



# 89TH LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



### **Core Purpose:**

To convene and educate public and private sector leaders to ensure that state and federal policies promote strong local governments, support excellence in public schools, increase the skilled workforce pipeline, and safeguard a thriving business environment.

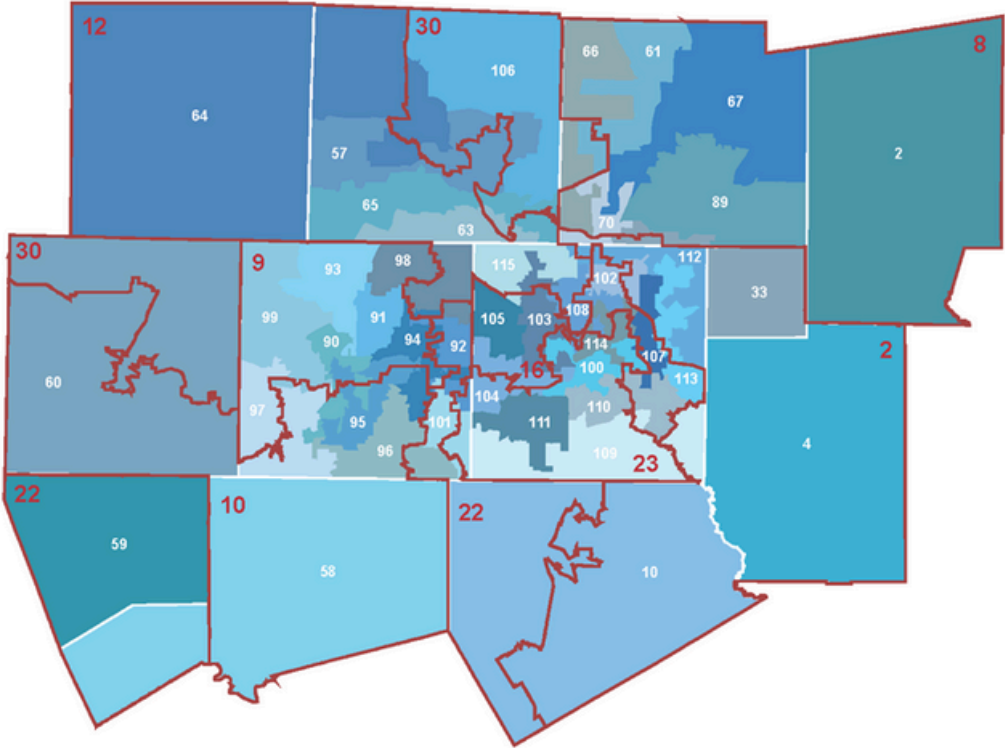
As a unified region, we will continue to improve the sustainability and inclusivity of our growing economy.

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# Map of the North Texas Region



# North Texas Delegation

## State House

HD 2 Brent Money (R)\*  
HD 4 Keith Bell (R)  
HD 10 Brian E. Harrison (R)  
HD 33 Katrina Pierson (R)\*  
HD 57 Richard Hayes (R)  
HD 58 Helen Kerwin (R)\*  
HD 59 Shelby Slawson (R)  
HD 60 Mike Olcott (R)\*  
HD 61 Keresia Richardson (R)\*  
HD 63 Ben Bumgarner (R)  
HD 64 Andy Hopper (R)\*  
HD 65 Mitch Little (R)\*  
HD 66 Matt Shaheen (R)  
HD 67 Jeff Leach (R)  
HD 70 Mihaela Plesa (D)  
HD 89 Candy Noble (R)  
HD 90 Ramon Romero Jr. (D)  
HD 91 David Lowe (R)\*  
HD 92 Salman Bhojani (D)  
HD 93 Nate Schatzline (R)  
HD 94 Tony Tinderholt (R)  
HD 95 Nicole Collier (D)  
HD 96 David Cook (R)  
HD 97 John McQueeney (R)\*  
HD 98 Giovanni Capriglione (R)  
HD 99 Charlie Geren (R)

