

# **89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP**

## **STRATEGIC AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**





# OVERVIEW

- 89th Session Timeline
- State Priorities
- 89<sup>th</sup> Regular Session Stats
- Dominant Policy Areas
- Policy Action Tools
- 89<sup>th</sup> Regular Session Results
- 89<sup>th</sup> Reg Session Bills that Passed
- First & Second Special Session Results



# 89<sup>TH</sup> SESSION TIMELINE

**Jan. 14, 2025**

First Day of Regular Session

**Mar. 8, 2025**

Bill Filing Ends (60<sup>th</sup> Day)

**May 15, 2025**

Deadline - Consideration of HBs (122<sup>nd</sup> Day)

**May 27, 2025**

Deadline - Consideration SBs (134<sup>th</sup> Day)

**Jun. 2, 2025**

Regular Session Ends Sine Die

**Jun. 22, 2025**

Deadline for Governor to Veto Regular Session Bills

**Jul. 21, 2025**

First Day of First Special Session

**Aug. 3, 2025**

House Quorum Broken

**Aug. 15, 2025**

Legislature Sine Die - End of First Special Session  
Start of Second Special Session

**Sep. 4, 2025**

Second Special Session Ends Sine Die

# GOVERNOR'S REGULAR SESSION PRIORITIES

- ✓ **Property Tax Relief**
- ✓ **Water Investments**
- ✓ **Increased Teacher Pay**
- ✓ **Career Training Expansion**
- ✓ **School Vouchers**
- ✓ **Bail Reform**
- ✓ **Texas Cyber Security Command**





# LT. GOV'S REGULAR SESSION PRIORITIES

- ✓ School Vouchers
- ✓ Increased Homestead Exemption
- ✓ Dementia Prevention Institute
- ✓ Bail Reform
- ✓ Stopping AI-Child Indecency
- ✓ Texas Bitcoin Reserve
- ✓ Making Texas Healthy Again
- ✗ Business Tax Relief
- ✓ Wildfire Response
- ✓ Prayer in Schools
- ✓ Parental Bill of Rights
- ✓ Public School Library Book Ban
- ✓ Texas DOGE
- ✓ Affordable Housing
- ✗ Stop Non-Citizen Voting
- ✗ Increased Teacher Pay
- ✗ Banning Lottery Couriers
- ✓ Bail Reform
- ✗ Teacher Bill of Rights
- ✓ Incorporate Texas!
- ✗ Curbing Nuclear Verdicts
- ✓ Life of the Mother Act
- ✓ Abortion Travel
- ✗ Quality Roads
- ✓ Foreign Land Owning
- ✗ Drag Storytime
- ✗ Stop Lobbying
- ✓ Texas Film Investment
- ✓ Rainy Day Fund Cap
- ✓ Anti-Communism Lessons
- ✓ TX Dept. of Homeland Security
- ✓ Faculty Senates
- ✓ Squatting
- ✗ Protecting Texas Trucking
- ✓ Banning THC
- ✓ Electric Grid Reliability
- ✓ Water Investments
- ✓ Federal Immigration Help
- ✓ 10 Commandments



# GOVERNOR'S FIRST SPECIAL SESSION PRIORITIES

- ✗ Flood Warning Systems
- ✗ Emergency Communications
- ✗ Disaster Relief
- ✗ Disaster Preparation
- ✗ STAAR Test Elimination
- ✗ Property Tax Reduction
- ✗ Hemp Criminalization
- ✗ THC/Hemp Regulation
- ✗ Impact Fees
- ✗ Abortion
- ✗ Lobbying Ban
- ✗ Human Trafficking
- ✗ Law Enforcement Public Discourse
- ✗ Protecting Women's Spaces
- ✗ State Election Crimes
- ✗ Congressional Redistricting
- ✗ Title Theft & Deed Fraud
- ✗ State Judicial Department



# LT. GOV'S FIRST SPECIAL SESSION PRIORITIES

- ✗ Natural Disaster Preparation & Recovery
- ✗ Flood Emergency Communications & Warning Systems
- ✗ Relief Funding for Hill Country
- ✗ Redistricting
- ✗ Banning THC
- ✗ Protecting Unborn Children
- ✗ Eliminating STAAR Test
- ✗ Cutting Property Taxes
- ✗ Protecting Human Trafficking Victims
- ✗ Attorney General Election Powers
- ✗ Banning Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying
- ✗ Water Project Incentives
- ✗ Police Personnel Records
- ✗ Stopping Title Theft & Deed Fraud
- ✗ State Judicial Omnibus Package



