

**Memorandum**

**Memorandum No: 25-106**

**Date:** February 4, 2025  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Ryan Henderson, City Manager   
**Re:** 89<sup>th</sup> State of Texas Legislature Update: Senate Priorities and Bill Tracking

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The Texas Municipal League (TML) along with City of Anna staff review and track legislation that could benefit or significantly erode the ability for the city to provide services to its neighbors.

During Governor Greg Abbott's [State of the State](#) address Sunday night he outlined property tax relief, water, teacher pay, career training, school choice, bail reform, and cyber security as emergency items, which will allow for expedited passage.

Last week, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick released his first set of priorities for the 89<sup>th</sup> legislature:

- S.B. 1 – Senate's Budget for Texas
- S.B. 2 – Providing School Choice
  - To be reviewed by the Senate Education K-12 committee today (2/4) at 11 a.m.
- S.B. 3 – Banning THC in Texas
- S.B. 4 – Increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$140,000 (\$150,000 for seniors)
  - Note: This homestead exemption applies only to school district property taxes.
- S.B. 5 – Combatting Alzheimer's – Establishing DPRIT (Dementia Prevention & Research Institute of Texas)
- S.B. 6 – Increasing Texas' Electric Grid Reliability
- S.B. 7 – Increasing Investments in Texas' Water Supply
- S.B. 8 – Requiring Local Law Enforcement to Assist the Federal Government's Deportation Efforts
- S.B. 9 – Reforming Bail – Keeping Violent Criminals Off Our Streets
- S.B. 10 – Placing the Ten Commandments in School
- S.B. 11 – Protecting the Freedom to Pray in School
- S.B. 12 – Establishing a Parental Bill of Rights in Public Education
- S.B. 13 – Guarding Against Inappropriate Books in Public Schools
- S.B. 14 – Texas DOGE – Improving Government Efficiency
- S.B. 15 – Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing
- S.B. 16 – Stopping Non-Citizens from Voting

- S.B. 17 – Stopping Foreign Adversaries’ Land Grabs
- S.B. 18 – Stopping Drag Time Story Hour
- S.B. 19 – Stopping Taxpayer Dollars for Lobbyists
- S.B. 20 – Stopping Artificial Intelligence Child Pornography
- S.B. 21 – Establishing the Texas Bitcoin Reserve
- S.B. 22 – Establishing Texas as America’s Film Capital
- S.B. 23 – Removing the Cap on the Rainy Day Fund to Secure Texas’ Long-term Financial Future
- S.B. 24 – Educating Texas Students on the Horrors of Communism
- S.B. 25 – Making Texas Healthy Again

The Lt. Governor is expected to announce 14 additional priorities in the coming weeks.

Lt. Governor Patrick named Senator Angela Paxton to serve on Education K-16 (the Higher Education Committee was removed), Finance, Local Government (now with seven members instead of nine) and Nominations. She has also been assigned Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on State Affairs.

House committees have not yet been announced by Speaker Burrows; however, HB 1 was filed by House Appropriation Chair Greg Bonnen, indicating he may retain his leadership over the committee. Both SB 1 and HB 1 are substantially similar, expending over \$330 billion and including allocations for property tax relief, public education funding including school choice, border security, and infrastructure.

TML is seeking the introduction and passage of legislation that would benefit the City of Anna:

- Increase street maintenance sales tax flexibility
  - HB 884 (C. Hernandez)
  - SB 178 (Menendez)
- Allow cities alternate methods for publications of legal notices
  - HB 1028 (Shaheen)
  - HB 1080 (Curry)
- Increase the competitive bidding threshold to account for increased costs to cities
  - HB 790(Spiller)
- Promote “Pay-as-you-go” financing through property tax rate calculation adjustment
- Create new law enforcement grant programs or expands current law enforcement grant programs

With more than 3,100 bills filed thus far, the following sample of bills are of particular interest to the City of Anna. Staff will continue to track all bills that would affect our neighbors throughout the session with the TML.

Land Use – Housing Affordability and Zoning Reform

- HB 878 (Vasut) – Minimum lot size restrictions for certain cities; accessory dwelling units by right in all cities
- SB 673 (Hughes)/HB 1779 (Bucy) – Accessory dwelling units by right
- HB 369 (Tepper) – No city regulations allowing for more than one single family dwelling on a lot zoned for single family dwellings on 9/1/2023
- HB 1742 (Hickland) – Zoning protest threshold from 20% of area property owners to 50%; ¾ vote of city council down to simple majority
- SB 653 (West) – State sales tax refund for affordable housing building materials

- HB 287 (Harris Davila)/SB 443 (J. Hinojosa) – Institutional investor reporting and limitation
- HB 1835 (Guillen) – Allows installation of new HUD-code manufactured homes in all residential zoning classifications

#### Land Use – Annexation / Disannexation

- HB 950 (Hayes) – Requires a city to provide full municipal services to annexed property within four years
- HB 377 (Cortez) – Any agreement that authorizes a city to annex property may not waive a written service agreement requirement

#### Land Use - Platting and Permitting

- HB 987 (Toth) – Moves building permit shot clock from 45 days to 30 days
- HB 993 (Toth) – Only commercial property owners can agree to extend 45 day shot clock for building permit approval

#### Finance

- HB 250 (Harrison) – Eliminates 3.5% multiplier for Voter Approval Rate (VAR) calculation and de minimis rate
- HB 763 (Cain)/HB 1131 (Oliverson) – City can't exceed VAR without election following a disaster
- HB 291 (C. Bell) – Sales price disclosure to appraisal districts
- HB 21 (Gates) – HFCs with limited ability to operate outside their boundaries
- HB 1453 (Tepper)/SB 470 (Sparks) – Largely eliminates use of certificates of obligation
- HB 325 (Cain) – Expenditure caps

#### Public Safety

- HB 656 (Thompson) – Cite and release
- HB 909 (Thompson) – City liability for action of a peace officer under color of law
- HB 881 (Thompson) – Progressive disciplinary matrix
- HB 1765 (J. Jones) – Limitation on no-knock entry by peace officer
- HB 1715 (Cain) – No contract provision limiting carrying of handguns on public property
- SB 241 (Flores) – City must implement a process allowing complaints regarding a violation of a public camping ban; must act on complaints or be penalized.

#### Community Censorship

- SB 239 (Middleton)/HB 309 (Leo-Wilson)/HB 1189 (Troclair)/HB 1294 (Patterson) – Political subdivision may not spend public funds to hire lobbyist or to pay a nonprofit state association that hires a lobbyist
- HB 571 (Cain)/HB 671 (Shaheen) – Political subdivision may not spend public funds to hire lobbyist, but exception for nonprofit state association to provide legislative services, communicate with legislators, and testify for or against legislation

#### Miscellaneous

- HB 1227 (Gates) – Limits city solid waste franchise fees to two percent
- HB 524 (Tepper) – AG review of home rule city initiative and referendum petitions
- HB 1522 (Gerdes) – Open Meetings Act notice three business days in advance instead of 72 hours; notice for budget-related meeting must include physical copy of budget

Staff will continue to provide tailored updates for the City of Anna via memorandum in addition to the Texas Municipal League's regular electronic communication.

c: Taylor Lough, Assistant City Manager  
Greg Peters, Assistant City Manager  
Clark McCoy, City Attorney  
Management Team