HD 100 Venton Jones (D)  
HD 101 Chris Turner (D)  
HD 102 Ana-Maria Ramos (D)  
HD 103 Rafael Anchia (D)  
HD 104 Jessica Gonzalez (D)  
HD 105 Terry Meza (D)  
HD 106 Jared Patterson (R)  
HD 107 Linda Garcia (D)\*  
HD 108 Morgan Meyer (R)  
HD 109 Aicha Davis (D)\*  
HD 110 Toni Rose (D)  
HD 111 Yvonne Davis (D)  
HD 112 Angie Chen Button (R)  
HD 113 Rhetta Andrews Bowers (D)  
HD 114 John W. Bryant (D)  
HD 115 Cassandra Hernandez (D)\*

## State Senate

SD 2 Bob Hall (R)  
SD 8 Angela Paxton (R)  
SD 9 Kelly Hancock (R)  
SD 10 Phil King (R)  
SD 12 Tan Parker (R)  
SD 16 Nathan Johnson (D)  
SD 22 Brian Birdwell (R)  
SD 23 Royce West (D)  
SD 30 Brent Hagenbuch (R)\*

# A Message from the Chairman

As the fourth largest region in the United States, boasting a population of over 8 million, North Texas is undeniably the premiere destination for individuals **to live, learn, and earn**. The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex is home to 13 counties, more than 150 municipalities, and countless businesses that uniquely contribute to the growing success of our region and state. As the second-largest and most diverse economy in the state, North Texas plays a pivotal role in Texas' continued success. The North Texas Commission's mission is to keep it that way. **Our success relies on a thriving business environment, excellent education systems, and well-maintained communities aimed at delivering the highest quality of life.** All of this depends on a reasonable, stable, and consistent regulatory climate authored by the state. The NTC Board of Directors is proud to present the 89th Legislative Priorities for the North Texas Region. Over many months and several rounds of review, our member-driven process has produced the most comprehensive set of **pro-business, pro-growth, pro-education, and pro-local control priorities** for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Every position taken by our Board is to sustain and advance the North Texas economy. We look to the Legislature as a partner to elevate public policies that spur economic growth for North Texas. **Through unified advocacy, we promote policies that keep free markets fair and provide opportunities for businesses to thrive, allowing for the creation of individual wealth.**



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michael Peterson".

**Michael Peterson**

*Chairman of the Board, North Texas Commission  
Vice President, External Affairs, AT&T*



About Us

# NTC Government Affairs Committee Leaders

## Government Affairs Committee Co-Chairs

Scott Orr  
Fidelity Investments



Billy Glunz  
American Airlines

## Business Competitiveness



Kelbi Culwell Hauman  
Boeing



Ashley McConkey  
Texas Instruments

## Education & Workforce



Kadee Blair  
CORE Construction



Tom Harris  
Hillwood

## Health & Well-Being



Winjie Miao  
Texas Health Resources



Matt Williams  
McKesson

## Local Government



Hon. Clay Jenkins  
Dallas County



Don Magner  
City of Richardson

## Water & Infrastructure



Brian O'Neill  
Westwood



Stan Lynch  
Freese and Nichols

## Aviation, Aerospace & Defense Council



Dana Schenck  
Bell



Erica Mulder  
DFW Airport

## Higher Education Council



Dr. James Hurley  
Tarleton State University



Dr. Justin Lonon  
Dallas College

## Superintendents Council



Dr. Susan Bohn  
Aledo ISD



Dr. Jamie Wilson  
Denton ISD (ret.)

## Board of Directors



# Business Competitiveness

Representing 30% of Texas' GDP—\$709.8 billion as of 2024—North Texas boasts the most diverse economy in the state and leads the nation as its fastest-growing region. Texas' continued success, now the 8th largest economy in the world, relies on leveraging the region's economic strength and growth trajectory to maintain our reputation as a top destination for business. The area's job growth rate, currently at 3.18%, outpaces the national average, reinforcing its role as a powerhouse for economic development and innovation. With 21 Fortune 500 companies headquartered here, generating over \$1 trillion in revenue, the region remains critical to sustaining Texas' competitiveness on the global stage. The Commission's priorities aim to support policies that foster continued growth, attract top talent, and drive forward-thinking infrastructure and workforce development to ensure North Texas remains an economic leader in the years to come.



