

Texas Crane Owners Association

October 2025

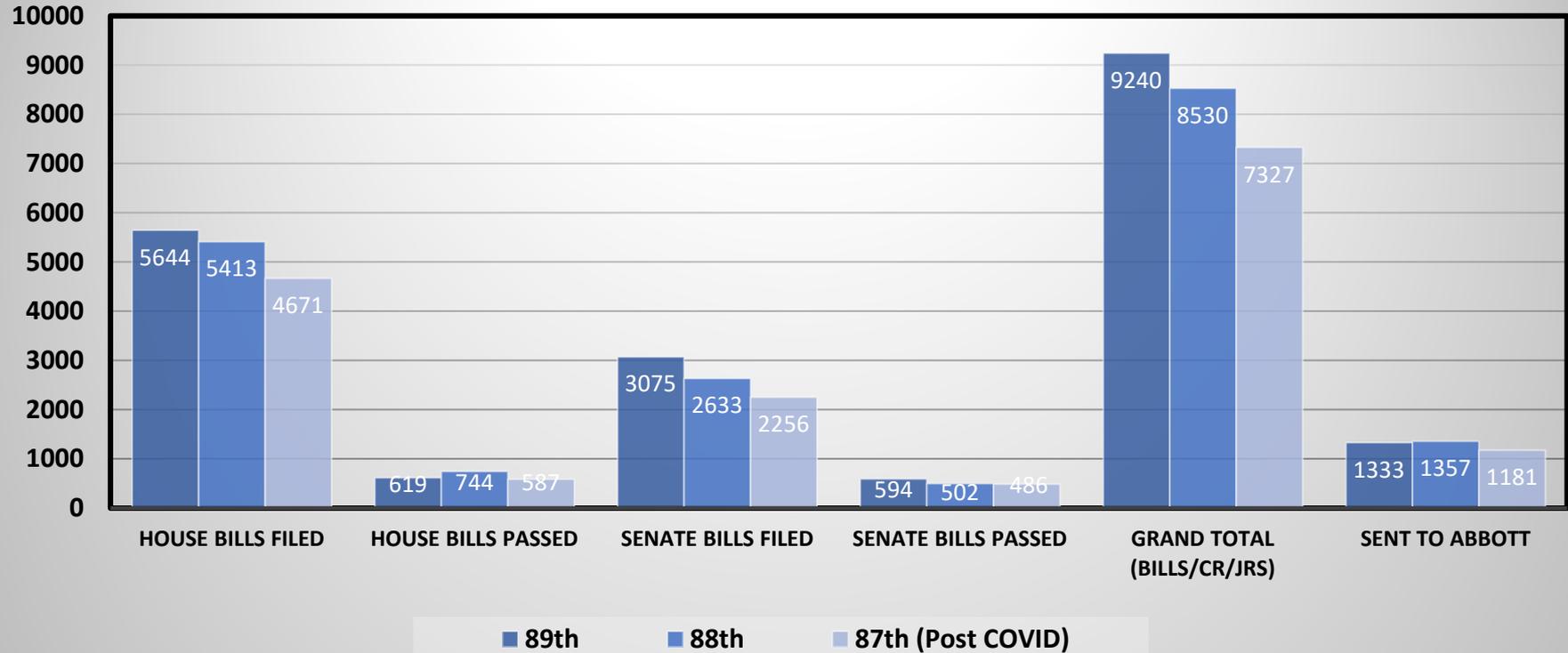
Presented by:
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Policy Solutions



Setting the Stage for Session: *I thought we wanted LESS government?!*

Comparing Session Statistics



89th Priorities that Drove Session



89th Regular Session: *How did it end?*

- ✓ **All Governor Abbott's Emergency Items Passed:**
 - ✓ *Property Tax Relief*
 - ✓ *School Choice*
 - ✓ *Teacher Pay Raise*
 - ✓ *Career Training*
 - ✓ *Water and Water Infrastructure*
 - ✓ *Bail Reform*

