



City of Dallas

89th Texas Legislature - Post Session Review

**Ad Hoc Committee On Legislative Affairs
August 5, 2025**

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89th Legislation Session Bill Overview



- 9,014 total bills were filed.
- 1,450 bills were tracked that could affect city operations.
- 1,231 total bills were sent to the Governor.
- 137 bills impacting the City of Dallas passed.
- Five of the city's top nine priorities* were signed into law.

*Of the items listed in the "Pursue" category of the legislative program; see Appendix A.



Legislative Process Overview



State Legislative Program Review



City of Dallas 2025 State Legislative Program

**Maintain local authority
to respond to the unique needs of the Dallas community.**



Ensure provision of pension benefits for uniformed and civilian employees.

Codify the city's funding plan for the Dallas Police & Fire Pension System.

Monitor funding and oversight relating to pensions.



Provide additional tools for local law enforcement agencies to ensure public safety for Dallas.

Grow and retain our public safety workforce.

Modernize law enforcement tools to include safer technologies.

Increase protections and resources for domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.



Secure protections for residents at greatest risk of displacement and tools to address affordable housing.

Expand tools for seniors to age in place and preserve homeownership.

Enhance protections against squatting.

Seek funding for homelessness services, including cost recovery for unsheltered services provided by certain municipalities.



Promote job creation and private investment to grow the tax base and create economic opportunities.

Ensure Dallas receives its fair share of revenue that may be generated by gambling, if authorized by state law.

Strengthen Dallas' workforce development pipeline.

Expand broadband connectivity for all residents.



Deliver effective and efficient government services, while being fiscally responsible.

Support election date flexibility and ranked choice voting.

Protect resident and commercial data.

Support measured use and regulation of artificial intelligence.

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Adopted by Dallas City Council 10.8.24 via Resolution 24-1508



*See 2025 State Legislative Program Appendix in Appendix A.

State Legislative Program Review



City of Dallas 2025 State Legislative Program

**Maintain local authority
to respond to the unique needs of the Dallas community.**



Protect and enhance the City's infrastructure network while continuing to deliver innovative and safe solutions.

Pursue tools to implement the City of Dallas' Vision Zero Mobility Safety Plan.

Support full funding for DART.

Support transparency in utility operations and grid reliability.

Establish regulations for autonomous vehicles.



Support resource sustainability, conservation, and environmental justice to build a more resilient city.

Leverage short-term car rental tax for parks and trails.

Support funding for Dallas parks, trails, and playgrounds.

Ensure sustainability of the State's natural resources.



Foster community while offering recreational, educational, and cultural activities.

Study, implement, and make accessible harm reduction strategies to combat the opioid epidemic.

Promote proper mental and physical healthcare for all.



Ensure Dallas is a welcoming community for all residents, businesses, and visitors.

Protect the rights of all vulnerable communities.

Expand funding, eligibility, and access for nutrition programs.

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Bill Analysis Structure, Process & Statistics



- As bills are filed, they are identified and distributed to the appropriate CAO and city management staff to determine the effect that each would have on the City.
- Each time bills were amended by the legislature, CAO and city management staff would re-analyze the bill and provide feedback within 24 hours or less.
- Every Friday throughout the session, the legislative team met along with the appropriate CAO and city management staff to analyze bills that could affect city operations as well as discuss weekly legislative updates, upcoming testimony, travel, etc.