# Priorities

**SUPPORT:** Incentives that enhance job creation, innovation, and capital investment in Texas.

**SUPPORT:** Legislation that maintains Texas's appeal for business growth and retention.

**SUPPORT:** Modernization of government systems.

Scan for Business Competitiveness  
Resource Page.



# Education & Workforce

Texas public schools are the foundation of our state's economy. With more than 5.4 million students enrolled, Texas public schools are responsible for educating our future workforce and ensuring businesses have a steady flow of talent to fill the high-skilled, high-demand jobs that contribute to our economy's competitiveness on a global scale. Our continued success as a region and a state depends on the condition of our local public schools. It is no secret schools are struggling to make ends meet, which puts Texas at risk of falling behind. It is a moral and economic imperative that state and local leaders do everything in their power to make every public school a school of choice. Every student should have access to the same opportunities for growth and advancement from the high-quality education provided by their local public school. With the proper investment from our state, school districts will have access to the resources necessary to address the rising costs of student needs, provide safety and security at facilities, and deliver a much-needed pay raise to our teachers.

# Priorities

## PK-12

**SUPPORT:** Restoring public school funding to levels established by HB3 (2019), when accounting for inflation.

**OPPOSE:** The transfer of public education funds to nonpublic education entities, such as vouchers and education savings accounts (ESAs).

**SUPPORT:** Increased transparency with checks and balances for new and expanding charter schools in high-performing school districts.

**SUPPORT:** Reforming the state's assessment (STAAR) and accountability (A-F) systems to appropriately measure all factors that influence student performance and school ratings.

Scan for Education & Workforce  
Resource Page.



# Education & Workforce

Higher education is a cornerstone for economic progress in North Texas, helping develop a skilled workforce, fostering innovation, and providing pathways to high-paying jobs. Colleges and universities in North Texas were responsible for more than 50% of higher education enrollment growth in Texas last year. We are a thriving region that is dependent upon a highly skilled workforce. Initiatives to improve career readiness through vocational training and workforce supply are essential to fill gaps in high-demand sectors such as health care, technology, and manufacturing. In the North Texas region alone, job openings in health care are projected to grow by 15% over the next decade, highlighting the need for training programs that prepare our future workforce for these roles. By investing in higher education institutions, supporting campus improvements, and enhancing financial aid opportunities, we can strengthen the infrastructure and accessibility of education across the region.

# Priorities

## Higher Education

**SUPPORT:** Investments in higher education that further research initiatives, support institutional programs, enhance campus infrastructure, and expand financial aid opportunities.

**SUPPORT:** Efforts to accelerate training, increase workforce supply, and keep talent in Texas.

**SUPPORT:** Continued investments and updates to the Community College Finance legislation (HB8 – 88R) and consider out-of-state and private school credit transfer.

**SUPPORT:** Funding for mental health services and workforce program expansion.

**SUPPORT:** Continued investment in Small Business Development Centers and their professional business advising and training programs, which are proven resources that strengthen the Texas economy.

**Scan for Education & Workforce  
Resource Page.**



# Health & Well-Being

A healthy workforce is a productive workforce. Furthering North Texas' economic success requires addressing critical health care infrastructure and access needs to support the region's growing and aging population. With 8 level-one and 7 level-two trauma centers, North Texas has a strong foundation for emergency care, yet it remains underbedded compared to national standards, leaving hospitals stretched to meet demand. The region faces additional challenges with a decreasing number of health care providers who accept Medicare, impacting care accessibility for seniors and vulnerable populations. To tackle these issues, the Commission's priorities will focus on advocating for policies supporting hospital expansion, improving the workforce pipeline into crucial health care jobs, and strengthening health care resources across North Texas. These measures are essential to meet rising demand, enhance service quality, and secure the region's health infrastructure for the future.

# Priorities

**SUPPORT:** Efforts to increase access to health care.

**SUPPORT:** Increasing workforce pipeline and supply for critical health care roles.

Scan for Health & Well-Being  
Resource Page.



