



## COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**To: Mayor and Town Council**

**From: Robyn Battle, Executive Director**

**Through: Mario Canizares, Town Manager**

**Re: Legislative Update**

**Town Council Meeting – August 22, 2023**

**Strategic Visioning Priority: 4. Provide Excellent Municipal Services**

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**Agenda Item:**

Receive an update on the 2023 Texas Legislative Session.

**Description of Agenda Item:**

In January 2023, the Town Council adopted a Legislative Agenda that defines issues that have been identified as top priorities for the Town:

- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Land Development
- Economic Development
- Public Safety
- Fiscal Management
- Broadband Access
- Water Resources
- Recreational and Cultural Resources
- Open Government
- Elections
- Preemption of Local Authority

Using the Legislative Agenda as a communication tool, the Council Legislative Subcommittee, our Legislative Consultants, and designated staff worked throughout the legislative session to convey the Town's position on key issues to our legislators in Austin.

The Texas Legislature adjourned the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in May of 2023, followed by two Special Sessions, the latest of which concluded in July. Over 8,300 bills were filed during the 2023 session, and of the 1,258 bills that passed, 230 specifically impact cities and towns. Some of the bills will require further study and may require a determination by the courts before their impacts can be fully understood. Others are relatively straightforward and may require either a policy, ordinance, or operational change to comply with the new statute. Several bills are dependent on an associated ballot proposition which will be determined by voters as part of the November 7, 2023 Constitutional Amendment Election.

Town staff are already working with the Town Attorney to make necessary adjustments to the Town's ordinances and policies to ensure the Town complies with the new statutes. The Council will be asked to consider proposed changes to various Town ordinances and fees at future Council meetings.

The Town's Legislative Consultants will provide an overview of the 2023 Legislative Session, including a summary of key legislation affecting the Town. Strategies to continue the Town's legislative efforts throughout the year will also be discussed.

**Attached Documents:**

1. 2023 Legislative Agenda

**Town Staff Recommendation:**

Town staff requests Council's feedback and comments on the Town's legislative efforts. No action is required on this item.