



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
02/02/25
PHTA

GOVERNOR

Texas Tactical Border Force – On January 27th, Governor Greg Abbott directed the Texas Military Department to deploy the Texas Tactical Border Force to the Rio Grande Valley to coordinate with U.S. Border Patrol under the Trump Administration to secure the border. Departing from military bases in Fort Worth and Houston, the Texas Tactical Border Force will surge over 400 additional soldiers, as well as C-130s and Chinook helicopters, to join thousands of Texas National Guard soldiers already deployed on the border to collaborate with U.S. Border Patrol agents on the border.

Launched in 2023, the Texas Tactical Border Force is a part of Governor Abbott's comprehensive border security mission. Under Operation Lone Star, Texas has deployed thousands of Texas National Guard soldiers and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers to the border, apprehended more than 530,800 illegal immigrants, arrested over 50,300 criminals, and seized more than 622 million lethal doses of fentanyl - enough to kill every man, woman, and child in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Tactical Strike Teams – On January 28th, Governor Greg Abbott directed the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to deploy tactical strike teams to support the Trump Administration's homeland security operations to locate and arrest criminal illegal immigrants in the state.

Governor Abbott said, "Texas is expanding our operations to assist President Donald Trump to protect Americans and enforce the rule of law. Today, I directed the Texas Department of Public Safety to deploy tactical strike teams to work alongside our federal partners to enforce immigration laws throughout the state. These teams will coordinate with Homeland Security agencies to track down the thousands of illegal immigrants with active warrants across Texas and deport them from our country. After four years of failed policies, Texas finally has a partner in President Trump. Together, we will end this crisis and make America safe once again."

The DPS tactical strike teams will coordinate with the newly established Homeland Security Task Force to leverage personnel and resources to identify and arrest the nearly 5,400 illegal immigrants with active warrants from local jurisdictions across Texas. The strike teams, which include DPS troopers, Special Agents, and Texas Rangers, will coordinate with federal partners with support from DPS Aircraft Operations Division and the Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division.

Governor Directs State Agencies to Assist in Border Security – On January 29th, Governor Greg Abbott issued five Executive Orders directing state agencies to partner with the Trump Administration to assist in their border and homeland security operations to protect Americans. Governor Abbott said, "For the past four years, Texas has worked around-the-clock to defend our southern border while former President Joe Biden refused to protect our country from an invasion he allowed. Now, we have a Commander-in-Chief in the White House who will do what is necessary to protect Americans. Today, I issued five Executive Orders directing Texas state agencies to partner with the Trump Administration to enforce the rule of law and help secure the homeland. Just like President Donald Trump and his Administration, Texas will do what is necessary to keep our country safe."

Governor Abbott today issued five Executive Orders to partner with the Trump Administration:

- [Executive Order GA-50](#)- Directing state agencies to assist federal partners to deploy additional border barriers to improve operational security at the southern border.
- [Executive Order GA-51](#)- Directing state agencies to share intelligence on foreign terrorist organizations, like Mexican cartels and Tren de Aragua, with federal law enforcement personnel to support counter-terror operations.

- [Executive Order GA-52](#)- Directing the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Texas Facilities Commission to identify all Texas land and facilities for federal partners to lease and use for the detention and deportation of illegal immigrants.
- [Executive Order GA-53](#)- Directing the Texas Military Department to assist the United States Northern Command in repelling the invasion, securing the southern border, and neutralizing foreign enemies infiltrating Texas.
- [Executive Order GA-54](#)- Directing state agencies to assist federal immigration officers to investigate, arrest, detain, and deport illegal immigrants in Texas.

Governor Directs State Agencies to Reject “Woke Gender Ideologies” – On January 30th, Governor Greg Abbott sent a letter to Texas state agency heads directing them to follow state and federal law, including President Donald Trump’s executive order rejecting sexual orientation and gender identity ideologies. Governor Abbott’s letter said, “The State of Texas recognizes only two sexes - male and female - and sex discrimination consists in treating a member of one sex less favorably than the other, absent some pertinent difference. Others have sought to distort the guarantee that men and women must be treated equally in order to impose mandates concerning sexual orientation and gender identity. On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government, rejecting similar efforts by the Biden-Harris Administration to distort commonsense notions of biological sex. As the Chief Executive Officer of the State, I direct you to follow state and federal law. All Texas agencies must ensure that agency rules, internal policies, employment practices, and other actions comply with the law and the biological reality that there are only two sexes - male and female.”

[Here](#) is a link to the letter.