# Local Government

North Texas is a sprawling region covering 9,000 square miles, totaling over 150 municipalities across 13 counties. Our geography is full of diverse people representing vibrant cultures and unique communities, all united by one common belief: North Texas is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. From our rural spaces to our urban cores, North Texas offers a home to over 8 million Texans. The region is one of the largest and fastest growing in the country. If North Texas were a state, we would rank 13th in population and 9th in GDP. Growth has become synonymous with North Texas. Our rapid and sustained growth brings opportunities for businesses and individuals to thrive. Growth also presents challenges for local leaders as they work to maintain high-quality services for residents. From mobility and transportation to public safety to access to health care, clean and sustainable water supply, and reliable and affordable energy, local governments play a critical role in our lives. The NTC knows great communities rely on responsible leadership that is closest to and held accountable by voters.



# Priorities

**OPPOSE:** Efforts to censor local government officials.

**SUPPORT:** Efforts to preserve local control and public resource management.

**OPPOSE:** Legislation that eliminates the current uniform election dates and/or restricts a local government's ability to determine appropriate ballot language.

Scan for Local Government  
Resource Page.



# Water & Infrastructure

Texas' population is projected to nearly double from 30 million in 2023 to almost 50 million by 2050. Investment in infrastructure is foundational to Texas's continued economic growth. Sustainable funding for essential services—water, transportation, energy, and broadband—ensures these resources are available for current and future generations and drives economic opportunity across the state. Over the next 50 years, the state must invest more than \$150 billion in new and existing water infrastructure. We must create funding mechanisms that will address this need. Expanding Texas's transportation system by supporting a multimodal transportation system of choice and adopting advanced mobility technologies will position Texas as a leader in transportation. Texas will require a 14% increase in energy capacity by 2030. To meet this demand, investments in our electric grid infrastructure are critical to ensure reliability and protect against disruptions to our economic growth.

# Priorities

**SUPPORT:** Sustainable funding for water planning and development.

**SUPPORT:** Efficient transportation and mobility for the safe movement of people and goods.

**SUPPORT:** Reliable energy development and delivery.

**SUPPORT:** Accessible broadband internet.

Scan for Water & Infrastructure  
Resource Page.



