



# Development of the 2027 State and Federal Legislative Agenda

**Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs**

**May 5, 2026**

## **Eric Dominguez**

*Director*

Office of Government Affairs

## **Clifford Sparks**

*State Legislative Director*

City Attorney's Office

## **Alexandra Renteria**

*Legislative & Public Policy Liaison*

Office of Government Affairs

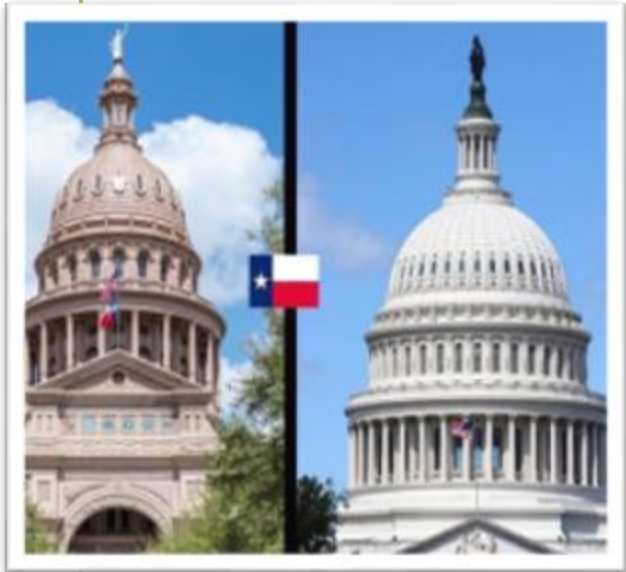
## **Feliz Stafford**

*Legislative & Public Policy Liaison*

Office of Government Affairs



# Presentation Overview



- **Background**
- **Agenda Implementation Process**
- **Legislative Agenda Considerations**
- **Previous Guiding Principles**
- **Legislative Priorities Framework**
- **Next Steps: Key Dates and Actions**

# Background: Legislative Agenda

- Prior to each legislative session, the City Council adopts state and federal legislative agendas that establish the City's policy direction and priorities.
- The agendas guide City staff in:
  - Developing and advancing legislative proposals
  - Responding to filed legislation
  - Testifying before legislative committees
  - Pursuing state and federal funding opportunities
  - Communication with elected officials and partner agencies during session
- Upon adoption, the agendas are shared with state, federal, and regional partners.

# Background: Texas Legislature

- 188 days until pre-filing begins (November 9, 2026).
- The Texas Legislature meets for 140 days in odd-numbered years, during which a high volume of legislation is introduced, requiring prioritization and clear direction.
- In 2023 | 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session:
  - Over 8,000 bills filed
  - 708 bills tracked by the City of Dallas that could impact city operations
  - 159 bills of interest to the City were enacted
- In 2025 | 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session:
  - Over 9,000 bills filed
  - 1,450 bills tracked by the City of Dallas that could impact city operations
  - 137 bills of interest to the City were enacted

# Background: U.S. Congress

- 243 days until Swearing-In of the 120<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress.
- Congress meets in two sessions per Congress (two years). Congressional priorities are driven externally and evolve throughout the two-year Congress, requiring ongoing engagement rather than a single-session push.
  - Shaped by Administration priorities, reauthorization cycles, and national events; Major policy outcomes are typically delivered through authorization and appropriations legislation
- In the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, 8 of the city's top 10 federal priorities addressed through written comments, federal rulemaking, and funding awards.
  - In FY24, approx. \$8 million secured in Community Project Funding across 6 City projects.
  - In FY26, approx. \$15 million secured in Community Project funding across 17 city projects.

# Agenda Implementation Process



## Development

- Open call for legislative items - items to be submitted to OGA via an online form. Seek input from council members and city departments.  
**Deadline: May 1, 2026**
- OGA reviews legislative items submitted with city departments for operation and fiscal impact.



## Review

- Review by City Council Committees
- Review by the Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs



## Approval

- City Council Briefing
- City Council Adoption



## Implementation

- Share agenda with legislative delegation, public, and stakeholders.
- Outreach meetings year-round with legislators and stakeholders.
- Planned engagement once legislative agenda is adopted.

# Previous Guiding Principles



Maintain local control and preserve tools to respond to the specific needs of the Dallas community; harmonize responsibilities and resources



Promote a business-friendly environment to attract economic development and talent



Pursue funding for public safety, critical infrastructure, and natural resources



Support vulnerable populations and oppose any legislation that would erode existing protections

# Considerations

**Potential changes to local authority and fiscal impact to the city**

**Opportunities to secure external funding**

**Legislative / delegation priorities**

**Political climate / unforeseen circumstances**

**Alignment with Council priorities and policy direction**

# Legislative Positions Framework

**2027**

**Pursue:** Actively initiate or lead efforts to create, advance, or pass legislation.

**Monitor:** Track and review legislation and determine whether to support or oppose based on its impact on City operations.