Governor Announces State of the State Address – On January 27th, Governor Greg Abbott announced that his 2025 State of the State address will be on Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. and Nexstar Media Group Inc. television stations across Texas will carry a live telecast. During the address, Governor Abbott will outline his priorities for the 89th Legislature and the bold action the state must take to build a stronger Texas. Governor Abbott said, “Texas is the blueprint for America’s future. This 89th Legislative Session brings new opportunities for the Texas Legislature and statewide leaders to strengthen our national and global position as the beacon of economic opportunity, prosperity, and individual liberty. From becoming the eighth largest economy in the world to safeguarding the freedoms that make Texas great, we are working tirelessly to accomplish what seems impossible. Working together, we will continue to build a stronger Texas for generations.” The speech will air on 15 Nexstar television stations serving 14 Texas media markets and will be telecast throughout the state. As a public service, Nexstar will make the live feed of the telecast available to every broadcast company serving Texas.

[Here](#) is a link to the list of stations covering the speech.

Next Week:

Sunday, February 2, 2025 – Governor Greg Abbott will give his State of the State address live at 5:00 p.m. on Nextar Media Group television stations across Texas.



SENATE

The Senate met on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Senate Administration Committee – On Tuesday, January 28, 2025, the Senate Administration Committee took up:

SJR 36 by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) would propose a constitutional amendment for preservation and perpetuation of certain **items of historical value**. *Note: This is the “blocker bill” that will be at the top of the Senate’s regular order of business calendar so all other bills will require a suspension of Senate rules to be taken up by the Senate.*

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick Announces Priorities – On January 29th, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick announced the first round of his top 40 priority bills for the 89th regular legislative session. He said, “Thousands of bills are filed by Texas senators each session. Traditionally, bill numbers 1 through 20 have indicated the Lt. Governor’s priorities for the Senate. In 2017, I increased the number of priority bills to 30. This year, I am increasing the number of priority bills to 40. Senators like having a low bill number since it shows their bill is a priority of the Lt. Governor and has a high probability of passage. These bills represent the will of the conservative majority of Texans, and many will pass with bipartisan support. Just because a bill is not included in the top 40 does not mean it is not a priority for me or the Senate. There will be hundreds of bills that pass the Senate, all of which are important to Texas. Many other priorities are included in our state budget, such as border security funding, hiring more state troopers for the Department of Public Safety, and enhancing statewide disaster response with new equipment and more personnel. Over the last four years, the Texas Senate held the line, fighting back against President Biden’s disastrous agenda. Now, with President Trump back in office, Texas has a friend in the White House. The Texas Senate will continue to lead as the preeminent legislative body in America by passing our bold, conservative agenda, helping President Trump deliver on his promise of making America great again.”

Lt. Gov. Patrick’s Priority Bills:

- SB 1 – Senate’s Budget for Texas
- SB 2 – Providing School Choice
- SB 3 – Banning THC in Texas
- SB 4 – Increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$140,000 (\$150,000 for seniors)
- SB 5 – Combatting Alzheimer’s – Establishing DPRIT (Dementia Prevention & Research Institute of Texas)
- SB 6 – Increasing Texas’ Electric Grid Reliability
- SB 7 – Increasing Investments in Texas’ Water Supply
- SB 8 – Requiring Local Law Enforcement to Assist the Federal Government’s Deportation Efforts
- SB 9 – Reforming Bail – Keeping Violent Criminals Off Our Streets
- SB 10 – Placing the Ten Commandments in School
- SB 11 – Protecting the Freedom to Pray in School
- SB 12 – Establishing a Parental Bill of Rights in Public Education
- SB 13 – Guarding Against Inappropriate Books in Public Schools
- SB 14 – Texas DOGE – Improving Government Efficiency

- SB 15 – Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing
- SB 16 – Stopping Non-Citizens from Voting
- SB 17 – Stopping Foreign Adversaries' Land Grabs
- SB 18 – Stopping Drag Time Story Hour
- SB 19 – Stopping Taxpayer Dollars for Lobbyists
- SB 20 – Stopping AI Child Pornography
- SB 21 – Establishing the Texas Bitcoin Reserve
- SB 22 – Establishing Texas as America's Film Capital
- **SB 23** – Removing the Cap on the Rainy Day Fund to Secure Texas' Long-term Financial Future
- SB 24 – Educating Texas Students on the Horrors of Communism
- SB 25 – Making Texas Healthy Again

Note: Senate Priority Bills 26 through 40 ... coming soon.

This Week: The Senate recessed until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 3, 2025 for the reading and referral of bills. After that, the Senate will adjourn until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

HOUSE

The House was in session Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday this week.

