



TRAVIS COUNTY INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICE

89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

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March 3, 2025

Briefing Overview

- Session Deadlines/Major Dates
- Legislation Statistics
- Delegation Committee Assignments
- Governor's Emergency Items
- Lieutenant Governor's Priority Bills
- Travis Legislative Agenda Updates
- Bills of Interest – Debt Issuance

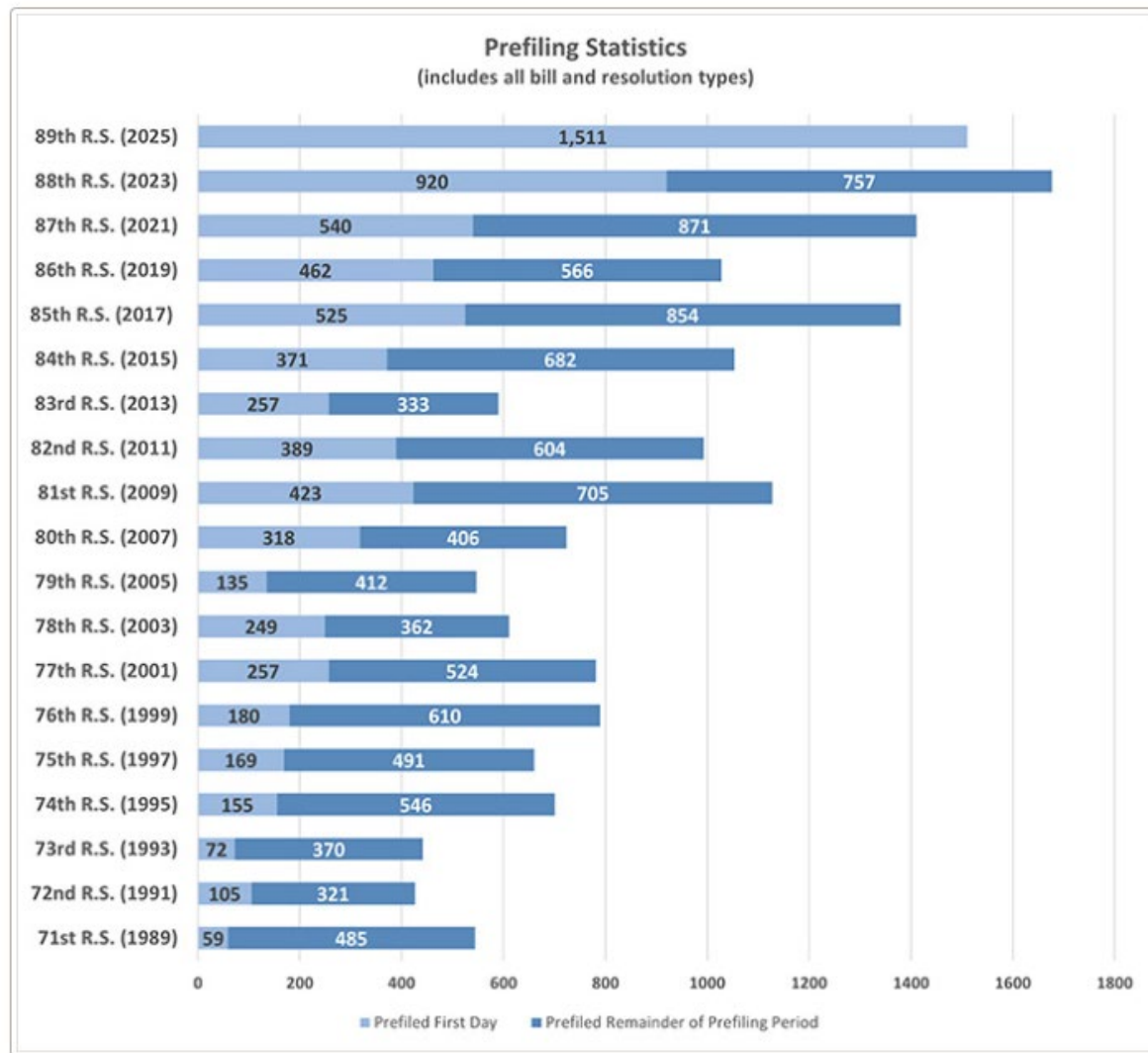
The 89th Legislative Session Schedule

This session will run from January 14, 2025 through June 2, 2025

Major deadlines:

- First day to prefile bills – November 11, 2024
- Last day to file bills* – March 14, 2025
- First day to hear bills on House/Senate floor** – after March 14
- Last day for House committees to vote on House bills – May 12
- Last day for House to pass nonlocal House bills – May 16
- Last day for House to pass local House bills – May 23
- Last day for House committees to vote on Senate bills – May 24
- Last day for House and Senate to consider any bills – May 28
- Veto period deadline – June 22

Legislation Statistics - Prefiling



2025 session off to a running start...

- Prefiling in Texas occurs the first Monday after the general election in even-numbered years and goes through the first day of the legislative session in January.
- The highest number of bills ever was filed on the first day of prefiling this session.

