

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: 3rd Called Special State Legislative Session

DATE: September 13, 2021

The City's Government & Public Affairs Department will provide a briefing on the items included in the Governor's call for a third Special Session of the Texas Legislature and proposed policy positions for committee discussion that will be used to guide staff advocacy.

Background

Ahead of each regular Texas Legislative Session, the City of San Antonio develops a State Legislative Program which establishes the City's positions on certain legislation and guides the City's legislative efforts in line with City Council direction. The [87th State Legislative Program](#) was approved by City Council on November 12, 2020. In addition to identifying several key priorities, the program includes broad language stating that the City supports legislation that would clearly benefit the City and opposes legislation that would be detrimental to the City's interests, including bills that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Undermine the principles of self-government;
- Mandate increased cost to cities, including environmental mandates;
- Result in the loss of revenue to cities or negatively impacts the authority of the City to generate revenues; and
- Result in diminishing the fundamental authority of cities to operate in a manner consistent with the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the general public

The regular state legislative session ended on May 31, 2021. Two Special Sessions have already been called and concluded, resulting in the passage many of the Governor's priorities. On September 7, Governor Abbott called a 3rd Special Session to begin on September 20th.

The items on the Governor's call for a 3rd Special Session are:

- Legislation relating to the apportionment of the State of Texas into districts used to elect members of the Texas House of Representatives, the Texas Senate, the State Board of Education, and the United States House of Representatives

- Legislation providing appropriations from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
- Legislation identical to Senate Bill 29 as passed by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, disallowing a student from competing in University Interscholastic League athletic competition designated for the sex opposite to the student's sex at birth.
- Legislation regarding whether any state or local governmental entities in Texas can mandate that an individual receive a COVID-19 vaccine and, if so, what exemptions should apply to such mandate.
- Legislation similar to Senate Bill 373 as passed by the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, but that addresses the concerns expressed in the governor's veto statement.

Issue

GPA will recommend legislative positions to the items on the call for discussion and consideration by the IGR committee.