On Monday, it was expected that the House would take up HR 3, their housekeeping resolution, but Representative Charlie Geren, sponsor of the resolution, informed the chair that he will not seek recognition to take up HR 3. Speaker Burrows announced that the House Administration Committee, when it is appointed, will have the authority to set budgets for House member offices and committees.

Speaker Burrows Discusses Priorities at The Texan Event – On January 28, Speaker Dustin Burrows participated in The Texan's 89th Session Kickoff event, where he highlighted his legislative priorities and commitment to delivering a successful, conservative session for all Texans. In the interview with The Texan reporter Brad Johnson, Speaker Burrows laid out his priorities for the 89th Legislature, which include:

- increasing efficiency in state government,
- passing school choice and additional funding for public schools,
- cutting property taxes, and
- supporting Texas's small businesses.

Speaker Burrows also spoke about his leadership style for the House and strong working relationship with Governor Greg Abbott and Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick that has produced major conservative achievements in past sessions.

Key Highlights of Speaker Burrows' Interview:

- On House Leadership: "The role of the Speaker is making sure all members are able to be successful. We have fantastic members - some of them have had great successes, and some of them have been overlooked for a period of time. I want to be making sure we're taking the time to figure out what are the priorities of their districts, what are the big bills they want to work on, and trying to make sure they're plugged in and we have a member-driven Speaker's Office."
- Coalition Building: "There is a growing momentum on having a unified House. You can look, vote after vote, more and more Republicans are coming on board, and we are unifying. There is not a single Republican on that floor that I don't want to be a good Speaker for and help support their agenda and push it forward."
- House Committees: "There is no such thing as a bad committee in the Texas House, every single one has a jurisdiction that's important to all of the Texans who live here. I would like to highlight that we created the DOGE committee, something I'm particularly proud of. People ask why the Sunset Commission isn't doing this work. The role of Sunset is to review every agency every ten years. There are a lot of things that happen over a decade that you're not able to get to Sunset, but having a new committee that can look at individual contracts, look for fraud, waste, and abuse, that is something that's very exciting."
- Educational Opportunities: "I do believe the votes are there in the House for universal school choice, and I do believe this will be the session that it passes. I've never been one who believes you can't take care of public education, invest in it, make sure teachers are paid a living wage, and also do ESAs. I believe the Texas House will prioritize both. You've seen it in the budget that has come out, and I think you'll continue to see us push on making sure that happens."
- Support for Small Business: "We need to be promoting small businesses, period. So much of our economic engine is dependent upon small business owners. Those are the job creators. There are a lot of things we can do to help promote small businesses in the state of Texas, and that is something you're going to see the Texas House continue to lead on and talk about all session."

[Here](#) is a link to the full interview.

This Week: The House adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025

TRACKED LEGISLATION

HB 1133

Relating to the authority of a property owners' association to prohibit or regulate certain swim instruction provided in a pool on an owner's or resident's property.

Author: Carrie Isaac

Last Action: (11/12/2024) - Filed

HB 1245

Relating to a prohibition on the use of water on nonresidential property to irrigate nonfunctional turf during a drought.

Author: Vikki Goodwin

Last Action: (11/12/2024) - Filed

SB 63

Relating to the licensing and regulation of child swim instruction operators; requiring an occupational license; imposing penalties, including administrative penalties; authorizing fees.

Author: Judith Zaffirini

Last Action: (11/12/2024) - Filed

SB 100

Relating to the issuance of a license by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to certain out-of-state applicants; authorizing a fee.

Author: Bob Hall

Last Action: (11/12/2024) - Filed

Key Dates – 89th Legislative Session

- 89th Legislative Session Begins: January 14, 2025
- Inauguration of US President: January 20, 2025
- Bill Filing Deadline: March 14, 2025
- 89th Legislative Session Ends: June 2, 2025
- Governor’s Veto Deadline: June 22, 2025

Keep Track of the Texas Legislature

To keep track of bills or access legislative information for this or previous sessions, visit [Texas Legislature Online \(TLO\)](#).

To learn more about the Texas State Senate and its activities, visit the [Texas State Senate](#) website.

To learn more about the Texas House of Representatives and its activities, visit the [Texas House of Representatives](#) website.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Texas Legislative newsletter. We look forward to providing weekly news and information important to each of you while working to make the 89th Legislative Session a very successful one for PHTA!

Sincerely,

Jake Posey and Steve Koebele
Texas Pool & Spa Coalition (TPSC) Lobbyists