

CITY OF BURLESON

REPORT ON INTERIM LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES



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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	13	31

*Previously, the Senate operated under 3/5 rule, which required 19 votes to bring legislation to the floor. After the Democrats gained a seat, the rule was revised to 2/3, lowering the threshold to 18 votes.



BURLESON DELEGATION



Sen. Beverly Powell

Senate District 10

Not returning

Education, Health Human Services,
Water, Ag, and Rural Affairs, Select Committee
On Future of College Sports in Texas, and
Legislative Oversight Committee on
Community Based Transition Care



Sen. Brian Birdwell

Senate District 22

Border Security, *Chair*,
Special Const. Issues
(VC), Criminal Justice,
Education, FCS in TX,
Higher Ed., Natural
Resources & Eco Devo.,
Special Redistricting,
State Affairs (VC), and
Special Committee To
Protect All Texans.
(note service on 10
Senate Committees)



BURLESON DELEGATION



State Rep. Phil King,
Republican Nominee for
Senate District 10

Current Committees: Higher
Education and State Affairs



State Rep. Dwayne Burns,
House District 58

Committees: Agriculture
and Livestock, *Chair*;
Culture, Recreation, and
Tourism; and House
Administration



State Rep. David Cook,
District 96

Committees: Criminal
Jurisprudence; Interim Study
Committee on Criminal
Justice Reform; Juvenile
Justice & Family Issues; and
Select Committee on Youth
Health & Safety



2021 TEXAS LEGISLATURE: BY THE NUMBERS

Year	Total Bills Introduced	Total Bills Passed	City-Related bills introduced	City-Related bills passed
76 th -1999	5,813	1,622	1,230+	130+
...
84 th -2015	6,476	1,329	1,900+	220+
85 th -2017	6,800	1,208	2,500+	294
86 th -2019	7,324	1,429	2,300+	338
87th-2021	7,148	1,885	2,200+	249

- **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



LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

November 14th	January 10th	March 10th	Early May	Mid May	May 29th
Bill filing for the 88th Legislative Session begins	88th Legislature convenes	Bill Filing Deadline	House Committees stop passing House Bills	Senate Committees stop passing Senate Bills	Sine Die Governor has until June 18 to sign or veto bills

- The House will elect a speaker in January as Session Convenes.
- The Legislature can hold committee hearing in the early days of session, but per the constitution, legislators can't pass any bills during the first 60 calendar days – unless the governor declares it an emergency item or it's an emergency appropriation



LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ACTIVITIES

- Last interim legislative committees didn't meet due to pandemic response.
- This interim we have been very busy after getting a later than normal release of "Interim Legislative Committee Study Charges."
- Focus so far has been on:
 - Budget Related Items (review of Federal ARPA funding, \$3.3 Billion)
 - Electric Utility Issues / Oversight of SB 2 Implementation
 - Broadband Deployment Updates from Tx Broadband Deployment Office
 - Public Education related charges
 - School Safety Issues
 - Gun Safety Issues
- Numerous committee hearings held on issues impacting cities and local governments with many more to come before next Session.



LEGISLATIVE FORECAST

Expected Legislative Issues

Major State Issues:

- State Budget (potential \$20-30 billion surplus)
- School Safety / Gun Safety Issues (Public Education Generally)
- Property Tax / School Finance Reform
- Electric Utility Market Reforms

City Related Issues:

- Preemption of local authority/tools
- Local Government / Community Advocacy (Bans on Participation)
- Land Use (ETJ, zoning, permitting, fees, etc)
- Broadband deployment



BUDGET

- In 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, Comptroller projected **\$4.6 B** budget deficit; later this month he is expected to update the State Revenue Forecast that could leave the State with **\$20 – 30 billion surplus.**
- **\$11.6 B** in Rainy Day Fund as of end of last Session.
- One time Federal funds will be coming to Texas as part of various Federal recovery and relief Acts, including potentially several billion for broadband deployment.
- Big opportunity to get key projects or programs funded.

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

