

BUDGET

PRIORITIZING OF STATE FUNDS

HB 1, the budget bill for Texas, includes approximately \$250 billion for the next biennium, with the largest portions going to education and health care. Major wins include the appropriation of \$35 million in funding for the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP) and \$150 million for the Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGETARY CONTROL

SB 2, the major property tax reform bill, provides the following: 1) limits on future tax increases, 2) an improved, real-time tax notice, and 3) process reforms. It includes a 3.5 percent rollback rate for cities, counties, and emergency service districts. That means those entities must hold an election if they wish to raise property tax revenue at or above 3.5 percent over the previous year. Community colleges and hospital districts remain at the current 8 percent rollback rate.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICIES

SB 1978 reaffirms current laws that prohibit governmental entities from taking adverse action against any person based wholly or partly on the person's membership in, affiliation with, or contribution, donation, or other support provided to a religious organization. Concerns remain that it infringes on municipal control on non-discrimination policies.

PRESERVING TEXAS' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS

HB 3143 continues Chapter 312 of the Texas State Tax Code, allowing cities and counties to provide temporary property tax exemptions to attract major new economic development projects. Chapter 312 agreements were used to secure Uber's expansion into Dallas, bringing 3,000 new, high-wage jobs by 2022.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

OVERHAULING PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING IN TEXAS

HB 3, also known as the Texas Plan, was the major school finance reform legislation of the session. The bill provides \$4.5 billion in new funding to public school districts to improve student achievement, an additional \$2 billion in dynamic teacher compensation, and more than \$5 billion for property tax relief, bringing the total new appropriation to \$11.6 billion.

IMPROVING COLLEGE CREDIT TRANSFERS

SB 25 improves the transferability of college credits between public institutions of higher education by creating regional transfer agreements. Improved transfer and academic progress rules increase post-secondary degree completion and reduce student debt.

ALIGNING PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS

SB 1276 ensures that school districts and institutions of higher education are aligned on student advising and pathway alignment. This requires collaboration between the school districts and higher education institutions when entering into dual credit agreements.

HEALTH CARE

TACKLING MENTAL HEALTH FOR TEXAS CHILDREN

SB 11 creates the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium and amends current law relating to policies, procedures, and measures for school safety and mental health promotion in public schools.

STABILIZING TRAUMA CARE FUNDING IN TEXAS

HB 2048 eliminates the driver responsibility program, while maintaining a stable source of state funding for hospital trauma care. This new funding source will provide an additional \$32 million over the biennium.

PRESERVING INDIGENT CARE FUNDING IN DALLAS COUNTY

HB 2326 amends current law to extend the continuation of the local provider participation fund (LPPF) for Dallas County to December 31, 2025. The fund, established by the Dallas County Hospital District, allows for more efficient funding for indigent care.

TRANSPORTATION

INCREASING FLEXIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

HB 2830 increases project efficiency in the design-build process for state highway projects by revising certain requirements. It also provides the Texas Department of Transportation with additional flexibility in scheduling projects.

EXTENDING FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION

SB 962 extends the much needed Proposition 1 system of funding for transportation projects until 2034. For the 2020-21 biennium, this system of funding will provide an additional \$3.9 billion to spend on transportation projects across the state.

Keeping Legislators Accountable

The Pro-Growth Legislative Accountability Index was designed to help members of the DRC – and the business community as a whole – better understand how our region's elected officials are representing business interests in Austin.

During the 86th Texas Legislative Session, the Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC) tracked how legislators from North Texas voted on issues that impact the region's pro-business, pro-growth priorities.

Twelve recorded votes in each chamber were used to develop this Index, revealing the position of the 9 senators and 42 representatives from our region. These votes were carefully selected because they represent issues that are critical for our region and state's continued success.

Although the DRC supported many pieces of legislation and opposed others, only those aligned with our legislative agenda were recorded on the index.



