

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

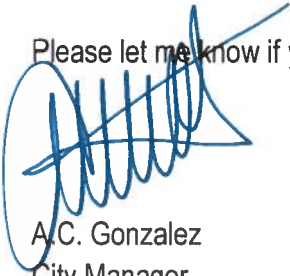
DATE October 2, 2015

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **84th Legislative Session Wrap-Up**

On Wednesday, October 7, 2015, the City Council will be briefed on the 84th Texas Legislative Session. The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.



A.C. Gonzalez
City Manager

c: Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council

84th Legislative Session Wrap- Up

October 7, 2015

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Purpose of the Briefing

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- 84th Legislature Overview
- City of Dallas success and trials
- Ongoing challenges
- Interim initiatives

84th Texas Legislative Session

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- **6,476 bills were filed in the 84th Legislative Session**

Over 400 more than filed in 83rd session

- **Only 20.5% bills were sent to the Governor for signature (23.7% were passed in 2013)**

Significantly fewer vehicles for amendments

By the Numbers – House/Senate

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Partisan Numbers

In 2013, the Texas House had 95 Republicans and 55 Democrats. This session, there were 98 Republicans and 52 Democrats

In 2013, the Texas Senate had 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats. This session, there were 20 Republicans and 11 Democrats

Procedural Rule Changes

The Senate eliminated the 2/3 rule that requires two-thirds of the senators (21 of the 31-member chamber) to agree to bring up a bill before it can be debated on the floor.

The new rule required only a 60% majority - 19 senators rather than 21 - which is enough to ensure that the Senate's 11 Democrats cannot block bills.

Governor Abbott's Legislative Priorities

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Governor Abbott outlined his five emergency items – his top priorities – for the 84th Texas Legislative Session.

- High-Quality Early Education
- Higher Education Initiatives
- Transportation Initiatives
- Immigration Reform
- Ethics Reform

Also on the agenda...

“The truth is Texas is being California-ized and you may not even be noticing it,” said Abbott... “It’s being done at the city level with bag bans, fracking bans, tree cutting bans. We’re forming a patchwork quilt of bans and rules and regulations that is eroding the Texas model.”

*Governor Greg Abbott at the Public Policy Forum
January 2015*

Preemption Bills that Passed

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- HB 40 – Prohibits Local Fracking Bans – “Denton Fracking Ban”
- SB 267 – prohibits city from passing ordinance banning landlords from discriminating based on source of income
- HB 1794 – caps damages municipalities can seek in environmental suits
- SB 1760 – requires local taxing districts that wish to exceed the effective tax rate to first have a vote of at least 60% of the governing body in support of the tax increase
- HB 1295 – governmental entity may not enter into any contract unless business entity submits a ‘disclosure of interested parties’
- HB 1750 prohibition on use of capital appreciation bonds

Opposed Legislation that Failed Passage

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- Restrict Annexation
- Preemption
- Restrict Home Rule Authority
- High Speed Rail
- Bond Limitations
- Revenue Caps
- Limit Eminent Domain
- CHL Cop Stop
- Anti-Toll road
- Cost Benefit Analysis
- Building Codes
- Concrete Barriers
- Eliminate Red Light Cameras
- Veto Power by Regional Water Planning District
- Apply to Agency to Receive Disaster Recovery Funds
- Scenic Texas Mandates Vegetation
- Public Information Mandates
- Restrict TIFs
- Urban Garden Tax Exemption

City of Dallas Legislative Initiatives Passed

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Blight Remediation:

- HB 1289 – inclusion of commercial property in Urban Lank Bank Program
- HB 3160 – expands municipalities' ability to file probate actions related to hazardous properties
- HB 2590 – related to Deceptive Trade Practices Act and criminal penalties in certain real estate transactions
- HB 1626 – relating to designating certain areas as banking development districts
- HB 1629 – relating to crowdfunding portal regulations for small business development

City of Dallas Legislative Initiatives Passed

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- HB 100 - Tuition Revenue Bonds (UNT & Law School)
- HB 1733 - Transportation for Hire (insurance)
- HB 994 – Methane Recapture Property Tax Exemption

Other Legislation of Interest to Dallas

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- Transportation
 - Proposition 7 will be on this November ballot for voters to decide if funds should be allocated for nontolled roads
- Body cameras (passed)
- RRC rate setting and sunseting (good bill that didn't pass)
- Film Incentives – reduced from \$90M to \$30M
- Alarm Bill – caps permit amounts and requires municipalities to respond regardless of prior false alarms.

Preparing for the 85th Legislative Session

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- Monitoring agency hearings
- Interim charges and studies
- Outreach and communication with state delegation
- Development of city priorities

Questions?

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