

Legislative Update: A Recap of a Long 88th Legislative Session and a Look to 2025

TML Mid-Year Conference
San Marcos, Texas
March 15, 2024



1



2

2023 Highlights

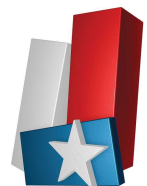
- **Regular Session (140 days)**
- **4th Special Session gaveled out on December 5, 2023 (329 days later)**
- **The first removal of a House member in almost 100 years**
- **The impeachment of Attorney General**
- **Fights between the Senate and House on property tax reform**
- **Fights between Gov. and the House on school vouchers**



3

88th Legislative Session – By the Numbers

- **8,344 bills and joint resolutions filed - 1,880 tracked bills (23%)**
- **1,258 bills passed - 230 tracked bills passed**
- **1,073 bills passed (87th Legislative Session)**



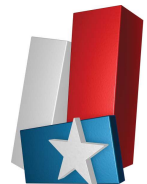
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5

Preemption

- The 2023 session saw breakthrough of “super preemption” legislation, in addition to the usual, narrowly-tailored preemption bills.
- Significant legislation that passed:
 - **H.B. 2127** – Prevents cities and counties from adopting, enforcing, or maintaining local regulations related to an activity located in a field of regulation occupied by state law in certain state codes.
- Litigation Update



6

Land Use

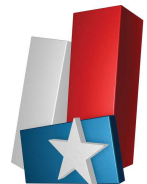
- Land use issues dominated the session as it related to cities, with a focus on disannexation, ETJ removal, development shot clocks, the right-to-farm in city limits, and zoning authority.
- Significant legislation that passed:
 - **S.B. 2038** – Release of area from ETJ by petition or election
 - **H.B. 1750** – Limits on city regulation of agricultural operations
 - **H.B. 3699/H.B. 14** – Numerous changes to platting review process
 - **S.B. 929** – Compensation for termination of non-conforming use
- Litigation Update



7

City Finance and Administration

- Property tax relief the focus of regular and special sessions.
- Legislature addressed city fees more than other revenue sources.
- Few bills passed addressing city sales taxes or city debt.
 - **H.B. 3492** – Prohibits value-based city permit fees
 - **S.B. 577** – Local alcohol fees and public health districts
 - **S.B. 1420** – Local HOT tax reporting changes



8

Economic Development

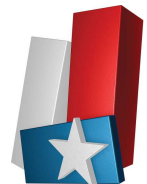
- Former Chapter 313 school value limitations were updated and recodified, with indirect impact on cities. Some positive economic development authority passed for cities, along with expanded reporting requirements.
- Significant legislation that passed:
 - **H.B. 5** – ISD tax limitation program
 - **S.B. 543** – City transfer of land in 380 agreements
 - **S.B. 1340** – Expands 380 and tax abatement reporting



9

Public Safety and Personnel

- Legislature shifted focus from reform to address certain public safety issues – street takeovers, catalytic converter theft, and paper tags.
- Significant legislation that passed:
 - **H.B. 1819** – Prohibits local juvenile curfews
 - **H.B. 471** – Paid illness and injury leave for first responders
 - **H.B. 3186** – Mandatory youth diversion programs
 - **H.B. 718** – Paper tags beginning in 2025
 - **H.B. 1442** – Seizure of cars used in street takeovers
 - **S.B. 224** – Increased penalties for catalytic converter theft



10

Open Government and Elections

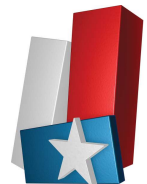
- As always, the session featured a push for increased transparency. Some of the legislation that passed will create additional work and expense for cities in years to come.
- Significant legislation that passed:
 - **H.B. 357** – Scheduling runoff elections
 - **H.B. 3033** – Omnibus PIA reform bill
 - **S.B. 943** – Requirements on newspapers to post notices



11

Utilities and Environment

- Utility legislation highlighted with historic investments in broadband deployment and water infrastructure.
- Significant legislation that passed:
 - **H.B. 9/H.J.R. 125/S.B. 1238** – Broadband funding
 - **S.B. 28/S.J.R. 75** – Texas Water Fund and Water Supply Fund



12

Grassroots Efforts

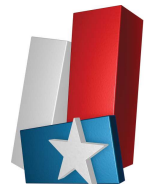
- Get to know your legislators, contact them often
- Stay informed on issues
- Understand the legislative process
- Become a resource for your legislator and TML
- Be able to act quickly during session



13

TML Legislative Process

- **Municipal Policy Summit**
 - August 12-13, 2024
 - Policy briefing in Austin on all municipal issues
 - Members appointed by TML President
 - Report goes to annual business meeting for approval
- **TML Business Meeting**
 - Delegates consider resolutions submitted by the membership at Annual Conference
 - One delegate from each city
 - Resolutions due August 2024



14

How to Stay Informed

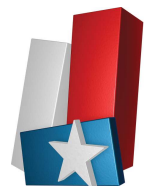
- TML *Legislative Update*
- Post-Session Update articles
- Full list of passed bills:
https://www.tml.org/DocumentCenter/View/3820/LU2023_23
- Call/email TML Legislative or Legal department with questions
- Monthly legislative webinars during session
- TML alert emails



15

TML Legislative Team

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16

Questions?

