

87TH STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Intergovernmental Relations Office – Brie L. Franco, Officer



TEXAS LEGISLATURE INCREASINGLY FOCUSED ON CITIES



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+
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	2,500+	294
86th – 2019	7,324	1,429	2,300+	338

- 54 % more City-related bills were passed between 2015 and 2019
- 182 % more City – related bills were passed between 2009 and 2019



LEGISLATIVE SESSION: IGRO ROLE

In the 86th session

- 3,970 Bills/JR's were filed in last 10 business days before filing deadline, March 8th. (54%).
- 7,324 bills read and analyzed by IGRO.
- Over 2,500 bills were determined by IGRO to affect cities.
- 1,296 Bills/JR's required analysis/action by departments and IGRO.

TREND: ANTI-CITY TONE: GOVERNOR ABBOTT



"As opposed to the state having to take multiple rifle-shot approaches at overriding local regulations, I think a broad-based law by the state of Texas that says across the board, the state is going to pre-empt local regulations, is a superior approach" *

— Governor Greg Abbott, March 21, 2017



Governor Greg Abbott in 2017

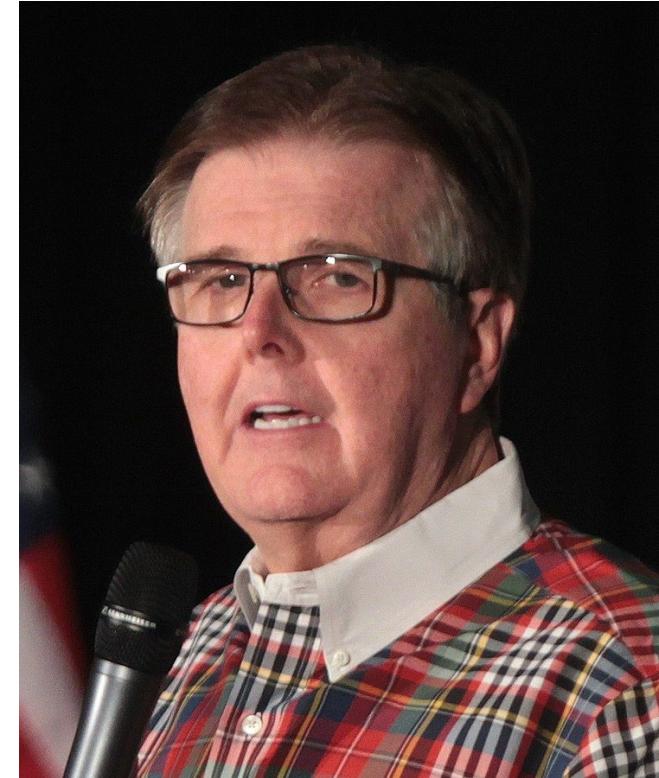
**Source: "Abbott wants "broad-based law" that pre-empts local regulations" Texas Tribune, March 21, 2017*

TREND: ANTI-CITY LEGISLATION: POST 85TH SPECIAL SESSION



"Our cities are still controlled by Democrats...And where do we have all our problems in America? Not at the state level run by Republicans, but in our cities that are mostly controlled by Democrat mayors and Democrat city council men and women. That's where you see liberal policies. That's where you see high taxes. That's where you see street crime." *

-Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, 2017



Lt Governor Dan Patrick in 2016. Photo by Gage Skidmore.

**Source: "Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick blames city governments for "all our problems in America" Texas Tribune, AUG. 4, 2017*

TREND: ANTI-CITY TONE: POST 86TH SESSION



"Any mayor, county judge that was dumb ass enough to come meet with me, I told them with great clarity, my goal is for this to be the worst session in the history of the legislature for cities and counties" -Texas House Speaker Dennis Bonnen (R-Angleton)

"I just want the local governments to have a worse session next session, by ending taxpayer funded lobby and stealing their two pennies, putting them toward the taxpayers." - State Rep. Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock), Ways & Means Chairman and Author of HB 2.

June 12, 2019 secret recording of a post-86th session meeting between Speaker Bonnen, Rep. Burrows and Michael Quinn Sullivan of Empower Texans



TREND: TONE

ISSUES THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE 87TH SESSION

Politically Charged, Overarching Issues Influencing the 87th session

- Election results
- Electing a new Speaker
- Redistricting (Special Session)
- School finance
- Budget
- COVID-19



87TH AGENDA:

LEGISLATURE'S CITY-RELATED PRIORITY ISSUES

Super
Preemption

Police Reform
Preemption

COVID
Preemption

Employees'
Rights &
Benefits

Zoning / Short-
Term Rentals

No City
Lobbying

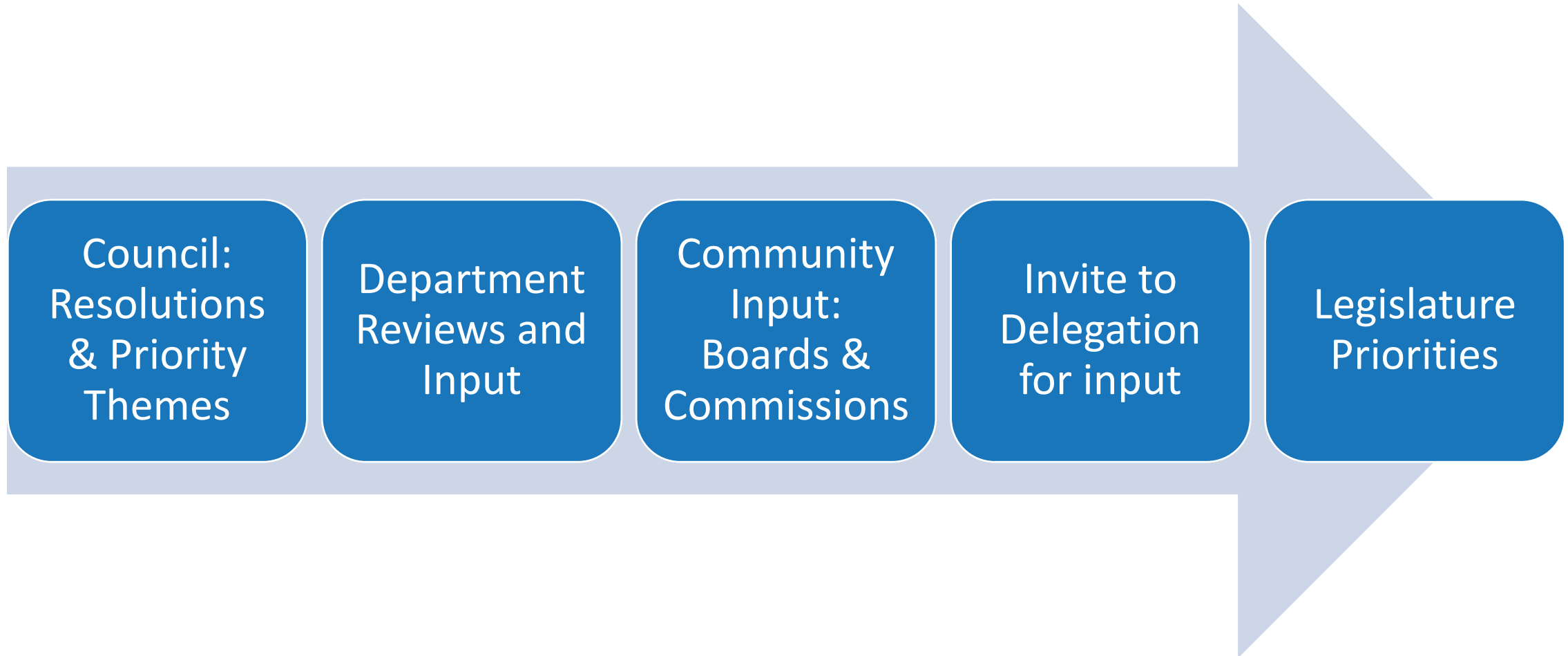
Austin Energy &
Austin Water

Revenue Caps
Part II

Annexation Part
II: ETJ
Regulation

DEVELOPING THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

IGRO PROCESS: WHAT DRIVES THE AGENDA CONTENT?





DEVELOPING THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

AGENDA ITEMS ORGANIZED IN SECTIONS

87th Legislature Priorities Affecting Cities	Tax Reform & Debt Issuance	Water & Wastewater, Environment, & Sustainability	Health & Prosperity	Animal Services
Public Infrastructure	Transparent & Efficient Government	Equity & Affordability	Education, Economic & Workforce Development	Homelessness
Access for Individuals with Disabilities	Parks	Libraries	Public Pension Systems	Public Safety
	Transportation & Aviation	Criminal Justice Reform	Voting & Elections	



DEVELOPING THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: PRESERVING THE COMMUNITY'S VALUES

- ❖ Protect Austin residents' right to govern themselves and work with their City government to adopt and enforce ordinances that address the health, safety, and public welfare of the community, including but not limited to, the ability to regulate earned sick leave, payday lending, and fair chance hiring.
- ❖ Oppose legislation that limits or prohibits the City's current ability to communicate or advocate with legislators or limits or prohibits the authority of the Texas Municipal League to use any funds to communicate with legislators.



DEVELOPING THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

- ❖ Support funding for the Texas State Park System, the Texas Recreation & Parks Account Local Park Grant Program, and any program or funding that directly benefits parks, recreation, open space, trails, and tourism.
- ❖ Support legislation that promotes healthy communities and economic prosperity through the protection and preservation of the region's air, land, and water and Austin's natural resources and open spaces, including policies that address the causes of the climate crisis as well as mitigation strategies.
- ❖ Support adequate funding for public health care programs, including Women's Preventative Health and Family Planning Services, chronic disease prevention, behavioral health and substance abuse programs, to support the uninsured and underinsured residents of Austin and all local and regional health care programs.
- ❖ Support legislation and funding to strengthen the resiliency of the child care industry and insure equitable access during a disaster, including measures to increase child care subsidies and expand subsidy funding for full-day programs needed for school-age children in the event of virtual instruction, and measures to improve coordination at state agencies for guidance, data collection, and funding for childcare programs during a disaster response.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION: **LOOKING FORWARD**

- IGRO wants to work with you on a resolution in support of the agenda and lobby team.
- Boards & Commissions can recommend additions to the legislative agenda to Council with a resolution to Council or reaching out directly to Council Members.
- IGRO presented the agenda to Council on September 17. The agenda can be amended at any time.
- IGRO will also keep you updated throughout the session.

QUESTIONS?



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Agenda:
<https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=347683>

Thank you

