

Sine Die Report
May 29, 2023

The 88th Session of the Texas legislature adjourned *Sine Die* today.

Leadership Priority Issues –Here is a run-down of the final status of the priority issues for Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, and Speaker Dade Phelan taken up by the 88th Legislature:

Governor Greg Abbott’s Emergency Items:

Cut Property Taxes:

- **HB 2/HJR 1 (Meyer) Property Tax Relief** – *DIED in the Senate Local Government Committee*
- **SB 3/SJR 3 (Bettencourt/Meyer) Increasing the Homestead Exemption** to \$70,000 – *DIED in conference committee*
- **SB 4 (Bettencourt) Adding Additional Property Tax Relief** school tax rate compression – *DIED in the House Ways & Means Committee*
- **SB 5 (Parker) Increasing the Business Personal Property Tax Exemption** – *DIED in the House Ways & Means Committee*

End COVID Restrictions:

- **SB 29 (Birdwell/Lozano) Banning Local COVID-19 Mandates** – *Senate and House adopted conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 1104/SJR 58 (Birdwell/Slawson) Requiring a Special Session to Renew a Disaster Declaration** – *SB 1104 DIED on the House Calendar; SJR 58 DIED between the House State Affairs Committee and the House Calendars Committee*

Education Freedom for All Texans:

- **HB 4340 and HB 5261 (Frank) Education Savings Accounts** – *DIED the House Public Education Committee*
- **SB 8 (Creighton/Frank) Empowering Parental Rights – Including School Choice** – *DIED in the House Public Education Committee*

School Safety:

- **HB 3 (Burrows/Nichols) School Safety and Security** - *House and Senate adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **HB 13 (K. King) School Active Shooter Plans; Mental Health Resources** – *DIED in the Senate Education Committee*
- **SB 11 (Nichols/K. King) Keeping Our Schools Safe and Secure** – *Pronounced DEAD by procedural action (postponed until after the session – some provisions are in HB 3)*
- **SB 838 (Creighton/Thierry) Panic Alert Devices in Classrooms** – *Was signed by the governor and took effect on May 5, 2023*
- **SB 1852 (Flores/Metcalf) Active Shooter Training for Peace Officers** – *Was signed by the governor and takes effect on September 1, 2023*

End Revolving Door Bail:

- **SB 1318** (Huffman/Smith) **List of Offenses Not Eligible for Bail** – *Pronounced DEAD in the House by procedural action (was postponed until after the session)*
- **SJR 44** (Huffman/Smith) **Denial of Bail for Violent Offenses** – *Pronounced DEAD in the House by procedural action (was postponed until after the session)*

Securing the Border:

- **HB 7** (Guillen/Birdwell) **Legislative Border Safety Oversight Committee** – *DIED in conference committee*
- **HB 20** (Schaefer) **Creating a Border Protection Unit** – *DIED on a point-of-order on the House floor*
- **SB 1427** (Flores) **Criminal Organizations that Threaten the Security of the State** - *DIED in the the House State Affairs Committee*
- **SB 1484** (Creighton/Holland) **Border Operations Training Program for Peace Officers** – *Has been signed by the governor and takes effect on September 1, 2023*
- **SB 2424** (Birdwell/Hefner) **Making it a State Crime to Illegally Enter the State** – *Pronounced DEAD by procedural action in the House (postponed until after the session)*

Fighting the Fentanyl Crisis:

- **HB 6** (Goldman/Huffman) **Increased Punishment for Fentanyl-Related Crimes** – *Has been sent to the governor*
- **HB 178** (Murr) **Requiring Crime Labs to Test Evidence for Fentanyl** – *DIED the Senate Criminal Justice Committee*
- **HB 362** (Oliverson/Hughes) **Allowing Use of Fentanyl Test Strips** – *DIED in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee*
- **SB 1319** (Huffman/Turner) **Mapping of Overdoses for Public Safety Purposes** – *Has been signed by the governor and takes effect on September 1, 2023*
- **SB 2372** (Campbell) **Requiring School Health Advisory Councils to Recommend Curriculum on Fentanyl Dangers** – *DIED in the House Public Education Committee*

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick's Priority Bills:

- **SB 1** – **State Budget** (Huffman) – *Passed as HB 1, which will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 2** – **Restoring Voter Fraud to a Felony** (Hughes) – *DIED in the House Elections Committee; but HB 1243 (Hefner/Hughes) has passed and will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 3/SJR 3** – **Increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$70,000** (Bettencourt/Meyer) – *DIED in conference committee*
- **SB 4** – **Adding Additional Property Tax Relief** (Bettencourt) school tax rate compression – *DIED in the House Ways & Means Committee*

- **SB 5 – Increasing the Business Personal Property Tax Exemption** (Parker) – *DIED in the House Ways & Means Committee*
- **SB 6 – Adding New Natural Gas Plants** (Schwertner) and **SJR 1** (Schwertner) establish the Texas Energy Insurance Program – *DIED in the House State Affairs Committee (Note: Similar legislation SB 2627/SJR 93 (Schwertner/Hunter) establishing a completion bonus and zero interest loan for new dispatchable generation resources passed*
- **SB 7 – Continuing to Improve the Texas Grid** (Schwertner/Hunter), ERCOT reliability – *DIED in conference committee (some provisions passed in HB 1500)*
- **SB 8 – Empowering Parental Rights – Including School Choice** (Creighton/Frank) – *DIED in the House Public Education Committee*
- **SB 9 – Empowering Teacher Rights – Teacher Pay Raise** (Creighton/Dutton) - *Pronounced DEAD in the House by procedural action (postponed until after the session)*
- **SB 10 – Adding 13th Checks for Retired Teachers** (Huffman/Bonnen) - *Senate and House adopted the conference committee report; it will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 11 – Keeping Our Schools Safe and Secure** (Nichols/Ken King) – *Pronounced DEAD by procedural action (postponed until after the session – some provisions are in HB 3)*
- **SB 12 – Banning Children’s Exposure to Drag Shows** (Hughes/Shaeen) - *Senate and House adopted the conference committee report and will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 13 – Protecting Children from Obscene Books in Libraries** (Paxton) – *DIED in the House State Affairs Committee Note: a similar bill, HB 900 (Patterson/Paxton) has been sent to the governor*
- **SB 14 – Ending Child Gender Modification** (Campbell/Oliverson) - *Has been sent to the governor*
- **SB 15 – Protecting Women’s College Sports** (Middleton/Swanson) - *Senate concurred in House amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 16 – Banning Critical Race Theory (CRT) in Higher Education** (Hughes) – *DIED in the House Higher Education Committee*
- **SB 17 – Banning Discriminatory “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” (DEI) Policies in Higher Education** (Creighton/Kuempel) - *Senate and House adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 18 – Eliminating Tenure at General Academic Institutions** (Creighton/Kuempel) - *Senate concurred in House amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 19 – Creating A New Higher Education Endowment Fund** (Huffman/Bonnen) – *DIED in the House Higher Education Committee; Passed as HB 1595 (Bonnen/Huffman), House and Senate adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 20 – Removing District Attorneys Who Refuse to Follow Texas Law** (Huffman) – *DIED in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee*

- **SB 21 – Removing Judges Who Refuse to Follow Texas Law** (Huffman/Leach) - *DIED in the House by procedural action (was postponed until after the legislative session)*
- **SB 22 – Assisting Rural Law Enforcement Funding – Increasing Pay and Needed Equipment** (Springer/Guillen) - *Senate and House adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 23 – Creating A Mandatory 10-Year Prison Sentence for Criminals Committing a Gun Crime** (Huffman) – *DIED in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee*
- **SB 24 – Expanding Alternatives to Abortion** (Kolkhorst/Frank) - *Senate concurred in Senate amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 25 – Creating New Scholarships for Registered Nurses** (Kolkhorst/Klick) - *Senate concurred in House amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 26 – Expanding Mental Health Care Beds Across Texas – Focus on Rural Counties** (Kolkhorst/Jetton) - *Senate concurred in House amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 27 – Creating A New Business Specialty Court** (Hughes) – *Died in the Senate Jurisprudence Committee; Passed as HB 19 (Murr/Hughes), which the House concurred in Senate amendments and will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 28/SJR 75 – Addressing Texas’ Future Water Needs** (Perry/T. King) - *Senate and House adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 29 – Banning Local COVID-19 Mandates** (Birdwell/Lozano) - *Senate and House adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 30 – Supplemental Budget** (Huffman/Bonnen) - *Senate and House adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the comptroller for certification and then to the governor*

Speaker Dade Phelan’s Priority Bills:

- **HB 1 – State Budget** (Bonnen/Huffman) - *Senate and House adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the comptroller for certification and then to the governor*
- **HB 2/HJR 1 – Property Tax Relief** (Meyer) – *DIED in the Senate Local Government Committee*
- **HB 3 – School Safety and Security** (Burrows/Nichols) - *House and Senate adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **HB 4 – Data Privacy** (Capriglione/Hughes) - *House and Senate adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **HB 5 – Job Creation and Economic Development** (Hunter/Schwertner), providing a temporary school property tax reduction for large capital investments - *House and Senate adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **HB 6 – Increased Punishment for Fentanyl-Related Crimes** (Goldman/Huffman) - *Has been sent to the governor*

- **HB 7 – Legislative Border Safety Oversight Committee** (Guillen/Birdwell) – *DIED in conference committee*
- **HB 8 – Community College Finance Reform** (VanDeaver/Creighton) - *Has been sent to the governor*
- **HB 9/HJR 125 – Rural Broadband Infrastructure** (Ashby/Huffman) – *House and Senate adopted the conference committee reports - HB 9 will be sent to the governor; HJR 125 will be on the November 7, 2023*
- **HB 10/HJR 130 – Water Infrastructure** (T. King) – *DIED in the House Natural Resources Committee; Passed as SB 28/SJR 10 (Perry/T. King) – SB 28 will be sent to the governor; SJR 10 will be on the ballot on November 7, 2023*
- **HB 11 – Teacher Recruitment and Retention** (Dutton/Creighton) – *DIED in the Senate Education Committee*
- **HB 12 – Expanding Postpartum Medicaid Coverage** (Rose/Kolkhorst) - *House and Senate adopted the conference committee report; it will be sent to the governor*
- **HB 13 – School Active Shooter Plans; Mental Health Resources** (K. King) – *DIED in Senate Education Committee*
- **HB 14 – Streamline Property Development Approvals** (Cody Harris/Bettencourt) - *Has been sent to the governor*
- **HB 15/HJR 135 – Mental Health and Brain Health Research** (S. Thompson) – *DIED because they were not referred to committee in the Senate*
- **HB 16 – Juvenile Justice Reform** (Moody) – *DIED in the Senate State Affairs Committee*
- **HB 17 – Uniform Enforcement of Criminal Laws** (Cook/Huffman) - *House and Senate adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **HB 18 – Data Privacy and Protection for Minors** (Slawson/Hughes) – *House concurred in Senate amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **HB 19 – Creating a Business Court System** (Murr/Hughes) - *House concurred in Senate amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **HB 20 – Creating a Border Protection Unit** (Schaefer) – *DIED on a point-of-order on the House Floor*
- **HB 90 – Workers’ Compensation and Death Benefits for Texas Military** (Patterson/Huffman) - *Has been sent to the governor*
- **HB 100 – Increased Teacher Pay; increased basic allotment (the Senate added Education Savings Accounts)** (K. King/Creighton) – *DIED in conference committee*
- **HB 200 – Re-establishing the Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council** (Leach) – *DIED in the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee*
- **HB 300 – Sales Tax Exemption for Family Products** (Howard/Huffman) – *DIED in the Senate Finance Committee Passed as SB 379 (Huffman/Howard) has passed the Senate and House and will be sent to the governor*

- **HB 400 – Higher Education Incentives for Mental Health Professionals** (Klick/Kolkhorst) - *Has been sent to the governor*
- **HB 500 – Supplemental Appropriations Bill** (Bonnen) – *DIED in the House Appropriations Committee; Passed as SB 30 (Huffman/Bonnen), which will be sent to the governor*
- **HB 600/HJR 2 – Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Retired Teachers** (Bonnen) – *HB 600 passed as SB 10 (Huffman/Bonnen), which will be sent to the governor; HJR 2 (Bonnen/Huffman) House concurred in Senate amendments and will be on the ballot on November 7, 2023*
- **HB 700 – Texas Health Insurance Exchange** (Oliverson) - *DIED in the House Select Committee on Health Care Reform*
- **HB 800 – Increased Penalties for Human Traffickers** (Guillen/Flores) – *DIED in the House on a germaneness point-of-order on the Senate amendments and was returned to the Senate*
- **HB 900 – Identifying Sexually Explicit School Library Materials** (Patterson/Paxton) – *Has been sent to the governor*

GOVERNOR:

Governor’s Sine Die Statement – Governor Greg Abbott has not yet issued a Sine Die message, but he is expected to call a special session within the next few days.

Hurricane Preparedness Week in Texas – On May 22nd, Governor Greg Abbott raised awareness about the dangers of hurricanes and the many precautions Texans can take as hurricane season approaches by proclaiming May 21-27, 2023 as Hurricane Preparedness Week in Texas. Governor Abbott said, "Due to the size and geography of our state, Texas is particularly susceptible to the devastation of hurricanes. This Hurricane Preparedness Week, Texans are encouraged to educate themselves on proactive measures they can take ahead of hurricane season to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their property. By taking time to prepare for any devastating and powerful storms that may reach our shores, we can help foster a safer and more secure future for our state." In support of hurricane preparedness efforts in the state, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) recently hosted a full-scale exercise with participation from state and local partners from across Texas. The 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season runs June 1 - November 30, 2023.

[Here](#) is a link to the Texas Hurricane Center.

[Here](#) is a link to TexasReady.gov for hurricane safety tips.

HHSC Urges Health Care Facilities to Update Emergency Preparedness Plans

– On May 25th, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission urged health care facilities, long-term care facilities, and child care operations to make sure their emergency preparedness plans are updated ahead of the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season, which begins June 1st. Stephen Pahl, deputy executive commissioner for HHSC’s Regulatory Services Division said, “Texas weather can be very

unpredictable. With hurricane season upon us, we are reminding providers to ensure their emergency preparedness plans are current and that staff know how to fully execute those plans if or when a storm should strike.” HHSC requires long-term care providers, such as nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, hospices, intermediate care facilities and Home and Community-based Services group homes, to regularly prepare for natural disasters, including hurricanes and flooding. HHSC also requires hospitals, dialysis centers, and state-regulated child care operations to maintain an updated emergency plan and ensure staff are fully trained on how to execute it. A complete emergency preparedness and response plan includes up-to-date information about evacuation destinations, transportation plans, responsibilities of staff members, continuation of care and treatments for residents, and communication procedures. HHSC issues guidance to providers about updating their plans and encourages facilities to visit the DSHS Texas Ready website for hurricane preparedness resources, including sample plans, disaster supply checklists, and more information on preparing for hurricanes and other emergencies. The Atlantic hurricane season, which affects the Gulf Coast of Texas, runs from June 1 - November 30, 2023.

Governor Abbott Hosts Fellow Governors for Border Security Briefing – On May 23rd, Governor Greg Abbott hosted nine of his fellow governors for a border security briefing to provide an update on the ongoing crisis and share insights into Texas' unprecedented response to federal border policies at the Governor's Mansion in Austin. Adjutant General of the Texas Military Department Major General Thomas Suelzer, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director Steve McCraw, and Texas Border Czar Mike Banks participated in the border security briefing and provided on-the-ground intelligence about the border crisis. The Governor was joined at the briefing by Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Idaho Governor Brad Little, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves, Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen, Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, and Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin. During the briefing, Governor Abbott provided an overview of Texas' comprehensive Operation Lone Star border security mission and explained effective tools and strategies the State of Texas has utilized to deter and repel illegal immigration along the southern border. The governor highlighted how President Biden's refusal to secure the border is a national security threat, noting that 16 individuals on the terrorist watchlist were arrested just last month at the border. Governor Abbott also recognized the states of Idaho and Florida for sending assistance to Texas and urged his fellow governors to help provide more personnel to support Operation Lone Star following President Biden's decision to end Title 42 earlier this month. Director McCraw discussed ways Mexican drug cartels control the illegal drug market, including smuggling in deadly fentanyl, and highlighted how President Biden's open border policies, like catch and release, incentivize mass illegal immigration and cartel activity along the border. Director McCraw noted that the State of Texas and DPS prepared for mass migration scenarios, but not the level of global migration invited by the federal government's inaction at the border. Major General Suelzer highlighted efforts by Texas National Guard soldiers deployed to

Operation Lone Star and showed maps of barriers being constructed by guardsmen along the border. He also discussed improved tactics being used by the Texas National Guard, noting the use of boats and drones in their border security strategy. Additionally, Major General Suelzer outlined how other states' National Guard troops could be integrated into Operation Lone Star to help fill the gaps created by President Biden's open border policies. Border Czar Banks discussed his position as Texas' first-ever Border Czar and pointed out inaccuracies in drug seizure statistics reported by the federal government. Border Czar Banks drew attention to the dangers of "gotaways" evading U.S. Border Patrol and migrants crossing into the United States without identification. He also highlighted the effectiveness of Texas' busing strategy to relieve overwhelmed, overrun border communities.

