

# Texas Crane Owners Association

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Presented by:



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*Policy Solutions*



# OVERVIEW

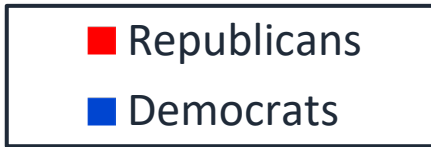
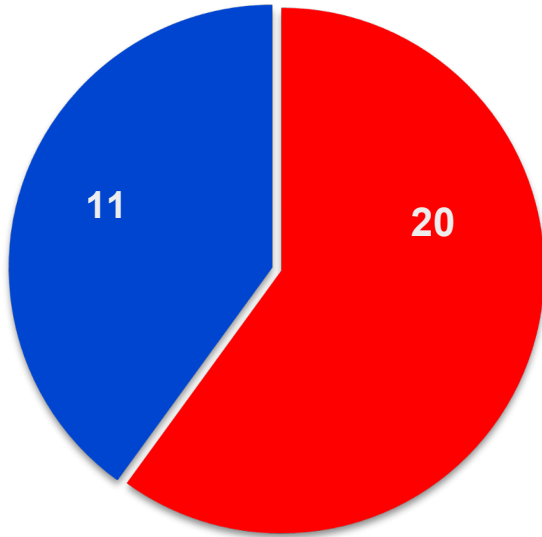


- **Legislative Landscape**
- **88<sup>th</sup> Interim Charges**
- **TCOA 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Priorities**
- **Stakeholder Priorities & Advocacy**
- **Session Outlook**
- **Budget Outlook**
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- **Questions and Next Steps**

# LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE AT A GLANCE

- To date, more than 2,800 bills have been filed in the House and Senate.
  - Prefiling saw a record-setting 1,511 bills and resolutions filed on the first day.
- Rep. Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) elected Speaker of the House.
  - Bipartisan coalition of 36 Republicans and 49 Democrats
  - Committee Chairs and Changes
  - Burrows and supporters could see primary challengers in 2026.
- Senate passes rules making minor changes to Senate Committees.
- 89<sup>th</sup> Legislature enjoys a budget surplus of \$23 billion.
  - \$195 billion in revenue available for general-purpose spending during the 2026-27 biennium, a 1% decrease from the 2024-25 biennium.
- Rainy-Day fund balance estimated at \$28.5 billion at the end of the biennium.

# TEXAS SENATE OVERVIEW



## HIGHLIGHTS

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick  
President Pro Tempore - Sen. Brandon Creighton

### Lt. Gov. Patrick priorities:

School Choice; Ban on taxpayer-funded lobbying; Bail Reform; Election Integrity; 10 Commandments in schools; Ban Critical Race Theory in higher education; and Ban ownership of Texas land by foreign owners that are adversaries.

### Senate Rules: *Committee Changes*

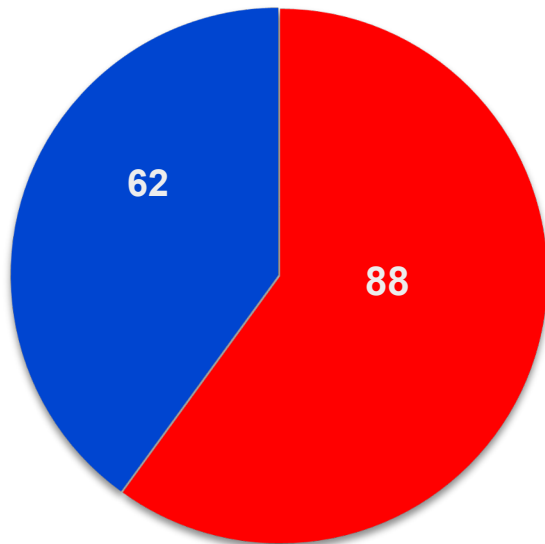
- Senate Natural Resources
- Senate Economic Development
  - Senate Education K-16
- *Reduced* membership to Finance (15); Education (11); Local Government (7)