# Members of the 89th Texas Legislature

## House

|                                |                                  |                                      |                                     |                                |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Gary VanDeaver (R)           | 39 Armando "Mando" Martinez (D)  | 77 Vince Perez (D)*                  | 115 <b>Cassandra Hernandez (D)*</b> | 133 Mano DeAyala (R)           |
| 2 <b>Brent Money (R)*</b>      | 40 Terry Canales (D)             | 78 Joe Moody (D)                     | 116 Trey Martinez-Fisher (D)        | 134 Ann Johnson (D)            |
| 3 Cecil Bell Jr. (R)           | 41 R. D. "Bobby" Guerra (D)      | 79 Claudia Ordaz (D)                 | 117 Phillip Cortez (D)              | 135 Jon E. Rosenthal (D)       |
| 4 <b>Keith Bell (R)</b>        | 42 Richard Pena Raymond (D)      | 80 Don McLaughlin Jr. (R)*           | 118 John Lujan (R)                  | 136 John Bucy III (D)          |
| 5 Cole Hefner (R)              | 43 JM Lozano (R)                 | 81 Brooks Landgraf (R)               | 119 Elizabeth "Liz" Campos (D)      | 137 Gene Wu (D)                |
| 6 Daniel Alders (R)*           | 44 Alan Schoolcraft (R)*         | 82 Tom Craddick (R)                  | 120 Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D)      | 138 Lacey Hull (R)             |
| 7 Jay Dean (R)                 | 45 Erin Zwiener (D)              | 83 Dustin Burrows (R)                | 121 Mark LaHood (R)*                | 139 Charlene Ward Johnson (D)* |
| 8 Cody Harris (R)              | 46 Sheryl Cole (D)               | 84 Carl Tepper (R)                   | 122 Mark Derazio (R)                | 140 Armando Walle (D)          |
| 9 Trent Ashby (R)              | 47 Vikki Goodwin (D)             | 85 Stan Kitzman (R)                  | 123 Diego Bernal (D)                | 141 Senfronia Thompson (D)     |
| 10 <b>Brian Harrison (R)</b>   | 48 Donna Howard (D)              | 86 John Smithee (R)                  | 124 Josey Garcia (D)                | 142 Harold V. Dutton Jr. (D)   |
| 11 Joanne Shofner (R)*         | 49 Gina Hinojosa (D)             | 87 Caroline Fairly (R)*              | 125 Ray Lopez (D)                   | 143 Ana Hernandez (D)          |
| 12 Trey Wharton (R)*           | 50 James Talarico (D)            | 88 Ken King (R)                      | 126 Sam Harless (R)                 | 144 Mary Ann Perez (D)         |
| 13 Angelia Orr (R)             | 51 Lulu Flores (D)               | 89 <b>Candy Noble (R)</b>            | 127 Charles Cunningham (R)          | 145 Christiana Morales (D)     |
| 14 Paul Dyson (R)*             | 52 Caroline Harris-Davila (R)    | 90 <b>Ramon Romero Jr. (D)</b>       | 128 Briscoe Cain (R)                | 146 Lauren Ashley Simmons (D)* |
| 15 Steve Toth (R)              | 53 Wesley Virdell (R)*           | 91 <b>David Lowe (R)*</b>            | 129 Dennis Paul (R)                 | 147 Jolanda Jones (D)          |
| 16 Will Metcalf (R)            | 54 Brad Buckley (R)              | 92 <b>Salman Bhojani (D)</b>         | 130 Tom Oliverson (R)               | 148 Penny Morales-Shaw (D)     |
| 17 Stan Gerdes (R)             | 55 Hillary Hickland (R)*         | 93 <b>Nate Schatzline (R)</b>        | 131 Alma A. Allen (D)               | 149 Hubert Vo (D)              |
| 18 Janis Holt (R)*             | 56 Pat Curry (R)*                | 94 <b>Tony Tinderholt (R)</b>        | 132 Mike Schofield (R)              | 150 Valoree Swanson (R)        |
| 19 Ellen Troxclair (R)         | 57 <b>Richard Hayes (R)</b>      | 95 <b>Nicole Collier (D)</b>         |                                     |                                |
| 20 Terry Wilson (R)            | 58 <b>Helen Kerwin (R)*</b>      | 96 <b>David Cook (R)</b>             |                                     |                                |
| 21 Dade Phalen (R)             | 59 <b>Shelby Slawson (R)</b>     | 97 <b>John McQueeney (R)*</b>        |                                     |                                |
| 22 Christian Manuel (D)        | 60 <b>Mike Olcott (R)*</b>       | 98 <b>Giovanni Capriglione (R)</b>   |                                     |                                |
| 23 Terri Leo Wilson (R)        | 61 <b>Keresa Richardson (R)*</b> | 99 <b>Charlie Geren (R)</b>          |                                     |                                |
| 24 Greg Bonnen (R)             | 62 Shelley Luther (R)*           | 100 <b>Venton Jones (D)</b>          |                                     |                                |
| 25 Cody Vasut (R)              | 63 <b>Ben Bumgarner (R)</b>      | 101 <b>Chris Turner (D)</b>          |                                     |                                |
| 26 Matt Morgan (R)*            | 64 <b>Andy Hopper (R)*</b>       | 102 <b>Ana-Maria Ramos (D)</b>       |                                     |                                |
| 27 Ron Reynolds (D)            | 65 <b>Mitch Little (R)*</b>      | 103 <b>Rafael Anchia (D)</b>         |                                     |                                |
| 28 Gary Gates (R)              | 66 <b>Matt Shaheen (R)</b>       | 104 <b>Jessica Gonzalez (D)</b>      |                                     |                                |
| 29 Jeff Berry (R)*             | 67 <b>Jeff Leach (R)</b>         | 105 <b>Terry Meza (D)</b>            |                                     |                                |
| 30 AJ Louderback (R)*          | 68 David Spiller (R)             | 106 <b>Jared Patterson (R)</b>       |                                     |                                |
| 31 Ryan Guillen (R)            | 69 James Frank (R)               | 107 <b>Linda Garcia (D)*</b>         |                                     |                                |
| 32 Todd Hunter (R)             | 70 <b>Mihaela Plesa (D)</b>      | 108 <b>Morgan Meyer (R)</b>          |                                     |                                |
| 33 <b>Katrina Pierson (R)*</b> | 71 Stan Lambert (R)              | 109 <b>Aicha Davis (D)*</b>          |                                     |                                |
| 34 Denise Villalobos (R)*      | 72 Drew Darby (R)                | 110 <b>Toni Rose (D)</b>             |                                     |                                |
| 35 Oscar Longoria (D)          | 73 Carrie Issac (R)              | 111 <b>Yvonne Davis (D)</b>          |                                     |                                |
| 36 Sergio Munoz Jr. (D)        | 74 Eddie Morales Jr. (D)         | 112 <b>Angie Chen Button (R)</b>     |                                     |                                |
| 37 Janie Lopez (R)             | 75 Mary E. Gonzalez (D)          | 113 <b>Rhetta Andrews Bowers (D)</b> |                                     |                                |
| 38 Erin E. Gamez (D)           | 76 Suleman Lalani (D)            | 114 <b>John Bryant (D)</b>           |                                     |                                |

