follows:

I.

The effective date of this Agreement shall be the 1st day of September, 2011. The term of this Agreement shall be for a period of one year, from September 1, 2011, to and through August 31, 2012. This Agreement shall be automatically renewed for an additional one (1) year term at the discretion of the **COUNTY** and **DISTRICT**, unless written notice of termination is provided by the terminating party to the other party prior to one hundred-fifty (150) days of the expiration date of the current term of the Agreement.

II.

For the purposes and consideration herein stated and contemplated, **COUNTY** shall provide the following necessary and appropriate services for **DISTRICT** to the maximum extent authorized by this Agreement, without regard to race, sex, religion, color, age, disability, or national origin:

1. **COUNTY**, by and through its duly qualified tax assessor-collector, shall serve as tax assessor-collector for **DISTRICT** for ad valorem tax collection for tax year 2011, and each tax year for the duration of this Agreement. **COUNTY** agrees to perform all necessary ad valorem assessing and collecting duties for **DISTRICT** and **DISTRICT** does hereby expressly authorize **COUNTY** to do and perform all acts necessary and proper to assess and collect taxes for **DISTRICT**. **COUNTY** agrees to collect base taxes, penalties, interest, and attorney's fees.

2. **COUNTY** agrees to prepare and mail all tax statements; provide monthly collection reports to **DISTRICT**; prepare tax certificates; develop and maintain both current and delinquent tax rolls; meet the requirements of Section 26.04 of the Texas Tax Code; and to develop and maintain such other records and forms as are necessary or required by State law, rules, or regulations.

3. **COUNTY** further agrees that it will calculate the effective tax rates and rollback tax rates for **DISTRICT** and that such calculations will be provided at no additional cost to **DISTRICT**. The information concerning the effective and rollback tax rates will be published in the form prescribed by the Comptroller of Public Accounts of the State of Texas, and as required by Section 26.04 of V.T.C.A. Tax

Code. **DISTRICT** shall notify tax assessor-collector at least 7 days before **DISTRICT** wishes publication of forms specified in this section. It is understood and agreed by the parties that the expense of publication shall be borne by **DISTRICT** and that **COUNTY** shall provide **DISTRICT**'s billing address to the newspaper publishing the effective and rollback tax rates.

4. **COUNTY** agrees, upon request, to offer guidance and the necessary forms for posting notices of required hearing and quarter-page notices as required by Sections 26.05 and 26.06 of V.T.C.A. Tax Code, if **DISTRICT** requests such 7 days in advance of the intended publication date. Should **DISTRICT** vote to increase its tax rate above the rollback tax rate (or other limits required by current legislation) the required publication of notices shall be the responsibility of **DISTRICT**.

5. **COUNTY** agrees to develop and maintain written policies and procedures of its operation. **COUNTY** further agrees to make available full information about the operation of the County Tax Office to **DISTRICT**, and to promptly furnish written reports to keep **DISTRICT** informed of all financial information affecting it.

6. **DISTRICT** agrees to promptly deliver to **COUNTY** all records that it has accumulated and developed in the assessment and collection of taxes, and to cooperate in furnishing or locating any other information and records needed by **COUNTY** to perform its duties under the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

7. **COUNTY** agrees to allow an audit of the tax records of **DISTRICT** in **COUNTY'S** possession during normal working hours with at least 48 hours advance, written notice to **COUNTY**. The expense of any and all such audits shall be paid by **DISTRICT**. A copy of any and all such audits shall be furnished to **COUNTY**.

8. If required by **DISTRICT**, **COUNTY** agrees to obtain a surety bond for the County Tax Assessor/Collector. Such bond will be conditioned upon the faithful performance of the Tax Assessor/Collector's lawful duties, will be made payable to **DISTRICT** and in an amount determined by the governing body of **DISTRICT**. The premium for any such bond shall be borne solely by **DISTRICT**.

9. **COUNTY** agrees that it will place at least a quarter-page advertisement in newspapers serving Denton County in January, 2012, as a reminder that delinquent tax penalties will apply to all assessed taxes which are not paid by January 31, 2012. The advertisement will be printed in each paper between January 5th and January 25th.

