

CITY OF EL PASO

87TH REGULAR SESSION LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

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Item 42



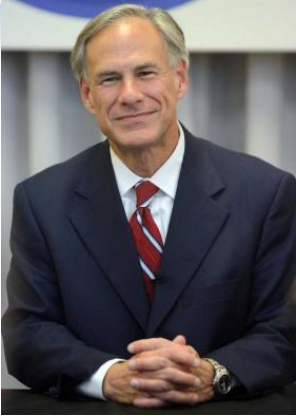
A full-service public affairs firm delivering modern solutions to traditional challenges

Goal 6. Set the standard for sound governance and fiscal management

July 7, 2021



LEADERSHIP



Gov. Greg Abbott (R)



Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (R)



Speaker Dade Phelan (R)



Comptroller Glenn Hegar (R)

	Republican	Democrat	Total
House	83	67	150
Senate	18 (previously 19)	13 (previously 12)	31



EL PASO DELEGATION



Sen. Blanco

- Health & Human Services
- Higher Education
- Transportation
- Veteran Affairs & Border Security



Rep. Fierro

- Elections
- Licensing & Administrative Procedures



Rep. González

- Appropriations (vice chair)
- Appropriations - S/C on Articles I, IV & V (Chair)
- Public Education



Rep. Moody

- Calendars (vice chair)
- Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
- Redistricting



Rep. Ortega

- Higher Education
- Transportation



Rep. Ordaz Perez

- Business & Industry
- International Relations & Economic Development
- Resolutions Calendars



OVERVIEW

- Drivers of the Session
- Leadership Priorities
- Special Session(s)



SESSION DRIVERS

- New Speaker
- COVID-19 Pandemic
- George Floyd death & protests
- Presidential Election Results
- Winter Storm Uri



2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE: BY THE NUMBERS

Year	Total Bills Introduced	Total Bills Passed	City-Related bills introduced	City-Related bills passed
2021 (87R)	7,148	1,885	2,200+	249
2019 (86R)	7,324	1,429	2,300+	338
2017 (85R)	6,800	1,208	2,500+	294
2015 (84R)	6,476	1,329	1,900+	220+

- **3,593** Bills/JR's filed in last 10 business days before filing deadline (50%)
- Over 30% of all bills filed were city related bills
- 2,246 Total Bills/JR's tracked by Focused Advocacy



SPEAKER PHELAN PRIORITY ISSUES

BILL #	SUBJECT	PASSED
HB 1	State Budget	No
HB 2	State Budget – Supplemental Appropriations	Yes
HB 3	Pandemic Response Act	No
HB 4	Telehealth & Telemedicine	Yes
HB 5	Broadband Internet Expansion	Yes
HB 6	Election & Ballot Security	No
HB 7	Employer's Unemployment Compensation Tax Rate	Yes
HB 8	Request for Law Enforcement Employment Records	No
HB 9	Criminal Punishment for Obstructing Highway	Yes
HB 10	Reforming ERCOT	No



SPEAKER PHELAN PRIORITY ISSUES

BILL #	SUBJECT	PASSED
HB 11	Weatherization and Hardening Power Generation	No
HB 12	Alerting Texans During Emergencies	No
HB 13	Disaster Coordination	No
HB 14	Weatherizing Natural Gas Infrastructure	No
HB 15	Establishing a Brain Institute of Texas	No
HB 16	Defending Utility Ratepayers	Yes
HB 17	Protecting Homeowner Rights	Yes
HB 18	Lowering Drug Costs for the Uninsured	Yes
HB 19	Procedure, Evidence, and Remedies in Civil Actions	Yes
HB 20	Release of Defendants on Bail	No



LT. GOV. PATRICK PRIORITY ISSUES

BILL #	SUBJECT	PASSED
SB 1	State Budget	Yes
SB 2	ERCOT Reform	Yes
SB 3	Power Grid Stability	Yes
SB 4	Star Spangled Banner Protection Act	Yes
SB 5	Broadband Access	No
SB 6	Pandemic Liability Protection Act	Yes
SB 7	Election & Ballot Security	No
SB 8	Heartbeat Bill	Yes
SB 9	Abortion Ban Trigger	No
SB 10	Stop Taxpayer Funded Lobbying	No
SB 11	Appellate Court Reorganization	No
SB 12	Protect Free Speech on Social Media	No
SB 13	Oil & Gas Investment Protection	Yes
SB 14	Business Freedom and Uniformity Act	No
SB 15	Ban Sale of Personal Data from Certain State Agencies	Yes



LT. GOV. PATRICK PRIORITY ISSUES

BILL #	SUBJECT	PASSED
SB 16	Protect State-held Personal Data	No
SB 17	Protect Texas Trucking	No
SB 18	Protect Second Amendment Businesses	No
SB 19	Stop Corporate Gun Boycotts	Yes
SB 20	Second Amendment Protections for Travelers	Yes
SB 21	Bail Reform	No
SB 22	First Responders Pandemic Care Act	Yes
SB 23	Stop Local Police Defunding	Yes
SB 24	Law Enforcement Transparency Act	Yes
SB 25	Family Nursing Home Visitation Rights	Yes
SB 26	Freedom to Worship	No
SB 27	Expanding Virtual Learning Options	No
SB 28	Charter School Equity Act	No
SB 29	Fair Sports for Women & Girls	No
SB 30	Remove Racist Restrictions from Real Estate Deeds	Yes



BUDGET

- In 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, Comptroller projected **\$4.6 B** budget deficit
- In January 2021, the Comptroller projected a **\$1 B** deficit
- **\$248.5 B** total budget for 2022-23 budget cycle
 - Public education: **\$46.5 B**
 - Health care: **\$34.2 B**
- **\$11.6 B** in Rainy Day Fund



REDISTRICTING

- Under current federal law, census data was due by the end of 2020
- Due to pandemic delay, the bureau will not deliver data until September 2021
- Expect special sessions on redistricting from September 15th, 2020 – November 15th, 2021
- Legislature to produce maps for state and federal districts
- House Committee on Redistricting has scheduled two interim committee meetings (so far)
 - July 6: focus on El Paso area
 - July 7: focus on San Antonio area



SPECIAL SESSION(S)

- Governor called a special session to begin on **July 8, 2021**
- No formal proclamation has been issued
- Items to expect on the call:
 - Article 10 funding (Legislative branch)
 - Election integrity (SB 7)
 - Bail Reform (SB 21)
 - Social media censorship (SB 12)
 - Preemption of municipal employment policies (SB 14)
 - Critical race theory (HB 3979)
- Federal funds
 - Governor to allow lawmakers to determine the allocation of \$16 billion in federal funds for COVID-19 recovery
 - Expect a special session on the allocation of federal funds



SPECIAL SESSION(S)

- Governor's priorities:
 - Election integrity
 - Bail Reform
- Lt. Governor's priorities:
 - Continued electric system reforms
 - Expanded critical race theory ban
 - Community censorship
- Business community priorities:
 - Extension of 313 agreements
 - Preemption of municipal employment policies



- Special sessions cannot last more than 30 days
- Limited in scope to issues on the Governor's call
 - Legislation outside the scope is subject to a point of order
- Floor amendments will be utilized to revive issues that were killed in regular session



NEXT STEPS

- Adopted legislative agenda guiding principals still in effect
- Additional direction for action during special sessions?

THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?

FOCUSED  **ADVOCACY**