



A Conversation with  
Tony Dale & Ginger Simonson  
Moderated by Ron McLeroy

Texas legislature meets every 2 years



Senate

- Four (4) Year Terms
- 31 Senators
- Must be at least 26 years old
- Led by Lt. Governor (President of the Senate)



During an odd numbered year

House

- Two (2) Year Terms
- 150 Representatives
- Must be at least 21 years old
- Led by the Speaker of the House

**Who Represents Me?**

<https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>



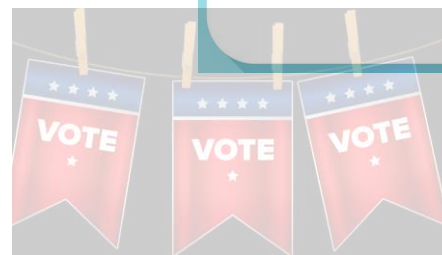
**JAN 12** Session convenes  
**MAR 12** Deadline to file a bill  
**MAY 31** Session adjourns  
**JUN 20** Deadline for veto

NOVEMBER 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JANUARY 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MARCH 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MAY 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4				
9	10	11	1			
16	17	18	1			
23	24	25	2			
30	31					



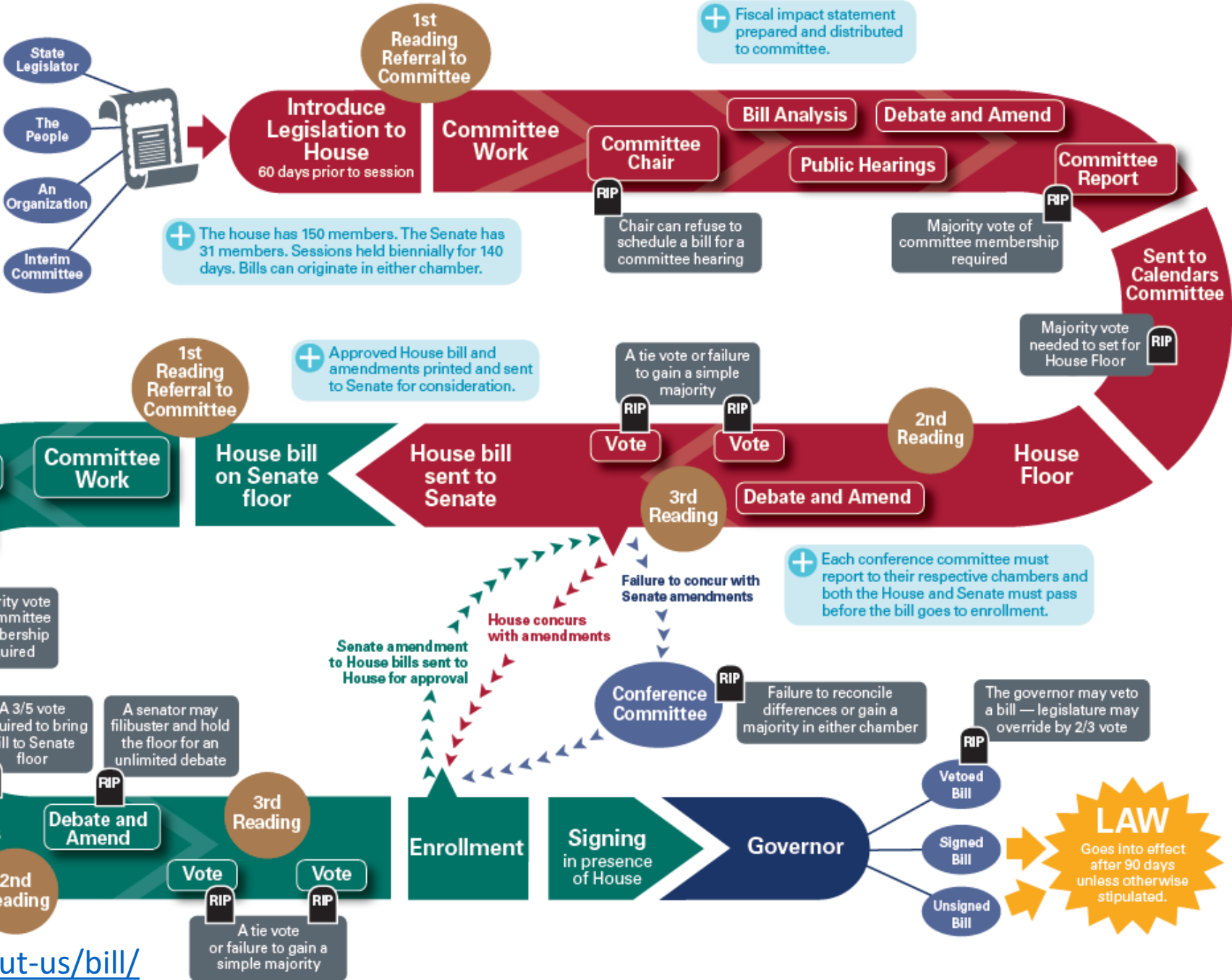
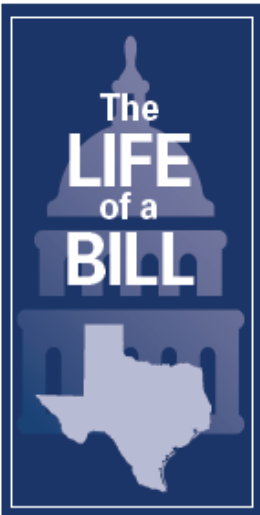
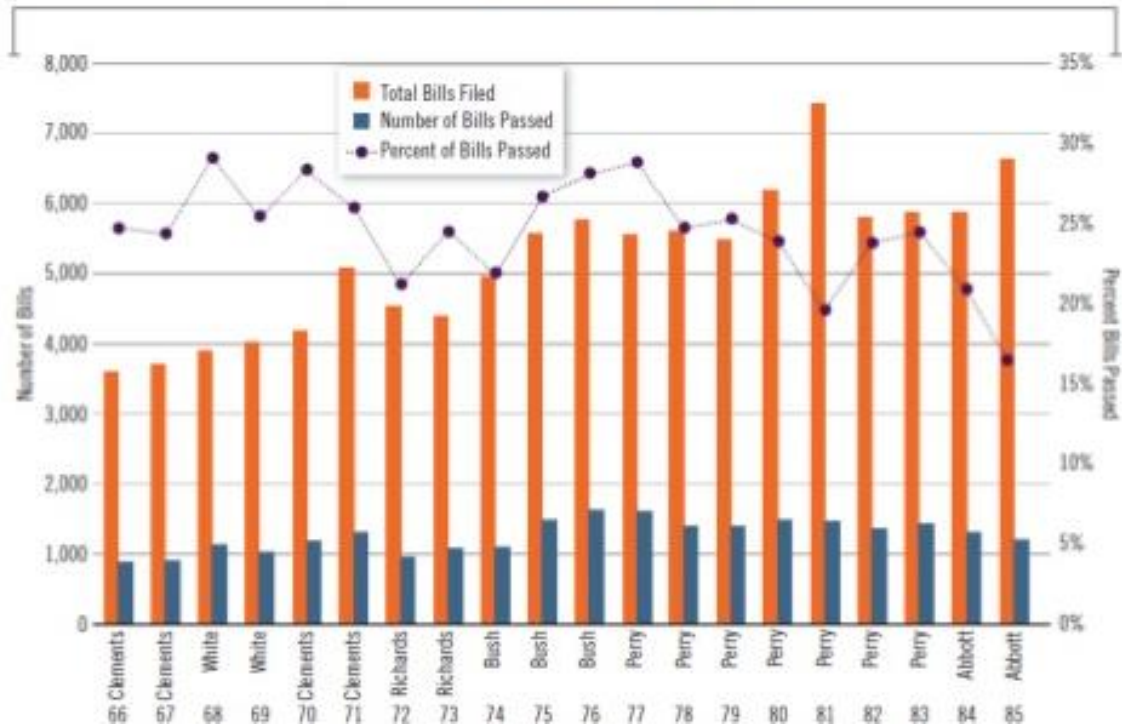


FIGURE 7.2 Bills Passed by Session



Session # / Year	Total Filed	Total Passed	% Passed
87 <sup>th</sup> /2021	8085	748	8%
86 <sup>th</sup> /2019	10877	4581	42%
85 <sup>th</sup> /2017	10672	4960	46%
84 <sup>th</sup> /2015	11356	6083	54%
83 <sup>rd</sup> /2013	10630	5909	56%
82 <sup>nd</sup> /2011	10315	5526	54%