89 th Texas Legislative Statistics	
Council Updates Distributed	41
Bills – Testimony Provided	45
Bills – Letters Submitted	27
Bills – Dropped Cards	45
Councilmember Travel to Austin – Trip Count	18
Total Councilmember Travel Cost	\$44,697.29
Staff Travel to Austin – Trip Count	48
Total Staff Travel Cost	\$45,120.59



Favorable Legislation



- HB 21- Relating to housing finance corporations.
- HB 149 - Regulation of artificial intelligence systems.
- HB 2510 - Relating to assisted living facility operations.
- HB 2854 - Relating to the required approval of certain hospital visits as condition of release on parole.
- HB 3611 - Relating to civil signs placed on the right-of-way of a public roadway.
- HB 4783 - Relating to a report on governmental opioid antagonists' programs.
- SB 22 - Relating to the Texas moving image industry incentive program and establishment of an incentive fund.
- SB 1333 - Relating to the unauthorized entry, occupancy, sale, rental, lease, advertisement for sale, rental, lease, or conveyance of real property.
- SB 1494 - Relating to the authority of certain political subdivisions to change the date of the general elections.



Favorable Legislation



- SB 1555 - Relating to a grant program to fund certain railroad grade separation projects.
- SB 1646 - Relating to criminal conduct involving the theft of copper or brass.
- SB 1901- Relating to the administration of the Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council.
- SB 2570 - Relating to a defense to prosecution for certain offenses involving the use of a less-lethal projectile.
- SB 2790 - Relating to the designation of a portion of US Hwy 67 in Dallas as Eddie Bernice Johnson Memorial Highway.
- HB 2217 - Relating to establishing a grant program to equip motor vehicles used by peace officers with bullet-resistant components.
- HB 3062 - Relating to fentanyl prevention and drug poisoning awareness education.
- SB2177 - Relating to the creation of a grant program to assist local law enforcement agencies in solving violent and sexual offenses.



Unfavorable Legislation Signed by the Governor



- HB 9 - Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income.
- HB 2464 - Relating to the authority of a municipality to regulate a home-based business.
- HB 2844 - Relating to the regulation of mobile food vendors.
- SB 15 - Relating to size and density requirements for residential lots in certain municipalities.
- SB 38 - Relating to the eviction from real property of certain persons not entitled to enter, occupy, or remain in possession of the premises.
- SB 599 - Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to regulate a licensed child-care facility or registered family home.



Unfavorable Legislation Signed by the Governor



- SB 840 - Relating to certain municipal and county regulation of certain multifamily and mixed-use residential development projects and conversion of certain commercial buildings.
- SB 924 - Relating to entities that provide cable services or video services.
- SB 1008 - Relating to state and local authority to regulate the food service industry.
- SB 1252 - Relating to the authority of a municipality to regulate the installation or inspection of a residential energy backup system.
- SB 1567 - Relating to the authority of home-rule municipalities to regulate occupancy of dwelling units.
- SB 2835 - Relating to regulation of stairway requirements in certain multifamily residential buildings by political subdivisions.



Budget Highlights



- Southern Gateway Deck Park \$10 million
- Judge Charles Rose Park \$5 million
- Increases to grant programs for:
 - Anti-gang Programs
 - Bullet Resistant Vests
 - Community Mental Health
 - Healthy Community Collaboratives
 - Local Air Pollution
 - Opioid Abatement Trust Fund (newly established)
 - Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (TMIIP)
 - Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)
 - State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program
 - Veterans Treatment Court Grants



Special Session Update



- SB 5 - Regulation of Hemp.
- SB 9 - Calculation of the voter approval tax rate or "spending cap."
- SB 12 - Use by a political subdivision of public funds for lobbying activities.
- SB 14 - Files maintained by a law enforcement agency.
- HB 4 - Redistricting.
- Flooding legislation.



Next Steps



- City Attorney's Office will be providing a legislative summary of bills that affect the city and what action may be required, including code amendments.
- CAO and OGA will work with city departments to implement state mandates via code amendments or policy changes.
- Legislative Team interim initiatives:
 - Monitor plans for special legislative sessions.
 - Monitor state interim charges and agency actions.
 - Continuously engage in outreach and communication with state delegates.
 - Identify issues of interest for City legislative priorities for the 90th State Legislative Session.





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Appendix A.

