

City of Austin

89th State Legislature: Post-Session Briefing

Government Relations Office



Agenda



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Legislative Agendas: **At a Glance**



Legislative program focuses on **primary City priorities**:

- **Preserve Local Authority:** Protect Austin's control over zoning, ordinances, and local regulations, and ensure cities have appropriate tools to meet housing affordability challenges.
- **Financial Responsibility:** Oppose unfunded state mandates or legislation that would place undue financial burdens on the City.
- **Community Health & Safety:** Support access to healthcare, public safety funding, improved quality of life and protections for vulnerable populations.
- **Environmental & Infrastructure Resilience:** Protect Austin's natural resources, encourage sustainability, and invest in critical infrastructure.

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89th Texas Legislature

**Quality of Life**

- **Affordability:** Grow the City's efforts to stabilize and sustain neighborhoods, preserve, and expand the supply of housing that is affordable.
- **Community:** Provide social services and housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health and/or substance use disorders.

**Local Authority**

- **Local Control:** Maintain local control.
- **Public Pensions:** Maintain joint state and local authority over City of Austin employee retirement plans.
- **Local Finances:** Reduce restrictions on the City's use of financing tools.

**Public Safety**

- **Emergency Services:** Fund and support Police, Fire, and EMS operations to effectively serve and protect the Austin community.
- **Gun Violence:** Reduce gun violence in coordination with local law enforcement and through community programs.

**Infrastructure & Environment**

- **Mobility:** Enhance infrastructure safety and deliver critical mobility projects, including Project Connect and Our Future 35.
- **Utilities:** Maintain reliable and sustainable utility services.
- **Outdoor Spaces:** Fund parks, recreation, open space, trails, and tourism.
- **Natural Resources:** Ensure sustainability of the State's natural resources, including, green infrastructure, water conservation, weatherization and use of sustainable materials.

**Growth & Opportunity**

- **Land Use:** Preserve property value for Austin taxpayers by protecting the City's authority to promote good land use.
- **Economic Opportunities:** Support career pathway opportunities, including job training and apprentice programs for students and residents.
- **Innovation:** Foster the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI).

Scan QR Code for additional information



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Outcomes



89th Session: **Overarching Issues**

- Many recurring issues: pre-emption on elections, guns, historical markers and inclusion programming
- Land use and housing
- Efforts to reduce city funding & limit use of debt
- Firefighters pension and collective bargaining
- Water future
- Homelessness

89th Session: **Communication**



- Weekly and as-needed communication to Mayor and City Council
- Regular communication to delegation on all City-related business
- Regimented communication to bill authors



89th Session: **By the Numbers**

Stat	
Bills and Joint Resolutions Filed	9,014 (88 th Session: 8,345)
Bills & Joint Resolutions Sent to Governor	1,231 (88 th Session: 1,259)
Tracked by IGRO / Assigned to Departments	1,499 (88 th Session: 978)
% of Bills Sent to Governor	14% of Filed Bills & JRS Sent to Governor*
Bills Vetoed by the Governor	26 (88 th Session: 76)

**Veto Period Ended June 22*

89th Session: **Beyond the Numbers**



- Worked deliberately to improve relationships with members in and outside the delegation
- Collaborated on dozens of bills
- Enhanced partnership with peer cities



Major Bills: **Outcomes**

- IGRO tracked and assigned **1,499** bills to departments for analysis.
 - *The following slides highlight just a few of them.*
- We will be going into more details in one-on-one meetings with departments.

VETO PERIOD

- The veto period ended **June 22**
- Any legislation not already been signed by the governor can still be vetoed until June 22.



