

NATIVE CHAOS HOLDINGS | TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE

YOUR RIGHTS AS A RESIDENT OF CHANDLER, TEXAS A Plain-English Guide to the 2026 Compliance Audit Findings and What They Mean for You

In June 2026, a comprehensive legal audit of every chapter of Chandler's Code of Ordinances identified 145 problems — provisions that exceed the city's legal authority, conflict with Texas state law, or were enforced long after they became void. Some of these problems are technical drafting issues. Others directly affected residents: fines that should never have been issued, permits reviewed against outdated safety standards, and restrictions imposed without legal authority. This guide is organized around the findings most likely to have touched your life. For each issue, we explain who may have been affected, what the legal problem was, what rights you may have, and what steps you can take.

SECTION 1: FINES AND PENALTIES THAT MAY HAVE BEEN UNLAWFUL

Several Chandler ordinances imposed fines above the amounts Texas law permits a general-law city to collect through its municipal court. Under Government Code §29.003 and Local Government Code §54.001, there are hard ceilings: \$500 for most violations, \$2,000 for fire safety, zoning, and public health violations, and \$4,000 only for dumping of refuse. Any fine above these ceilings was not authorized by state law.

SECTION 2: BUILDING PERMITS AND CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

Chandler's adopted building codes were frozen at 2009 editions across the board — the International Building Code, the International Residential Code, the Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas Codes. The National Electrical Code was frozen at 1997. No energy code was ever adopted. This means every permit issued in Chandler was reviewed against safety standards that are years or decades behind what current practice and state law contemplate.

SECTION 3: UTILITY SERVICE — WATER DISCONNECTION

Two utility provisions allowed Chandler to disconnect water service without the advance written notice required by due process law and TCEQ rules. A third allowed maintenance outages 'without notice.' If your water was disconnected without warning, or if you were threatened with immediate disconnection as a condition of allowing a city inspector into your home, your rights may have been violated.

SECTION 4: TORT CLAIMS — IF YOU WERE INJURED BY THE CITY

If you were injured by city property, a city vehicle, or a city employee's negligence, Texas law gives you the right to file a claim. Chandler's ordinance imposed a 60-day notice deadline — shorter than the floor Texas law allows — and added an unauthorized requirement that the city council vote to refuse your claim before you could file suit. If

these provisions were applied to your claim, your access to the courts may have been improperly restricted.

SECTION 5: OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION TAX

SECTION 6: SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS

Chandler's sex offender ordinance has three specific problems: it restricts conduct inside registrants' own homes, it imposes criminal liability on landlords for renting to registered persons without any statutory authority, and it has no exemption application procedure as required by state law. Each of these affects real people.

SECTION 7: PARK REGULATIONS AND FIREARMS

SECTION 8: HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

SECTION 9: ZONING AND PROPERTY — BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VOTES

Every variance, appeal, and administrative reversal decided by the Chandler Board of Adjustment required a 75% concurring vote under Local Government Code §211.009(c). Because the city council serves as the Board of Adjustment, on a five-member body that means at least four members must concur. Decisions made with only three votes — 60% — did not meet the statutory threshold and may be void.

SECTION 10: SPEED LIMIT CITATIONS ON FM 2010 AND STATE HIGHWAY 31

The city set speed limits on FM 2010 and State Highway 31 — both part of the Texas state highway system — without the engineering and traffic investigation that Transportation Code §545.356 requires for state highway system roads. The city lacks independent authority to set speed limits on state-designated roads.

SECTION 11: ARRESTS — JUNK DEALER DATA — ZONING NOTICE FAILURES

HOW TO TAKE ACTION: STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Regardless of which issue applies to you, the process for asserting your rights generally follows the same steps. Here is a practical guide.

Step 1: Get Your Records Everything begins with documentation. Texas's Public Information Act (Government Code Chapter 552) gives you the right to request most city records at minimal cost. • Submit a written Public Information Act request to the Chandler City Secretary at citysecretary@chandlertx.gov or by mail to City of Chandler, PO Box 608, Chandler, TX 75758. • Request: court records of any citation issued to you; your utility account records including any disconnection notices; any permit records for your property; any inspection records; any payment receipts for fines, fees, or taxes. • The city has 10 business days to respond. If they cannot produce records in that time, they must request an extension from the Texas Attorney General's office.

Step 2: Contest Open Citations Before Paying If you have an unpaid citation under any of the ordinances described in this guide, do not pay it. Paying a fine is typically treated as an admission. Instead: a. Appear in Chandler Municipal Court on or before your court date. b. Enter a plea of NOT GUILTY and request a trial date. c. State in writing that you are contesting the citation on the grounds that the underlying ordinance conflicts with or is preempted by Texas state law. d. If you need time to consult an attorney, request a continuance.

Step 3: File Complaints with State Agencies Several of these issues involve state agency jurisdiction. Filing a complaint can trigger an independent investigation. • TCEQ (water disconnection without notice, drought plan violations): tceq.texas.gov/complaints or 512-239-4691 • Texas Comptroller (hotel tax misuse, oil production tax): comptroller.texas.gov or 800-252-1381 • TxDOT (speed limit violations on FM/SH roads): txdot.gov/contact-us.html • Texas Attorney General (Public Information Act violations, constitutional rights): texasattorneygeneral.gov or 512-463-2100 • Texas Commission on Law Enforcement / TCOLE (unlicensed officers): tcole.texas.gov or 512-936-7700

Step 4: Contact the City Council City council members are elected to represent you. Many of these ordinance problems can be fixed by a single council vote. You have the right to address the council at public meetings under the Open Meetings Act. • City Council meetings: Contact city hall at 903-849-4911 for the current meeting schedule. • You are entitled to speak during the public comment period. Prepare a written statement identifying the specific ordinance section and the finding from the audit. • Submit written comments to the Mayor and all council members at City of Chandler, PO Box 608, Chandler, TX 75758.

Step 5: Consult an Attorney For any issue involving a paid fine, a property dispute, a personal injury claim, or a constitutional rights violation, consult a licensed Texas attorney before taking legal action. Many attorneys offer free initial consultations. • State Bar of Texas Referral Service: texasbar.com/tabs/public/referral or 800-252-9690 • East Texas Legal Services (income-qualified residents): etls.org or 800-350-7055 • Texas RioGrande Legal Aid: trla.org or 888-988-9996 • ACLU of Texas (First Amendment and civil rights issues): aclutx.org • Texas Young Lawyers Association referral service (property and tax matters): tyla.org

Step 6: Deadlines — Do Not Wait

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide was produced by Native Chaos Holdings as part of a public transparency initiative for the citizens of Chandler, Texas. The underlying Dillon's Rule Audit, conducted in June 2026, reviewed all 14 chapters of Chandler's Code of Ordinances plus exhibits and the new laws queue against current Texas state law, identifying 145 actionable findings. The full audit was produced and is distributed by Native Chaos Holdings as a public transparency initiative. Copies of the audit are available directly from Native Chaos Holdings. The findings in this guide are based on the corrected audit, cross-referenced

against primary Texas statutory authority including the Local Government Code (rendered June 1, 2026), Government Code, Tax Code, Alcoholic Beverage Code, Utilities Code, Occupations Code, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, and Transportation Code.

Native Chaos Holdings | Transparency Initiative | City of Chandler, Texas | 2026