

END OF SESSION BRIEFING CITY OF EL PASO



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THE NUMBERS

- 6,061 bills and constitutional amendments filed
- Compare to 7,609 bills in 2009, and it's **a decrease of more than 20 percent.**
- But more “city related” bills than ever before
 - Over 1,700 bills that could have affected city authority.
- November 8 – March 11: 50 bills filed per calendar day.
- Last two weeks: almost 3,000 bills filed, with almost 1,000 city-related bills (200 + bills filed per calendar day)

Year	Total Bills Introduced	Total Bills Passed	City-Related Bills Introduced	City-Related Bills Passed
2013	6,061	1,437	1,700+	220+
2011	6,303	1,410	1,500+	160+
2009	7,609	1,468	1,500+	120+
2007	6,374	1,495	1,200+	120+
2005	5,369	1,397	1,200+	105+
2003	5,754	1,403	1,200+	110+
2001	5,712	1,621	1,200+	150+
1999	5,908	1,638	1,230+	130+
1997	5,741	1,502	1,100+	130+
1995	5,147	1,101	800+	140+
1993	4,560	1,089	800+	140+



SPECIAL THANKS SENATE DELEGATION



Jose Rodriguez

Vice-Chair of:

Jurisprudence

Member of:

Criminal Justice

Government Organization

Veteran Affairs & Military

Installations



SPECIAL THANKS HOUSE DELEGATION



Mary Gonzalez

Member of:
Agriculture & Livestock
County Affairs



Naomi Gonzalez

Vice-Chair of:
Human Services
Member of:
General Investigating & Ethics
Ways & Means
Transparency in State Agency
Operations



Marisa Marquez

Vice-Chair of:
Environmental Regulation
Member of:
Administration
Appropriations



SPECIAL THANKS HOUSE DELEGATION



Joe Moody

Member of:
Criminal Jurisprudence
Local & Consent
Criminal Procedure Reform



Joe Pickett

Chair of:
Homeland Security & Public Safety
Member of:
Redistricting
Transportation



THE POLITICAL MAKE-UP

- **Legislature convenes with Republican majorities**
 - House: 95 R & 55 D (House re-elects Speaker Joe Straus)
 - Senate: 19 R & 12 D
- **No emergency items from Gov. Perry**
- **Less acrimony**
- **Very large freshman class**
 - 43 new names in House (most since 1973); 6 in the Senate
 - 67 freshmen and sophomores in House
- **Three-Party system emerged**
 - Coalition of “Establishment” R’s and D’s vs. “Liberty” R’s (tea-party)



THE BIG AGENDA

- **State Budget**

- Started with money on hand: \$101.4B and \$11.8B in RDF
- Goal: replace \$11B in cuts from 2011
- Fix the “Dedicated Fees” situation
- Focus on “Infrastructure”:
 - Education
 - Water
 - Transportation

- **Tax Cuts**

- Governor priority
- \$1.8B

- **Sunset bills**

- Keep agencies operating



THE BUDGET

- *At \$197 billion, the 2014-15 budget is 3.7 % bigger (\$7B) than current budget*

Infrastructure

- \$3.9 B used
- \$2B used for water
- \$3.9 restored to public education
- None for transportation
- About \$8 billion left in RDF

Tax Cuts

- Several tax measures passed
- HB 500 franchise tax relief bill of the session
- HB 800 tax credits for business spending on research and development
- HB 7 eliminates System Benefit Fund (low-income utility bill assistance)



SUNSET BILLS

Bill	Agency	Author
HB 1600	Public Utility Commission	Cook / Nichols
SB 219	Texas Ethics Commission	Huffman / Bonnen
HB 3361	Texas Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs	Dutton / Birdwell

Bill	Agency	Author
SB 215	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	Anchia / Birdwell
HB 2197	Texas Lottery Commission	Anchia / Huffman
SB 213	Criminal Justice Agencies	Price / Whitmire

Bill	DID NOT PASS	Author
HB 2983 / SB 218	Texas Education Agency	Dutton / Patrick
HB 2166 / SB 212	Railroad Commission	Bonnen / Nichols



THE OTHER AGENDAS

- **Guns**

- Shorter CHL wait time (passed)
- Campus carry (failed)
- Lawmaker carry (failed)

- **Schools**

- Testing / Curriculum (passed)
- Vouchers (failed)
- Charters Schools (passed)