Governor Abbott Ordered Flags Lowered in Memory of Robb Elementary School Shooting – On May 23rd, Governor Greg ordered Texas flags across the state to be lowered to half-staff on May 24th and issued a statewide call for Texans to take part in a moment of silence at 11:30 AM CT in memory of the victims, survivors, families, loved ones, and entire Uvalde community on the one-year anniversary of the shooting at Robb Elementary School. Flags should remain at half-staff through sunset on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. Governor Abbott said, "One year ago, the Uvalde community and the entire state of Texas were devastated to our core by the tragedy at Robb Elementary School. Our hearts remain with the families and members of the community, with whom Cecilia and I met in the weeks and months after as they grieved and began their journeys of healing. As we lower Texas flags today in remembrance, I ask all Texans to join Cecilia and me in a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives, the families who lost a loved one, the survivors who are forever changed, and the entire Uvalde community as they continue to heal. May we also remember that Texans, uniting in our darkest days, will rise above to forge a brighter path forward."

Memorial Day Ceremony – On May 29th, Governor Greg Abbott honored the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice to our nation during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Georgetown-Williamson County Veterans Memorial Plaza. During his keynote address to a packed crowd of over 2,500, including many veterans, Governor Abbott reminded Texans that Memorial Day is a solemn day to remember the dedication and sacrifice of fallen service members. He said, "Today, we honor the heroes who gave their all to fight for our sacred rights and who went in harm's way to protect the American way. Americans must always remember that freedom is worth fighting for. America remains the greatest force for freedom the world has ever known, and that freedom has been preserved, protected, and defended by the mightiest military in the history of the world. As we gather here today, we thank God, for through the fire of sacrifice, our freedom has been preserved. We ask for God's blessings and comfort for the families of the fallen. And we rededicate ourselves to the cause for which they fought and died. May we never forget the price they paid so that we can be free." Delivering his remarks in front of the Veterans Memorial Plaza, Governor Abbott thanked members of the Texas National Guard for their tireless efforts to fill in the gaps created by the

federal border policies to protect our state and country. He also highlighted Texas' Hiring Red, White, and You program that helps veterans, transitioning military members, and military spouses find jobs in critical fields like public safety, healthcare, and technology. The governor was joined at the Memorial Day ceremony by U.S. Congressman John Carter, First Lieutenant Diane Klutz, Major General Steve McElroy, and other service members and local leaders. Over the weekend, Governor Abbott joined members of the Texas Legislature during a Memorial Day ceremony on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives to honor Texas service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation since the last ceremony. The governor recognized the following fallen service members:

- U.S. Army Special Forces Sergeant Major James "Ryan" Sartor of Teague
- U.S. Army Air Cavalry Chief Warrant Officer David Knadle of Tarrant County
- U.S. Army Special Forces Sergeant 1st Class Javier "Jaguar" Gutierrez of San Antonio
- U.S. Army Infantry Specialist Vincent Ibarria of San Antonio
- Marine Corps Lance Corporal David Espinoza of Rio Bravo
- Texas National Guard Sergeant Bishop Evans of Arlington

SENATE – The Senate adjourned *Sine Die* at 6:40 p.m. Prior to adjourning, the Senators elected Senator Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) as **President Pro Tempore** of the Texas Senate. He will serve as Governor of Texas at times when both the governor and Lt. governor are out of the state.

Procedures for Senate Trial of Ken Paxton – Before adjourning the Senate adopted SR 735 by Dean John Whitmire adopting procedures governing the trial of Warren Kenneth Paxton by a vote of 31 to 0. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick appointed a committee to develop and recommend trial procedures no later than June 20, 2023. The committee includes Senators Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury), Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen), Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe), Pete Flores (R-Pleasanton), Joan Huffman (R-Houston), Phil King (R-Weatherford), and Royce West (D-Dallas).

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick sent a letter to Governor Abbott asking for a list of bills to be included in the special session call. It said, "While the Senate worked hard all session to efficiently conduct the people's business, many important issues affecting Texans died in the Texas House. SB 3, the Property Tax Relief Bill, is vitally important to homeowners across the state, and the legislature cannot retire until we achieve the biggest tax cut in the history of Texas. As well as SB 3, I urge you to consider the following conservative bills to be included in a Special Session call.

- SB 5 - Increasing the Business Personal Property Tax Exemption & Inventory Tax Credit
- SB 9 - Teacher Pay Raise
- SB 16 - Banning Critical Race Theory in Higher Education
- SB 23 - Creating A Mandatory 10-Year Prison Sentence for Criminals Committing Gun Crime
- SB 147 - Prohibiting Hostile Foreign Governments Land Ownership in Texas
- SB 990 - End Countywide Polling Places

- SB 1039 - Election Audit Bill
- SB 1318 - Bail Reform
- SB 1396 - Prayer Time in Public Schools
- SB 1515 - Ten Commandments in Schools
- SB 1601 - Drag Queen Story Hour
- SB 1861 - Virtual Education
- SB 1907 - Timely Vote Count
- SB 1911 - Sufficient Ballots
- SB 2424 - Criminals Trespassing Across Our Southern Border
- SB 1911 - Sufficient Ballots
- SB 2424 - Criminals Trespassing Across Our Southern Border
- SB 2527 - Stopping Telehealth from Selling Dangerous Drugs Online
- SJR 44 - No Bail for Violent Crimes
- SJR 81 - TSTC Endowment Fund
- HB 7 - Border Security
- SB 1446, SB 1060, SB 2530 - Anti-ESG Legislation
- Additional Election Security Bills

And of course, on your time schedule, SB 8 - School Choice. I believe these bills are important for the future of Texas. They will help to significantly reduce property taxes, give parents more choices in their children's education, secure our border, and ensure our election process is accurate and accountable.”

HOUSE:

Articles of Impeachment of Warren Kenneth Paxton – On May 25th, the House General Investigating Committee HR 2377 a resolution containing Articles of Impeachment against Attorney General Warren Kenneth Paxton. The resolution included 20 Articles of Impeachment including:

- Article 1 – Disregard of Official Duty – Protection of Charitable Operation
- Article 2 – Disregard of Official Duty – Abuse of the Opinion Process
- Article 3 – Disregard of Official Duty - Abuse of the Open Records Process
- Article 4 – Disregard of Official Duty – Misuse of Official Information
- Article 5 – Disregard of Official Duty – Engagement of Brandon Cammack
- Article 6 – Disregard of Official Duty – Termination of Whistleblowers
- Article 7 – Misapplication of Public Resources – Whistleblower Investigation and Report
- Article 8 – Disregard of Official Duty – Settlement Agreement
- Article 9 – Constitutional Bribery – Paul’s Employment of Mistress
- Article 10 – Constitutional Bribery – Paul’s Providing Renovations to Paxton Home
- Article 11 – Obstruction of Justice – Abuse of Judicial Process
- Article 12 – Obstruction of Justice – Abuse of Judicial Process
- Article 13 – False Statements in Official Records – State Securities Board Investigation
- Article 14 – False Statements in Official Records – Personal Financial Statements

- Article 15 – False Statements in Official Records – Whistleblower Response Report
- Article 16 – Conspiracy and Attempted Conspiracy
- Article 17 – Misappropriation of Public Resources
- Article 18 - Dereliction of Duty
- Article 19 – Unfitness for Office
- Article 20 – Abuse of Public Trust

Impeachment - On Saturday, May 27th, after four hours of debate, the Texas House voted to impeach Attorney General Paxton by a vote of 121 to 23 with 2 present not voting and three absent. 58 Republicans joined all but one of the Democrats (Representative Harold Dutton voted “present”) in voting FOR impeachment including Speaker Dade Phelan and Representatives Steve Allison, Trent Ashby, Ernest Bailes, Keith Bell, Greg Bonnen, Brad Buckley, Ben Bumgarner, DeWayne Burns, Dustin Burrow, Angie Chen Button, Briscoe Cain, Giovanni Capriglione David Cook, Drew Darby, Mano DeAyala, Jay Dean, James Frank, Frederick Frazier, Gary Gates, Stan Gerdes Charlie Geren, Craig Goldman, Ryan Guillen, Cody Harris, Cole Hefner, Justin Holland, lacey Hull, Todd Hunter, Jacey Jetton, Kyle Kacal, Ken King, Stan Kitzman, Stephanie Klick, John Kuempel, Stan Lambert, Brooks Landgraf, Jeff Leach, Janie Lopez, J.M. Lozano, John Lujan, Will Metcalf, Morgan Meyer, Andrew Murr, Candy Noble, Angelia Orr, Jared Patterson, John Raney, Glenn Rogers, Matt Shaheen, Hugh Shine, Reggie Smith, Carl Tepper, Kronda Thimesch, Ellen Troxclair, Gary VanDeaver, Cody Vasut, and Terry Wilson. Republican Richard Hayes voted present and Republican Tom Oliverson was absent. The other Republicans voted AGAINST impeachment including Charles “Doc” Anderson, Cecil Bell, Jr., Travis Clardy, Tom Craddick, Charles Cunningham, Mark Dorazio, Sam Harless, Caroline Harris, Brian Harrison, Carrie Isaac, Terri Leo-Wilson, Geanie Morrison, Dennis Paul, Four Price, Matt Schaefer, Nate Schatzline, Mike Schofield, Shelby Slawson, John Smithee, Valoree Swanson, Ed Thompson, Tony Tinderholt, and Steve Toth.

