

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 26, 2026

TO Honorable Members of the Finance Committee: Chad West (Chair), Kathy Stewart (Vice Chair), Zarin Gracey, Maxie Johnson, Jesse Moreno, Jaime Resendez, Gay Donnell Willis

SUBJECT **Finance Committee Proposed Legislative Priorities for the 90th Texas Legislature and 120th Congress**

The City of Dallas has begun preparing the framework for the City of Dallas Legislative Agenda for the 90th Texas Legislature, set to convene on January 12, 2027, and the 120th Congress, set to convene on January 3, 2027. Many issues affecting local government will be considered by both legislative bodies.

On April 22, a call for legislative priority submissions was distributed with a deadline of May 8. The Office of Government Affairs received over 100 submissions.

Preliminary legislative priorities pertaining to municipal finance include:

Legislative Item	State/Federal
Oppose legislation authorizing casino gaming expansion.	State
Support voter-approved municipal flexibility to exceed the current 3.5% property tax revenue cap.	State
Oppose additional state-imposed restrictions on municipal revenue authority, including further caps on assessed property values, municipal tax rates, or local revenue generation.	State
Oppose restrictions on municipal utility cost recovery mechanisms and limitations affecting the issuance or administration of revenue bonds.	State
Support equitable allocation of vehicle registration fee revenues to municipalities with jurisdictional boundaries extending across multiple counties.	State
Support remittance of revenues generated from school zone traffic citation fee (\$25) to municipalities for child safety initiatives.	State
Support additional state-authorized local funding mechanisms to offset municipal costs associated with school crossing guard programs, including expanded vehicle registration fee authority and increased funding participation from school districts through locally generated revenues.	State
Support expanded flexibility for the use of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) revenues to allow investment in tourism-related improvements and infrastructure throughout the city.	State

Support legislation allowing Central Appraisal District (CAD) board directors to be elected by plurality vote rather than majority vote, thereby reducing the need for costly runoff elections that increase administrative expenses for participating jurisdictions.	State
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In addition to the items above, maintaining existing funding streams at both the state and federal levels and maintaining local control was identified during the legislative priority submission process.

Next Steps

Today, the committee is being asked to make a recommendation to the Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs regarding the legislative items listed above. The Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs is scheduled to review all legislative priorities submitted by Council Committees at the end of June. The final legislative program will be presented to the Full City Council in September 2026.

The Office of Government Affairs is reviewing recommendations from all City Councilmembers and City departments. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Service First, Now!



Eric Dominguez
Director
Office of Government Affairs

c: Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, City Manager
Bertram Vandenberg, City Attorney (I)
Mamatha Sparks, City Auditor (I)
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Baron Eliason, Inspector General (I)
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety

Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
John Johnson, Chief of Real Estate
Directors and Assistant Directors