DALE PETROSKEY
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Dallas Regional Chamber

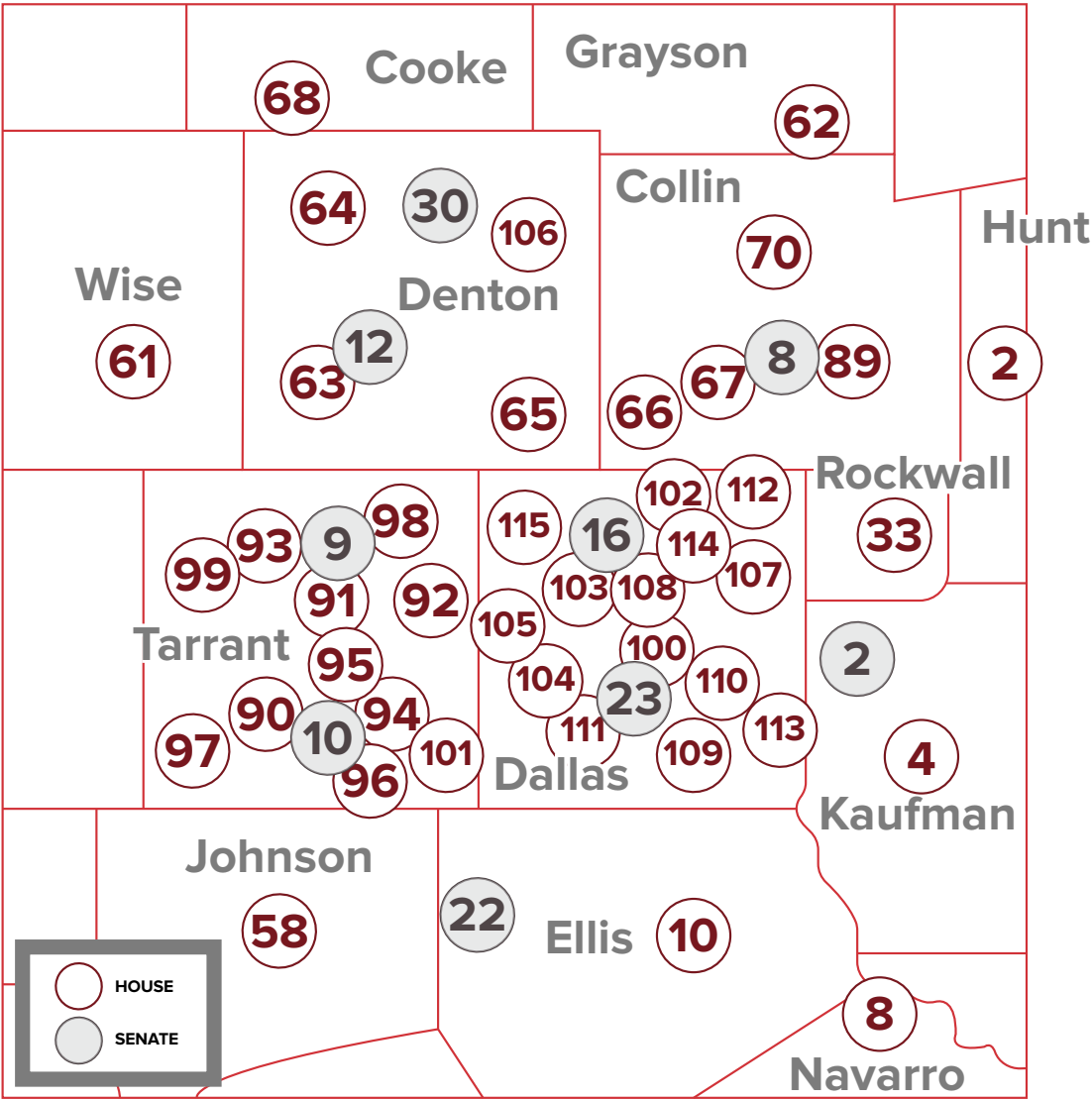
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To learn more about the DRC's legislative priorities, please visit www.dallaschamber.org.

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PRO-GROWTH LEGISLATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY INDEX

86TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION





- * All recorded votes are third and final reading
** HB1, SB2, and HB3 denotes score on Conference Committee Report version of the bill