

# News Release

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Texans for Public Justice \*\* 609 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite E, \*\* Austin, TX 78701

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Contact: Craig McDonald,  
PH: (512) 472-9770

## Governor's Threats to Travis County DA Likely Violate the Law, Says TPJ Complaint

### Abuse of Office, Official Oppression, Coercion Statutes Cited

(Austin) [In a complaint sent to prosecutors today](#), Texans for Public Justice alleges that Governor Rick Perry potentially committed several criminal offenses related to his recent threat to use his discretionary power to withhold money from the Travis County District Attorney's office unless DA Rosemary Lehmborg resigns. TPJ believes the governor's actions violate the Texas Penal Code, Title 8, Offenses Against Public Administration.

"Governor Perry has no legal authority to remove the Travis County District Attorney from her job. Threatening to take an official action against her office unless she voluntarily resigns is likely illegal," said Craig McDonald, TPJ Director.

"The governor overstepped his authority by sticking his nose in Travis County's business. A legal process is currently underway. That process alone should determine the fate of the District Attorney."

"Governor Perry's official threats attempt to obtain two things that he can't achieve through legal democratic means. First, to remove an elected Democrat and replace her with an appointed Republican DA. Second, to wipe out the state's public corruption watchdog, which is currently investigating corruption in at least one of the governor's signature corporate subsidy programs."

TPJ sent its complaint letter to both the Travis County District Attorney and to the Travis County Attorney's office. TPJ believes the Governor's actions violate Penal Code [Section 36.03 Coercion of a Public Servant](#), [Section 39.02 Abuse of Official Capacity](#), [Section 39.03 Official Oppression](#) and potentially the [Bribery Section 36.02](#). The offenses range from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class 2 felony.

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**Texans for Public Justice** is a non-profit, non-partisan research and advocacy organization that tracks the role of money in Texas politics.