



November 17, 2025

City of Grapevine
200 S. Main Street
Grapevine, TX 76051

Dear Mayor Tate and Grapevine City Council,

We write to inform you that your October 6, 2025, letter to GCISD—signed by every single one of you—was built on misinformation, violated the Texas Open Meetings Act, and is now the subject of **two active investigations**:

1. A **criminal TOMA complaint** filed with the Tarrant County District Attorney (Oct 14) for an illegal walking quorum.
2. A **State Bar grievance** filed against Mayor William D. Tate (Oct 22) for violations of Texas Disciplinary Rules 8.04(a)(3) (dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation) and 8.04(a)(5) (attempting to improperly influence a government agency).

Walking-quorum evidence now with the DA

Private texts and multiple secret drafts (obtained via open-records requests) show Mayor Tate, Slechta, Leal, Coy, and Shope creating the consensus for the anti-GCISD letter the City published. This alone is enough people for a quorum. Additionally, all seven council members later signed the letter without any posted meeting. That is a textbook TOMA violation.

Bar grievance against Mayor Tate

This grievance, filed Oct 22, concerns Mayor Tate's role as an attorney violating Rules 8.04(a)(3)&(5). Section 3 is about dishonesty and misrepresentation; section 5 is about improperly influencing a government agency. In section 5, comment 4 states that "A lawyer's abuse of public office can suggest an inability to fulfill the professional role of attorney." All points related to this violation, in addition to a timeline with evidence, are with the bar. Of particular interest for section 5 is Mayor Tate's written confession of intent to bully and undermine GCISD in his September 25th email to GCISD Board President Shannon Braun:

- "I tried to offend you and I tried to intimidate you to get your attention."
- "I will continue to argue in public... This will undermine you throughout."

>>>Personal attacks aside, at the heart of both of these investigations is deliberately repeated misinformation on the part of Mayor Tate and Grapevine City Council that has caused real harm to our schools.<<<

Injury to the community and the district

The council's October 6th letter did not bring clarity or leadership; it fueled division. It undermined the district's efforts to manage declining enrollment and financial constraints, while turning a difficult, data-driven process into a political spectacle. GCISD now faces unnecessary headwinds, hostility, and doubt — all of which stem directly from your interference. As city leaders, your duty is to build confidence and unity — not fracture it. Your actions have pitted residents against one another, deepened distrust, and distracted from the real issue: *how best to serve students with the resources available*.

Your anticipated future actions to attack our schools

Given your past actions, it seems likely that the City of Grapevine is going to sue GCISD as soon as it exercises its independent authority as a school district to operate in the best interests of its students through school consolidations. If GCISD countersues, your taxpayers will be paying for lawyers on both sides. This is an absurd scenario. We strongly advise against further irrational attacks on our schools and ask that you recognize the separation of powers between the government entities.

Take responsibility for your actions

GCISD's leadership reached out to the City of Grapevine before any of the process of looking at the school district, facilities and enrollment projections began. The City declined to join the committee, and thus relinquished the influence that it would have exerted on that committee. Imagine how different this situation would have been if you had partnered with the district instead of rejecting it. The City of Grapevine would have been a founding member of that committee, and you could have aided in recruiting other members. We recommend that, in the future, the City tries to partner with the schools rather than shunning or undermining them.

Conclusion

Stop hurting our schools. Stop the secret texts. Stop the public attacks. Stop bullying GCISD leaders. Stop smearing the district on TV. Stop dividing neighbors. Instead, ask about the next committee. Take a seat on it. Help to form it and to guide it. Partner with our schools.

Be the leaders we elected you to be.

Sincerely,
GCISD Parents