

Policy Not Politics  
The 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session (2025)  
League of Independent Voters of Texas

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# Basics on the Texas Legislature

Meet every two years for 6 months.

This session ends June 2.

Bi-cameral government:

TX House: 150 members; 62 Ds, 88 Rs (District population = roughly 200,000)

TX Senate: 31 members, 11 Ds, 20 Rs (Districts population = roughly 1 million)\*

Texas Republicans have a [trifecta](#) and a Republican [triplex](#): they control the offices of governor, secretary of state, attorney general, and both chambers of the state legislature.



*\*Note: Texas has 38 U.S. Congressional Districts (District Population = roughly 800,000)*

# House Speaker's Race

Speaker **Dustin Burrows** (R-Lubbock) was the biggest offender of Texas Dems in 2023 with his “Death Star Bill” (HB 2127) attack on local control by municipalities. It’s still in litigation.

Nevertheless, Burrows won with these numbers by establishing subcommittees that he has apparently promised will include Democrats in leadership. Fine, but the maneuver threatens an unproductive session due to partisan poison between factions within the Texas GOP, known as “RINO hunters”.

House Committees should happen the week ending Feb. 14, Valentine’s Day. Will the Speaker find the love?

VOTE BREAKDOWN		Total	Rep.	Dem.
 <b>Burrows ✓</b>		85	36	49
 <b>Cook</b>		55	52	3
<b>Present not voting</b>		9	0	9
<b>Absent</b>		1	0	1

# Gov. Greg Abbott's Emergency Priorities

## Abbott 7 Emergency Items:

Advantage to “emergency items” legislation can pass in the first 60 days of the session without 80% support.

1. Cutting property taxes
2. A “generational investment” in the state’s water infrastructure\*\*
3. Increasing teacher pay
4. Beefing up vocational career training programs for students after high school
5. Allowing the [use of public dollars for private education purposes](#),
6. Stiffening the state’s bail laws, and
7. Creating a cybersecurity hub in San Antonio.\*\*

\* Water – quality and quantity – has been an LIV issue from day one (2013). The Governor and Lt. Governor support another constitutional amendment for water funding, but exactly what the funds will be used for is an important question. We have always favored “conservation first, conveyance later.” Word is there are differences between the Speaker’s team on water and Charles Perry, longtime water ally of Lt. Gov. Patrick.

\*\* The Governor has also called out these items as his priorities, but not emergencies: immigration, transgender, no DEI for “taxpayer dollars”.

Reference, TX Tribune: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/01/14/texas-house-speaker-vote-breakdown/>

# Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's 1-25 of 40 priority bills

Note: Do not assume all is bad but it probably will be, if not a waste of time or not in our wheelhouse.

Senate Bill 1 – Senate's Budget for Texas

**Senate Bill 2 – Providing School Choice**

Senate Bill 3 – Banning THC in Texas

Senate Bill 4 – Increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$140,000 (\$150,000 for seniors)

Senate Bill 5 – Combatting Alzheimer's – Dementia Prevention & Research Institute of Texas

**Senate Bill 6 – Increasing Texas' Electric Grid Reliability**

**Senate Bill 7 – Increasing Investments in Texas' Water Supply**

**Senate Bill 8 – Requiring Local Law Enforcement to Assist the Federal Government's Deportation Efforts**

Senate Bill 9 – Reforming Bail – Keeping Violent Criminals Off Our Streets

Senate Bill 10 – Placing the Ten Commandments in School

Senate Bill 11 – Protecting the Freedom to Pray in School

Senate Bill 12 – Establishing a Parental Bill of Rights in Public Education

Senate Bill 13 – Guarding Against Inappropriate Books in Public Schools

**Senate Bill 14 – Texas DOGE – Improving Government Efficiency**

**Senate Bill 15 – Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing**

Senate Bill 16 – Stopping Non-Citizens from Voting

Senate Bill 17 – Stopping Foreign Adversaries' Land Grabs

Senate Bill 18 – Stopping Drag Time Story Hour

Senate Bill 19 – Stopping Taxpayer Dollars for Lobbyists

Senate Bill 20 – Stopping AI Child Pornography

**Senate Bill 21 – Establishing the Texas Bitcoin Reserve**

Senate Bill 22 – Establishing Texas as America's Film Capital

Senate Bill 23 – Removing the Cap on the Rainy Day Fund to Secure Texas' Long-term Financial Future

Senate Bill 24 – Educating Texas Students on the Horrors of Communism

Senate Bill 25 – Making Texas Healthy Again

Senate Priority Bills 26 through 40 – coming soon

# Growing Texas Water Crisis



## **Ag Commissioner, Sid Miller on WFAA:**

<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/politics/inside-politics/texas-politics/texas-agriculture-commissioner-sound-alarm-says-texas-is-running-out-of-water/287-f9fea38a-9a77-4f85-b495-72dd9e6dba7e>

Growing questions about groundwater depletion and pollution.

However, state leaders appear to be more committed than ever to incentivize increased immigration population growth, and mass industrialization (data centers, Bitcoin, chip plants) without providing regulatory tools to put water needs ahead of the curve.

Despite GOP "control" they are deeply fractured, eating their young, and there is palpable political chaos unfolding in the Texas Legislative Session.

"This could make this session a **bill killing session.**" *said a Texas lobbyist*

# How to use Texas Legislature Online (TLO)

These three three videos, produced by the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities were produced for the 2022 legislative session. Let us know what you think about them and what questions you may still have.



## An Overview of Texas Legislature Online

516 views · 2 years ago

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

TCDD Public Policy Director Scott Daigle provides a short tutorial on how to use Texas Legislature Online. The website is a ...

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wkve1q-5bm4>



## How to Search for Bills Using Texas Legislature Online

337 views · 2 years ago

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

TCDD Public Policy Director Scott Daigle shows you how to use the bill search functions on t...

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8 chapters Introduction | Website Overview | Bill Search | Previous...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sie2EOD32WQ&t=9s>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97E0Ck\\_Hhc0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97E0Ck_Hhc0)



## Using My TLO to Create Bill Lists and Alerts

230 views · 2 years ago

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

TCDD Public Policy Director Scott Daigle covers how to use My TLO to track legislation on th...

0:24 Texas, Gov. And I've done a couple of videos on the Texas Legislature online site. The

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Guess What's  
Missing



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