- ✓ **Lt. Gov. Patrick Passed Nearly All 40 Priorities, including:**
 - ✓ *Banning THC*
 - ✓ *Property Tax Relief Package*
 - ✓ *DPRIT*
 - ✓ *Grid Reliability*
 - ✓ *Ten Commandments*
 - ✓ *Freedom to Pray in School*
 - ✓ *Foreign Adversary Land Acquisition*
 - ✓ *Abortion Clarification*
 - ✓ *Wildfire Response*
 - ✓ *Squatters*

- ✗ **What didn't pass:**
 - Lawsuit Reforms*
 - Automatically Denied Bail for Illegal Immigrants and Violent Felons*
 - Taxpayer Funded Lobbying*
 - Eliminating the STAAR test*



First Called Special Session

July 21st - 18 items

- Flood Warning Systems
- Flood Emergency Communications
- Relief Funding Hill Country Floods
- Natural Disaster Preparation & Recovery
- Eliminate STAAR Test
- Cut Property Taxes
- Protect Children From THC
- Regulate Hemp-Derived Products
- Protect Unborn Children
- Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying
- Protect Human Trafficking Victims
- Police Personnel Records
- Protect Women's Spaces
- Attorney General Election Powers
- **Redistricting**
- Title Theft & Deed Fraud
- Water Project Incentives
- State Judicial Department

House Democrats Break Quorum – Head to Chicago on August 3rd

Second Called Special Sessions

House Democrats Return August 18th

August 15th - Initially 19 items

- Camp Safety
- Flood Warning Systems
- Flood Emergency Communications
- Relief Funding Hill Country Floods
- Natural Disaster Preparation & Recovery
- Eliminate STAAR Test
- Cut Property Taxes
- Protect Children From THC
- Regulate Hemp-Derived Products
- Protect Unborn Children
- Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying
- Protect Human Trafficking Victims
- Police Personnel Records
- Protect Women's Spaces
- Attorney General Election Powers
- Redistricting
- Title Theft & Deed Fraud
- Water Project Incentives
- State Judicial Department

Abbott added: *penalties for absent legislators, ivermectin, water issues, same day voter registration, and law enforcement issues*

July & August Special Sessions

What Passed:

Congressional Redistricting: **(HB 4)**

Flood Relief & Youth Camp Safety: **(SB 1 and HB 1)**

Eliminating the STAAR Test: **(HB 8)**

Abortion Medication Enforcement: **(HB 7)**

Bathroom Bill: **(SB 8)**

Quorum-Breaking Penalties: **(HB 18)**

Election Integrity/Prosecution Authority:

Restored prosecutorial authority to
OAG for election fraud cases. **(SB 12)**

Adjusted voter registration deadlines
and same-day registration
limitations. **(SB 54)**

Ivermectin Access: **(HB 25)**

What Didn't Pass:

- Ban on THC (*Governor EO prohibiting the sale for those under 21*)
- Statewide Disaster Response
- Additional Property Taxes Cuts
- Taxpayer Funded Lobbying
- Area Specific Water Issue
- Title Theft/Deed Protections
- Law Enforcement Personnel Records

TCOA 89th Priorities & Outcome



Reining in Nuclear Verdicts:

SB 30 by Sen. Schwertner/Rep. Bonnen

What the bill did:

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

Outcome:

- Garnered extensive public testimony in both chambers;
- Amended on the House floor aligning language to current rules of evidence;
- Sent to conference committee where it died;
- ***Anticipate issue will re-emerge in the 90th session.***

TCOA 89th Priorities & Outcome



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

What the bill did:

- Fixed the laws pertaining to civil liability of a commercial motor vehicle owner/operator; and
- Dealt with some inadequacies related to SB 21 from 2021.