### New Senators:

Sen. Brent Hagenbuch (R – Denton)  
Sen. Molly Cook (D – Houston)  
Sen. Adam Hinojosa (R – Corpus Christi)

Senate Committees Announced

# TEXAS HOUSE OVERVIEW



■ Republicans

■ Democrats

## HIGHLIGHTS

Speaker Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock)

Speaker Pro Tempore: Rep. Charlie Geren

Republican Caucus Chair: Rep. Tom Oliverson

Democratic Caucus Chair: Rep. Gene Wu

### Speaker Burrows Leadership Team:

- Chief of Staff – Former State Sen. Bob Duncan
- Deputy Chief of Staff - Zak Covar
- Senior Advisor/Member Relations – Former State Rep. Tracy King
- District Affairs Coordinator - Matt Crow
- Director of the Office of the Speaker- Paige Holzheuser
- Communications Director - Cait Wittman
- General Counsel to the Speaker and Policy Director- Jimmy Skipton
- Director of Finance- Andrew Blifford

# SENATE KEY COMMITTEE



## Senate Transportation

- Sen. Robert Nichols, Chair
- Sen. Royce West, Vice Chair
- Sen. Paul Bettencourt
- Sen. Brent Hagenbuch
- Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa
- Sen. Nathan Johnson
- Sen. Phil King
- Sen. Borris Miles
- Sen. Charles Perry

# HOUSE KEY COMMITTEES



- House Rules adopted Thursday 1/23;
- No Democratic Chairs;
- Democrats exclusively can serve in Vice Chair role;
  - *Historically mostly an honorary title; Now will have a staff budget, are directly consulted for hearing schedules, may designate witnesses and elevate legislation for hearing;*
- Key committee changes:
  - Trade, Workforce & Eco Devo – new, 11 members; (*Business & Industry – abolished*);
  - Intergovernmental Relations – new, 11 members; (*Urban Affairs & County Affairs – abolished*);
  - Transportation – remains the same;
  - Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence – expands from 9 to 11 members;
- Committee assignments expect in this week.

# 88<sup>th</sup> INTERIM CHARGES

## **Senate Transportation:** *Committee recommendations included.*

- Consider ways to ensure TxDOT and municipalities & counties have the funding to **make infrastructure improvements that reduce deaths on our roadways**, including state funding sources for multimodal safety, sidewalks for on-system roadways, targeted investments on high-injury roadways, and recommendations from the Texas Statewide Active Transportation Plan.
- Leverage federal grants to **modernize our state's public transportation systems, particularly for our rural transit**. TxDOT requested \$25 million for rural transit agencies to use as part of the Federal Transit Administration Bus and Bus Facility discretionary grant program, which covers up to 90% of capital costs.
- **Study alternatives to the gas tax** including a vehicle miles traveled tax, weight-based vehicle registrations, and other innovative funding sources.
- Capitalize on National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program (\$408 million for FYs 2022-2026 for the **installation, operation, and maintenance of EV charging infrastructure** in Texas.)





89<sup>th</sup>

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Address Escalating Insurance Costs & “Nuclear Verdicts”
- Out of State Venues
- Increase Workforce
- Reduce Financial Risk for Construction
- Property Tax Relief

More than 65 bills filed to date on TCOA bill tracks

# STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES



## **Proliferation of excessive litigation and judgements. Two root causes:**

- *Plaintiff lawyers **manipulating medical damages** to present vastly inflated medical bills to juries in trial.*
- ***Disproportionately large awards** of noneconomic damages (pain & suffering and mental anguish).*

## **Proposed legislation parameters:**

- ***Reduce inflated medical damages** by addressing the inconsistencies between Texas statute and Allstate Supreme Court Case.*
- ***Prohibit defendant from disputing “reasonableness” of provider charges** based on criteria in a provider’s affidavit.*
- ***Reining in misleading medical damages evidence** by limiting medical cost evidence presented to the jury.*
- ***Setting standards for awarding noneconomic damages** by implementing recommendations by the Texas Supreme Court requiring a methodology/explanation for an award.*

# STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES



- **Time to Sue** - Shorten statute of repose on private projects. (**HB 1922 – Dean**)
- **E-Verify** - Overly broad E-Verify. *5 bills have been filed to date related to E-Verify.* (**SB 324 – Kolkhorst**)
- **Venue** - Require that suits on Texas projects must be filed in Texas. (**HB 1139 - Oliverson**)
- **Owner Delay** - Make owners, not contractors, responsible for delays on public projects caused by owners. (*Refile*)
- **School District “Construction Manager at Risk”** - Fix issues with some ISDs regarding lopsided change orders and open-ended audits on K-12 CMAR projects. (*New Legislation*)
- **TSTC Funding** - Establish first-ever endowment for Texas State Technical College for training workers in construction and other Texas vocational fields that are experiencing dramatic shortages. (*Refile*)

# STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES



## **CROSS DEFAULT PROTECTION:**

- Clarify that a “good faith dispute” does not include a dispute relating to another contract.
- Specify that withholding funds due to a disagreement on another contract is a misapplication of trust funds.

## **SECURING RETAINAGE:**

- Statutorily classify reserved funds as trust funds under Construction Trust Fund Act.

## **INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE:**

- Make a contracts that incorporate documents by reference voidable if not made available to a requesting subcontractor within 10 days prior to execution.

## **OUT OF STATE VENUES:**

- Require that suits on Texas construction projects must be filed in Texas.

## **RELEASING RETAINAGE:**

- Amend Property Code to create certainty around the release date for retainage

# TCA Walk on the Capitol

## **Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**

“Under the Dome” with Political Insiders

- 230-430 at Capitol Doubletree Suites

TCA Legislator Roundup (PAC membership required)

- 530-830 at 800 Congress

## **Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

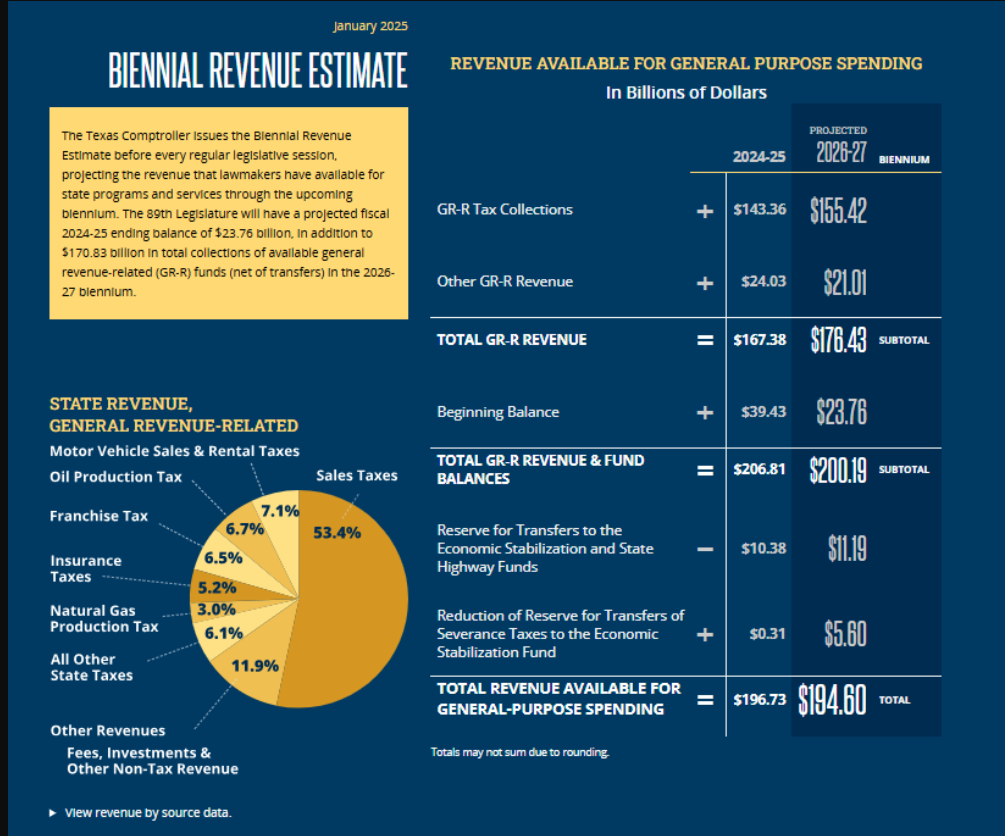
- 730-9 – Breakfast/Briefing at Doubletree Suite
- 9-2 – Legislator meetings

