For Immediate Release

Texas municipalities honored with inaugural Balanoff Good Government Award for excellence in public service

Award recognizes cities that embody the Ten Texas Traits of Good Government — from transparency and accountability to innovation and ethical leadership

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SAN MARCOS, Texas — June 23, 2026

The Texas Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program and the Hobby Center for Public Service at Texas State University are proud to announce the recipients of the Balanoff Good Government Award, a distinction honoring Texas municipalities that make good government not merely a goal, but a daily practice.

Named in honor of Dr. Howard Balanoff and Marilyn Balanoff, the award recognizes communities that live the values Texans expect from their local governments — strengthening public trust and inspiring others to raise the standard for serving their communities.

2026 award recipients

The Town of Ransom Canyon, Texas

The City of Pharr, Texas

The awards will be presented during the CENTEX ASPA Public Service Recognition Awards Luncheon on Saturday, July 18, 2026, in San Marcos.

Recipients were evaluated against the Ten Texas Traits of Good Government — a framework that calls on municipalities to be Respectful, Responsive, Effective, Transparent, Competent, Ethical, Lawful, Innovative, Economical, and Accountable. A judging panel assessed applicants, recognizing those organizations whose governance practices consistently reflect these values in service to their residents.

"This award exists because good government is not accidental — it is the result of people who show up every day with integrity, skill, and a commitment to the communities they serve. This year's recipients have demonstrated exactly that."

— Dr. Miha Vindis, Director, Texas Certified Public Manager Program

The Balanoff Good Government Award is presented annually. Municipalities that apply but do not meet the scoring threshold receive written feedback from the judging panel to support continued improvement and are encouraged to reapply in a future award cycle.

Applications for the 2027 Balanoff Award will be accepted from December 1, 2026, through February 15, 2027. For more information on the Balanoff Award and how to apply, please visit the Texas CPM website at https://texascpm.com/balanoff-good-government-award/.

Award sponsors

Bojorquez Law Firm, LLC and City Hall Essentials, LLC

About the Texas CPM Program

The Texas Certified Public Manager Program, housed at the Hobby Center for Public Service at Texas State University, is a nationally accredited, comprehensive statewide management development program with the goal of improving the organizational performance of managers in federal, state, and local government and in the not-for-profit sector. The program is affiliated with the National CPM Consortium.

About the Balanoff Good Government Award

Named for Dr. Howard Balanoff and Marilyn Balanoff, this award honors Texas municipalities whose governance reflects the Ten Texas Traits of Good Government. The influence of Howard and Marilyn Balanoff extends well beyond the borders of Texas. Their visionary leadership was instrumental in establishing Certified Public Manager programs and various public administration initiatives throughout the United States and abroad. By championing professional excellence on this broader stage, they have shaped the education and training of public service leaders worldwide, leaving an indelible mark on the field of public administration.

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