**data courtesy of the Legislative Reference Library of Texas*

Delegation Committee Assignments - Senate



[Sen. Judith Zaffirini](#)

- Business & Commerce
- Finance
- Natural Resources, Vice-Chair
- State Affairs



[Sen. Charles Schwertner*](#)

- Business & Commerce, Chair
- Economic Development
- Finance
- State Affairs



[Sen. Pete Flores*](#)

- Border Security, Vice-Chair
- Criminal Justice, Chair
- Finance
- Natural Resources



[Sen. Donna Campbell](#)

- Business & Commerce
- Education K-16, Vice-Chair
- Finance
- Nominations, Chair



[Sen. Sarah Eckhardt](#)

- Administration
- Border Security
- Nominations
- Veteran Affairs

*represents parts of Austin, but not in Travis County

Delegation Committee Assignments - House



[Rep. Donna Howard](#)

- Appropriations
- Higher Education, Vice-Chair



[Rep. John Bucy*](#)

- Elections, Vice-Chair
- Local & Consent Calendars
- Public Health
- S/C on Disease Prevention & Women's & Children's Health, Vice-Chair



[Rep. Vikki Goodwin](#)

- Appropriations
- Insurance



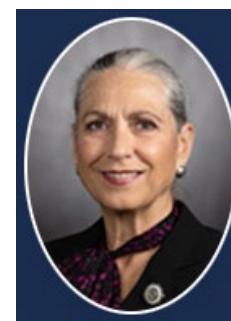
[Rep. Gina Hinojosa](#)

- Land & Resource Management
- Public Education



[Rep. Sheryl Cole](#)

- Culture, Recreation & Tourism
- House Administration, Vice-Chair
- Intergovernmental Relations
- S/C on County & Regional Govt, Vice-Chair



[Rep. Lulu Flores](#)

- Culture, Recreation & Tourism, Vice-Chair
- Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence



[Rep. James Talarico](#)

- House Administration
- Public Education
- S/C on Academic & Career-Oriented Education, Vice-Chair
- Trade, Workforce & Eco Devo, Vice-Chair



[Rep. Erin Zwiener*](#)

- Intergovernmental Affairs, Vice-Chair
- S/C on County & Regional Govt
- Local & Consent Calendars
- Natural Resources



[Rep. Ellen Troxclair](#)

- Delivery of Govt Efficiency
- Ways & Means

*represents parts of Austin, but not in Travis County

Governor's Emergency Items

- **Property Tax Relief**

- At least \$10 billion of surplus for property tax relief
- Speed up tax rate compression to lower school district M&O tax rates
- Require 2/3 voter approval for all tax increases
- Require all local bond issues and tax rate elections be on the November ballot and approved by a 2/3 supermajority of voters

- **Bail Reform**

- Require judges to deny bail for violent offenders
- Require that bail be denied if an offender is accused of capital murder or a sexual offense of a child

- **Investment in Water**

- Dedicate \$1 billion a year for 10 years for new water supplies and repairs to existing pipes
- Invest in new water supply strategies like desalination
- Ensure rural communities can maintain existing water supply systems
- Create long-term dedicated funding stream to invest in water infrastructure

Governor's Emergency Items

- **Texas Cyber Command**

- Will be headquartered in San Antonio and create a robust strategy to anticipate and detect potential cyber threats, promote cybersecurity awareness, and defend against and mitigate the effects of cyberattacks when they happen

- **Expand Career Training**

- Increase funding for the Jobs & Education for Texans grant program
- Increase funding for the Rural Pathways Excellence Partnership program
- Provide career and technical education funding for students enrolled in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)

Governor's Emergency Items

- **School Choice**

- Establish an Education Savings Account with universal eligibility and appropriate \$1 billion for the program
- Increase funding for open-enrollment charter school facilities, expand virtual education options, and improve access to district transfers

- **Increase Teacher Pay**

- Increase teacher salaries through a direct appropriation in teacher pay
- Invest \$750 million in FY26-27 to expand the Teacher Incentive Allotment
- Help mitigate costs and increase recruitment strategies for districts

