



2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Intergovernmental Relations Office
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2017 TEXAS LEGISLATURE: BY THE NUMBERS

Year	Total Bills Introduced	Total Bills Passed	City-Related bills introduced	City-Related bills passed
75 th -1997	5,629	1,487	1,100+	130+
76 th -1999	5,813	1,622	1,230+	130+
77 th -2001	5,612	1,601	1,200+	150+
78 th -2003	5,633	1,384	1,200+	110+
79 th -2005	5,512	1,389	1,200+	105+
80 th -2007	6,241	1,481	1,200+	120+
81 st -2009	7,464	1,459	1,500+	120+
82 nd -2011	5,938	1,379	1,500+	160+
83 rd -2013	5,950	1,437	1,900+	220+
84 th -2015	6,476	1,329	1,900+	220+
85 th – 2017	6,800	1,208	2500+	294

BOARD & COMMISSIONS

- To date, IGRO provided a legislative update to the following Boards & Commissions:
 - African American Resource Advisory Commission
 - Arts Commission
 - Asian American Quality of Life Commission
 - Commission for Women (scheduled for 11/14)
 - Commission on Immigrant Affairs
 - Commission on Seniors
 - Commission on Veterans Affairs
 - Hispanic / Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission
 - LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission
 - Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
 - Parks and Recreation Board (scheduled for 12/4)
 - Public Safety Commission
 - Water and Wastewater Commission (scheduled for 11/14)



ANALYSIS: THREE MAJOR CATEGORIES

1. “Priority” – issues identified by the Texas Legislature as critical.
 2. “Oppose” – the City will work to defeat any bill that contradicts or undermines specific position(s) adopted by the City Council.
 3. “Support” – the City isn’t initiating the ask but will support and work it if someone else files it. Includes support of bills that contribute to the achievement of position(s) adopted by the City of Austin and will positively impact operations.
- ✓ You do not have to articulate every single “defense” statement but you do want to articulate those policy areas that are most important. Same sentiment with your “support” category.
 - ✓ Focus on municipal issues.



"PRIORITY" ISSUES

"Priority" during a legislative session is determined by:

- The Texas Legislature: Leadership and members
- Interim charges
 - Issues highlighted during Interim Hearings
 - Issues Legislators have highlighted in public comments



TEXAS LEGISLATURE LENS: PRIORITY ISSUES

Austin Energy

Revenue Caps

Super
Preemption

Bathrooms

Zoning / Short-
term Rentals

Earned Sick
Leave

Fair Chance
Hiring



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REVENUE CAP SUMMARY 85TH SESSION (2017)

	Regular SB 2	Special SB 1
Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filed: 4% all cities • Passed: 5% all cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filed: 4% large cities • Passed: 4% large cities
House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filed: 4% all cities • Committee passed a bill with no rollback; changed it to a "transparency" bill • Died in Calendars (after being set but recommitted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filed: 5% (HB 4) • Full House passed: 6% large cities • House didn't appoint conferees, bill died



GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S PROPERTY TAX PROPOSAL

- Jan. 16, 2018, Texans for Greg Abbott releases a “Property Tax Reform Bicentennial Blueprint
- 2.5% rollback rate to ALL taxing jurisdictions (including school districts)
- Cap can only be exceeded for certain expenses -- “public safety and critical infrastructure”
- Even then, only with a supermajority approval at council and at an election
- But can never exceed rate of statewide population growth + inflation (4.4% in 2017)



SENATE BUSINESS & COMMERCE

- May 1, 2018 – Austin Energy testified along with other Municipally Owned Utilities
- Interim Charge on Free Market Electricity: “Examine the competitive nature of the Texas retail electric system and what government competitive intrusions in the free energy markets may have in distorting those markets. Review the impact of competitive versus noncompetitive retail electricity markets across the state in terms of price and reliability. Consider the projected impact of establishing competitive electric retail markets statewide.”



STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION

- Resolution 20171207-054: Support legislation that would prevent access to firearms by domestic abusers; support legislation that regulates bump stocks; oppose legislation that would deregulate silencers.
- Resolution 20180510-092: Support legislation that prohibits predatory practices that pressure families to sell their homes.
- Resolution 20180524-038: Review opportunities for federal or state policy discussions and funding for drug overdose and opioid abuse response.
- Resolution 20181004-034: Support legislation to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to allow a sobering center to assume responsibility for intoxicated persons in lieu of placing them in a penal facility.



THE LOBBY TEAM



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REVIEW OF LOBBY TEAM

- Catalog of knowledge regarding municipal and City of Austin issues.
- Review of clients: (1) conflicts; (2) experience and capacity.
- Analysis regarding work relationships in current political climate.
- Discussions and evaluations with City departments regarding their experience with the lobbyists.



RECOMMENDED QUALIFICATIONS FOR LOBBY TEAM

- Expertise with municipal issues, particularly:
 - Public utilities
 - Land development, municipal regulation, municipal finance
 - Strategic recommendations
- Relationships with leadership and delegation:
 - House and Senate, including key committee leadership
 - Governor's office
 - Key agencies: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Public Utility Commission, Comptroller, & Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs



86TH SESSION LOBBY TEAM

- Focused Advocacy -- \$165,000
 - Brandon Aghamalian, Snapper Carr, Curtis Seidlits, and Andrew Keefer
- Nora Del Bosque -- \$75,000
- Cliff Johnson -- \$75,000
- Clayton Pope -- \$75,000
- David White -- \$75,000
- Ross Peavey -- \$75,000



FEDERAL LOBBY TEAM

- Capital Edge -- \$90,000
- InfraStrategies-- \$42,000
- Federal Agenda will be presented for Council consideration on November 15th



LOBBY TEAM CONTRACTS

	State Lobby Team	Federal Lobby Team
FY 2014-15	\$805,000	\$270,000
FY 2015-16	\$860,000	\$270,000
FY 2016-17	\$708,000	\$174,000
FY 2017-18	\$570,000	\$174,000
FY 2018-19	\$540,000	\$132,000



QUESTIONS?

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