THE CITY OF BURLESON TEXAS

90th Legislative Policy

PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL ON

NOVEMBER 9, 2026

90th OVERVIEW

November 3 2026	November 9 2026	January 12 2027	May 31 2027	September 1 2027
General Election	Bill Prefiling Begins	90th Legislature Convenes	Regular Session Ends	FY 2028/2029 Begins

Overview

- The 90th Session of the Texas Legislature begins January 12, 2027 and ends on May 31, 2027.
- State legislators began filing legislation in November 2026.
- During the previous legislative session more than 2,000 bills were introduced that would have affected Texas cities in some substantial way.
- City Council developed a legislative program with their position and priorities on local government-related legislation that occurred in the 89th Session.
- This was performed through a contract with Focused Advocacy.

Why is this important?

- Cities and elected officials are occasionally asked to have opinions on a variety of bills that affect local government.
- There are times when elected officials or staff, as subject matter experts, are asked to testify or speak to State legislators.
- The purpose of a legislative program is to set forth the city council's position as a whole, not as individual members, on key issues that will be discussed during the upcoming session.
- As bills are filed council can request discussion by placing items on the agenda to adopt a resolution for or against specific proposed legislation.

General Legislative Position

- As a general policy, the City will oppose any legislation viewed as detrimental to the City's strategic goals or would limit home rule authority; is contrary to the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; mandates increased costs or loss of revenues; or would diminish the fundamental authority of the City. Accordingly, the City Council adopted the following positions and hereby authorizes staff and city representatives to take the following actions as necessary:

BASIC HOME RULE AUTHORITY

Oppose legislation that erodes existing:

a. principles of Home Rule and local control including preemption legislation designed to restrict existing municipal regulatory authority,
b. authority to regulate activities that affects the public's health, safety and well-being,
c. Charters or Ordinances or Master Plans,
d. local government immunity, or
e. authority to communicate or advocate with legislators.

PUBLIC FINANCES

Oppose legislation that:

a. requires:
    I. unfunded mandates,
    II. the City to generate revenues for the State, or
    III. a tax exemption (or "freeze") that shifts tax burden to other taxpayers.
b. erodes the City's:
    I. property or sales tax base,
    II. ability to assess fees,
    III. ability to issue timely debt,
    IV. economic development sales tax authority (4A and 4B)
    V. ability to effectively finance the current level of city services by:
        i. imposing a revenue cap, or
        ii. excluding new property from the tax rate calculations.

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DEVELOPMENT, WATER & UTILITIES

Oppose legislation that erodes the City's authority to:

a. deliver quality water at affordable rates,
b. effectively utilize economic development tools,
c. regulate development effectively including "shot clocks," density standards, or automatic releases from the city ETJ,
d. impose fees on developments to pay for infrastructure,
e. regulate short-term rentals,
f. manage public rights-of-way including the authority to:
    I. receive fair market compensation for use of public rights-of-way,
    II. enter into franchise agreements,
    III. participate in utility rate cases, or
    IV. require utilities to pay for relocating their facilities,
g. dedicate parkland,
h. govern and approve proposed public housing and affordable housing projects.

TMRS & LABOR ISSUES

Oppose legislation that:

a. erodes the Texas Municipal Retirement System, or
b. expands collective bargaining or "meet and confer".

90th COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Seek the Introduction

- **Qualified Hotel Project.**
  Legislation that authorized the City of Burleson to establish a qualified hotel project under Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code, providing the necessary authority to support the development of a qualified hotel and related facilities.

Oppose the Following

- **Requires a supermajority vote for municipal property tax decisions.**
  Legislation that requires a two-thirds or other supermajority vote of a city council or governing body to approve property tax rates, revenue decisions, or other matters currently decided by a simple majority.
- **Reduces municipal revenues or restricts local revenue authority.**
  Legislation that reduces, eliminates, diverts, or restricts municipal revenue sources, including property tax, sales tax, franchise fees, user fees, or other locally generated revenues, without providing an equivalent replacement revenue source. The City will also oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates or shifts costs to municipalities without providing adequate funding.
- **Preempts local authority related to data centers.**
  Legislation that establishes statewide regulations or preempts municipal authority over the location, development, land use, infrastructure impacts, utility demands, or other local considerations associated with data centers. The City supports maintaining local decision-making authority so communities can appropriately address the unique impacts of data center development.

Actively Monitor

- **Public Works Employees as First Responders**
  Legislation that designates or recognizes certain municipal Public Works employees as first responders, including any associated changes to benefits, workers' compensation, training requirements, employment protections, or other responsibilities for municipalities.
- **Chapter 380 Economic Development Agreements**
  Legislation that restricts or modifies municipal authority to enter into economic development agreements under Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code, including changes to eligibility, incentives, approval requirements, reporting requirements, or other limitations on the use of these agreements.
- **Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)**
  Legislation that modifies municipal extraterritorial jurisdiction boundaries or further limits a municipality's authority to regulate development, infrastructure, land use, subdivision activity, or other matters within its ETJ.
- **Property Tax**
  Legislation that changes the municipal property tax system, including appraisal practices, exemptions, revenue caps, voter-approval requirements, tax-rate calculations, or other provisions that could affect municipal revenues or the City's ability to fund services.

Janalea Hembree
Director of Strategy and Innovation
jhembree@burlesontx.com
817.426.9299