Representative Ann Johnson (D-Houston) said, “I am proud to serve on the House General Investigating Committee. The committee’s highly respected and experienced attorneys and investigators began investigation into Attorney General Ken Paxton in March 2023. Today, I along with my fellow House General Investigating Committee members, laid out some dozen crimes committed by Attorney General Ken Paxton, including bribery, conspiracy, abuse of office, misappropriation of public resources, obstruction of justice, and more, in front of the full Texas House. We learned over months of investigations, and hours of discussion today, that our top cop is on the take. I voted to impeach because no one is above the law.”

Representative David Spiller (R-Jacksboro) said, “By a vote of 121-23, the Texas House voted to suspend Attorney General Ken Paxton and send 20 articles of impeachment to the Texas Senate for trial. It is important to note, the Texas House decides only if there is sufficient evidence to justify legal proceedings. Clearly there was. Due to my membership on the House General Investigating Committee, I have refrained from commenting on this matter until after the full House had the

opportunity to vote. I joined over 70 percent of House Republicans in supporting this resolution. Saturday was a very grim and difficult day for this House. Attorney General Paxton has a brilliant legal mind and has worked diligently for the State of Texas. I have great appreciation and respect for the many, many things that he has done for this state. Frankly, Attorney General Paxton deserves praise for his fierce, consistent efforts to push back on behalf of Texas against unconstitutional federal mandates, executive orders, rules and laws. However, no one person should be above the law – least of which the top law enforcement official of the State of Texas. As a member of the House General Investigating Committee and a member of the House, I have a duty and obligation to protect the citizens of Texas from elected officials who abuse their office and their powers for personal gain. I cannot be complicit in condoning the improper actions of Attorney General Paxton. I cannot ignore it and pretend it didn't happen. Texas is better than that. I pray for the State of Texas and all of those involved in this process, including Attorney General Paxton and his family.”

Collin County Legislative Delegation – All of the members of the Collin County Delegation in the Texas House including Representatives Jeff Leach, Matt Shaheen, Justin Holland, Candy Noble, Frederick Frazier issued the following joint statement: “Today in the Texas House of Representatives we, the duly elected State Representatives from Collin County, voted to commend articles of impeachment of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to the Texas Senate for a full trial. This was an incredible difficult vote as, for most of us, Ken has been a longtime friend. And without question, Ken has been an aggressive and effective warrior defending Texans against federal overreach. Because of that, this was a vote we wish we didn't have to make and a vote we did not take lightly. We likewise recognize that the purpose of an impeachment is to protect the state – not to punish the offender. To that end, the impeachment resolution filed by the House General Investigating Committee detailed twenty separate articles of impeachment, including charges ranging from manipulation of the legal system, abuse of power, bribery, conspiracy, misappropriation of public resources and obstruction of justice. And after hours of review and deliberation – and upon a thorough analysis of the relevant law – it became clear to us that sufficient evidence indeed exists to vote to commend articles of impeachment to the Texas Senate for a full trial. General Paxton, like all Texans, is entitled to a presumption of innocence. In that regard, it is our hope that the Texas Senate will expeditiously hold a fair, impartial and full trial on the merits, including affording General Paxton his Constitutional rights to defend himself.”

Attorney General Ken Paxton responded saying, “The ugly spectacle in the Texas House today confirmed the outrageous impeachment plot against me was never meant to be fair or just. It was a politically motivated sham from the beginning. My office made every effort to present evidence, testimony, and irrefutable facts that would have disproven the countless false statements and outright lies advanced by Speaker Dade Phelan and the Murr-Johnson panel he appointed. Unfortunately, they refused to consider anything that would interfere with their desired result. They disregarded the law, ignored the facts, and demonstrated contempt for Texas voters. Texas voters now know that Speaker Phelan and the corrupt politicians he controls are more focused on political retribution against conservatives than the welfare of

the people. Instead of passing critical legislation that would strengthen our border, protect our elections, or stop the Chinese Communist Party from buying up Texas land, they chose to spend the final days of the legislative session smearing me. Phelan's coalition of Democrats and liberal Republicans is now in lockstep with the Biden Administration, the abortion industry, anti-gun zealots, and woke corporations to sabotage my work as Attorney General, including our ongoing litigation to stop illegal immigration, uphold the rule of law, and protect the constitutional rights of every Texan. But the people of Texas know that I have always had their back, and in return, they have always had mine. What we witnessed today is not just about me. It is about the corrupt establishment's eagerness to overpower the millions of Texas voters who already made their voices heard when they overwhelmingly re-elected me. I am beyond grateful to have the support of millions of Texans who recognize that what we just witnessed is illegal, unethical, and profoundly unjust. I look forward to a quick resolution in the Texas Senate, where I have full confidence the process will be fair and just."

Board of Managers to Present Trial in the Senate - On Monday, the House adopted HR 2547 creating a Board of Managers to present articles of impeachment to the Senate. It was adopted by a vote of 136 to 4. Speaker Dade Phelan appointed members of the Board of Managers including Representatives Andrew Murr (R-Junction), Chair; Ann Johnson (D-Houston), Vice-Chair; Charlie Geren (R-Fort Worth); Joe Moody (D-El Paso); Terry Canales (D-Edinburg); Jeff Leach (R-Allen), Oscar Longoria (D-Mission); Morgan Meyer (R-Dallas); Briscoe Cain (R-Deer Park); and Cody Vasut (R-Angleton). In a press conference Chairman Murr said, "The Senate will set rules and processes for the trial. The managers will put forth the evidence, like any other civil or criminal trial. Witnesses will be called and sworn in. They will be examined and cross-examined. Rules of evidence are assumed to apply. We are part of a judicial proceeding. This is about facts and evidence. My colleagues and I will not tolerate public corruption and that is why we are proceeding to trial in the Senate."

Adjournment *Sine Die* - The House adjourned *Sine Die* at 6:15 p.m. on Memorial Day. Speaker Dade Phelan announced, "Members, you can expect a proclamation from the governor in the next 12 hours. Don't pack your bags."

Freshmen of the Year Awards - Prior to adjournment, the House caucuses announced their "**Freshman of the Year**" awards:

Democratic Caucus – Representative Josie Garcia (D-San Antonio)

Legislative Black Caucus – Representative Christian Manuel (D-Beaumont)

Mexican-American Legislative Caucus – Representative Erin Gamez (D-Brownsville)

Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus – Representatives Salman Bhojani (D-Euless) and Suleman Lalani (D-Sugar Land)

LGBTQ Caucus – Representative Venton Jones (D-Dallas)

Freedom Caucus – Representative Carrie Isaac (R-Dripping Springs)

Legislative Study Group – Representative Mihaela Plesa (D-Dallas)

Information Technology Caucus – Representative Kronda Thimesch (R-Carrollton)

Energy & Climate Caucus – Representative Janie Lopez (R-San Benito)

Progressive Caucus – Representative John Bryant (D-Dallas)

BUDGET:

HB 1 by Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) and Joan Huffman (R-Houston) is the **general appropriations** bill for the 2024-2025 biennium. Below are highlights of the bill from the Legislative Budget Board.

Appropriations Totals:

- **All Funds** - HB 1 appropriates \$321.34 billion in All Funds for the 2024-2025 biennium, up from \$303.3 billion (\$18.04 billion – 5.95 percent) from the 2022-23 biennium.
- **General Revenue Funds** – HB 1 appropriates \$144.13 billion in General Revenue Funds for the 2024-2025 biennium, up from \$130.4 billion in the 2022-2023 biennium (a \$13.73 billion increase – 10.53 percent).
- **General Revenue-Dedicated Funds** – HB 1 appropriates \$6.834 billion in General Revenue-Dedicated Funds for the 2024-2025 biennium, down from \$8.024 billion (a decrease of \$1.191 billion – 14.84 percent) from the 2022-2023 biennium.
- **Federal Funds** – HB 1 appropriates \$102.286 billion in federal funds for the 2024-2026 biennium, down from \$117.301 billion in federal funds (a decrease of \$15.015 billion – 12.8 percent) for the 2022-2023 biennium due to the expiration of federal pandemic relief funding.