## Senate

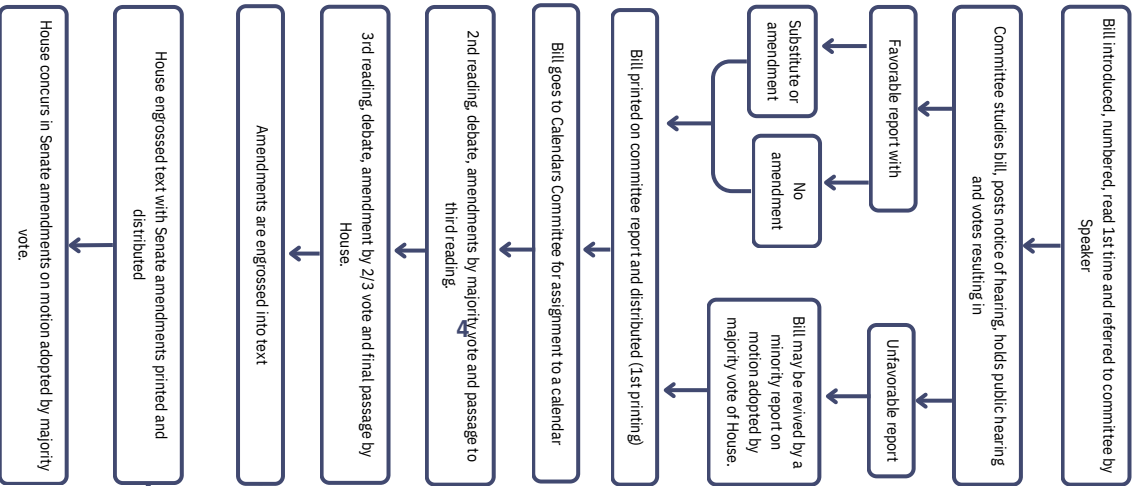
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| 1 Bryan Hughes (R)           | 17 Joan Huffman (R)            |
| 2 <b>Bob Hall (R)</b>        | 18 Lois Kolkhorst (R)          |
| 3 Robert Nichols (R)         | 19 Roland Gutierrez (D)        |
| 4 Brandon Creighton (R)      | 20 Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D)    |
| 5 Charles Schwertner (R)     | 21 Judith Zaffirini (D)        |
| 6 Carol Alvarado (D)         | 22 <b>Brian Birdwell (R)</b>   |
| 7 Paul Bettencourt (R)       | 23 <b>Royce West (D)</b>       |
| 8 <b>Angela Paxton (R)</b>   | 24 Pete Flores (R)             |
| 9 <b>Kelly Hancock (R)</b>   | 25 Donna Campbell (R)          |
| 10 <b>Phil King (R)</b>      | 26 Jose Menendez (D)           |
| 11 Mayes Middleton (R)       | 27 Adam Hinojosa (R)*          |
| 12 <b>Tan Parker (R)</b>     | 28 Charles Perry (R)           |
| 13 Borris L. Miles (D)       | 29 Cesar Blanco (D)            |
| 14 Sarah Eckhardt (D)        | 30 <b>Brent Hagenbuch (R)*</b> |
| 15 Molly Cook (D)*           | 31 Kevin Sparks (R)            |
| 16 <b>Nathan Johnson (D)</b> |                                |

