

OFFICERS:

President
JEN CROWNOVER
Comal County Commissioner
100 Main Plaza, 2nd Floor
New Braunfels, Texas 78130
(830) 221-1104
(830) 608-2026 - Fax

First Vice President
BYRON RYDER
Leon County Judge
P.O. Box 429
Centerville, Texas 75833-0429
(903) 536-2331
(903) 536-7044 - Fax

Second Vice President
KIRK FRYE
Parmer County Commissioner
2462 FM 1171
Friona, Texas 79035
(806) 265-7514

Past President
HAROLD KEETER
Swisher County Judge
119 S. Maxwell Avenue, Room 101
Tulia, Texas 79088-2247
(806) 995-3504
(806) 995-2214 - Fax

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

North and East Texas
WADE MCKINNEY
Henderson County Judge

South Texas
SAMMY G. FARIAS
Bee County Commissioner

West Texas
CINDY IRWIN
Hutchinson County Judge

SENIOR GENERAL COUNSEL:

JAMES P. ALLISON
Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P.
1301 Nueces Street, Suite 201
Austin, Texas 78701
1-800-733-0699
(512) 482-0701
(512) 480-0902 - Fax
j.allison@allison-bass.com

GENERAL COUNSEL:

J. ERIC MAGEE
Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P.
1301 Nueces Street, Suite 201
Austin, Texas 78701
1-800-733-0699
(512) 482-0701
(512) 480-0902 - Fax

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Chairman:
DEBBIE G. INGALSBE
Hays County Commissioner
111 E. San Antonio Street, Suite 304
San Marcos, Texas 78666
(512) 393-2243
(512) 393-7718 - Fax

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Program Director:
RICK THOMPSON
Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P.
1301 Nueces Street, Suite 201
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 482-0701
(512) 480-0902 - Fax

**COUNTY JUDGES & COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
1301 NUECES STREET, SUITE 201
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

800-733-0699
512-482-0701
512-480-0902 FAX
www.cjcat.org



Senate Interim Legislative Charges

The Texas Legislature meets in regular session for 140 days in odd-numbered years. During the even-numbered years, the committees of the Senate and House of Representatives conduct hearings, prepare reports, and draft legislation on issues assigned by the Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House. Although many other subjects will be addressed in the 8,000 bills introduced during the regular session, these interim charges provide insight into the priorities of the legislative leadership.

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick has issued 15 pages of interim legislative charges to the 13 standing Senate committees. The entire list of charges is available at ltgov.texas.gov. Below is a summary of the most important county related issues. The County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas will monitor these hearings, present testimony and other information, and report the recommendations to our commissioners courts.

Border Security Committee

- Securing the Texas-Mexico Border: Review state and local agencies' participation in border security.

Finance Committee

- Continue Cutting Property Taxes. Additionally, establish and report on the cost of eliminating all property taxes. Evaluate and report on how much state revenue would need to be generated to replace foregone property tax revenue, and from what source.
- Mental Health Services and Inpatient Facilities: Monitor the implementation of Senate Bill 30, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, with regard to appropriations made for expanding mental health services and inpatient facilities across the state.

Health and Human Services Committee

- Access to Health Care: Evaluate current access to primary and mental health care.

Local Government Committee

- Make recommendations for further property tax relief and reform, including methods to improve voter control over tax rate setting and debt authorization.
- Extra-Territorial Jurisdictions: Study issues related to the implementation of Senate Bill 2038 and House Bill 3053, 88th Legislature, and make recommendations to secure and enhance the protection of landowners' property rights.
- Local Government Spending of Directly Distributed Federal Funds: Examine how local governments spend funds directly distributed to them by the federal government.

Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee

- Protecting Local Taxpayers: Examine current use and imposition of local option hotel occupancy taxes.

State Affairs Committee

- Maintaining Election Security: Identify threats to Texas's election integrity. Make recommendations to address countywide polling issues, such as increased wait times, longer travel distances, supply shortages, and reporting irregularities. Evaluate current laws that prohibit political subdivisions and public-school districts from using government resources for illegal electioneering.

Transportation Committee

- Reviewing Historic Accomplishments in Transportation: Review the implementations and outcomes of key transportation funding and policy initiatives since the 84th Legislature. Report on trends or patterns to guide future planning and governance.

Veteran Affairs Committee

- Veteran Mental Health: Review current programs that provide direct and indirect mental health services to veterans in Texas. Identify barriers to accessing mental health resources for rural veterans.

Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee

- Water System Reliability: Evaluate water systems in Texas and identify opportunities to better equip those systems to serve the public.

House Interim Committee Charges

Speaker of the House Dade Phelan has assigned interim charges for study by the Committees of the House of Representatives. The entire 24 pages of charges are available at house.texas.gov. The County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas will monitor the hearings and recommendations of House committees on these charges. Items affecting counties include the following:

Committee on Business & Industry

- Examine the proliferation of fraudulent deeds purporting to convey the sale or transfer of real or personal property. Recommend policy changes that will better protect potential victims from this illicit activity.

Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence

- HB 17, relating to official misconduct by and removal of prosecuting attorneys

Committee on Elections

- SB 1070, relating to the interstate voter registration crosscheck program; and
- SB 1750, relating to abolishing the county elections administrator position in certain counties.
- Adherence to Texas Election Laws: Evaluate the Secretary of State's Election Audit Program's findings and solicit information regarding emergent election issues in other counties. Make recommendations to ensure counties faithfully adhere to Texas election laws and those tasked with administering and enforcing the law receive appropriate resources and training.

Committee on Environmental Regulation

- HB 3060, relating to the regulation of recycling and recycled products; and

- HB 4885, relating to programs established and funded under the Texas emissions reduction plan.

Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

- HB 3290, relating to the next generation 9-1-1 service fund; and
- SB 602, relating to the law enforcement authority of federal border patrol agents.
- Communications Interoperability: Study the communications challenges of first responders and emergency personnel. Make recommendations, considering the need for a cross-agency communications upgrade or statewide interoperability plan, to increase reliable, available, and modern communications for public safety and emergency response purposes in communities across the state.

Committee on Insurance

- HB 2259, relating to the sale and purchase of retail fireworks permits.

Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

- HB 841, relating to certain judicial statistics and related information gathered by the Texas Judicial Council
- HB 2384, relating to court administration, including the knowledge, efficiency, training, and transparency requirements for candidates for or holders of judicial offices.

Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

- Juvenile Justice System Outcomes: Evaluate the system for adjudicating and disposing of cases involving delinquent conduct and determine whether changes to juvenile court proceedings and improvements to the planning and funding for services to keep children in the juvenile justice system closer to home will lead to better overall outcomes for youth and public safety.

Committee on Land & Resource Management

- HB 14, relating to third-party review of plats and property development plans, permits, and similar documents and the inspection of an improvement related to such a document;
- SB 2038, relating to release of an area from a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction by petition or election.

Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures

- HB 4446, relating to certain licensing and permitting requirements for game rooms; authorizing an occupational permit or license; authorizing a fee.

Committee on Public Health

- SB 26, relating to local mental health authority and local behavioral health authority audits and mental and behavioral health reporting, services, and programs.
- Responses to Mental Health Emergencies: Review and evaluate best practices of procedures for the emergency detention of a person with mental illness.

Committee on State Affairs

- HB 9, relating to the development and funding of broadband and telecommunications services.
- Panhandle Wildfires: Evaluate the findings and recommendations of the Investigative Committee on the Panhandle Wildfires that are within the committee's jurisdiction and develop related legislative solutions and other actions for preventing future wildfires and improving wildfire disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation.

- **Securing the Border:** Conduct a review of functions and operations of state agencies involved with carrying out Operation Lone Star as they relate to securing the border and preventing transnational criminal activity. Evaluate whether agencies have sufficient resources and authority to carry out their prescribed duties. Make recommendations to increase the safety and wellbeing of personnel and efficiency of agency operations as needed.

Committee on Transportation

- **Bridge Safety:** Evaluate the current status of state-maintained bridges, existing safety standards related to bridges, and long-term financial needs for bridge planning, construction, maintenance, and inspection. Examine ways to improve bridge project delivery.
- **Alleviating Road Traffic:** Identify the state's most congested roadways and review state forecasts for future congestion and the expected impact on economic activity. Evaluate TxDOT plans for alleviating congestion and consider the necessity of additional options to ensure economic development, congestion, and safety goals are achieved in a timely manner with reduced cost to public tax dollars.

Committee on Ways & Means

- HJR 2/SB 2 (88 S2), relating to providing property tax relief through the public school finance system, exemptions, limitations on appraisals and taxes, and property tax administration; authorizing the imposition of a fee;
- HB 796, relating to the creation and maintenance by an appraisal district of a publicly available Internet database of information regarding protest hearings conducted by the appraisal review board established for the district.
- **Property Tax Relief:** Study and make recommendations to build on the historic property tax relief provided by the 88th Legislature, including:
 - Whether Texas' economic performance and state tax revenues support further compression of school district tax rates;
 - Whether to extend the limitation on appraised value of certain non-homestead real property past the current expiration date of December 31, 2026;
 - Whether to maintain the homestead exemption at its current rate;
 - Whether to further reduce the limit on appraised value of homesteads.

Committee on Youth Health and Safety

- HB 3, relating to measures for ensuring public school safety, including the development and implementation of purchases relating to and funding for public school safety and security requirements and the provision of safety-related resources.
- **Behavioral Health Services for At-Risk Youth:** Evaluate programs and services currently available to children and families that are either involved with, or at high risk for becoming involved with, foster care and juvenile justice systems. Study the current barriers for accessing community-based behavioral health services for children with intense behavioral health needs, with an emphasis on ensuring that parents do not have to give up custody of children to gain access to services.