Percentages Include  
ALL bills and resolutions

Current Session As of April 14, 2021  
6,836 SBs/HBs Filed  
1,249 Ceremonial & Rule Related Bills Filed

# Battles Won in the Past

- Hazlewood
- Veterans Treatment Courts
- Employment
- Training & Certification
- Texas Veterans Commission
- Texas Land Board
- Texas Veterans Homes
- Immediate waiver of nonresident tuition to the veteran, spouse and dependent children who move to Texas

## Is the Campaign Over ?



# Is Advocacy Necessary?

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- 1. Protect Your gains** ✓
2. Address a current issue
3. You know an available, cost-effective solution to resolve the issue
4. Your proposed or revised law is in the best interests of the state at large

**Why Change a Law or Make a New One?**



**Hazlewood**  
**“Underfunded**  
**Mandate”**



**Permanent Fund Supporting Military and Veterans Exemptions (MVE) to offset Hazlewood costs.**



# Hazlewood Act

Provides qualified veterans, spouses, and dependent children with an education benefit of up to 150 hours tuition free college at state schools (does NOT include living expenses, books, or supply fees)

## **Veteran must have:**

been a Texas resident when they entered the service, live in Texas have an honorable discharge, served at least 181 days active duty used up all federal VA education benefits, not be in default on a state student loans, meet GPA, academic progress and credit hour requirements

## **Legacy Act (Child)**

Veterans eligible for the Hazlewood Act can assign unused hours to a child under certain conditions.

The child must:

be a Texas resident; be the biological child, stepchild, adopted child, or claimed as a dependent in the current or previous tax year; be 25 years old or younger on the first day of the semester or term, meet GPA, academic progress and credit hour requirements

Only one child can use Hazlewood Legacy benefits at a time.

## **Hazlewood Act for Spouse/Child**

Spouses and dependent children of eligible Active Duty, Reserve, and Texas National Guard who died in the line of duty, as a result of service-connected injury or illness, are missing in action, or who became totally disabled for purposes of employability as a result of a service-related injury or illness are entitled to each receive 50 credit hours tuition-free college.

Like the normal Hazlewood act, the veteran must have been a Texas resident when they entered the service.

**A spouse** must:

have no federal VA education benefits, be a Texas resident; and meet GPA, academic progress and credit hour requirements

**A child** must:

have no federal VA education benefits, be a Texas resident meet GPA, academic progress and credit hour requirements. This requirement does not apply to the child of a MIA, KIA, or service-connected deceased Veteran.



# Is Advocacy Necessary?

1. Protect Your gains
2. Address a current issue ✓
3. You know an available, cost-effective solution to resolve the issue
4. Your proposed or revised law is in the best interests of the state at large

Why Change a Law or Make a New One?



**Providing Support to Warriors: Past-Present-and Future”**

**Support for Wounded Warriors, their Families and caregivers**

**Assist for Warriors in their Transition from Uniform to Civilian Life with job interviews thru Army PaYS program**

**Coaching, teaching and mentoring the next generation of Army leaders as well as currently service soldiers and units**

## Bills in the Current Legislature

Credentialing based on military experience, education, and training.

Energy industry career training for veterans.

Pro bono legal services to veterans and active-duty service members.

Texas (ACE) Grant Program for job training to veterans.



## **Providing Support to Warriors: Past-Present-and Future”**

**Support for Wounded Warriors, their Families and caregivers**

**Assist for Warriors in their Transition from Uniform to Civilian Life with job interviews thru Army PaYS program**

**Coaching, teaching and mentoring the next generation of Army leaders as well as currently service soldiers and units**

## **Bills in the Current Legislature**

**Increase access to Veterans Treatment Courts**

**State employment preference for children (if primary breadwinner) of veterans with a disability.**

**Award of postsecondary course credit leading to workforce credentialing based on military experience, education, and training.**

**establishment of the State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.**

# Future Advocacy Needed?

1. Protect Your gains
2. Address a current issue
3. You know an available, cost-effective solution to resolve the issue ✓
4. Your proposed or revised law is in the best interests of the state at large

Why Change a Law or Make a New One?