Lieutenant Governor's Priority Bills

- Senate Bill 1 – Senate's Budget for Texas
- Senate Bill 2 – Providing School Choice
- Senate Bill 3 – Banning THC in Texas
- Senate Bill 4 – Increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$140,000 (\$150,000 for seniors)
- Senate Bill 5 – Combatting Alzheimer's – Establishing DPRIT (Dementia Prevention & Research Institute of Texas)
- Senate Bill 6 – Increasing Texas' Electric Grid Reliability
- Senate Bill 7 – Increasing Investments in Texas' Water Supply
- Senate Bill 8 – Requiring Local Law Enforcement to Assist the Federal Government's Deportation Efforts
- Senate Bill 9 – Reforming Bail – Keeping Violent Criminals Off Our Streets
- Senate Bill 10 – Placing the Ten Commandments in School
- Senate Bill 11 – Protecting the Freedom to Pray in School
- Senate Bill 12 – Establishing a Parental Bill of Rights in Public Education
- Senate Bill 13 – Guarding Against Inappropriate Books in Public Schools
- Senate Bill 14 – Texas DOGE – Improving Government Efficiency
- Senate Bill 15 – Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing
- Senate Bill 16 – Stopping Non-Citizens from Voting
- Senate Bill 17 – Stopping Foreign Adversaries' Land Grabs
- Senate Bill 18 – Stopping Drag Time Story Hour
- Senate Bill 19 – Stopping Taxpayer Dollars for Lobbyists
- Senate Bill 20 – Stopping AI Child Pornography
- Senate Bill 21 – Establishing the Texas Bitcoin Reserve
- Senate Bill 22 – Establishing Texas as America's Film Capital
- Senate Bill 23 – Removing the Cap on the Rainy Day Fund to Secure Texas' Long-term Financial Future
- Senate Bill 24 – Educating Texas Students on the Horrors of Communism
- Senate Bill 25 – Making Texas Healthy Again

Travis County Legislative Agenda

1. Austin State Hospital Ground Lease

Would allow for the State of Texas to enter into a lease agreement with Travis County to utilize vacated buildings and empty land on the Austin State Hospital campus for jail diversion efforts.

2. Fire Code – SB 628 and HB 1701

Would allow for counties and emergency services districts (ESD) to enter into an interlocal agreement (ILA) for the administration and enforcement of the county fire code. In such instances, the Fire Marshal would be allowed to delegate the administration and enforcement of the County's fire code to the ESD in accordance with an ILA.

Travis County Legislative Agenda

3. Surplus Property Donation – HB 3335

Currently there is a three part “test” to determine whether local governments are allowed by state statute to donate surplus property. Travis County ITS staff have desired to donate old computer to non-profit partners, but because they still have some small amount of value to them, we are unable to do so because that small value means one of the parts of the “test” is not met. This would allow the donation of surplus property if at least one of the three parts of the test is satisfied, rather than all three parts.

4. County Bail Bond Board Meetings – SB 1549

Currently, County bail bond boards are required to meet at least monthly. Travis County staff who work with the bail bond board have stated that our local bail bond board does not have a need to meet that regularly and often struggle to meet quorum to have monthly meetings. This bill would allow the Travis County Bail Bond Board to meet less frequently, but still must meet at least six times in a twelve-month period.

Travis County Legislative Agenda

5. Deer Management – HB 2842

Would allow the County to hire professional agents for deer management in the Balcones Canyonland Preserve.

6. Waste Management – HB 2452

Currently, counties are prohibited from providing waste management services in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of a city, even if the city does not provide waste management services in that area. Bexar County does have a carve out in statute that allows them to provide these services in the ETJ. This bill would allow Travis County to provide waste management services in the ETJ of a city (but not require).

Bills of Interest – Debt Issuance

- **Certificates of Obligation (COs)**

- HB 1453 – Limits COs to Public Works only as necessary to comply with state/federal law, a court decision, a public health emergency, or natural disaster with certain parameters. Limits terms of COs to 30 years. Prohibits CO issuances if a bond for the same purpose failed the election during the preceding five years (current prohibition three years).
- SB 470 – Limits COs to Public Works only as necessary to comply with state/federal law, a court decision, a public health emergency, or natural disaster with certain parameters and 90-day timelines.
- SB 1024 – Limits the use of anticipation notes (ANs) or COs if a bond proposition for the same purpose failed in an election within the prior five years. COs currently have a three year prohibition, but ANs have none. Exception for disasters and emergencies, or to comply with court orders or state/federal laws.
- SB 1037 – Prohibits issuance of ANs if a bond proposition for the same purpose was submitted to voters during preceding five years and failed, if the AN is > 5% of the governing body's total outstanding debt, or if a petition signed by 5% of registered voters is received protesting the issuance. Also prohibits COs for five years if a past related bond proposition fails. Exceptions for disasters and emergencies, or to comply with court orders or state/federal laws.

Bills of Interest– Debt Issuance

- **Elections to Issue Bonds or Increase Tax Rate**

- SB 393/HB 1514 – political subdivisions may not issue a public security (bond, note, certificate, or other obligation) to purchase or lease property if the expected useful life of the property ends before the maturity date of the public security.
- SB 409/HB 2207 – political subdivisions may not submit a bond proposition to the voters if the entity submitted a proposition to voters for the same purpose within the preceding two years and the voters did not approve the proposition.
- SB 533/HB 1519 – requires elections for the issuance of bonds or tax increases to be held on November uniform election date.
- SB 1501 – political subdivisions must allocate the proceeds from the issuance of general obligation bonds authorized by voters in the percentage or amount stated in the ballot proposition.
- HB 2574 – no political subdivision may issue general obligation bonds unless at least 60% of voters authorize the issuance.
- HB 2736 – elections to authorize the issuance of bonds or to increase taxes will not be effective unless 2/3 of voters vote in favor.

Questions?

Travis County Intergovernmental Relations Office

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