# GOVERNOR'S SECOND SPECIAL SESSION PRIORITIES

- ✓ Flood Warning Systems
- ✓ Emergency Communications
- ✓ Disaster Relief
- ✓ Disaster Preparation
- ✓ STAAR Test Elimination
- ✗ Property Tax Reduction
- ✗ Hemp Criminalization
- ✗ THC/Hemp Regulation
- ✓ Impact Fees
- ✓ Quorum-Breaking Penalties
- ✓ OTC Ivermectin
- ✓ Abortion Ban

- ✗ Lobbying Ban
- ✓ Human Trafficking
- ✗ Law Enforcement Public Discourse
- ✓ Protecting Women's Spaces
- ✓ State Election Crimes
- ✓ Congressional Redistricting
- ✓ Title Theft & Deed Fraud
- ✓ State Judicial Department
- ✗ East Texas Groundwater Study
- ✗ Same-Day Voter Registration Ban
- ✗ Law Enforcement Contract Authority
- ✗ Law Enforcement Funding Transfer Rules



# LT. GOV'S SECOND SPECIAL SESSION PRIORITIES

- ✓ Natural Disaster Preparation & Recovery
- ✓ Flood Emergency Communications & Warning Systems
- ✓ Relief Funding for Hill Country
- ✓ Redistricting
- ✗ Banning THC
- ✓ Protecting Unborn Children
- ✓ Eliminating STAAR Test

- ✗ Cutting Property Taxes
- ✓ Protecting Human Trafficking Victims
- ✓ Attorney General Election Powers
- ✗ Banning Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying
- ✗ Water Project Incentives
- ✗ Police Personnel Records
- ✓ Stopping Title Theft & Deed Fraud
- ✓ State Judicial Omnibus Package



# 89<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION STATS

Total Bills Filed  
**8,898 Bills**

Total Bills Passed  
**1,200 Bills**

Bill Passage Rate  
**13.5%**



# FIRST SPECIAL SESSION STATS

Total Bills Filed

**592 Bills**

Total Bills Passed

**0 Bills**

Bill Passage Rate

**0%**



# SECOND SPECIAL SESSION STATS

Total Bills Filed

**395 Bills**

Total Bills Passed

**12 Bills**

Bill Passage Rate

**3.4%**



# DOMINANT POLICY AREAS

Several key issues dominated the regular and first special sessions for cities, including:

## Regular Session Priorities

- Preemption of Local Authority
- Land Use & Housing Affordability
- Financial Penalties for Policy Disagreements

## First and Second Special Session Priorities:

- Property Tax Revenue Cuts
- Severe Spending Caps
- Lobbying Bans





# REGULAR SESSION PRIORITY BILLS

## **SB 2858** Senate: **PASSED** House: **FAILED**

- Expands state control over cities/counties in commerce, elections, & criminal justice codes
- Lets AG, private parties, & trade groups to sue over ordinances in conflict with state law
- **PENALTIES:** Freeze sales & property tax revenue; liable for recovery of attorney fees

## **SB 15** Senate: **PASSED** House: **PASSED**

- Eases lot-size & density limits to boost affordable housing stock
- Caps single-family lot size in new subdivisions to 3,000 sq ft; bars restrictive rules on setbacks, height, bulk, & parking
- Applies only to “greenfield” tracts of at least 5 acres; doesn’t override HOAs, historic regulations, or utility/flood codes
- Effective September 1, 2025



# REGULAR SESSION PRIORITY BILLS

## SB 3016

Senate: **PASSED**

House: **FAILED**

- Expands state control over city/county rules on land use, structures, business operations, & annexation
- Lets AG, private parties, & businesses sue over ordinances in conflict with state law
- **PENALTIES:** Freeze sales tax revenue, restrict budget/tax increases, & block grants

## HB 4348

Senate: **FAILED**

House: **FAILED**

- Blocks cities from closing streets or narrowing lanes without meeting strict state rules
- Cities in violation lose access to affordable housing funds
- Shifts routine street decisions to higher thresholds (e.g. elections, charter changes)