**Providing Support to Warriors: Past-Present-and Future”**

**Support for Wounded Warriors, their Families and caregivers**

**Assist for Warriors in their Transition from Uniform to Civilian Life with job interviews thru Army PaYS program**

**Coaching, teaching and mentoring the next generation of Army leaders as well as currently service soldiers and units**

## Bills for the 2023 Legislature?

Assist Veterans with illnesses related to Toxic Exposures during Military Service

Improve Caregiver Support

Improve Transition Support from Uniform to Civilian Life

Incentivize the establishment & sustainment of strong JROTC and ROTC Programs

# Have a Plan for 2023



- Know the Process
  - <https://tlc.texas.gov/docs/legref/legislativeprocess.pdf>
- Know the Players
  - <https://house.texas.gov/>
  - <https://senate.texas.gov/>
- Know Your Issues
  - Fact Sheets
  - Talking Points
  - <https://house.texas.gov/resources/>
- Follow-up
  - Send a thank you note
  - Provide any info promised
  - Publicize in local media with a picture and short synopsis

# Know your audience



- Who is your elected representative?
- What issues are of the most importance to him or her?
- Does he or she serve on a key committee?
- Has he or she served in the military?
- Is your representative a Republican or a Democrat?



# Understand your Subject and Present One issue at a time

- Every communication – phone call, email, written letter, or personal visit – should consist of one issue.
- Don't present a laundry list of concerns,
- Pick the most critical one and explore it in depth.
- You can always call/write/visit again with another issue.



**Texas Coordinating  
Council for Veterans  
Services**



**Fifth Report  
October 1, 2020**

## Looking Back at the Session So Far

- COVID Impacts
- Budget Impacts
- The Great Freeze
- Immigration
- 2020 Elections

# Background Slides

# 2019 Estimated Contributions to the Texas Economy from Military & VA Expenditures



<https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/economic-data/military/snapshot.php>

INSTALLATION	DIRECT EMPLOYMENT	DIRECT & INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT	OUTPUT	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	DISPOSABLE PERSONAL INCOME
ARMY FUTURES COMMAND	586	2,342	\$0.36 B	\$0.22 B	\$0.14 B
CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT	3,658	10,887	\$1.78 B	\$1.10 B	\$0.70 B
DYESS AFB	6,005	19,200	\$3.84 B	\$2.33 B	\$1.21 B
ELLINGTON FIELD JRB	753	2,323	\$0.47 B	\$0.29 B	\$0.14 B
FORT BLISS	47,045	130,943	\$25.67 B	\$15.62 B	\$8.10 B
FORT HOOD	56,023	152,701	\$29.86 B	\$18.16 B	\$9.69 B
GOODFELLOW AFB	8,309	21,410	\$4.54 B	\$2.75 B	\$1.25 B
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO	73,707	210,998	\$41.33 B	\$25.20 B	\$12.97 B
LAUGHLIN AFB	3,961	10,201	\$2.03 B	\$1.24 B	\$0.61 B
NAS CORPUS CHRISTI	4,782	15,261	\$2.80 B	\$1.70 B	\$0.91 B
NAS FORT WORTH JRB	6,616	20,042	\$3.79 B	\$2.32 B	\$1.27 B
NAS KINGSVILLE	1,647	4,695	\$0.85 B	\$0.53 B	\$0.29 B
RED RIVER ARMY DEPOT	3,887	10,566	\$1.72 B	\$1.07 B	\$0.68 B
SHEPPARD AFB	9,576	22,323	\$4.63 B	\$2.80 B	\$1.28 B
	179,510	604,491	\$123.7 B	\$75.3 B	\$39.2 B

[https://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran\\_population.asp](https://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran_population.asp)

**VA**



Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	VA Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients **
1,562,722	\$ 18,546,804	\$ 10,261,180	\$ 24,974	\$ 1,492,179	\$ 396,289	\$ 223,342	\$ 98,409	\$ 6,050,431	513,806

