

Texas Crane Owners Association

June 2025

Presented by:
Eric Woomer

ERIC WOOMER
Policy Solutions

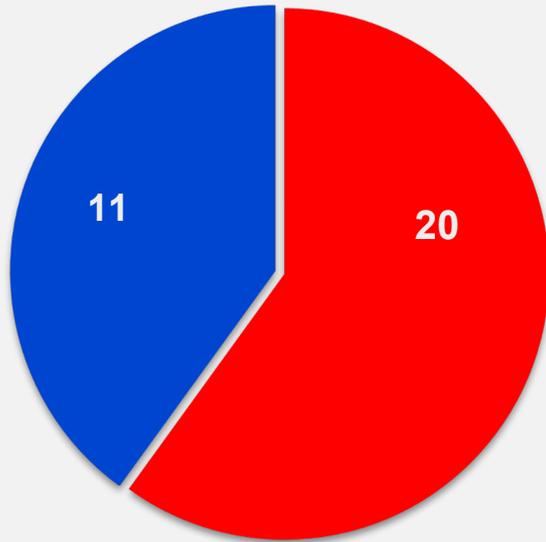


OVERVIEW



- **89th Legislative Session Update**
- **TCOA 89th Legislative Priorities**
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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.

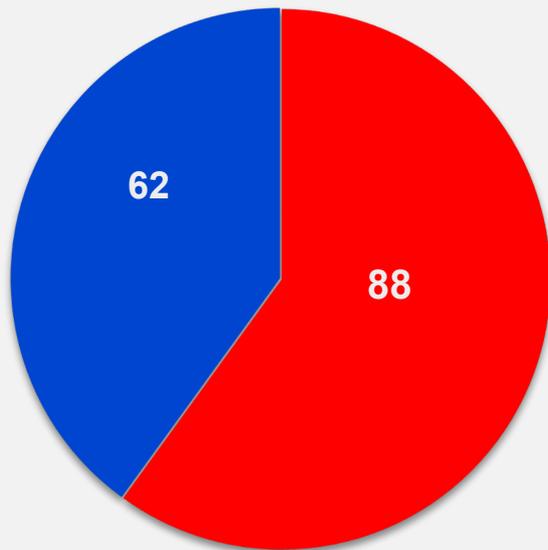
Senate Rules: *Committee Changes*

- 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)

TEXAS HOUSE OVERVIEW



■ Republicans

■ Democrats

HIGHLIGHTS

Speaker Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock)

Speaker Pro Tempore: Rep. Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth)

Republican Caucus Chair: Rep. Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress)

Democratic Caucus Chair: Rep. Gene Wu (D-Houston)

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
- Director of the Office of the Speaker- Paige Holzheuser
- Communications Director - Cait Wittman
- Director of Finance- Andrew Blifford

89th Legislative Session Update

	House Bills (HBs) & House Joint Resolutions (HJR)s	Senate Bills (SBs) & Senate Joint Resolutions (SJR)s
Filed	5,852	3,162
Reported out of committee	1,901	1,116
Passed by chamber of origin	1,178	1,004
Referred to committee in opposite chamber	1,004	996
Reported out of committee in opposite chamber	652	819
Passed opposite chamber	455	445
Sent to the Governor	235	277
Signed by the Governor	35	130
Filed without the Governor's signature	2	5
<u>Vetoed</u> by the Governor	1	0

89th Legislative Session Update

- May 15th & 16th were the last days the House could consider House bills and joint resolutions on 2nd and 3rd reading.
 - Thousands of House bills did not meet the midnight deadline (> 80%).
- May 24th was the last day for the House to report out Senate bills.
- May 27th was the last day for House to consider Senate bills on 2nd reading;
- May 28th was the last day for Senate bills to be heard on 3rd reading.
- Sine Die – Monday, June 2nd
- Last Day for Gubernatorial Action – June 22nd

89th Legislative Session Update

- Priorities passed to date:
 - School Vouchers, SB 2 – Signed into law
 - Teacher Pay Raise/School Finance, HB 2 – Sent to Governor
 - Property Tax Relief, SB 4 (\$140K) and SB 23 (Disabled/Elderly \$60K) for a total relief \$200,000 – Sent to Governor
 - Business Property Tax Relief, HB 9 (business personal property exemption \$125k) – Sent to Governor
 - Abortion Clarification, SB 31 – Sent to Governor
 - THC Ban, SB 3 – Sent to Governor
 - Nuclear Verdicts, SB 30 – Failed to Pass
 - Trucking Litigation Reform, SB 39 – Failed to Pass
 - Bail Reform, SB 9 & SB 40 – Sent to Governor; SJR 87 & SJR 1 – Failed to receive 2/3rd in the House
 - Water infrastructure, SB 7 – Sent to the Governor
 - Electric Reliability, SB 6 – Sent to the Governor
 - 10 Commandments in Classrooms, SB 10 – Sent to Governor
 - Career and Technical Education, HB 120 & HB 20, SJR 59 – Sent to Governor



89th LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SB 39 by Sen. Birdwell/Rep. Bonnen: *Trucking Litigation Clean-Up*

- Legislation to fix the laws pertaining to civil liability of a commercial motor vehicle owner or operator;
- This legislation was focused on addressing some inadequacies related to SB 21 from 2021;
- SB 39 passed the Senate, but was ultimately not voted out of House Committee, to catch up with the House version of the legislation;

The bill ultimately the bill died when SB 39 did not emerge from House committee.



