

Advocating for Your City: *Your Voice Matters Most*

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Year	Total Bills Introduced	Total Bills Passed	City-Related Bills Introduced	City-Related Bills Passed
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+
2023	8344	1258	1800+	230



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Major City Issues

- Substantial investment in water infrastructure and improving broadband access across the state
- Attack on local land use authority
 - Disannexation
 - ETJ
 - Density
- Preemption and “Super preemption”



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Governor Abbott Priorities

- Property Tax Relief
- Ending Covid Restrictions
- School Choice
- School Safety
- Bail Reform
- Border Security
- Prosecution of fentanyl deaths



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Lt. Governor Patrick Priorities

- **Property Tax Relief**
 - **S.B. 3:** Increasing homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000 and tangible business property exemption. **(failed)**
 - **S.B. 4:** Additional school property tax relief. **(failed)**
 - **S.B. 5:** Increasing business personal property tax exemption. \$76 million fiscal note for cities. **(failed)**
- **Law Enforcement**
 - **S.B. 22:** Rural law enforcement funding. **(sent to governor)**
- **Infrastructure**
 - **S.B. 28:** Addressing Texas' future water needs. **(sent to governor)**
- **COVID-19**
 - **S.B. 29:** Banning COVID-19 mandates. **(signed by governor)**



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Cutting Room Floor

Local Preemption

- Regulating state license holders
- City occupational licenses
- Commercial activity
- Chicken and rabbits

Land Use

- Disannexation
- Minimum lot size and small lot preemption
- Accessory dwelling units by right
- HUD code manufactured housing by right
- Building height restrictions
- ETJ size, density in ETJ, required services and ordinance enforcement in ETJ
- STRs and residential amenity preemption



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Cutting Room Floor

City Administration

- Community censorship

Debt

- Certificate of obligation restrictions

Property Tax

- 5% appraisal cap

Open Government

- Online public notices

Purchasing

- Increased competitive bidding threshold



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Special Sessions

- **1st Called: May 29**
 - Property tax relief and border security
 - No legislation passed
- **2nd Called: June 27**
 - Property tax relief through tax rate compression and pathway to eliminate school district maintenance and operation property taxes
 - **2S.B.2 and 2S.J.R. 2**
 - \$100,000 homestead exemption for school property taxes, over \$12 billion in state funding for schools, 20 percent appraisal cap on non-homesteaded property for 3 years, 3 newly elected positions on local appraisal boards
- **Future specials?**
 - School vouchers in the fall



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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.



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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



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TML Advocacy Toolkit



- 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



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TML Legislative Process

- **TML Business Meeting**
 - Delegates will consider resolutions submitted by the membership
 - One delegate from each city
 - Resolutions are due August 21, 2023
 - Resolutions approved by the delegates at the business meeting
 - October 5, 2023 during TML Annual Conference in Dallas
- **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
 - Summer 2024



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Stay Engaged During Special Session

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



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Questions?



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