10. **COUNTY** agrees that it will post to a secure website collection reports for **DISTRICT** listing current taxes, delinquent taxes, penalties and interest on a daily basis through September 30, 2012. **COUNTY** will provide monthly Maintenance and Operation (hereinafter referred to as "MO"), and Interest and Sinking (hereinafter referred to as "IS") collection reports; provide monthly recap reports; and provide monthly attorney fee collection reports to **DISTRICT**.

11. **DISTRICT** retains its right to select its own delinquent tax collection attorney and **COUNTY** agrees to reasonably cooperate with the attorney selected by **DISTRICT** in the collection of delinquent taxes and related activities.

12. **DISTRICT** will provide **COUNTY** with a copy of their current tax collection attorney contract on or before each February 1st. **DISTRICT** will provide **COUNTY** with notice of any change in collection attorney on or before the effective date of the new collection attorney contract.

III.

COUNTY hereby designates the Denton County Tax Assessor/ Collector to act on behalf of the County Tax Office and to serve as Liaison for **COUNTY** with **DISTRICT**. The County Tax Assessor/Collector, and/or his/her designated substitute, shall ensure the performance of all duties and obligations of **COUNTY**; shall devote sufficient time and attention to the execution of said duties on behalf of **COUNTY** in full compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement; and shall provide immediate and direct supervision of the County Tax Office employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors, and/or laborers, if any, in the furtherance of the purposes, terms and conditions of this Agreement for the mutual benefit of **COUNTY** and **DISTRICT**.

IV.

COUNTY accepts responsibility for the acts, negligence, and/or omissions related to property tax service of all **COUNTY** employees and agents, sub-contractors and /or contract laborers, and for those actions of other persons doing work under a contract or agreement with **COUNTY** to the extent allowed by law.

V.

DISTRICT accepts responsibility for the acts, negligence, and/or omissions of all **DISTRICT** employees and agents, sub-contractors and/or contract laborers, and for those of all other persons doing work under a contract or agreement with **DISTRICT** to the extent allowed by law.

VI.

DISTRICT understands and agrees that **DISTRICT**, its employees, servants, agents, and representatives shall at no time represent themselves to be employees, servants, agents, and/or representatives of **COUNTY**. **COUNTY** understands and agrees that **COUNTY**, its employees, servants, agents, and representatives shall at no time represent themselves to be employees, servants, agents, and/or representatives of **DISTRICT**.

VII.

For the services rendered during the 2011 tax year, **DISTRICT** agrees to pay **COUNTY** for the receipting, bookkeeping, issuing, and mailing of tax statements as follows:

1. The current tax statements will be mailed on or about October 20th or as soon thereafter as practical. The fee for this service will be a rate not to exceed Seventy-one Cents (\$.71) per statement. If **DISTRICT** does not adopt a tax rate before September 29, 2011, the tax rate for **DISTRICT** shall be set at the lower of the effective tax rate calculated for that year or the tax rate adopted by **DISTRICT** for the preceding tax year. Before the fifth day after establishment of a tax rate under this provision, **DISTRICT** must ratify the applicable tax rate in the manner required by Section 26.05(c) of the Texas Property Tax Code.

2. An additional notice will be sent during the month of March following the initial mailing provided that **DISTRICT** has requested such a notice on or before February 28th. The fee for this service will be a rate not to exceed Seventy-one Cents (\$.71) per statement.

3. At least 30 days, but no more than 60 days, prior to April 1st, and following the initial mailing, a delinquent tax statement meeting the requirements of Section 33.11 of the Texas Property Tax Code will be mailed to the owner of each parcel having delinquent taxes. The fee for this service will be a rate not to exceed Seventy-one Cents (\$.71) per statement

4. At least 30 days, but no more than 60 days, prior to July 1st, and following the initial mailing, a delinquent tax statement meeting the requirements of Section 33.07 of the Texas Property Tax Code will be mailed to the owner of each parcel having delinquent taxes. The fee for this service will be a rate not to exceed Seventy-one Cents (\$.71) per statement.

5. For accounts which become delinquent on or after June 1st, **COUNTY** shall mail a delinquent tax statement meeting the requirements of Section 33.08 of the Texas Property Tax Code to the owner of each parcel having delinquent taxes.