# Bill Tracking

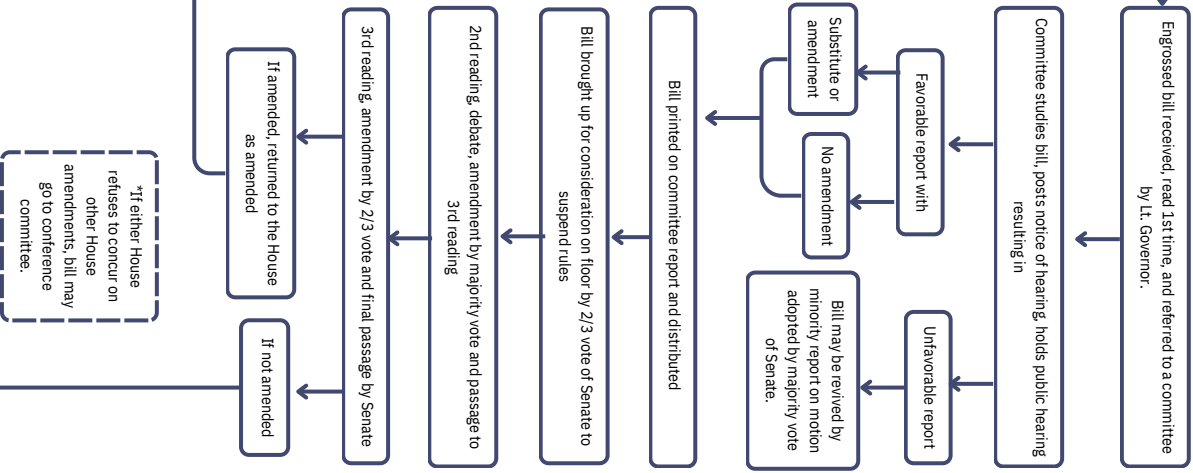
| Bill Number | Author | Committee | Hearing Date | Out of Committee | 2nd reading action | 3rd reading action | Signed by Governor |
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# How a Bill Becomes a Law