Constitutional Limitations – HB 1 is \$10.7 billion short of the pay-as-you-go limit in Article III, Section 49(a) of the Texas Constitution; and is \$1.6 billion below the constitutional spending limit in Article VIII, Section 22 of the Texas Constitution. It is also \$11.8 billion below the consolidated General Revenue limit in Texas Government Code, Section 316.001(c) (population growth plus inflation).

Public Education:

- **Property Tax Relief** - Provides \$17.6 billion for property tax relief, including \$12.3 billion above amounts required by current law, contingent on enactment of legislation.
- **Foundation School Program** - Fully funds the Foundation School Program (FSP) under current law, including increases of:
 - \$3.2 billion to fund projected enrollment growth,
 - \$2.4 billion for increases in the golden penny yield,
 - \$60.0 million for the New Instructional Facilities Allotment. and
 - increases funding to districts and charter schools for technology and instructional materials by \$307 million.
- **Increased Allotment** - Includes \$5.0 billion in additional funding for Public Education, contingent on enactment of legislation (HB 100 – increased basic allotment and teacher payraise).
- **School Safety** - Increases funding for school safety measures by \$1.4 billion (\$300.0 million in HB 1 and \$1.1 billion in SB 30), including grants to districts and charter schools and new statewide initiatives.

- **Retired Teachers** - Includes \$1.6 billion for a onetime supplemental annuity payment for certain TRS retirees and \$3.4 billion to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible TRS retirees, contingent on enactment of legislation.
- **Teacher Healthcare** - Provides \$588.5 million to the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) to maintain health insurance premium increases below 10 percent each year for TRS-ActiveCare participants.

Higher Education:

- **Formula Funding** - Provides a state focus on student affordability for general academic universities and a revamped public junior college state finance program – HB1 provides \$9.9 billion, which is a \$1.1 billion increase to the current biennium, to fund the formulas at our higher education institutions:
- **Health Education and Technical Training** - \$4.8 billion to General Academic Institutions, Lamar State Colleges and Texas State Technical Colleges; \$2.9 billion to Health-Related Institutions and \$2.2 billion to Community Colleges.
- **Texas University Fund** - Provides for long-term investments in higher education through the establishment of the Texas University Fund (\$3.0 billion corpus in SB 30) and
- **Workforce** – The Permanent Instruction in Manufacturing and Technical Workforce Operations Funds (\$1.05 billion corpus in HB 1), contingent on enactment of legislation.
- **Healthcare workforce:**
 - \$233.1 million for graduate medical education to maintain a 1.1 to 1.0 ratio for residency slots;
 - \$280.5 million for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium; and
 - \$124.8 million for other related workforce programs.
 - Includes \$1.54 billion for financial aid programs:
- **Student Financial Aid Programs:**
 - \$950.3 million for TEXAS Grants program,
 - \$195.8 million for Tuition Equalization Grants program,
 - \$222.0 million for Texas Educational Opportunity Grants (TEOG) – Public Community Colleges,
 - \$22.2 million for TEOG –State and Technical Colleges,
 - \$149.3 million for Student Financial Aid to be allocated to TEXAS Grants, Tuition Equalization Grants, Texas Leadership Scholars Program and TEXAS Transfer Grants.

Health & Human Services:

- **Mental Health** - Strengthens commitment to mental health services by providing \$9.4 billion in All Funds in HB 1 and \$2.2 billion in All Funds in SB 30 for behavioral health.
 - In HB 1, \$302.0 million for mental health community hospitals, \$199.4 million for mental health state hospital operations, and \$83.0 million for community mental health grant programs; and
 - In SB 30, \$1.6 billion for new construction of mental health state hospitals, \$0.5 billion for new construction at mental health community

facilities, and \$0.1 billion for maintenance and information technology projects related to mental health services.

- **Women's Health** - Includes \$447.2 million in All Funds for women's health programs, an increase of \$160.1 million over current spending.
- **Medicaid** - Provides a total of \$80.8 billion in All Funds across all three Health and Human Services agencies for Medicaid, including:
 - \$2.0 billion to support community attendant services and raise the base wage to \$10.60 an hour; and
 - \$206.8 million to increase rates for pediatric services, women's health related surgeries, private duty nursing, and ground ambulances.
- **Rural Hospitals** - Provides an additional \$178.2 million for rural hospitals, including increased funding for rural labor and delivery add on, and a new rural hospital grant program.
- **Foster Care** - Increases funding for Department of Family and Protective Services by \$548 million in All Funds, including \$97.1 million to expand Community-based Care into new regions and stages, and \$219.7 million for Foster Care rate modernization.

Public Safety:

- **Border Security** - Provides \$5,105.7 million for border security efforts coordinated through thirteen state agencies, including the Texas Military Department (\$2,265.5 million), Office of the Governor (\$1,388.7 million) and the Department of Public Safety (\$1,194.6 million).
- **Law Enforcement Training** - Includes \$381.5 million to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to expand the Williamson County Training Academy facility, funding for 50 additional officers (\$31.1 million) and a total of six recruit schools along with graduation recruitment bonus payments (\$35.0 million), expansion of statewide intelligence and analytics (\$27.1 million), and communication radio infrastructure improvements (\$23.7 million).
- **Criminal Justice** - Includes \$126.2 million in new funding for local adult probation departments at the Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), along with:
 - additional body scanners and metal detectors (\$8.4 million),
 - video surveillance upgrades (\$6.3 million),
 - additional protective gear for correctional staff (\$4.0 million), and
 - expanded resources to the TDCJ-OIG (\$3.0 million) to pursue parole absconders.
- **Juvenile Justice** - Includes \$200.0 million for new state secure facilities for the Juvenile Justice Department and \$142.5 million in additional funding for local juvenile probation departments.
- **Rural Law Enforcement** - Provides \$330.8 million for county law enforcement contingent on enactment of legislation, to establish grant programs to provide financial assistance to qualified sheriff, constable, and prosecutors' offices in rural counties.

Other Highlights:

- **State Employee Payraise** - Provides \$1.8 billion in All Funds, including \$1.3 billion in GR and GR-Dedicated Funds, for a 5.0 percent increase to state

employee salaries, with a minimum of \$3,000 per year in fiscal year 2024, followed by another 5.0 percent increase with a minimum of \$3,000 per year in fiscal year 2025. (SB 30 includes funding necessary to begin the FY 2024 increase two months early, in July 2023). Additional targeted salary increases were provided to agencies with significant staff turnover.

- **Employees Retirement System** - Includes \$931.2 million to the Employees Retirement System to address unfunded liabilities and cover the normal costs of the Law Enforcement and Custodial Officer Supplemental Retirement Plan and the Judicial Retirement System Plan II. Additionally, in SB30, \$900.0 million was provided to ERS for a onetime legacy payment toward the retirement system's unfunded actuarial liabilities.
- **Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan** - Provides \$243.8 million in SB 30 to fully fund all remaining obligations with the Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan.
- **Semiconductor Innovation Fund** - Includes \$0.7 billion for the Semiconductor Innovation Fund (in SB30).
- **Broadband Development** - \$1.5 billion for broadband development and telecommunications services.
- **Texas Space Commission** - \$350.0 million to establish the Texas Space Commission, each of which are contingent on enactments of legislation.
- **Centennial Parks Conservation Fund** - Provides the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) \$1.0 billion in GR to capitalize the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund for the purpose of establishing state parks, contingent on enactment of legislation.
- **Gulf Coast Protection District** - Provides the General Land Office (GLO) \$550.0 million in GR to provide funds to the Gulf Coast Protection District and
- **Coastal Erosion Planning** - \$60.0 million in GR-D funding to administer the Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act program to expand erosion response projects studies.
- **Alamo Restoration** - Includes \$400.0 million in additional General Revenue to complete remaining Alamo Plan construction and restoration projects.
- **Texas Water Fund** - Provides (in SB30) to the Water Development Board (TWDB) \$1.0 billion in GR to capitalize the Texas Water Fund, contingent on enactment of legislation, for financing water projects in the state.
- **Flood Infrastructure Fund** - \$625.0 million in General Revenue to be transferred to the Flood Infrastructure Fund to increase funding for flood control, drainage, and mitigation projects.
- **Texas Energy Fund** - Contingent on enactment of legislation that establishes the Texas Energy Fund, appropriates \$5.0 billion to support the construction, maintenance, and modernization of dispatchable electric generating facilities.
- **Transportation Infrastructure** - Increases funding to the Texas Department of Transportation for highway planning and design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction and maintenance by approximately \$5.0 billion that includes \$2.5 billion in Federal Funds and \$2.5 billion in the State Highway Fund.

Supplemental Appropriations - SB 30 by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) and Greg Bonnen (R- Friendswood) is the **supplemental appropriations** bill. Below are some highlights from the Legislative Budget Board of SB 30.