- **Health Care**

- Medicaid expansion (failed)
- Medicaid fraud (passed)
- Medicaid managed care (passed)

- **Criminal Justice**

- Re-entry programs (passed)
- Prison closures (failed)

- **Higher Ed**

- four-year fixed tuition plans (passed)
- Rio Grande Valley medical school (passed)

- **Immigration**

- Driver's license for undocumented (failed)
- Resolution to Congress (failed)

- **Social Services**

- Drug test - Unemployment Benefits (passed)
- Drug test - Welfare recipients (failed)

- **Nominations**

- UT System regents (passed)
- Insurance Commissioner (failed)

- **Ethics & “Transparency”**

- CPRIT (passed)
- Local Got bond elections (failed)
- State ethics (passed)



OTHER NOTABLE BILLS

BILLS THAT PASSED

Water Development Board

Pay raise – state employees

Drone ban

Pension reform – ERS & TRS

P3 Reform

Sugary drink ban in public schools

BILLS THAT FAILED

Transportation Funding

Gaming

Abortion

Term limit for Statewide Officials

Texting while Driving

Smoking in Public

“Dark money”



CITY HIGHLIGHTS THE BUDGET

- \$2B water infrastructure
 - new revolving loan account
 - for water infrastructure projects and conservation projects
 - paves the way for new water capacity
 - doesn't resort to "tap fees" (city water taxes)
- \$15.5 M local parks grant program (restoring money cut in 2011-12)
- Mixed beverage tax money restored (reflective of a legislative arrangement made during the special session in 2011)
- \$10M homeless grants for larger communities



EL PASO LEGISLATION

	ISSUE	BILL / AUTHORS	STATUS
1.	<i>ETJ Regulations</i>	<i>HB 1970 / Pickett SB 1046 / Rodriguez</i>	<i>Sent to Governor</i>
2.	GLO Zoning Consent	HB 3016 / Moody SB 1699 / Rodriguez	Left pending in committees
3.	CAD Reforms---Sales Disclosure Pilot Program	HB 1830 / Gonzalez	Left pending in committee
4.	<i>CAD Reforms--- Confidential Disclosure</i>	<i>HB 2792 / Elkins</i>	<i>Sent to Governor</i>
5.	<i>CAD Reforms—SOAH Pilot Program</i>	<i>HB 316 / Otto</i>	<i>Sent to Governor</i>
6.	<i>El Paso Pension</i>	<i>SB 1133 / Rodriguez HB 2136 / Pickett</i>	<i>Signed by Governor Effective 5-24-13</i>
8.	<i>International Bridge Crossing Wait Time Studies</i>	<i>HB 1777 / Moody / Rodriguez</i>	<i>Sent to Governor</i>



EL PASO LEGISLATION

	ISSUE	BILL / AUTHORS	STATUS
12.	EPE – PUC Staff	SB 1257 / Rodriguez	Left pending in committee
13.	EPE – Solar RECS	SB 1478 / Rodriguez	Left on Senate Calendar
15.	<i>Tech Health Science</i>	<i>SB 120 / Rodriguez</i> <i>HB 257 / Gonzalez</i>	<i>Signed by Governor</i> <i>Effective 5-18-13</i>



KEY MUNICIPAL BILLS - DEFEATED

- Appraisal/revenue caps
- “Transparency” bills
- Payday/auto title lenders preemption (mixed blessing)
- Tree ordinance preemption
- Annexation
- Permit vesting
- Plastic bag ban
- Billboard relocation
- Oil/gas wells and pipelines preemption
- Gas and electric utility participation/jurisdiction - rate cases
- Gun bills
- Employee reinstatement bills (FF/POA)
- **Online publication of legal notices (bad news)**



KEY MUNICIPAL BILLS - PASSED

- **HB 97/HJR 24** – Disabled veteran (surviving spouse) homestead exemption
- **SB 163 / HJR 62** – Exemption for surviving spouse of member of armed serviced killed in action
- **HB 585 (Villareal/Eltife)** – Property tax appraisal dispute/ARB comprehensive bill
- **SB 1510 (Hinojosa/Hilderbran)** – Simplified method of publishing notice of property tax rates
- **SB 656 (Paxton/Button)** – Requirements for adoption of city tax rate
- **SB 637 (Paxton/Flynn)** – Requirements for city bond elections
- **SB 1678 (Deuell/Isaac)** – Event Trust Fund & Major Event Trust Fund reform
- **HB 3572 (Hilderbran/Williams)** – Mixed beverage sales taxes
- **SB 1510 (Hinojosa/Hilderbran)** – Simplified notice for property tax rates
- **HB 3572 (Hilderbran/Williams)** – Mixed beverage sales taxes
- **HB 1050 (Callegari/Fraser)** – Construction contracts, design build options, change orders
- **SB 1368 (Davis/Alvarado)** – Communications subject to open records
- **HB 2414 (Button/Deuell)** – videoconference call if the video is broadcast live at the meeting