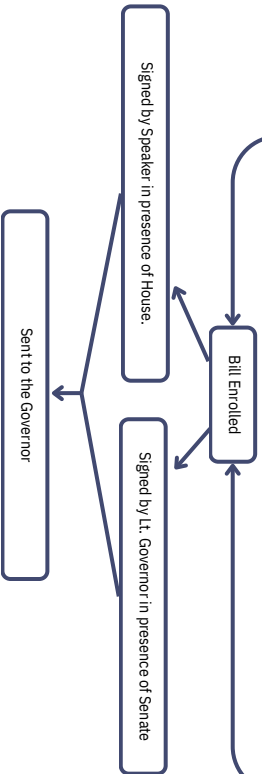
## House



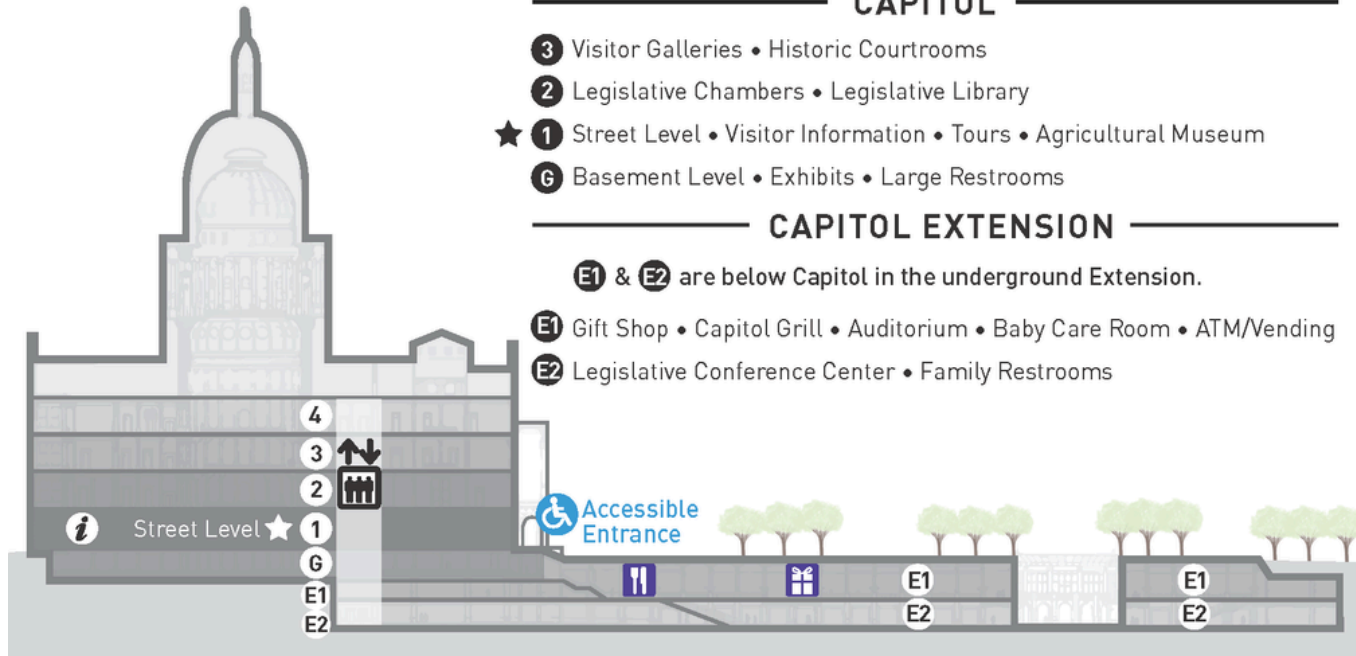
## Senate



\*If either House refuses to concur on other House amendments, bill may go to conference committee.



# Map of the Texas Capitol



# Glossary

*Whether you're a capitol veteran or a novice, being familiar with these terms will help any #txlege observer look and feel like a pro.*

**Amendment:** A change, through addition, removal, or clarification of existing language to a bill.

**Back Mic/Front Mic:** Legislators use these microphones, located at podiums at the front and back of the House floor, to introduce legislation, propose amendments, and participate in discourse regarding bills. Senators speak from microphones at their personal desks on the floor.

**Caption:** This brief statement serves as a description and often only provides cursory information about the content of a bill.

**Christmas Tree:** Refers to a piece of legislation with numerous amendments.

**Chubbing:** A tactic often employed by legislators seeking to waste time on the floor in an effort to prevent certain bills they deem unfavorable from reaching deadlines required to advance legislation.

**Committee Sub:** A change in language, or altering of content, of a bill that differs from the filed version when presented in the committee hearing designated for the legislation.

**Companion Bill:** Legislation that has similar, and in some cases identical, language and intent in both chambers of the legislature.

**Desk Mate:** Refers to House members who sit in pairs on the floor. Many legislators develop strong bonds and form strategic relationships with their neighboring counterparts.

**Dropping a card:** Refers to the action of registering a position (on, for, or against) on legislation in a committee hearing. Although this practice once required physically filling out a card, registration now occurs via electronic tablet kiosks located throughout the Capitol.

**Emergency Item:** Priority issues identified by the Governor. Action on these items are allowed to take place before the 60th day of session through special authority granted by the Governor.

**Point of Order:** This parliamentary procedure calls the legitimacy and accuracy of a piece of legislation into question. Points of Order (POOs) must be analyzed by the Parliamentarian using legal and procedural precedent. Following the analysis, a ruling to accept (“sustained”) or reject (“overruled”) is made by the leader of the chamber (Speaker of the House or Lt. Governor).

**Priority Bill:** Bills deemed as important by House and Senate leadership. Low bill numbers (1-20 in the House, 1-10 in the Senate) are often reserved for these bills and serve as an indicator of the level of priority each holds based on its numerical value.

**Quorum:** The minimum number of members present required to call a committee hearing or the floor to order. The threshold for quorum in the House is 100 and the Senate is 21.

**Sine Die:** A Latin phrase meaning “without day” colloquially known as the last day, or 140th day, of a Legislative Session.



# Notes

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# NTC Lobby Team



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**Dr. Charles Luke**

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