

# TML Legislative Wrap-Up

June 21, 2021

TML Staff



# 2021 Introduction

- A tough 2019 led to TML focus on grassroots efforts
- Impact of increased partisanship and politicizing local issues heading into 2021
  - Pandemic response
  - Policing
  - Elections
- Community advocacy threat



# 87th Legislature Timeline

- Early session impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Slow start with limited public access
  - COVID tests, masks, wristbands
  - Focus on basics (budget, redistricting, pandemic response, etc.)
  - Limited member interaction
- Winter Storm Uri shifted the focus
  - Refocus of state priorities
  - Utility weatherization and securitization
- Session ended with walkout in House
  - Meltdown at critical deadline
  - Special session(s) looming

# Governor Abbott Priorities

- **HB 5 - Statewide Broadband Plan**
- **SB 2 - ERCOT Reform**
- **SB 3 - Power Grid Reform**
- **SB 6 - COVID -19 Liability Protections**
- **SB 7 - Election Integrity**
- **SB 21 - Bail Reform**
- **HB 1900/SB 23 - Defunding law enforcement**

# Lt. Governor Patrick Priorities

**SB 1 – State Budget**

**SB 2 – ERCOT Reform**

**SB 3 – Power Grid Stability**

**SB 4 – National Anthem at Sporting Events**

**SB 5 – Statewide Broadband Plan**

**SB 6 – COVID-19 Liability Protections**

**SB 7 – Election Integrity**

**SB 8 – Fetal Heartbeat Bill**

**SB 9 – Abortion Ban Trigger**

**SB 10 – Community Censorship**

**SB 11 – Appellate Court Reorganization**

**SB 12 – Social Media Censorship**

**SB 13 – Oil & Gas Investment Protection**

**SB 14 – Preemption of Local Ordinances on Employment Practices**

**SB 15 – Ban Sale of Personal Data from State Agencies**

**SB 16 – Protect State-Held Personal Data**



# Patrick Priorities, Cont.

**SB 17 – Trucking Liability**

SB 18 – Protect Second Amendment Businesses

**SB 19 – Stop Corporate Gun Boycotts**

**SB 20 – Second Amendment Protections for Travelers**

SB 21 – Bail Reform

**SB 22 – COVID Presumption for First Responders**

**SB 23 – Law Enforcement Defunding**

**SB 24 – Law Enforcement Hiring Process**

**SB 25 – Family Nursing Home Visitation Rights**

SB 26 – Protecting Places of Worship

SB 27 – Expanding Virtual Learning Options

SB 28 – Charter School Equity

SB 29 – Transgender Athletes and UIL Sports

**SB 30 – Ending Discriminatory Deed Restrictions**

SB 31 – Senate Redistricting



# 87th Legislature by the numbers

- 6,927 bills filed      2,156 bills tracked (31%)
- 1,073 bills passed      247 bills tracked passed
- 1,429 bills passed (86th Legislative Session)

# Special Session(s) to come

- Election Integrity (Summer)
- Bail Reform (Summer)
- Redistricting (Fall)
- Distribution of \$16 billion in federal ARP funds (Fall)
- Others? (Community Censorship, Border Wall)



# Cutting Room Floor

- Community censorship
- Sales tax sourcing
- Partisan city elections
- Preemption of city regulation of state licensees
- Expansion of videoconferencing and teleconferencing under TOMA
- Land development shot clock expansion
- ETJ removal
- Mandatory sick leave
- Chickens, rabbits, and bees
- Omnibus disaster authority during pandemic
- Extension of Chapter 313 incentives
- Preemption of city employment regulations
- Expanded liability for ballot language



# Property Tax

- **H.B. 988** – Class A misdemeanor for city official to communicate with chief appraiser to influence appraised value of property
- **H.B. 1869** – Modifies definition of “debt” for property tax rate calculation purposes; intended to limit certificates of obligation
- **H.B. 2429** – Truth-in-Taxation fix for cities under 30,000 population
- **H.B. 2723** – Property tax database improvements and notice
- **S.B. 742** – Local option installment payments for business-owned property not damaged in disaster
- **S.B. 1427** – Disaster tax exception clarification
- **S.B. 1438** – Limits scope of disaster tax rate calculation provisions from S.B. 2
- **S.B. 1449** – Limited expansion of business personal property exemption

# Community and Economic Development

- **H.B. 5** – Establishes state broadband office and state broadband plan
- **H.B. 738** – Cities must use 2012 or newer versions of certain building codes
- **S.B. 374** – City may annex across road if county or TxDOT doesn't object
- **H.B. 1929** – Waiver of gov't immunity for ETJ development agreements
- **S.B. 1168** – No city fines or fees in areas of ETJ that have been disannexed or that voted down annexation
- **S.B. 1338** – Annexation/development agreement notice
- **S.B. 1585** – Zoning process for local historic districts
- **H.B. 2404** – Chapter 380 agreement database
- **S.B. 877** – Third party building inspections during disaster
- **S.B. 1090** – Minor clean-up to 2019 building materials bill