# Veterans in Texas

<b>VA Expenditures FY 2017 (in thousands)</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>National</b>
Compensation & Pension	\$ 8,581,720	\$ 84,138,460
Construction	\$ 51,948	\$ 1,467,395
Education & Voc Rehab/Employment	\$ 1,419,849	\$ 13,182,263
General Operating Expenses	\$ 237,477	\$ 9,222,998
Insurance & Indemnities	\$ 121,483	\$ 1,700,374
Medical Care	\$ 5,291,232	\$ 69,709,570

<b>Veteran Population (as of 9/30/2017)</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>National</b>
Number of Veterans	1,584,844	19,998,799
Percent of Adult Population that are Veterans	7.94%	6.60%
Number of Women Veterans	177,507	1,882,848
Percent of Women Veterans	11.20%	9.41%
Number of Military Retirees	212,422	2,156,647
Percent of Veterans that are Military Retirees	13.40%	10.78%
Number of Veterans Age 65 and Over	627,610	9,410,179
Percent of Veterans Age 65 and Over	39.60%	47.05%

<b>VA Healthcare and Benefits (as of 9/30/2017)</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>National</b>
Number of Veterans Receiving Disability Compensation	444,206	4,552,819
Number of Veterans Receiving Pension	20,263	276,570
Number of Dependency & Indemnity Comp Beneficiaries	37,967	411,390
Number of Education Beneficiaries	96,425	987,577
Number of Enrollees in VA Healthcare System	747,221	9,116,200
Number of Unique Patients Treated	486,695	6,035,183