# FIRST & SECOND SPECIAL SESSION PRIORITY BILLS

## SB 10

Senate: **PASSED**     House: **FAILED**

- Drops the tax rate multiplier from 3.5% to 2.5%
- Removes flexibility needed to address challenges, emergencies, & long-term investments
- House rejected Conference Committee report; Sent back to Senate

## HB 46

House: **FAILED**

- Prohibits cities from exceeding previous year's expenditures unless increases are tied to growth + inflation or is approved by two-thirds voter approval
- Left pending in the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

## SB 13

Senate: **PASSED**     House: **FAILED**

- Prohibits the use of public funds for lobbying activities
- Would cancel existing contracts with Focused Advocacy, future state/federal lobbying contracts, & prohibits our membership with TML
- Referred to House State Affairs Committee



# POLICY ACTION TOOLS

To combat these bills, SLA successfully engaged in the following actions:



**Mobilized  
City  
Departments**



**Organized  
Messaging  
with Partners**



**Coordinated  
Opposition  
Letters**



**Testified at  
Committee  
Hearings**



**Partnered  
with  
Delegation  
Staff**



# 89<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION RESULTS

**1,660+**  
Bills  
Tracked

**80**  
Action  
Item Bills

**33**  
Letters  
Authored

**82%** POLICY SUCCESS  
RATE



# 89TH REGULAR SESSION RESULTS



## **Defeated Significant Bills**

Made significant amendments to SB 15 (e.g. increasing min lot size to 3,000 sq ft).



## **Brought \$146M+ Back to El Paso**

Notably, \$10M for the I-10 Deck Park Plaza Project & \$7M for the Wyler Aerial Tramway.



## **Protected City & Taxpayers from Financial Losses**

Preliminary estimates indicate that the City was saved from \$133M+ in financial losses.



# 89TH REGULAR SESSION

## BILLS PASSED

### **SB 1008**    *Noise Regulations for Restaurants*

- Changes Chapters 5.03 (Sound Amplification Permits) & 9.40 (Noise Nuisance)
- Sets new noise limits for restaurants measured at the property line

### **HB 2844**    *Food Establishment Regulation*

- Creates Chapter 9.12, Section 9.12.007
- Sets an exception for food establishments to align with state restrictions on how cities may regulate them

# 89TH REGULAR SESSION

## BILLS PASSED

### **HB 2462**    *No-Impact Home Occupations*

- Changes Title 20 (Zoning), Chapter 120 (Supplemental Use Regulations), Section 20.10.270 (Home Occupation Uses), Subsection 20.10.270.B14
- Includes no-impact home businesses as an exception to home occupation licensing requirements

### **SB 1341**    *HUD-Code Manufactured Homes*

- Changes the definition of “HUD-Code Manufactured Home”
- Matches local and state definitions with the federal definition



# 89TH REGULAR SESSION

## BILLS PASSED

### **HB 24**      *Zoning Changes*

- Changes Title 20 (Zoning), Chapter 20.04 (Administrative Provisions), Article VI (Changes & Amendments), Section 20.04.460 (Protest Procedure) & Article VII (Public Hearings), Section 20.04.520 (Notice)
- Increases neighbor objection rate for a zoning change from 20% to 60% (supermajority)
- Clarifies that code changes only require a newspaper notice, unless text changes are made to increase housing (60% opposition requirement)

### **SB 840**      *Mixed-Use & Multifamily Development*

- Limits restrictive zoning (density, height, parking, setbacks, design)
- Requires minimum density of 36 units/acre or highest allowed residential
- Allows commercial-to-residential conversions without zoning changes



# FIRST SPECIAL SESSION RESULTS

**204**  
Bills  
Tracked

**26**  
Action  
Item Bills

**2**  
Letters  
Authored

# SECOND SPECIAL SESSION RESULTS

**200**  
Bills  
Tracked

**30**  
Action  
Item Bills

**7**  
Letters  
Authored



# LOOKING AHEAD

 Governor's Veto Deadline  
(September 24)

 Review of Bills Signed into Law



## MISSION

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life & place for our community.



## VISION

Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe & beautiful neighborhoods, & exceptional recreational, cultural & educational opportunities powered by a high performing government



## VALUES

Integrity, Respect, Excellence,  
Accountability, People