89th LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SB 30 by Sen. Schwertner/Rep. Bonnen: *Addressing Nuclear Verdicts*

- Reduces inflated medical damage claims by tightening up definitions of admissible evidence;
- Requires disclosure of referrals and other financial arrangements between the plaintiff's attorney and health care providers;
- Provides for greater transparency and accuracy in the calculation of health care expenses.

SB 30 was amended in the House by Chairman Bonnen and Rep. Moody.

- Rep. Moody amended the bill to require the disclosure of evidence to be subject to the rules of evidence under Chapter 402 and 403.

House Conferees refused to strip the Moody Amendment; SB 30 did not emerge from Conference Committee.

Additional Bills of Interest

HB 120 (Bell): Career and technology education in public schools.

- This issue was a Governor emergency item. The bill establishes new initiatives, creates a new funding allotment, increases funding for rural and early college technology programs, and creates student career advising – all to meet the growing needs for students to achieve post secondary opportunities in high demand, high wage jobs/industries.
 - *House concurred in Senate amendments to HB 120; The bill has been sent to the Governor.*

HB 20 (Gates): Creating the Applied Sciences Pathway

- This bill creates the Applied Sciences Pathway Program, which authorizes partnerships between public schools and institutions of higher education to allow students to concurrently earn credits towards high school graduation and a certification program with a successful job placement in certain industries.
 - *The House concurred in Senate amendments; HB 20 has been sent to the Governor.*

Additional Bills of Interest

SJR 59 (Birdwell): Texas State Technical College System.

- The bill establishes the Permanent Technical Institution Infrastructure Fund and the Available Workforce Education Fund as special funds in the state treasury to provide a dedicated source of funding for capital projects and equipment purchases related to educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System.
- *Sent to the Governor*

Additional Bills of Interest

State Contracting and Surveillance:

- **HB 5061 by Rep. Leach/Sen. Schwertner** – prohibits certain activities by contractors and vendors of state agencies. This legislation was in response to a recent discovery of a health plan, contracted with the state's Medicaid program, using surveillance on legislators and existing patients. In response, the bill prohibits such activities; defines surveillance; provides for the State Auditor's oversight; Texas Rangers/DPS to investigate any allegations or complaints; establishes penalties; and immediate termination of any state contract.
 - *HB 5061 passed the Senate and is headed to Governor Abbott's desk.*

STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES



Lien Law Clean Up. [S.B. 929](#) by Sen. Nathan Johnson. Amend Property Code, Section 53.003(e) to apply to all deadlines, those that are statutorily defined and those that are calculated by counting days.

- *Signed by Governor with an immediate effective date of May 21, 2025.*

Out of State Venue/Laws. [H.B. 2960](#) by Rep. Richard Hayes. Reverse the 14th Court of Appeals ruling allowing for waiver of the statute classifying out of state law and venue contract clauses as voidable upon signing a contract with such a clause or incorporating by reference another contract with such a clause.

- *Sent to the Governor for signature.*
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Cross-Default/Offset Clauses.

[S.B. 1614](#) by Sen. Nathan Johnson/[H.B. 3289](#) by Rep. Keith Bell. Amend the private Prompt Pay Act to clarify that each construction contract stands on its own. A "good faith dispute" under the Act does not include a dispute on a separate contract.

- *HB 3289 was voted favorably from Committee but was not set on a House Calendar.*
- *SB 1614 was referred to Senate Business and Commerce, but no further action was taken.*

[S.B. 1615](#) by Sen. Nathan Johnson/[H.B. 3288](#) by Rep. Keith Bell. Amend the Construction Trust Fund Act to clarify contract clauses that allow the withholding of funds due to a dispute on a separate contract are contrary to Texas law and public policy.

- *HB 3288 was considered in Committee, but no further action was taken.*
- *SB 1615 was referred to Senate Business and Commerce, but no further action was taken.*

STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES



Securing Reserved Funds/Retainage. [S.B. 1612](#) by Sen. Nathan Johnson/[H.B. 3287](#) by Rep. Keith Bell. Increase security for reserved funds by amending the Construction Trust Fund Act to statutorily classify reserved funds as trust funds.