Appropriation Totals - Fiscal year 2023 supplemental appropriations in SB 30 total \$7,358.3 million in General Revenue Funds and \$13,207.9 million in All Funds. After consideration of these supplemental appropriations, remaining 2022–23 biennial General Revenue Funds capacity subject to the tax spending limit is \$368.1 million.

Foundation School Program Adjustment - It reduces General Revenue Fund appropriations to the Texas Education Agency from the Foundation School Fund No. 193 by \$8.4 billion resulting from updated projections since the appropriations were passed by the 87th Legislature, 2021. The net savings results primarily from increased District Property Value growth, lower-than-anticipated average daily attendance, and increased non-General Revenue Funds revenues.

Texas University Fund –It provides \$3.0 billion in General Revenue Funds to the Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) to be deposited to the Texas University Fund, contingent on the enactment of legislation establishing the fund.

Medicaid - It provides \$2.5 billion in General Revenue Funds and \$4.7 billion in Federal Funds to the Health and Human Services Commission to cover additional costs related to Medicaid.

State Hospital Construction and Inpatient Capacity - It provides \$2.2 billion in General Revenue Funds to the Health and Human Services Commission for construction of state hospitals and additional inpatient capacity.

Salary Increase - It provides \$99.2 million in All Funds to CPA to fund two months of a 5.0 percent salary increase (or \$250 per month if greater) to classified state employees, including:

- \$63.9 million in General Revenue Funds;
- \$5.7 million in General Revenue–Dedicated Funds;
- \$18.2 million in Federal Funds; and \$
- 11.4 million in Other Funds.

Semiconductor Innovation Projects - It provides \$1.4 billion in All Funds for semiconductor innovation projects, including:

- a \$698.3 million transfer from General Revenue Funds to the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Fund and appropriations out of the Fund to the Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor contingent on the enactment of legislation establishing the fund,
- \$440.0 million in General Revenue Funds to the University of Texas at Austin, and
- \$226.4 million in General Revenue Funds to Texas A&M University System.

School Safety - It provides \$1.1 billion in General Revenue Funds to the Texas Education Agency to assist school districts in implementing school safety initiatives.

Texas Water Fund - It provides \$1.0 billion in General Revenue Funds to CPA to be deposited to the Texas Water Fund to assist in financing water projects in this state, contingent on the enactment of legislation establishing the fund.

Employees Retirement System of Texas – It provides \$900.0 million in General Revenue Funds to the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) for a onetime

legacy payment to the system's unfunded actuarial liabilities to reduce long-term interest costs.

Flood Mitigation and State Revolving Fund Match - It provides \$625.0 million in General Revenue Funds to the Texas Water Development Board to recapitalize the Flood Infrastructure Fund and \$125.0 million in state match for federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds for the Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Fund programs.

Maintenance of State Buildings - It transfers \$400.0 million in General Revenue Funds to General Revenue–Dedicated Account No. 5166, Deferred Maintenance, for use by the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) to fund future maintenance of state buildings. (The transfer is not included in appropriation totals.)

Correctional Managed Health Care - It provides \$379.0 million in General Revenue Funds to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice including \$237.2 million for correctional security operations, staffing adjustments, and other expenses and \$141.8 million to fill a shortfall in correctional managed healthcare.

Vehicle Replacement - It provides \$313.9 million in All Funds to various agencies for vehicle replacement, including: \$227.4 million in General Revenue Funds; \$42.5 million in General Revenue–Dedicated Funds; \$31.8 million in Other Funds; and \$12.2 million in Federal Funds.

Film Incentive Program and Texas Enterprise Fund – It provides \$155.0 million in General Revenue Funds to the Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor for the Moving Image Industry Incentive Program and \$150.0 million to the Texas Enterprise Fund.

Endowment for Historic Sites - It provides \$300.0 million in General Revenue Funds to CPA to be deposited in an endowment fund in the Safe Keeping Trust Fund for use by the Texas Historical Commission, contingent on passage of legislation establishing the fund.

Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan – It provides \$243.8 million in General Revenue Funds to CPA to fully fund remaining Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan obligations.

Maintenance, Restoration, and Promotion of Historic Sites - It provides \$217.1 million in General Revenue Funds to the Texas Historical Commission for maintenance, restoration, and promotion of various historical sites, including:

- San Jacinto Battleground (102.7 million), courthouses (\$45.0 million),
- USS Battleship Site (\$40.0 million),
- National Museum of the Pacific War (\$7.5 million),
- Levi Jordan Plantation (\$5.0 million),
- Monument Hill Visitor Center (\$4.3 million),
- Magoffin Home (\$4.1 million),
- Eisenhower Birthplace Visitor Center (\$3.4 million),
- deferred maintenance projects at various sites (\$2.9 million),
- Varner-Hogg Plantation (\$0.8 million),
- Heritage Tourism Publications (\$0.5 million),
- Fort Velasco Historic Site (\$0.5 million), and
- deferred maintenance at Commission-managed properties in the Capitol Complex (\$0.3 million).

Texas State Library & Archives New Facility - It provides \$210.3 million in General Revenue Funds to TFC for construction of a new facility for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for records storage.

Preservation Endowment Fund - It provides \$200.0 million in General Revenue Funds to CPA to be deposited in an endowment fund in the Safe Keeping Trust Fund for use by the State Preservation Board, contingent on passage of legislation to establish the fund.

Port Improvement - It transfers \$200.0 million in General Revenue Funds to the Port Access Account Fund for appropriation to the Texas Department of Transportation for maritime port capital improvement projects.

Employees Retirement System – Legacy Payment Shortfall - It provides \$165.6 million in General Revenue Funds to ERS to cover the remaining fiscal year 2023 legacy payments relating to Senate Bill 321, Eighty-seventh Legislature, Regular Session, 2021.

Responding to Natural Disasters - It provides \$146.1 million in General Revenue Funds to the Texas A&M Forest Service for the mobilization and use of firefighting aircraft.

B-On-Time Loan Program - It provides an estimated \$141.5 million in General Revenue–Dedicated Funds to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the closing out of the B-On-Time loan program.

Park Acquisition - It provides \$125.0 million in General Revenue Funds to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for acquisition of park property.

Crime Victims Compensation Fund - It provides \$115.0 million in General Revenue Funds to Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor to provide funding for grants for victims of crime and an additional \$5.0 million in General Revenue Funds to the Office of the Attorney General for deposit to the General Revenue–Dedicated Account No. 469, Compensation to Victims of Crime.

Senate Finance Committee Chair Joan Huffman (R-Houston) commented on the passage of HB 1 and SB 30 saying, “This budget addresses the diverse range of needs in our rapidly expanding state. The Senate approved this budget after many months of hard work and successful bipartisan negotiations. With the state experiencing a record-breaking surplus, increasing demands, and skyrocketing national inflation, crafting this budget was challenging as we were obligated to stay under the spending limits and plan for population growth and downturns in the global economy. However, I firmly believe that this budget will help keep Texas as a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

In total, the Conference Committee Report for HB 1 appropriates \$321.3 billion in All Funds and \$144.1 billion in General Revenue for the FY 24-25 biennium. The Conference Committee Report for SB 30 appropriates an additional \$13.2 billion in All Funds and \$7.35 billion in General Revenue for the current biennium.

Highlights of CCRHB 1 and CCRSB 30 include:

- **Property Tax Relief** - Funding to support \$17.6 billion in property tax relief contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval;
- **Public Education** - The largest increase in funding for public education in state history, including an additional:

- \$5 billion to support public education priorities, including teacher compensation, special education services, curriculum reform, and school choice, contingent upon the passage of legislation;
- \$2.4 billion for increases in the golden penny yield;
- \$3.2 billion for student enrollment growth; and
- \$1.4 billion for school safety and security, including \$1.1 billion in SB30 for school safety and security grants plus \$300 million set aside in HB 1 for an increase to the school safety allotment contingent upon the passage of legislation;
- **Retired Teachers** - \$5 billion to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to retired educators and a supplemental payment to certain TRS retirees (a \$7500 supplement to retired teachers over the age of 75; and a \$2500 supplement to retired teachers between the ages of 70-74) contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval;
- **Teacher Healthcare** - \$589 million in additional funding for TRS Active Care to contain healthcare premium increases for teachers;
- **Law Enforcement and Judicial Retirement** - \$931.2 million to eliminate all unfunded liability and cover normal costs for both the Law Enforcement & Custodial Officer Retirement Fund and the Judicial Retirement Fund;
- **Border Security** - \$5.1 billion for Operation Lone Star, the state-sponsored effort to secure our international border;
- **Law Enforcement Training** - \$523 million to support 50 new troopers, six recruit schools, enhanced communications capacity and intelligence efforts and investing in the Montgomery County Special Threat Training Facility and the Williamson County Training Academy Facility for the benefit of DPS recruits, troopers, and local law enforcement;
- **Rural Law Enforcement** - \$381 million to bolster rural law enforcement and criminal justice efforts through a contingency for county law enforcement, additional training resources, and a new regional training facility;
- **Criminal Justice** - \$322.4 million for safety, security, and infrastructure investments at the Department of Criminal Justice and to expand and enhance the use of body worn and fixed surveillance cameras, digital radios and related equipment, and to procure body scanners and metal detectors;
- **Juvenile Justice** - \$385.5 million in new investments in the juvenile justice system including additional staff salary increases to stabilize the workforce, expand capacity for committed youth, and resources to construct two new secure state juvenile facilities with mental health capacity;
- **Election Integrity** - \$45.1 million in additional funding to invest in election integrity, business transactions, and filings at the Secretary of State;
- **Higher Education Formula Funding** - \$9.9 billion, an increase of \$1.1 billion, to fund formulas at higher education institutions;
- **Higher Education Endowment Fund** - \$3 billion set aside for a higher education endowment fund, contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval (SB 30).
- **TSTC Endowment Fund** - \$1 billion to a fund to support capital needs for career and technical education programs at Texas State Technical Colleges

and Lamar Institutes of Technology, contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval;

- **Community College Outcomes Funding** - \$650 million to reform community college funding formulas to prioritize student outcomes, pending legislation;
- **Higher Education Financial Aid** - \$1.54 billion for higher education financial aid programs;
- **Medicaid** - \$80.8 billion for the Texas Medicaid Program, including:
 - \$75.4 billion to fully fund the projected Medicaid caseload;
 - \$2 billion to support and increase the base wage from \$8.11 to \$10.60 for Medicaid community attendants;
 - \$126.8 million to add an additional 1,831 Medicaid waiver slots;
 - \$206.8 million to increase Medicaid rates to expand access to pediatric services, women's health care, private duty nursing, and ground ambulance services; and
 - \$911.5 million for a Medicaid nursing facility rate increase;
- **Mental Health** - \$9.4 billion for mental health funding across state government, including additional funds to address workforce challenges at state facilities, expand community-based services, and address the statewide mental health professional workforce shortage. This is in addition to \$2.2 billion included in SB 30 to increase inpatient mental health capacity and address waitlists;
- **Women's Health** - \$160.1 million increase for women's health programs;
- **Maternal Health** - \$11.7 million to fund new Maternal Health and Maternal Mortality systems and acquire timely, transparent data;
- **Rural Hospitals** - \$178.2 million increase for rural hospitals through both Medicaid and non-Medicaid programs;
- **Early Childhood Intervention** - \$71.8 million increase for the Early Childhood Intervention program to fully fund the projected caseload and increase the per-child funding amount;
- **Foster Care** - \$219.7 million to increase foster care rates, relative caregiver rates, and implement a new rate methodology that accurately captures provider costs; and \$151.5 million to support and expand Community-based Foster Care, including \$97.1 million to expand this model to 4 new geographic areas;
- **State Employee Payraise** - \$1.9 billion for an across-the-board state employee payraise to address a state workforce crisis, the highest across-the-board salary increase in over 40 years;
- **Electric Generation Capacity** - \$5 billion set aside to support the construction and operation of electric generating facilities, contingent upon the passage of legislation;
- **Transportation** - Over \$37 billion to address the state's transportation needs, including
 - more than \$32 billion for highway planning and design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and maintenance;
 - \$95 million in new funding for the state's general aviation airports;
 - \$200 million in new funding for port capital improvement projects; and

- \$400 million to capitalize the Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund;
- **Water Infrastructure** - \$1 billion in new funding to invest in the state's water infrastructure and supply, contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval; and \$625 million in new funding for flood mitigation;
- **New Park Development** - \$1 billion reserved to support new park development, contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval;
- **Gulf Coast Protection District** - Over half a billion in new funding for Gulf Coast Protection District projects;
- **Broadband** - \$1.5 billion for broadband development and 9-1-1 services, contingent upon the passage of legislation and voter approval; and
- **Restoration of the Alamo Complex** - \$400 million in new funding to complete the restoration, development, and maintenance of the Alamo Complex.”

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick also commented on the passage of HB 1 and SB 30 saying, “The Texas economy is the envy of America and the entire world. As our economy continues rapidly growing into the middle of the 21st century, it is more important than ever that we double down on the conservative principles that have brought prosperity to millions of Texans. Our budget for the 2024-2025 biennium is within all constitutional spending limits, does not exceed population growth times inflation, and addresses key priorities for Texans statewide. A few of the many highlights of our historic budget include:

- **Property Tax Relief** - \$17.6 billion to combat skyrocketing property taxes, the largest property tax cut in Texas history;
- **Border Security** - \$5.1 billion for border security, the most in Texas history, including funds for a new border force;
- **Retired Teachers** - \$3.4 billion for a cost-of-living adjustment for Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) retirees and \$1.6 billion for one-time supplemental payments for certain TRS retirees;
- **School Safety** - \$1.4 billion for school safety measures, the most in Texas history;
- **Public Education** - Additionally, we deepened our continued commitment to public education, increasing general revenue funding by 21.6 percent. There are billions of dollars set aside for teacher pay, curriculum, and formula funding increases.
- **Mental Health** - We spent an unprecedented \$2.2 billion on mental health care to build new hospitals or add to existing hospitals.
- **State Parks** - We are creating a \$1 billion fund to greatly expand our state park system for generations to come.
- **Rural Law Enforcement** - Under a plan that I developed on my rural bus tour last fall, for the first time in history, we set aside state money to financially support rural law enforcement in addition to our continued long-standing practice of strengthening the Texas Department of Public Safety.

These appropriations should lead to a smarter, healthier, safer, and more prosperous Texas. As you can see, we have taken advantage of our unprecedented

budget surplus to make strategic one-time and ongoing investments to address many issues that we previously could not afford to address. As a conservative, I insisted that the Senate maintain a healthy reserve of \$10 billion, with an additional \$5 billion in loans to build more dispatchable energy generation. By the end of the 2024-25 biennium, our Rainy Day Fund is projected to be the largest it has ever been at \$22 billion. Texas is the 9th largest economy in the world and writing our state budget is a gigantic undertaking. I want to congratulate Senate Finance Chair Joan Huffman on the completion of her first appropriation bill and for her leadership and wonderful work with the entire Texas Senate and my budget team. Our state is stronger than ever, and our budget will secure Texas' conservative future."

Final Status of other Major Budget Bills:

Appropriations:

- **HB 1** (Bonnen/Huffman) is the general appropriations bill – *House and Senate adopted conference committee report and it will be sent to the comptroller to certify and then to the governor*
- **HB 3461** (Bonnen/Huffman) dedicate and rededicate revenue for certifying the budget – *House concurred in Senate Amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **HB 4041** (Bonnen/Huffman) is the miscellaneous claims and judgments against the state bill – *House concurred in Senate Amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 30** (Huffman/Bonnen) is the supplemental appropriations bill – *Senate and House adopted conference committee report and it will be sent to the comptroller to certify and then to the governor*
- **SJR 56** (Schwertner) increasing the cap on the Economic Stabilization Fund – *DIED in the House Appropriations Committee*

Infrastructure:

- **SB 1332** (Huffman/Bonnen) establishing the Historic Infrastructure Sustainability Trust Fund to preserve historic sites – *Signed by the governor and takes effect on September 1, 2023*
- **SB 1333** (Huffman/Bonnen) establishing the Texas State Buildings Preservation Endowment Fund to maintain state buildings – *Signed by the governor and takes effect on September 1, 2023*
- **SB 1648/SJR 74** (Parker/Walle) establishing the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund – *SB 1648 has been sent to the governor; SJR 74 will be on the ballot on November 7, 2023*

HIGHER EDUCATION:

Final Status of Major Higher Education Bills:

- **HB 8** (VanDeaver/Creighton) Community College Finance Reform - *Has been sent to the governor*
- **HB 400** (Klick/Kolkhorst) higher education Incentives for mental health professionals - *Has been sent to the governor*
- **HB 584** (Capriglione/Zaffirini) state information technology credentials – *Has been sent to the governor*

