

# **Grassroots Legislative Advocacy**

*Empowering Texas Cities to Serve their Citizens*

Newly Elected Officials Conference

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## **Preparing for 2023**



## TML Legislative Process

- **Municipal Policy Summit**
  - August 22, 2022
  - Policy briefing in Austin on all municipal issues
  - Members appointed by TML President
  - Report will go forward to annual business meeting for approval
- **TML Business Meeting**
  - Delegates will consider resolutions submitted by the membership at Annual Conference
  - One delegate from each city
  - Resolutions are due August 2022
  - Resolutions approved by the delegates at the business meeting



## 2021 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**



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+



## Looking Ahead: 88th Texas Legislature



## 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Dates of Interest

- **May 24:** Runoff elections determined  
November General Election field
- **November 8:** General Election Date
- **November 14:** Bill Filing begins
- **January 10:** 88<sup>th</sup> legislature convenes
- **March 10:** Bill Filing deadline
- **May 29:** Sine Die



## Tax Issues

- Much of property tax focus not on cities following passage of S.B. 2 in 2019.
- Significant legislation that passed (2021):
  - **H.B. 1869** – Modifies definition of “debt” for property tax rate calculation purposes; intended to limit certificates of obligation
- Property tax relief in special sessions; more in 2023?
- Sales tax sourcing issues in litigation and very likely on agenda in 2023



## Interim Tax Issues

- Study methods to provide additional property tax relief (H. Ways and Means; heard 4/21)
- Study sales tax sourcing (H. Ways and Means; heard 4/21)
- Study inflation on homestead exemptions (S. Finance; heard 5/4)
- Study the appraisal system (H. W&M, S. Local Govt)



## Land Use

- Scope of city authority in extraterritorial jurisdiction an emerging issue
- Very little done to modify major legislation from 2019 dealing with city regulation of building materials and 30-day shot clocks
- Significant legislation that passed:
  - **H.B. 1929** – City waives immunity for ETJ development agreements
  - **S.B. 374** – City may annex across road if county or TxDOT doesn't object



## Interim Land Use Issues

- Study ETJ and annexation powers and possible disannexation authority (S. Local Gov't)
- Study municipal fees and the costs of providing services (H. Urban Affairs; heard 4/12)
- Study land use regulations on affordable housing (H. Land and Resource Management)



## COVID-19

- The COVID-19 pandemic was, and still is, a controversial policy issue that permeates through all levels of government
- Significant legislation that passed:
  - **H.B. 2073** – Paid quarantine leave for first responders
  - **S.B. 22** – COVID-19 workers comp presumption for first responders



## Covid Interim Issues

- Study workers' comp claims involving employees under S.B. 22 (H. Business and Industry);
- Monitor quarantine leave for public safety employees (H. County Affairs)



## Economic Development

- Legislature's view of traditional economic development incentives has changed, as seen in demise of Chapter 313 program
- Significant legislation that passed (2021):
  - **H.B. 2404** – Cities must report Ch. 380 agreements to comptroller for inclusion in online database



## Eco Devo Interim Issues

- Review Chapter 380 Economic Development Statute to increase transparency (S. Nat Res);
- Examine current economic development programs to enhance job creation (H. International Relations and Eco Devo);
- Conduct comprehensive review of the impact of not renewing Chapter 313 (H. Ways and Means)



## School Safety

- Events of May 24th school shooting in Uvalde now dominates interim activity
- Governor calls on Legislature to study school shootings and school safety
- House and Senate Committees studying the issue





## Grassroots Efforts

- Get to know your legislators, contact them often
- Stay informed 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 Advocacy Toolkit



Texas Municipal League  
Legislative Advocacy Toolkit



New [online toolkit](#) to guide your city's advocacy efforts and ensure it's impactful.

- TML Policy Development Process
- Tips for Grassroots Involvement
- Crafting Effective Advocacy Letters and Emails
- Guidelines for In-Person Testimony
- Contact Information for Legislators
- Essential Legislative Resources



## Stay Engaged During Session

- GRIP Survey
- *Legislative Update*
- Monthly Legislative Webinar
- TML Alert Emails



## Questions?

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