**2025**

**Pursue** – Actively initiate or lead efforts to create, advance, or pass legislation

**Support** – back legislation that aligns with City priorities or provides benefit

**Oppose** – Actively work against legislation that creates negative impact or limits local authority

**Monitor** – requires additional review or has unclear impact, track legislation without taking a public or active stance (yet)

# Leading City Priorities: Implementation

## State (CAO/OGA)

*140-day legislative session (odd-numbered years)*

- Coordinate with departments to evaluate operational and fiscal impacts of legislation
- Develop the City's position on proposed legislation based on the City's legislative program
- Monitor legislation and regulatory changes affecting City programs and authority
- Track rulemaking through the Texas Register
- Provide regular updates to the Mayor and City Council, including opportunities for testimony and input

## Federal (OGA)

*Congress in session year-round (~250+ days annually)*

- Coordinate the City's federal advocacy in alignment with the Council-adopted agenda
- Monitor and analyze legislation and administrative actions impacting the City
- Provide updates to Council via memorandum, as needed
- Coordinate Community Project Funding and other federal funding opportunities
- Support engagement with the Mayor, City Council, congressional delegation, and key committees
- Maintain partnerships with national and regional organizations to strengthen advocacy efforts

# Key Dates & Actions

Action	Description	Date
Interim 89 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Session	Maintain and strengthen relationships with members of the state and federal delegation and identify opportunities of alignment before session.	March- December 2026
Call for Legislative and Budget Priorities	Solicit legislative and budget priorities from City departments and Council Committees	April/May 2026
Council Committee Review	Review and refine priorities through Council Committees	May/June 2026
Presentation to the Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs	Review and refine priorities through Ad Hoc Committee	June 2026
City Council Briefing and Consideration of Legislative Agenda	Draft and present final agendas to City Council	August 2026
90 <sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature Pre-Filing Begins	State legislators begin filing bills for the 90th Texas Legislature	November 2026
Legislative Session Begins	120 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress Convenes 90 <sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature Convenes	January 3, 2027 January 12, 2027

# Next Steps

- Receive Committee feedback
- Initiate development of the 2027 State and Federal Legislative Agendas
- Coordinate presentations to City Council Committees
- Refine priorities based on Council direction
- Prepare draft agendas for City Council briefing and adoption



# Development of the 2027 State and Federal Legislative Agenda

**Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs**

**May 5, 2026**

## **Eric Dominguez**

*Director*

Office of Government Affairs

## **Clifford Sparks**

*State Legislative Director*

City Attorney's Office

## **Alexandra Renteria**

*Legislative & Public Policy Liaison*

Office of Government Affairs

## **Feliz Stafford**

*Legislative & Public Policy Liaison*

Office of Government Affairs



# Appendix I. 90<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Schedule

Major Event	Date
Pre-filing begins	November 9, 2026
Session begins	January 12, 2027
Last day to file bills	March 12, 2027
Last day to consider House bills	May 14, 2027
Last day to consider Senate bills	May 26, 2027
Session ends (Sine Die)	May 31, 2027
Post-session Governor's 20-day Review Period	June 1, 2027 – June 20, 2027

- ❑ According to the Texas Constitution, the Legislature cannot pass legislation during the first 60 days of regular session unless the governor declares it an emergency.
- ❑ The governor may also call a special session anytime between regular session.

# Appendix II. State Delegation Members

Texas Senate	Texas House	Texas House Cont.
Sen. Bob Hall	Rep. Rafael Anchia	Rep. Venton Jones
Sen. Nathan Johnson	Rep. Keith Bell	Rep. Mitch Little
Sen. Tan Parker	Rep. John Bryant	Rep. Morgan Meyer
Sen. Angela Paxton	Rep. Rhetta Bowers	Rep. Terry Meza
Sen. Royce West	Rep. Angie Chan Button	Rep. Candy Noble
	Rep. Aicha Davis	Rep. Katrina Pierson
	Rep. Yvonne Davis	Rep. Ana-Maria Rodriguez
	Rep. Linda Garcia	Rep. Toni Rose
	Rep. Cassandra Garcia Hernandez	Rep. Mihaela Plesa
	Rep. Jessica Gonzalez	

# Appendix III. Federal Delegation Members

U.S. Senate	U.S. House
Sen. John Cornyn	Rep. Jasmine Crockett
Sen. Ted Cruz	Rep. Pat Fallon
	Rep. Lance Gooden
	Rep. Jake Ellzey
	Rep. Keith Self
	Rep. Julie Johnson
	Rep. Beth Van Duyne
	Rep. Marc Veasey