6. In event of a successful rollback election which takes place after tax bills for **DISTRICT** have been mailed, **DISTRICT** agrees to pay **COUNTY** a programming charge of \$5,000.00. The fee for this service will be a rate not to exceed Seventy-one Cents (\$.71) per statement, Property Tax Code Section 26.07 (f). When a refund is required per Property Tax Code Section 26.07 (g), **COUNTY** will charge a \$.25 processing fee per check, in addition to the corrected statement mailing costs. Issuance of refunds, in the event of a successful rollback election, will be the responsibility of the **COUNTY**. **DISTRICT** will be billed for the refunds, postage and processing fees.

7. **DISTRICT** understands and agrees that **COUNTY** will bill **DISTRICT** following each mailing for which charges are permitted. Payment is due upon receipt of the statement. If **DISTRICT** fails to pay **COUNTY** for mailing fees by the 61st day after billing, **COUNTY** will withhold the billed amount from collections to satisfy the debt by authority of Section 6.27 of the Texas Property Tax Code.

8. **DISTRICT** further understands and agrees that **COUNTY** (at its sole discretion) may increase or decrease the amounts charged to **DISTRICT** for any renewal year of this Agreement, provided that **COUNTY** gives written notice to **DISTRICT** sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date of the initial term of the Agreement. Collection rates are established annually by a survey of costs conducted by the County Budget Office. The collection rate for each year is approved by County Commissioners' Court. All entities are assessed the same per parcel collection rate.

VIII.

COUNTY agrees to remit all taxes, penalties, and interest collected on **DISTRICT's** behalf and to deposit such funds into the **DISTRICT's** depositories as designated:

1. For deposits of tax, penalties, and interest, payment shall be by wire transfer or by check sent by mail to **DISTRICT's** depository accounts only, and segregated into the appropriate MO and IS accounts.

2. If **DISTRICT** uses the same depository as **COUNTY**, the deposits of tax, penalty and interest shall be by deposit transfer.

3. In anticipation of renewal of this Agreement, **COUNTY** further agrees that deposits will be made daily through September 30, 2012. It is expressly

understood, however, that this obligation of **COUNTY** shall not survive termination of this Agreement, whether by termination by either party or by failure of the parties to renew this Agreement.

IX.

In the event of termination, the withdrawing party shall be obligated to make such payments as are required by this Agreement through the balance of the tax year in which notice is given. **COUNTY** shall be obligated to provide services pursuant to this Agreement, during such period.

X.

This Agreement represents the entire agreement between **DISTRICT** and **COUNTY** and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, and/or agreements, either written or oral. This Agreement may be amended only by written instrument signed by the governing bodies of both **DISTRICT** and **COUNTY** or those authorized to sign on behalf of those governing bodies.

XI.

Any and all written notices required to be given under this Agreement shall be delivered or mailed to the listed addresses:

COUNTY:

County Judge of Denton County
110 West Hickory
Denton, Texas 76201
Telephone 940-349-2820

DISTRICT:

DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2387
DENTON, TEXAS 76202
Telephone: 940-369-0010
Contact: Debbie Monschke

XII.

DISTRICT hereby designates _____ to act on behalf of **DISTRICT**, and to serve as Liaison for **DISTRICT** to ensure the performance of all duties and obligations of **DISTRICT** as stated in this Agreement. **DISTRICT's** designee shall devote sufficient time and attention to the execution of said duties on behalf of **DISTRICT** in full compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement; shall provide immediate and direct supervision of the **DISTRICT** employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors, and/or laborers, if any, in the furtherance of the purposes, terms and conditions of this Agreement for the mutual benefit of **DISTRICT** and **COUNTY**.

XIII.

In the event that any portion of this Agreement shall be found to be contrary to law, it is the intent of the parties that the remaining portions shall remain valid and in full force and effect to the extent possible.

XIV.

The undersigned officers and/or agents of the parties are the properly authorized officials and have the necessary authority to execute this agreement on behalf of the parties. Each party hereby certifies to the other that any resolutions necessary for this Agreement have been duly passed and are now in full force and effect.

Executed in duplicate originals this, _____ day of _____

2011.

COUNTY

DISTRICT

Denton County
110 West Hickory
Denton, Texas 76201

DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2387
DENTON, TEXAS 76202

BY: _____
Honorable Mary Horn
Denton County Judge

BY: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Cynthia Mitchell
Denton County Clerk

BY: _____
Name _____
Title _____

APPROVED FORM AND CONTENT:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Steve Mossman
Denton County
Tax Assessor/Collector

Moira Schilke
Denton County
Assistant District Attorney