# 89<sup>th</sup> Session Outlook

- Public School Vouchers
- Property Tax Relief
- Water Fund
- Electric Grid Resiliency
- Foreign Owned Land
- Border Security
- Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity
- Artificial Intelligence
- Elections
- Social Media & Kids
- DEI Programs
- Workforce Development
- Affordable Housing

# Budget Outlook

- \$23 billion surplus.
- \$194 billion for spending.
- Spending Limit:
  - Rate of growth of Texas economy is set at 8.93%.
  - Average rate of growth of state's population is 8.93%.
  - Appropriation limit for 2026-27 is \$120.1 billion (non dedicated dollars); and \$147 billion for consolidated general revenue.





# LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE

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- March 14, 2025: Bill Filing Deadline (60<sup>th</sup> day)
- June 2, 2025: Sine Die (Session End)
- June 21, 2025: Governor's Veto Period Ends  
(20<sup>th</sup> day following adjournment)



# TCOA PAC GIVING

- TCOA PAC contributes to officeholders & candidates for state office;
- Target those who generally support TCOA legislative priorities, serve on key legislative committees, or have a special connection to the construction industry;
- Contributions are often bundled with other industry PACs or additional resources;
- PAC funds are a **CRITICAL** resource for effective advocacy;
  - Many of our legislative opponents contribute significantly – we need the level playing field;
- For 2024, TCOA contributions totaled **\$24,000** to House candidates and **\$14,000** to Senate candidates’
  - Some contributions are delivered prior to the March primary; Others prior to the November general election; Still others immediately prior to session.
  - Texas imposes a fundraising moratorium during the legislative session;
- Most effect means to contribute is regular monthly PERSONAL contributions, NOT corporate;
- **EVERY DOLLAR HELPS PROMOTE YOUR INDUSTRY!**

# Construction-Industry Lawmakers

Speaker Dustin Burrows – Construction Attorney

Rep. Brian Harrison - Homebuilder

Rep. Cole Hefner – Roofing

Rep. Cody Harris – Real Estate

Rep. Elizabeth Campos – Electrical (Family)

Rep. Keresa Richards – Mechanical (Family)

Rep. Armando Walle – Electrical (Family)

Rep. Keith Bell – Electrical

Rep. Jeff Leach – Construction Attorney

Rep. Cecil Bell – Excavator & Utilities

Rep. Dennis Paul – Engineering

Rep. Mark Dorazio – Utilities

Rep. Mando Martinez – Excavator

Rep. Drew Darby – Title Attorney

Rep. Ramon Romero - Masonry

Rep. Gary Gates – Developer

Rep. Stan Kitzman – Mechanical Contractor

Rep. James Frank – Supplier

Rep. Jeff Barry – Insurance

Rep. Pat Curry – Former Mechanical Contractor

Rep. Jared Patterson – Precast (Family)

Sen. Phil King – Supplier

Sen. Brandon Creighton – Developer

Sen. Jose Menendez – Title

Sen. Tan Parker – Concrete Supplier

Sen. Brent Hagenbuch - Trucking



Katy Cramer



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Your  
TXLege  
Team

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# Questions and Next Steps