- *SB 1612 was set on the House Calendar for May 26th but was killed on a procedural motion.*
- *HB 3287 was reported favorably from Committee and set on a House Calendar. The Senate bill was considered in lieu of the House bill.*

Release of Reserved Funds/Retainage. [S.B. 1530](#) by Sen. Juan Hinojosa/[H.B. 3290](#) by Rep. Keith Bell. Amend the Property Code to increase objectivity and certainty around the timeline for release of reserved funds.

- *HB 3290 was set on the House Calendar on May 15th but was not considered before the midnight deadline and died in the House.*
- *SB 1530 was referred to Senate Business and Commerce, but no further action was taken on the bill.*

Documents Incorporated by Reference. [S.B. 1040](#) by Sen. Tan Parker/[H.B. 3874](#) by Rep. Richard Hayes. Amend the Business & Commerce Code to require the disclosure of documents incorporated by reference in a construction contract.

- *HB 3874 was voted favorably from Committee but never set on a House Calendar.*
- *SB 1040 was referred to Senate Business and Commerce, but no further action was taken on the bill.*

STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES



HB 1922 by Rep. Dean - Shorten statute of repose on private projects.

- *Sent to the Governor*

HB 1139 by Rep. Oliverson/SB 1975 by Sen. Bettencourt - Require that suits on Texas projects must be filed in Texas.

- *HB 1139 was referred to House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence but no further action was taken*
- *SB 1975 was recommended for Local and Uncontested but no further action was taken*

HB 2148 by Rep. Gervin Hawkins - Construction manager-at-risk and design-build methods of project delivery for a public work contract.

- *HB 2148 was referred to House State Affairs but no further action was taken*

HB 2463 by Rep. Leach/SB 776 by Sen. Hughes - Award of compensatory damages caused by certain delays under governmental construction contracts.

- *HB 2463 was referred to House State Affairs but no further action was taken*
- *SB 776 was pending action by the Senate Business and Commerce Committee*

E-Verify – No bills passed related to E-Verify bills.



LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE

- June 2, 2025: Sine Die (Session End)
- June 21, 2025: Governor's Veto Period Ends
(20th day following adjournment)
- June 23, 2025: Fundraising Moratorium Ends
- March 3, 2026: Texas 2026 Primary
- November 3, 2026: Texas General Election



Mid-Term Elections 2026

U.S. Senate:

- Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton challenging Sen. John Cornyn

Statewide Elections:

- Governor: Greg Abbott
- Lieutenant Governor: Dan Patrick
 - *Challenger: Rep. Vikki Goodwin*
- Attorney General: Ken Paxton vacating
 - *Announced: Sen. Mayes Middleton*
- Agriculture Commissioner
- Comptroller: Glenn Hegar Vacating
 - *Challenger: RRC Comm. Christi Craddick*
 - *Challenger: Fmr. Sen. Don Huffines*
- Land Commissioner: Dawn Buckingham
- Railroad Commissioner: Christi Craddick vacating

Texas House – All members up for re-election

Texas Senate Elections:

- *Hughes, Hall, Nichols, Creighton, Schwertner, Hancock, Middleton, Miles, Kolkhorst, Gutierrez, Zaffirini, Birdwell, Flores, Menendez, Perry, and Sparks*



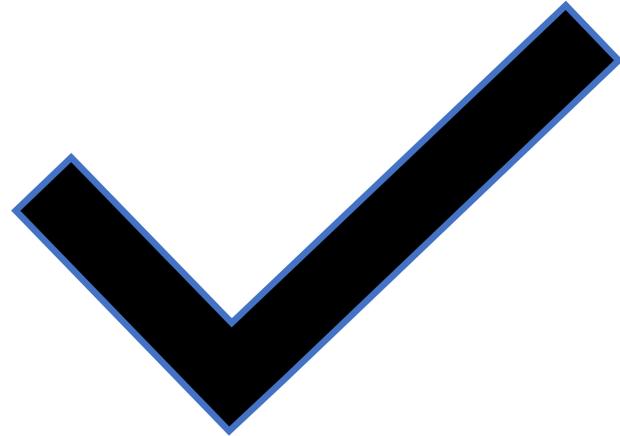
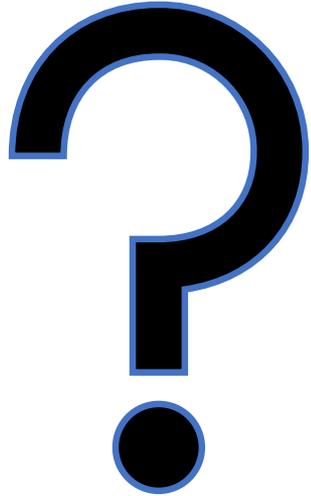


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Questions and Next Steps



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