- **HB 1590** (Burns/West) Texas Leadership Scholars Program – *House concurred in Senate amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **HB 4005** (Raney/Parker) establishing the Texas Competency-Based Education Grant Program – *Has been sent to the governor*
- **HB 4997** (Kuempel/Campbell) new TSTC campus in Comal and/or Guadalupe Counties – *Has been sent to the governor*
- **HB 1595/HJR 3** (Bonnen/Huffman) Creating A New Higher Education Endowment Fund (Huffman) – *House and Senate adopted the conference committee reports – HB 1595 will be sent to the governor; HJR 3 will be on the ballot on November 7, 2023*
- **SB 25** (Kolkhorst/Klick) Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment Program and Nursing Innovation Grant Program – *Senate concurred in House amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 532** (West/Kuempel) student loan repayment for health professionals - *Senate concurred in House amendments; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 1055** (Nichols/Clardy) establish Stephen F. Austin State University as a component of the University of Texas System – *Was signed by the governor and took effect on May 10th*
- **SJR 81** (Birdwell/Wilson) establishing the Technical Institution Infrastructure Fund to provide capital investments for TSTC – *DIED in conference committee*

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

Final Status of Major Public Education Bills:

School Choice:

- **HB 4340** (Frank) education savings accounts – *DIED in the House Public Education Committee*
- **SB 8** (Creighton/Frank) education savings accounts - *DIED in the House Public Education Committee*

School Safety:

- **HB 3** (Burrows/Nichols) School Safety and Security – *House and Senate adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 11** (Nichols/K. King) keeping schools safe and secure – *Pronounced DEAD by procedural action (postponed until after the session – some provisions are in HB 3)*
- **SB 838** (Creighton/Thierry) panic alert devices in classrooms – *Has been signed by the governor and took effect on May 5, 2023*
- **SB 1852** (Flores/Metcalf) active shooter training for peace officers – *Was signed by the governor and takes effect on September 1, 2023*

Teacher Pay and Teacher Bill of Rights:

- **HB 11** (Dutton/Creighton) Teacher Incentive Allotment, retire-rehire grant, Teacher Residency Partnership Program, Mentor Program Allotment – *DIED in the Senate Education*
- **HB 100** (K. King/Creighton) increased basic allotment, teacher pay raise; education savings accounts – *DIED in conference committee*

- **SB 9** (Creighton/Dutton) Teacher incentive allotment, Teacher retention allotment, teacher mentoring program – *Pronounced DEAD in the House by procedural action (postponed until after the session)*

Retired Teachers:

- **HJR 2** (Bonnen/Huffman) annual cost-of-living adjustment for retired teachers – *House concurred in Senate amendments; will be on the ballot on November 7, 2023*
- **SB 10** (Huffman/Bonnen) adding 13th checks for retired teachers - *Senate and House adopted the conference committee report; it will be sent to the governor*

Instructional Materials:

- **HB 1605** (Buckley/Creighton) establishing a high-quality instructional materials program – *House concurred in Senate amendments; will be sent to the governor (corrections authorized by HCR 121)*

REDISTRICTING – The Census Bureau did not provide information necessary for redistricting bills until after the 2021 legislative session. The Texas Legislature is required to adopt redistricting plans in the first regular legislative session after the census information is delivered. Therefore, the legislature plans to re-pass their redistricting plans.

Final Status of Redistricting Bills:

- **SB 375** (Huffman/Darby) redistricting bill for Texas Senate districts – *Sent to the governor*
- **HB 1000** (Darby/Huffman) redistricting bill for Texas House districts – *Sent to the governor*

STATEWIDE:

Final Status of Major Statewide Bills:

Bail Reform:

- **SJR 44** (Huffman/Smith) bail reform – *Pronounced DEAD in the House by procedural action (postponed until after the session)*

Border Security:

- **HB 7** (Guillen/Birdwell) Legislative Border Safety Oversight Committee – *DIED in conference committee*
- **HB 20** (Schaefer) creating a border protection unit – *DIED on the House floor on a point-of-order*
- **SB 1403** (Parker/Spiller) border security compact – *Has been sent to the governor*
- **SB 1484** (Creighton/Holland) border operations training program for peace officers – *Signed by the governor and takes effect on September 1, 2023*
- **SB 2424** (Birdwell/Hefner) making it a state crime to illegally enter the state – *Pronounced DEAD in the House by procedural action (postponed until after the session)*

COVID Restrictions:

- **SB 29** (Birdwell/Lozano) prohibiting vaccine mandates, mask mandates, and school and private business closures – *Senate and House adopted the conference committee report; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 1104/SJR 58** (Birdwell/Slawson) requiring a special session to renew a disaster declaration – *SB 1104 DIED on the House Calendar; SJR 59 DIED in the House Calendars Committee*

Daylight Savings Time:

- **HB 1422** (Metcalf/Hughes) year-round Daylight Savings Time – *DIED between the Senate State Affairs Committee and the Senate Intent Calendar*

Human Trafficking:

- **HB 279** (Jetton/Bettencourt) increased penalties for trafficking a disabled individual – *VETOED by the governor*
- **HB 800** (Guillen/Flores) increased penalties for human traffickers – *DIED on a germaneness point of order on Senate amendments and returned to the Senate*
- **SB 415** (Paxton/Smith) training for physicians to help identify trafficked persons – *Has been signed by the governor and takes effect on September 1, 2023*

Local Pre-emption:

- **HB 2127** (Burrows/Creighton) the Texas Regulatory Consistency Act prohibiting local ordinances related to agriculture, finance, insurance, labor, environment, occupations and property – *Sent to the governor*

TAX:

Final Status of Major Tax Bills:

Property Tax:

- **HB 2/HJR 1** (Meyer) five percent appraisal cap, school property tax rate compression of 15 cents - *They DIED in the Senate Local Government Committee for lack of a hearing*
- **SB 3/SJR 3** (Bettencourt/Meyer) increasing the homestead exemption to \$70,000 – *They DIED in conference committee*
- **SB 4** (Bettencourt) school tax rate compression - *DIED the House Ways & Means Committee*
- **SB 5** (Parker) increasing the business personal property tax exemption - *DIED in the House Ways & Means Committee*
- **SB 1145/SJR 64** (West/Talarico) optional ad valorem tax exemption for child-care facility – *SB 1145 has been sent to the governor; SJR 64 will be on the ballot on November 7, 2023*
- **SJR 87** (Huffman/Bonnen) ad valorem tax exemption for tangible personal property of a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products – *Will be on the November 7, 2023 ballot*

Sales Tax:

- **HB 300** (Howard/Huffman) sales tax exemption for family products – *DIED in the Senate Finance Committee (passed as SB 379)*
- **SB 379** (Huffman/Howard) sales tax exemption for family care items – *Has passed the Senate and House; will be sent to the governor*
- **SB 1000** (West) started out reducing the sales tax by one-half a percent but as is passed the Senate, it institutes a one-time sales tax holiday for clothing and footwear under \$200 – *Voted out favorably from the House Ways & Means Committee but DIED because it did not make it to the Calendars Committee in time to be set on the House Calendar*
- **SB 1022** (Nichols) and **HB 3003** (Bailes) expansion of the sales tax exemption on aircraft repair and maintenance to all aircraft MRO – *SB 1022 DIED in the Senate Finance Committee; HB 3003 DIED in the House Ways & Means Committee*

Tax General:

- **HJR 132** (Hefner/Hughes) prohibiting an individual net worth or wealth tax – *Has passed the House and Senate; will be on the ballot on November 7, 2023*

Texas Taxpayers & Research Association – On May 24th, Texas Taxpayers & Research Association (TTARA) Chair Megan Rooney announced that Vice President Jennifer Rabb will take over as president of the association effective July 1st, replacing long-time President Dale Craymer, who is retiring, Rabb was named TTARA vice president in March. Rooney said, “We are thrilled to have someone as talented as Jennifer Rabb to take over from someone who has contributed so much to the tax policy debate over the years. Dale Craymer’s knowledge of tax policy is unparalleled, and through his leadership he positioned TTARA as the go-to authority at the Texas Capitol on tax and fiscal issues. The TTARA board thanks him for his service and wishes him the best.” Rabb is an experienced tax attorney who has worked on tax policy for Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, former Ways & Means Chair Dennis Bonnen, and former Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn, as well as several prominent law firms. Prior to joining TTARA, Rabb was director of the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth at Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy. Rabb holds a J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law and an LL.M. in Taxation from Southern Methodist University’s Dedman School of Law. Rabb said, “I am excited and truly honored to be named president of TTARA. I am committed to building upon the association’s legacy of excellence and to working tirelessly for responsible fiscal and tax policy in Texas.” Dale Craymer, who is stepping down after 25 years with TTARA, including 14 as president said, “I am honored to have been able to lead the best state tax policy shop in the nation, but after 40 years in the policy arena it is time I move on to leisure and other pursuits. I have stayed on with the association longer than intended to make sure we found the right person for the job, and I am pleased that we have found that with Jennifer.” The Texas Senate adopted a resolution on May 29th honoring Dale Craymer for his years of service to the state and to TTARA.

State Websites - Additional information can be obtained via the Senate, House, and capitol websites:

www.senate.state.tx.us

www.house.state.tx.us

www.capitol.state.tx.us