

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

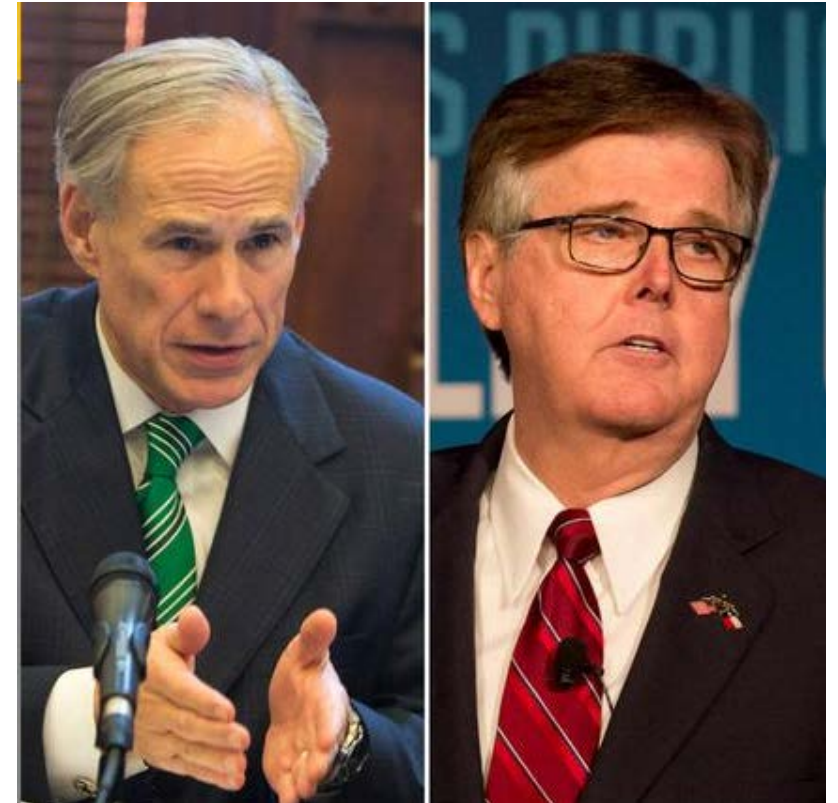
- 3,970 Bills/JR's were filed in last 10 business days before filing deadline, March 8th. (54%).
- 7,324 bills read and analyzed by IGRO.
- Over 2,500 bills were determined by IGRO to affect cities.
- 1,296 Bills/JR's required analysis/action by departments and IGRO.

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

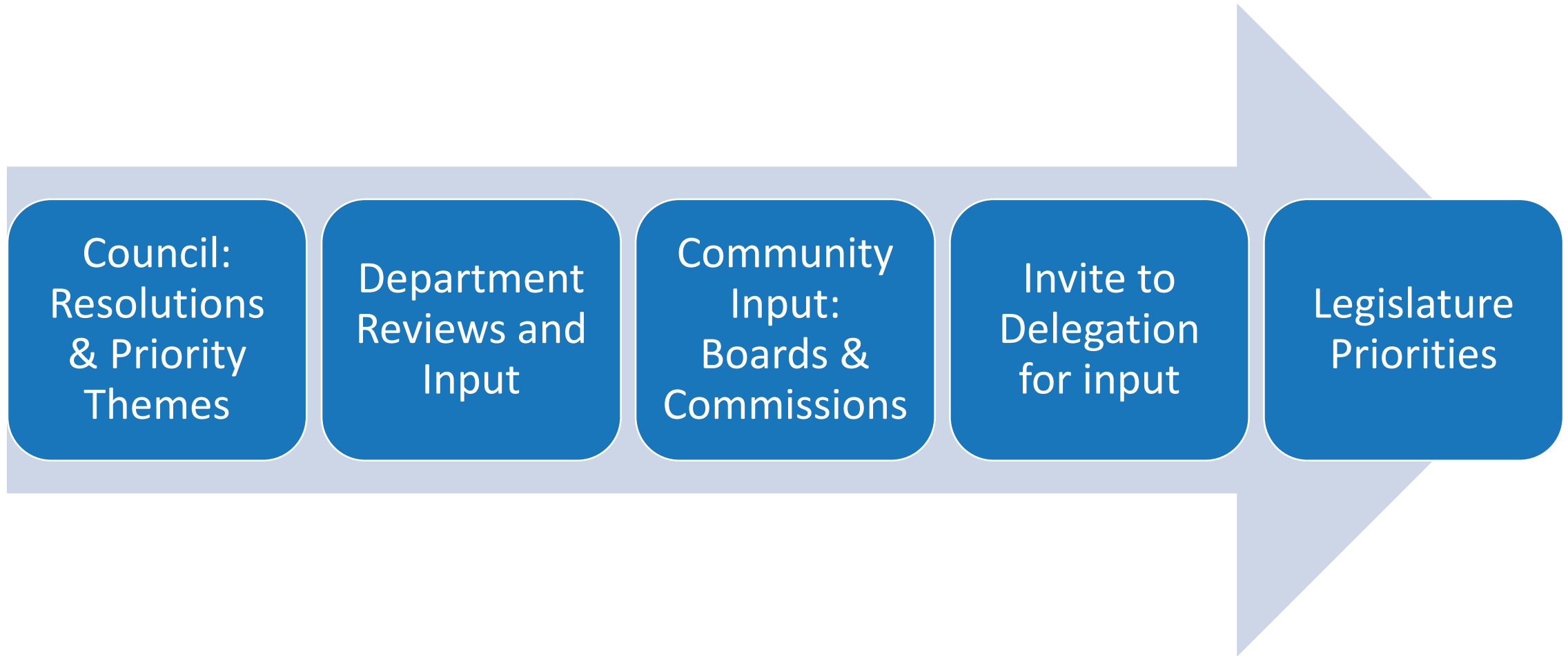
Austin Energy &
Austin Water

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: THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

- ❖ Support continued funding and support of Police, Fire, and EMS operations, and oppose legislation that restricts their ability to effectively serve and protect the Austin community.
- ❖ Support legislation that reduces gun violence in coordination with local law enforcement including legislation that would limit or prevent access to firearms by domestic abusers or, regulate and prevent access to bump stocks, and promote safe storage for firearms. Oppose legislation that would deregulate gun silencers/suppressors.
- ❖ Support legislation to reduce the improper or excessive use of force by police, enhance implicit-bias and de-escalation training, expand civilian oversight of police departments, and improve relations between police and those they serve.
- ❖ Support legislation that would improve a jurisdictions' ability to investigate officer misconduct, enforce disciplinary actions, or prosecute officer misconduct.
- ❖ Support legislation and funding to allow qualified medical and mental health professionals to safely perform related duties currently restricted to law enforcement officers, including the authority to detain and transfer an individual believed to have a mental illness and who is a substantial risk of serious harm to themselves or others.
- ❖ Oppose legislation that restricts the City's flexibility to effectively mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, including flooding, wildfires, and public health disasters.



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