89th Regular Session

Major Bill Outcomes

Passed

- HB 2802 (Bucy) – Austin Firefighter Pension Relief Plan
- SB 777 (Hughes) – Collective Bargaining

Pre-emption



Passed

- SB 1008 – Preemption of local food service regulations

Cutting Room Floor

- HB 146 – Prohibition of Lane Closures by Local Govts.
- SB 18 – Municipal library restrictions
- SB 689 – Restrictions on DEI
- SB 1065 – Guns in public places
- SB 2858 & SB 3016 – Super preemption
- SB 2519 (et al.) – Project Connect

Passed

- HB 29 – Water Loss Audit Validation
- SB 7 – Omnibus major statewide water infrastructure funding
- HJR 7 – Funding Texas Water Fund

Cutting Room Floor

- HB 1523 – Aquifer Storage and Recovery

Passed

- SB 6 – Large Electric Load Interconnection
- HB 145 – Wildfire Mitigation Plans
- SB 1789 – Transmission and Distribution Structural Integrity Standards
- HB 144 – Distribution Pole Inspection and Management Plans
- SB 1202 – Third Party Review of Residential Backup Generation
- SB 1252 – Prohibition on Municipal Regulation of Residential Backup Generation
- SB 75 – Resilience Grid Security Commission
- HB 1991 – Municipal Utility Charges

Land Use and Disannexation



Passed

- HB 21 – Housing finance corporations (HFCs)
- HB 24 – Rezoning notice and protest rights
- HB 2512 – ETJ release (partial) fix
- SB 15 – Allow 3,000 SF lots on unplatted land, ≥ 5 acres
- SB 840 & SB 2477 – Residential by right in non-residential base zones
- SB 1844 – Disannexation
- SB 1202 – Third party review and inspection of electric generators

Cutting Room Floor

- HB 23 & SB 1450 – Third party review and inspections
- HB 3798 & SB 1927 – Ashe Juniper
- SB 673 - ADUs

Homelessness and Mental Health



Passed

- SB 617 – 90-day notice / hearing requirements before converting govt. properties into housing for homeless
- SB 1164 – amends emergency mental health detention criteria

Cutting Room Floor

- SB 2487 – Omnibus mental health services crisis centers
- HB 636 & SB 2488 – statewide homeless data sharing network
- HB 1656 – licensed paramedics mental health detainments
- SB 241 – penalty for cities on public camping enforcement
- SB 2623 – prohibition on navigation services near schools and parks

Passed

- HB 1393 – Daylight savings year-round (upon federal legislation)
- SB 1964 – Regulatory framework for AI use (state & local govts)
- SB 1 – State budget
- SB 3 – Banning or regulating THC
- SB 6 – Regulating the energy grid
- SB 33 – Abortion Logistics
- SB 412 – Library Materials Affirmative Defense
- SB 710 – Message boards for commissions



89th First Special Session



89th First Special Session: **Basics**

- **89th First-Called Special Session Began Monday, July 21, 2025**
- Special Sessions cannot last more than 30 days. They can adjourn early.
- Only topics within the Governor's call may be considered.
- ***However:***
 - Governor can add additional items to the call at any time.
 - Legislators can still file any bill – it does not have to be on the call to be filed.
 - Governor can call for additional special sessions.

89th First Special Session: **Items on Call**



Flood Warning
Systems

Flood Emergency
Communications

Natural Disaster
Preparation &
Recovery

Property Taxes &
Expenditure Caps

Protect Children
From THC

Regulate Hemp-
Derived
Products

Ban Taxpayer-
Funded Lobbying

Police Personnel
Records

Water Project
Incentives

Redistricting

Title Theft &
Deed Fraud

Relief Funding
For Hill Country
Floods

Eliminate Staar
Test

Protect Unborn
Children

Protect Human
Trafficking
Victims

Protect Women's
Spaces

Attorney General
Election Powers

State Judicial
Department



Local & Regional

Local and Regional Program



- Share information on City policy, plans, and projects with local and regional City partners to find areas of coordination and enhancement
- Strengthen and maintain communication, coordination, and collaboration
- Advocate for City policies, plans, programs, and projects
- Projects of note:
 - Aquifer storage and recovery (Bastrop County)
 - Austin State Hospital (Travis County)
 - University Neighborhood Overlay (University of Texas)

Thank You



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