CLOSER LOOK AT WATER BILLS

HB 4 (Ritter/Fraser) – State Water Plan funding: Provides a mechanism to fund the State Water Plan. Replaces 6 person part-time Board with 3 fulltime paid Board members. Big policy shift towards “prioritization” of regional water projects. Requires Regional Planning Groups to submit priorities within Regional Plan to TWDB by September 1, 2014. Priorities will receive more favorable consideration for funding.

SJR 1 (Williams/Pitts) – State Water Implementation Fund: Establishes a special revolving fund in the state treasury called the state water implementation fund for Texas (SWIFT) to be used only to fund water infrastructure projects included in the State Water Plan.

HB 1025 (Pitts/Williams) – Makes a supplemental state appropriations of \$2 billion from the Economic Stabilization Fund to the Texas Water Development Board to finance projects in the state water plan

HB 1600 (Cook/Nichols) / SB 567 (Watson/Geren) – Water Rates: Transfers functions relating to the economic regulation of water and sewer service from TCEQ to PUC



THE NUMBERS: VETOES

- **1,436** Bills sent to Governor in 2013
- **207** Bills signed (to date)
- **June 16** Veto deadline
- Any bills not signed or vetoed by then become law automatically
- Historically 275 vetoes by Perry (2001)
 - 2011: 25
 - 2009: 39
 - **2007: 56**
 - 2005: 20
 - 2003: 50
 - **2001: 83**

House Bills 731	Senate Bills 705
Vetoed by Governor 2	Not Signed but Law 4



NEXT UP: POLITICAL SEASON



Governor Candidates:



Gov. Rick Perry



A.G. Greg Abbott



Tom Pauken

Lt. Governor Candidates:



Lt. Gov.
David Dewhurst



Agriculture Commissioner
Todd Staples



Land Commissioner
Jerry Patterson



Senator
Dan Patrick



NEXT UP: POLITICAL SEASON

Attorney General Candidates:



Rep.
Dan
Branch



Sen.
Ken
Paxton



RR Comm.
Barry
Smitherman

Comptroller Candidates:



Sen.
Glenn
Hegar



Rep.
Harvey
Hilderbran



Raul
Torres



Sen.
Tommy
Williams

Land Commissioner Candidates:



George P.
Bush

Agriculture Candidates:



Rep.
Brandon
Creighton



Rep.
Tim
Kleinschmidt



NEXT SESSION

- **Special Session (now)**
 - Redistricting (House, Senate, and Congressional)
 - Transportation Funding added late yesterday by Governor
 - Other Potentials (TRB, abortion related issues, TWIA)
- **Special Session 2014?**
 - School Finance / Property Tax System (Appraisal)
- **2015**
 - Budget / Sunset
 - School Choice
 - Post FAHCA implementation
 - Immigration issues
 - Transportation



NEXT SESSION: SUNSET

- **25 Agencies Under Sunset Review:**

- Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner (Pay Day)
- State Office of Administrative Hearings (Tax Division)
- Regional Education Service Centers
- Department of Family and Protective Services
- Finance Commission of Texas
- Health and Human Services Commission



THE FINAL WORD

- **Our recommendation:**

- It's a new process in Austin – it's more difficult to get your agenda accomplished during session
- Pre-work & preparation has become essential (i.e. – local work during the interim)
- Goal: Adopt your 2015 legislative agenda by September 2014
 - meaning research has been completed and stakeholder conversations well under way
- Goal: Drafting bills by October 1, 2014 (a 60-90 day process)
- Goal: Secure authors by November
- That means we have 16 months to get ready
- Plus legislative interim studies typically start in January 2014



Thank You

Snapper Carr

And the rest of the Focused Advocacy Team:

Brandon Aghamalian, Curt Seidlits, Larissa Ruiz, Charles Maddox &
Russell Mullins



A full-service public affairs firm delivering modern solutions to traditional challenges