



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 2

**Agenda Date:** August 10, 2022

**In Control:** Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting

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**DEPARTMENT:** Government Affairs

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Sally Basurto

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

City's State Legislative Program for the 88th State Legislative Session and State interim activity.

**SUMMARY:**

Briefing on the development of the City's State Legislative Program for the 88th State Legislative Session and an update on State interim activity.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

During the Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting, Government Affairs (GA) will provide a briefing on the process for developing the City's State Legislative Program for the 88th State Legislative Session and an update on state legislative activity.

The Texas Legislature meets every two years in odd numbered years; the 88th Legislative Session is scheduled to begin on January 10, 2023. Prior to the start of each regular Session, the City of

San Antonio identifies policy priorities and the legislative initiatives that it will seek to have addressed by the Legislature.

## ISSUE:

### 88th State Legislative Program

In preparation of the development of the City's Legislative Program for the 88th Legislative Session, the Government Affairs Department and state consultants are currently analyzing the priorities submitted by departments and identifying issues for coordinated efforts with our community partners. The goal is to develop a legislative program that is strategic and impactful, one that aligns with City priorities, protects or increases revenue to the City and promotes enhanced delivery of services.

Key dates below for discussion and final approval of the City's legislative program:

<b>July-August</b>	GA and Consultants to review and discuss department initiatives/priorities, provide feedback on Legislative Program
<b>September 14</b>	Proposed State Legislative Program recommendations to IGR Committee for approval
<b>October</b>	City Council Briefing – B Session
<b>October</b>	Adoption of City's Legislative Program – A Session
<b>November 14</b>	First day bills may be filed for the 88th Legislature
<b>January 10</b>	88th State Legislature begins

### State Legislative Activity

In addition, the House and Senate Committees continue to meet to address the interim charges previously assigned by leadership. State activity and legislative hearings that are of interest to the City, and have occurred since the last update provided on June 9th, are outlined below:

- **State Broadband Development**

On June 15, the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) released their initial 2022 Texas Broadband Plan. The plan is the first major action by the BDO, which was created by HB 5 during the 87th State Legislative Session. The state plan focuses on five guiding principles: 1) use of funding toward unserved/underserved areas; 2) enhance connectivity of anchor institutions [schools, libraries, hospitals, public safety; higher education; local governments]; 3) promote coordination between public and private stakeholders; 4) utilize all avenues and technologies to access broadband; 5) remove barriers to residential, business, and institutional broadband. The BDO's next action steps are to establish a broadband program that aligns with federal program requirements and develop and publish a broadband availability map in coordination with Texas stakeholder groups. The state expects approximately \$1 to 4 billion in federal funding for digital equity and last mile deployment projects. The final funding amount will be known later this year or early 2023. Additional funds will be released in 2024 and 2025, after the state submits a final proposal.

- **Allocation of State Funds – Response to Uvalde Shooting**

On June 28, state leadership announced the transfer of \$105.5 million for additional school safety and mental health initiatives. Funding will be transferred to state agencies and used for programs

to provide bullet-resistant shields, rapid response training for local law enforcement agencies, silent panic alarms, additional telehealth services for school-aged children, and fusion center capability expansion. \$5 million has been set aside specifically for Uvalde to assist in evaluating mental health services in the Uvalde community and to prepare a needs assessment for the legislature. It is anticipated that more financial support will be allocated during the next budget cycle, but this funding was provided immediately for it to be available before the start of the next school year.

- **State Revenue Estimate Raised**

On July 14, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar released a revised state revenue estimate giving Texas lawmakers an extra \$27 billion to spend in the next legislative session, in addition to the \$13.6 billion currently in the state's rainy-day fund. The increase in revenue is mainly due to inflation (sales tax) and oil and natural gas production taxes. The extra funds could help pay for property tax cuts, which state leadership has already mentioned as a priority for 2023. Hegar's revenue estimate will be revised one more time before the Legislature convenes in January 2023, but revenues are expected to remain high.

- **Workforce Housing**

On July 14, the House Urban Affairs committee held a hearing that focused on affordable workforce housing. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs provided testimony on the programs they currently offer for single family and multifamily approaches. For 15 consecutive months the median home price in Texas has increased and housing advocates testified that housing supply has not kept up with growing population and workers are unable to afford homes or rentals in areas within proximity to their workplace. Texas Builders Association also provided testimony that building codes (energy efficiency mandates, natural gas pipeline permit approvals, etc.) are driving up housing costs, thus reducing affordable housing stock. TDHCA brought attention to supply chain issues, the increase in construction materials, and the lack of available workforce to build the homes.

- **Report on Robb Elementary Shooting**

On July 17, the Texas House Investigative Committee on the Robb Elementary Shooting released their interim report. Over the past month the committee held eight hearings, in Austin and Uvalde, interviewing all 35 witnesses in executive session. The report focuses primarily on deficiencies in the actions taken by school employees before the shooting and law enforcement during the attack, specifically stating that "systemic failures and egregious poor decision making" by nearly all involved in a position of power. Speaker Phelan said, "the committee has equipped the Texas House with the facts our chamber needs to continue to respond to this tragedy in the coming months and during the 2023 legislative session." With the report now released, we anticipate the focus to shift to changes to policy. The full report can be viewed [here](#).

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.