

# Advocating for Your City

## *Your Voice Matters Most*

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## Grassroots Efforts

- A tough 2019 led to TML focus on grassroots efforts
- Impact of increased partisanship and politicizing local issues heading into 2021
  - Pandemic response
  - Policing
  - Elections
- Community advocacy threat



Now, more than ever, city officials need to have the voices of their communities heard at the capitol. The future of Texas communities and what makes our state GREAT depends on it.



Year	Total Bills Introduced	Total Bills Passed	City-Related Bills Introduced	City-Related Bills Passed
2009	7609	1468	1500+	120+
2011	6303	1410	1500+	160+
2013	6061	1437	1700+	220+
2015	6476	1329	1600+	220+
2017	6800	1220	2000+	290+
2019	7541	1437	2000+	330+
2021	6927	1073	2000+	240+



## Grassroots Efforts

- Get to know your legislators, contact them often
- Stay inform on issues
- Understand the legislative process
- Become a resource for your legislator and TML
- Be able to act quickly during session
  - Phone calls, emails, and/or testifying



## TML Legislative Process

- **TML Business Meeting**
  - Delegates will consider resolutions submitted by the membership
  - One delegate from each city
  - Resolutions are due August 23, 2021
  - Resolutions approved by the delegates at the business meeting
- **Municipal Policy Summit**
  - Policy briefing in Austin on all municipal issues
  - Members appointed by TML President
  - Report will go forward to annual business meeting for approval



## 87th Legislative Session Timeline

- Early session impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Slow start with limited public access
  - COVID tests, masks, wristbands
  - Focus on basics (budget, redistricting, pandemic response, etc.)
  - Limited member interaction
- Winter Storm Uri shifted the focus
  - Refocus of state priorities
  - Utility weatherization and securitization
- Session ended with walkout in House
  - Meltdown at critical deadline
  - Special Sessions



## TML Priorities

- **HB 5 - Statewide Broadband Plan**
- **SB 374- Annexation reform**
- SB 861- Open/Virtual Meetings
- SB 402- Street Maintenance Sales Tax
- HB 2578- Newspaper Notices



## Governor Abbott Priorities

- **HB 5 - Statewide Broadband Plan**
- **SB 2 - ERCOT Reform**
- **SB 3 - Power Grid Reform**
- **SB 6 - COVID -19 Liability Protections**
- SB 7 - Election Integrity
- SB 21 - Bail Reform
- **HB 1900/SB 23 - Defunding law enforcement**



## Lt. Governor Patrick Priorities

- SB 1 – State Budget**
- SB 2 – ERCOT Reform**
- SB 3 – Power Grid Stability**
- SB 4 – National Anthem at Sporting Events**
- SB 5 – Statewide Broadband Plan**
- SB 6 – COVID-19 Liability Protections**
- SB 7 – Election Integrity
- SB 8 – Fetal Heartbeat Bill**
- SB 9 – Abortion Ban Trigger**
- SB 10 – Community Censorship
- SB 11 – Appellate Court Reorganization
- SB 12 – Social Media Censorship
- SB 13 – Oil & Gas Investment Protection**
- SB 14 – Preemption of Local Ordinances on Employment Practices
- SB 15 – Ban Sale of Personal Data from State Agencies**
- SB 16 – Protect State-Held Personal Data



## Patrick Priorities, Cont.

- SB 17 – Trucking Liability**
- SB 18 – Protect Second Amendment Businesses
- SB 19 – Stop Corporate Gun Boycotts**
- SB 20 – Second Amendment Protections for Travelers**
- SB 21 – Bail Reform
- SB 22 – COVID Presumption for First Responders**
- SB 23 – Law Enforcement Defunding**
- SB 24 – Law Enforcement Hiring Process**
- SB 25 – Family Nursing Home Visitation Rights**
- SB 26 – Protecting Places of Worship
- SB 27 – Expanding Virtual Learning Options
- SB 28 – Charter School Equity
- SB 29 – Transgender Athletes and UIL Sports
- SB 30 – Ending Discriminatory Deed Restrictions**
- SB 31 – Senate Redistricting



## Cutting Room Floor

- Community censorship
- Sales tax sourcing
- Partisan city elections
- Preemption of city regulation of state licensees
- Expansion of videoconferencing and teleconferencing under TOMA
- Land development shot clock expansion
- ETJ removal
- Mandatory sick leave
- Chickens, rabbits, and bees
- Omnibus disaster authority during pandemic
- Extension of Chapter 313 incentives
- Preemption of city employment regulations
- Expanded liability for ballot language



## 87th Legislature by the numbers

- 6,927 bills filed      2,156 bills tracked (31%)
- 1,073 bills passed    247 bills tracked passed
- 1,429 bills passed (86th Legislative Session)



## Upcoming Special Session(s)

- 1st Called Special: July 8
  1. Bail Reform
  2. Election Integrity
  3. Border Security
  4. Social Media Censorship
  5. Article X Funding
  6. Family Violence Prevention
  7. Transgender Youth Sports
  8. Abortion Inducing Drugs
  9. Thirteenth Check for Teachers
  10. Critical Race Theory
  11. Property Tax Relief
  12. Foster Care Reforms
  13. Protecting State from Cybersecurity Threats



## Fall Special Session

- Redistricting
- Distribution of state ARP funds
- Community Censorship?





## Staying Engaged During Session

- GRIP Survey: <https://bit.ly/TMLGRIP2021>
- *Legislative Update*
- Monthly Legislative Webinar
- TML Alert Emails



## Questions?

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