

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: STATE LEADERSHIP

"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 Abbott¹

"Our cities are still controlled by Democrats...and where do we have all our problems in America? ...in our cities that are mostly controlled by Democrat mayors and Democrat city council... That's where you see street crime." –Lt. Governor Dan Patrick²



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

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



POST-ELECTION UPDATE

Republicans will control House and Senate in the 87th Session

- **Senate: 18 Republicans, 13 Democrats**

Democrats gained 1 seat, Republicans lost supermajority

- **House: 83 Republicans, 67 Democrats**

Same as 86th Session

Austin / Travis Delegation Held Seats

- Including hotly contested seats: Reps. Goodwin, Bucy, Zweiner, & Talarico will all be back



TREND: TONE

ISSUES THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE 87TH SESSION

Politically Charged, Overarching Issues Influencing the 87th session

- Electing a new Speaker: **Rep. Dade Phelan?**
- 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

Community
Advocacy Ban

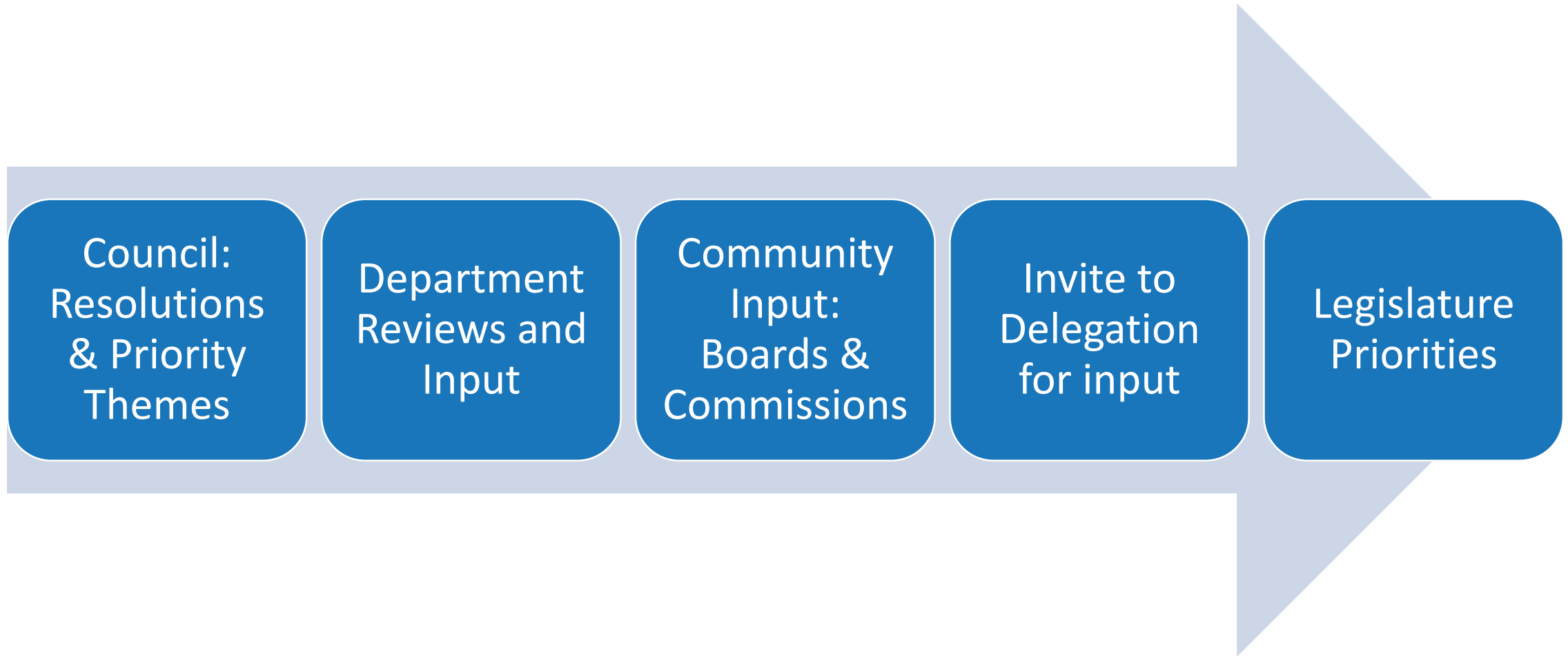
Austin Energy &
Austin Water

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: AUSTIN TRAVIS COUNTY FOOD POLICY BOARD

- ❖ Support legislation that improves access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food.
- ❖ Protect the City's ability to enforce basic health standards for the public through restaurant, food truck, and daycare inspections.
- ❖ Support legislation that promotes healthy and equitable 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 legislation that increases the resilience of communities in the face of climate, economic, and/or social shocks and stressors.



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