Outcome:

- Opposition by one member in the *House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee*.
- No further action was taken, and the bill died.
- ***Anticipate issue will re-emerge in the 90th session.***

Stakeholder 89th Priorities



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF TEXAS

Lien Law Clean Up: SB 929 by Sen. Johnson/Rep. Lujan

✓ *Signed, Earliest Effective Date May 24, 2025*

Out of State Venue/Laws: HB 2960 by Rep. Hayes/Sen. Hughes

✓ *Signed, Earliest Effective Date September 1, 2025*

Incorporation by Reference: SB 1040 by Sen. Parker/HB 3874 by Rep. Hayes

✗ *Both Bills Died*

Release of Retainage: SB 1530 by Sen. Johnson/HB 3290 by Rep. Keith Bell

✗ *Both Bills Died*

Securing Retainage: SB 1612 by Sen. Johnson/HB 3287 by Rep. Keith Bell

✗ *Both Bills Died*

Cross-Default/Offset Clauses:

• SB 1614 by Sen. Johnson/HB 3289 by Rep. Bell

✗ *Both Bills Died*

• SB 1615 by Sen. Johnson/HB 3288 by Rep. Keith Bell

✗ *Both Bills Died*

Statute of Repose (Private Projects): HB 1922 by Rep. Dean/Sen. Middleton

✓ *Signed, Earliest Effective Date September 1, 2025*

Lawsuits on Texas Projects in Texas: HB 1139 by Rep. Oliverson/SB 1975 by

Sen. Bettencourt

✗ *Both Bills Died*

Construction Manager-at-Risk and Design-Build: HB 2148 by Rep. Gervin

Hawkins

✗ *Bill Died*

Compensatory Damages on Delays: HB 2463 by Rep. Leach/SB 776 by Sen.

Hughes

✗ *Both Bills Died*

Regulatory Update

- *Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office*
- *Texas Transportation Commission*

Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office (TREO)



- Jerome Greener as the Director of the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office (TREO).
- Jerome Greener of San Antonio serves as Executive Vice President of the Texas Public Policy Foundation.
- TREO was created under SB 14 to find and eliminate unnecessary regulations in state agencies and to create best practices for state agencies to reduce regulatory strains on Texans.
- Help state agencies identify and repeal unnecessary or ineffective rules, determine the regulatory costs placed on the public, and issue best-practice guidelines for how agencies adopt new rules and perform required analyses such as cost and employment impact statements.

Texas Transportation Commission



- J. Bruce Bugg, Jr., Chairman – Passed away
- W. Alvin New, Current Acting Chair
- Awaiting a new Governor Appointment

Political Activities



State Republican Executive Committee

GOP Censures

2024 Censure Rule – adopted in backlash of the Paxton Impeachment + House Rules

- Concerns about being insufficiently conservative
- Facing Censure: Reps. Burrows, Chen Button, Harris, Lambert, Leach, Meyer, Orr, Patterson, Phelan, VanDeaver
- GOP Reps censured would be banned from GOP ballot under party rules
- Question about the legality – Likely would have faced court challenges

Outcome:

- Conservative wins under Burrows Speakership reduced the sense of urgency
- SREC dropped ballot ban, at the urging of Trump White House/Abbott/Patrick
- Ultimately censured Reps. **Lambert**, Orr, Patterson, **Phelan**, VanDeaver

Political Activities



Closing the Texas GOP Primaries

The Latest:

- Texas law allows people to vote in either primary; No party affiliation registered
- GOP argues Democrats & Independents crossover, diluting Republican voting strength
- Party adopted new rules calling for closed primaries in 2024, after Phelan & VanDeaver victories
- Sued, arguing state law violates First Amendment, results in more moderate candidates

Where Things Stand:

- Federal suit filed suit in Amarillo
- OAG Paxton declined to defend the state; SOS Nelson will hiring external counsel
- If victorious, will take time to implement; Costs include creating party affiliation database, training, etc.
- Questions about how to handle votes who prefer not to identify with one party;
- Impact on marginal districts in General Elections

Political Activities



Redistricting

Litigation in El Paso

New Congressional District Maps Enacted During Special Session

- Presently 38 Texas Congressional Districts (23 R, 15 D)
- Created five new GOP-leaning districts (in Austin, Dallas, Houston and two in South Texas)
- Mid-Decade Redistricting is extremely unusual - Spurred by U.S. DOJ letter + Preserving GOP Majority

Where are we now?:

- Lawsuit brought by several plaintiffs, alleging improper reliance on race & abridgement of voting rights
- Special three-judge panel presiding; Deciding whether mid-decade redrawing was legal
- Filing deadline for Congressional districts December 8; Primary in March

Midterm Elections: *Texas Senate*

| Dist. | Incumbent | Notes |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 3 | Robert Nichols | Retiring Chair of Senate Transportation |
| 4 | VACANT (Brandon Creighton) | Sole Finalist for TTU Chancellorship – Special Election May 2 |
| 9 | VACANT (Kelly Hancock) | Serving as Comptroller – Special Election Nov 4 |
| 11 | Mayes Middleton | Retiring, Running for Attorney General |
| 16 | Nathan Johnson | Not up for Re-election; Running for Attorney General |
| 17 | Joan Huffman | Not up for Re-election; Running for Attorney General Chair of Senate Finance |
| 22 | Brian Birdwell | Retiring Chair of Senate Natural Resources |





Retirements and 2026
Midterm Elections:
*Texas House of
Representatives*

| Dist. | Incumbent | Notes |
|-------|----------------------|--|
| 131 | Alma Allen | Retiring |
| 9 | Trent Ashby | Running for SD 3 |
| 98 | Giovanni Capriglione | Retiring |
| 21 | Dade Phelan | Retiring, Former Speaker |
| 129 | Dennis Paul | Running for SD 11 |
| 94 | Tony Tinderholt | Running for Tarrant County Commissioner Seat |
| 128 | Briscoe Cain | Running for Congress |
| 71 | Stan Lambert | Retiring |
| 15 | Steve Toth | Running for Congress |
| 50 | James Talarico | Running for US Senate |
| 135 | Jon Rosenthal | Running for Railroad Commission |
| 126 | Sam Harless | Retiring |
| 47 | Vikki Goodwin | Running for Lt. Governor |
| 125 | Ray Lopez | Retiring |
| 118 | John Lujan | Running for Congress |
| 96 | David Cook | Running for SD 22 |
| 147 | Jolanda Jones | Running for Congress + Texas House |
| 41 | Bobby Guerra | Retiring |
| 49 | Gina Hinojosa | Running for Governor |

90th Texas Legislature

- *Preparations, Priorities, and Outlook*



Interim Advocacy

- Interim Studies
- Stakeholder Outreach

Legislative
Priorities

- Identify Priorities
- Drafting New Language
- Identifying Champions
- Legislative Council Drafts

Outlook

- Impact of Midterm Elections
- Political Implications
- New Faces

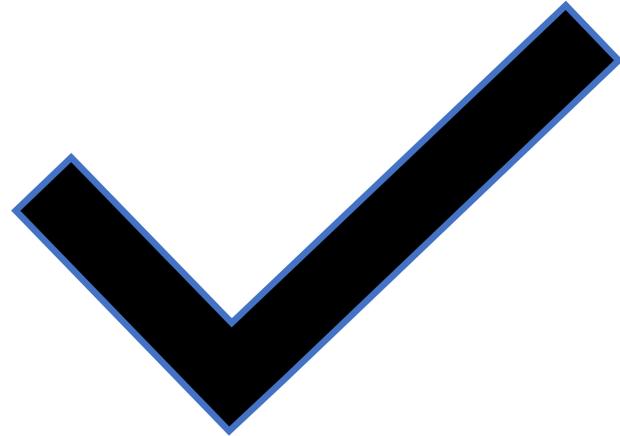
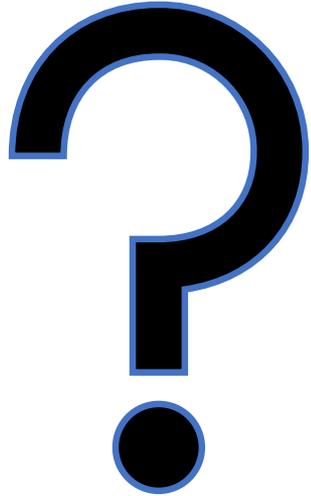


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Your
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Questions and Next Steps



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