# Expenditures By Texas Congressional District

Expenditures in \$000s										
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
CONG. DIST (01)	45,930	\$ 416,421	\$ 249,406	\$ -	\$ 19,772	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,475	\$ 144,767	14,713
CONG. DIST (02)	34,690	\$ 329,550	\$ 173,318	\$ -	\$ 29,854	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,228	\$ 124,150	9,529
CONG. DIST (03)	40,006	\$ 270,992	\$ 164,642	\$ 5	\$ 28,763	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,508	\$ 75,074	7,882
CONG. DIST (04)	55,038	\$ 597,882	\$ 325,789	\$ 670	\$ 26,925	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,823	\$ 241,676	19,373
CONG. DIST (05)	40,249	\$ 423,000	\$ 219,753	\$ 173	\$ 24,292	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,337	\$ 176,446	12,968
CONG. DIST (06)	46,964	\$ 459,071	\$ 254,626	\$ (37)	\$ 41,262	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,471	\$ 160,749	14,986
CONG. DIST (07)	28,273	\$ 244,137	\$ 141,261	\$ -	\$ 24,332	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,816	\$ 76,728	6,206
CONG. DIST (08)	50,983	\$ 440,460	\$ 253,554	\$ -	\$ 33,380	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,395	\$ 151,130	14,590
CONG. DIST (09)	26,095	\$ 440,780	\$ 135,188	\$ 291	\$ 21,295	\$ -	\$ 86,560	\$ 1,716	\$ 195,731	9,289
CONG. DIST (10)	39,806	\$ 352,588	\$ 200,912	\$ -	\$ 30,853	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,763	\$ 118,061	11,959
CONG. DIST (11)	48,185	\$ 426,641	\$ 237,816	\$ 13	\$ 22,051	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,038	\$ 163,722	14,744
CONG. DIST (12)	55,392	\$ 476,731	\$ 283,064	\$ -	\$ 48,113	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,957	\$ 142,597	15,313
CONG. DIST (13)	44,797	\$ 510,424	\$ 260,317	\$ 4,689	\$ 20,324	\$ -	\$ 875	\$ 2,515	\$ 221,705	16,257
CONG. DIST (14)	48,025	\$ 429,990	\$ 248,810	\$ (132)	\$ 29,298	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,969	\$ 149,044	13,838
CONG. DIST (15)	31,422	\$ 508,748	\$ 317,200	\$ 404	\$ 38,910	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,837	\$ 149,397	13,678
CONG. DIST (16)	57,009	\$ 851,912	\$ 479,517	\$ 424	\$ 104,894	\$ -	\$ 3,162	\$ 2,603	\$ 261,313	23,573
CONG. DIST (17)	40,589	\$ 606,773	\$ 295,140	\$ 1	\$ 43,176	\$ -	\$ 80,877	\$ 3,087	\$ 184,491	15,201
CONG. DIST (18)	26,860	\$ 363,060	\$ 134,197	\$ 2,517	\$ 23,116	\$ -	\$ 5,680	\$ 1,725	\$ 195,824	10,562
CONG. DIST (19)	40,488	\$ 446,325	\$ 253,871	\$ 1,633	\$ 32,495	\$ -	\$ 687	\$ 2,048	\$ 155,592	14,260
CONG. DIST (20)	59,960	\$ 927,014	\$ 561,533	\$ -	\$ 96,488	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,870	\$ 265,123	21,956
CONG. DIST (21)	67,244	\$ 1,341,392	\$ 588,412	\$ 7,561	\$ 87,475	\$ 396,289	\$ 28,298	\$ 5,827	\$ 227,532	21,030
CONG. DIST (22)	35,783	\$ 363,121	\$ 204,765	\$ 2,233	\$ 27,722	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,549	\$ 125,853	10,172
CONG. DIST (23)	47,156	\$ 637,876	\$ 391,890	\$ -	\$ 58,391	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,568	\$ 185,028	18,404
CONG. DIST (24)	36,886	\$ 302,678	\$ 188,262	\$ 18	\$ 34,773	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,432	\$ 77,193	7,384
CONG. DIST (25)	66,140	\$ 813,362	\$ 519,589	\$ -	\$ 73,734	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,462	\$ 215,578	21,921
CONG. DIST (26)	46,942	\$ 372,860	\$ 229,232	\$ 115	\$ 47,303	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,215	\$ 92,994	11,173
CONG. DIST (27)	50,780	\$ 521,758	\$ 316,703	\$ -	\$ 32,212	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,847	\$ 169,996	14,789
CONG. DIST (28)	38,635	\$ 578,822	\$ 356,591	\$ -	\$ 47,944	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,420	\$ 171,868	17,269
CONG. DIST (29)	17,430	\$ 199,101	\$ 87,085	\$ 9	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,120	\$ 95,887	5,670
CONG. DIST (30)	30,319	\$ 466,264	\$ 162,435	\$ 4,238	\$ 27,442	\$ -	\$ 8,390	\$ 2,322	\$ 261,437	14,017
CONG. DIST (31)	91,233	\$ 1,366,232	\$ 860,403	\$ -	\$ 137,374	\$ -	\$ 4,259	\$ 6,302	\$ 357,894	33,925
CONG. DIST (32)	32,117	\$ 292,321	\$ 168,224	\$ 150	\$ 28,493	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,416	\$ 93,037	7,255
CONG. DIST (33)	18,560	\$ 208,045	\$ 95,574	\$ -	\$ 17,161	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,182	\$ 94,128	6,743
CONG. DIST (34)	28,986	\$ 423,469	\$ 241,060	\$ -	\$ 19,980	\$ -	\$ 1,106	\$ 1,545	\$ 159,778	12,218
CONG. DIST (35)	47,346	\$ 691,103	\$ 408,403	\$ -	\$ 71,191	\$ -	\$ 3,449	\$ 3,686	\$ 204,374	17,556
CONG. DIST (36)	46,402	\$ 445,901	\$ 252,640	\$ -	\$ 26,392	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,333	\$ 164,537	13,403
<b>TEXAS (Totals)</b>	<b>1,562,722</b>	<b>\$ 18,546,804</b>	<b>\$ 10,261,180</b>	<b>\$ 24,974</b>	<b>\$ 1,492,179</b>	<b>\$ 396,289</b>	<b>\$ 223,342</b>	<b>\$ 98,409</b>	<b>\$ 6,050,431</b>	<b>513,806</b>

# Timeline for State Advocacy

## Feb – Aug 2022: Prep the battlefield

- Meet the key players
- Plan for several visits
- Reevaluate advocacy plans based on primary and run-off elections

## Aug 2022 – Lock in Support for key issues

- Produce joint position papers on each legislative objective
- Meet with staffer and principal, if possible
- Request support and ask what you can do to help formulate bill
- Request an appointment in November 2022 – Reevaluate advocacy plans based on Election Results. Goal to have bills pre-filed.

## December 2022

- Meet with staffer and principal, if possible
- Discuss any updates to goals
- Ask what initiatives that the principal would like you to support
- Finalize date to Advocate in Austin

## January 2023 – Develop training and execution plan to Advocate in Austin