2025 State Legislative Program Appendix





PURSUE (draft legislation, secure an author, get passed)

1. Maintain local control.
2. Codify the city's funding plan for the Dallas Police & Fire Pension System.
3. Define the use for Less Lethal Devices in the Texas Penal Code to ensure law enforcement agencies may use innovative life-saving technologies.
4. Enhance residential and commercial protections against squatting.
5. Pursue legislation to capture a portion of the short-term car rental tax for parks and trails improvements.
6. Pursue legislation to make accessible harm reduction strategies to combat the opioid epidemic.
7. Pursue legislation aimed at mitigating theft of communications facilities of copper, fiber, and other necessary equipment needed to ensure customer access to vital emergency communications services.
8. Amend local government election dates for municipal elections.
9. Pursue legislation that grants limited law enforcement capabilities to the Office of Inspector General to investigate fraud and corruption.
10. Seek clarity regarding card rooms.





SUPPORT

1. Maintain local control.
2. Expand broadband connectivity for all residents.
3. Increase protections, support, and resources to prevent domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.
4. Grow the housing stock and preserve home ownership.
5. Protect rights and right to cure period during eviction process.
6. Strengthen Dallas' workforce development pipeline and support the growth of small business enterprises.
7. Support the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives that reduce city expenses and modernize city operations.
8. Support TxDOT's efforts to improve the safety and cleanliness of state roadways.
9. Establish regulation and reporting for autonomous vehicles.
10. Permit flexibility in lowering of the prima facie speed limit in residential areas from 30 to 25 miles per hour (*Vision Zero*)
11. Allow municipalities to designate roadways as High Injury Network (HIN) roadways. (*Vision Zero*)





SUPPORT

12. Support transparency in utility operations and grid reliability.
13. Support rail safety legislation to ensure transparency and protection of local communities.
14. Ensure sustainability of the state's natural resources, including lakes, reservoirs, and water supply.
15. Support growth in industries of sustainability and resiliency, including green infrastructure, waste reduction, weatherization and utilities efficiencies, deployment of solar power, and alternative fueled vehicles.
16. Protect the rights of all vulnerable communities, including LGBTQIA+ individuals, youth, seniors, and refugees.
17. Promote proper mental and physical healthcare for all, including participation in Medicaid.
18. Enhance safety for residents of senior facilities.





MONITOR

1. Monitor funding and oversight relating to pensions.
2. Business opportunities to grow the tax base and ensure Dallas receives its fair share of revenue that may be generated from gambling, if authorized by state law.
3. Access to a vibrant and diverse collection of materials and resources in Dallas public libraries that represent the interests and needs of all residents of Dallas. Workforce, Education, and Equity.
4. Protect whistleblowers and maintain ethical standards and accountability in the workplace.
5. Establish the Department of Public Safety as the primary first responder on state highways.
6. Expand Baby Moses Law age.
7. Authorize local law enforcement agencies to conduct driving while intoxicated checkpoints to combat the prevalence of drunk driving, motor vehicle accidents, and fatalities.
8. Amend the Public Information Act to exempt preliminary recommendations derived from early warning software platforms designed to support proactive employee intervention.
9. Amend statute to include a ten-year minimum sentence for aggravated assault on a peace officer.





MONITOR

10. Adopt a statewide minimum cash bail schedule for eligible violent felonies and mandate the revocation of bail of defendants arrested for any violent felony while the defendant is awaiting trial on a previously charged violent felony.
11. Mandate that judges order participation from high-risk violent offenders in focused deterrence programs as a condition of probation or parole.
12. Protect privacy and security of resident and commercial data.
13. Require mandatory disclosure of residential and commercial real estate sales prices.
14. Ensure project delivery processes serving residents and industry are effective and transparent.
15. Establish a database of homestead exemptions.
16. Expand options for publication of legal notices.
17. Clarify the local government procurement process to include price consideration of purchasing goods.
18. Legalize marijuana and seek additional research metrics regarding its economic, health and safety effects





OPPOSE

1. Any attempts to erode local control.