# Purchasing

- **H.B. 692** – Public works contract retainage
- **H.B. 1476** – Withholding disputed amount in goods and services contracts
- **H.B. 1477** – Performance and payment bonds
- **H.B. 2581** – Civil works projects for governmental entities
- **S.B. 219** – Contractor and engineer liability
- **S.B. 13** – Limits city contracts with companies that boycott energy companies
- **S.B. 19** – Similar to S.B. 13, but for companies that boycott firearm and ammo industry
- **S.B. 2116** – Limitations on “critical infrastructure” contracts
- **S.B. 58** – Procurement of cloud computing services

# Elections

- **H.B. 574** – Election fraud criminal offense
- **H.B. 1128** – Election bystanders in polling place, early voting ballot board, counting station
- **H.B. 1382** – Mail ballot tracking system
- **S.B. 1116** – Posting election information online
- **H.B. 1264** – Shortens timeline for deceased resident report
- **H.B. 4555** – Candidacy if convicted of felony
- **S.B. 598** – Auditable voting systems
- **S.B. 1111** – Changes to residency for voting; residual effect on candidacy

# Other Finance and Administration

- **H.B. 29** – Temporary weapon storage
- **H.B. 957** – Preemption of regulations of firearm suppressors (silencers)
- **H.B. 2622** – Preemption of firearm regulation
- **H.B. 1118** – Cybersecurity training
- **H.B. 525/H.B. 1239/S.J.R. 27** – Governments can't interfere with religious activities, including during disaster
- **H.B. 3069** – 8-year statute of repose for certain governmental entity contract claims
- **H.B. 3340** – Dangerous dogs
- **S.B. 790** – Ambulance balance billing
- **H.B. 1925** – Statewide camping ban
- **H.B. 2730** – Eminent domain reform
- **S.B. 157** – Eminent domain reporting requirements for small cities
- **S.B. 726** – Ability to repurchase property in eminent domain



# Municipal Courts

- **H.B. 80** – Municipal court fines and costs on those in foster care or TDFPS conservatorship
- **H.B. 569** – Credit for time served in relation to fine-only misdemeanors
- **H.B. 1693** – Municipal court access to financial responsibility verification program
- **H.B. 3774** – Municipal court pleas

# Transportation

- **H.B. 914** – Removal of illegally parked or abandoned vehicles by city employees
- **H.B. 1257** – Removal of manufactured home from right-of-way
- **H.B. 1281** – Golf cart regulation
- **S.B. 1064** – City-owned vehicle registration



# Open Government

- **S.B. 244** – TOMA applies to TIRZ boards
- **S.B. 1255** – Temporary suspension of PIA
- **H.B. 872** – Confidentiality of utility information
- **H.B. 1082** – Confidentiality of elected officials' personal information

# Personnel

- **H.B. 792** – Alternate works schedules for police dispatchers (only cities over 10,000 population)
- **H.B. 2073** – Paid quarantine leave for first responders
- **S.B. 22** – COVID-19 workers comp presumption for first responders
- **S.B. 1105** – TMRS return to work
- **S.B. 1359** – Mental health leave for law enforcement

# Public Safety

- **H.B. 1900** – Prohibits defunding police (cities over 250,000 population)
- **H.B. 929** – Body worn cameras
- **H.B. 1927** – Unlicensed handgun carry
- **H.B. 1938** – Grants for body worn cameras
- **S.B. 69** – Duty to intervene and ban on chokeholds
- **S.B. 2212** – Duty to request and render aid
- **H.B. 558** – Blood/breath specimens for intoxication offense
- **H.B. 1069** – First responders carrying handguns
- **S.B. 24** – Hiring procedures for law enforcement agencies
- **S.B. 111** – Law enforcement disclosure to district attorney

# Emergency Management

- **S.B. 6** – Limits liability of both first responders and cities, among many others, relating to exposure to pandemic disease
- **S.B. 968** – Wellness checks on medically-fragile individuals

# Utilities and Environment

- **H.B. 17** – Prohibits city limitations on utility services based on source of energy delivered to end-user
- **H.B. 837** – MOU to provide CCN report to PUC
- **H.B. 3689** – MOU water rate appeals
- **H.B. 4492** – Electric market financing following Winter Storm Uri
- **S.B. 3** – Utility preparedness and weatherization for electric generation and transmission facilities; also impacts water utilities
- **S.B. 387** – MOU water rate appeals
- **S.B. 398** – Distributed renewal generation
- **S.B. 952** – Concrete batch plant TCEQ application

# Questions?

