



THE TEXAS HOUSE

CAROLINE HARRIS DAVILA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT FIFTY-TWO

88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FALL 2023 • ISSUE 1



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A WORD FROM THE TEXAS STATE

DISTRICT 52 REPRESENTATIVE

Dear Friends,

It is an absolute honor to serve as your State Representative for House District 52. Thank you for your support. It is wonderful hearing from and meeting with many of you about the various topics and issues that matter most to our community. Your voice and your passion for the betterment of Williamson County and Texas are an inspiration, and it is a point of pride to serve as your State Representative. This newsletter will share a few highlights of what was accomplished during the 88th Legislature.

On January 10th, 2023, the Texas House and Senate gaveled-in to begin the 88th Regular Legislative Session where we worked together to accomplish a variety of key achievements that will benefit Texans for decades to come, including an unprecedented \$18 billion property tax relief package - the largest ever in the country!

My team was told freshman legislators should simply learn the process their first session and not expect to pass more than one bill, if that. We took that as a challenge and passed a total of 13 bills through the House and Senate that were sent to the governor's desk for his signature. As a result of the hard work I was honored to be recognized as the Freshman Legislator of the Year!

Upon adjournment and Sine Die of the Regular Session at the end of May, Governor Abbott called an additional two special sessions and, as mentioned above, the House and Senate ambitiously worked together to pass the largest property tax relief legislation in Texas history.

To top off the historic session and special sessions, I married the love of my life, Darrell Davila, in the Texas Senate Chamber where we first met. This new step in life has brought a feeling of pure joy and gratitude. We love Williamson County and I look forward to continuing to serve you as Caroline Harris Davila.

Throughout the following pages, you are invited to read further about the important actions taken this past session and special sessions that will benefit Texans for decades to come.

May God Bless Texas and God Bless Williamson County!

Caroline Harris Davila
Texas State Representative,
House District Fifty-Two



Husband, Darrell Davila & Representative Harris Davila

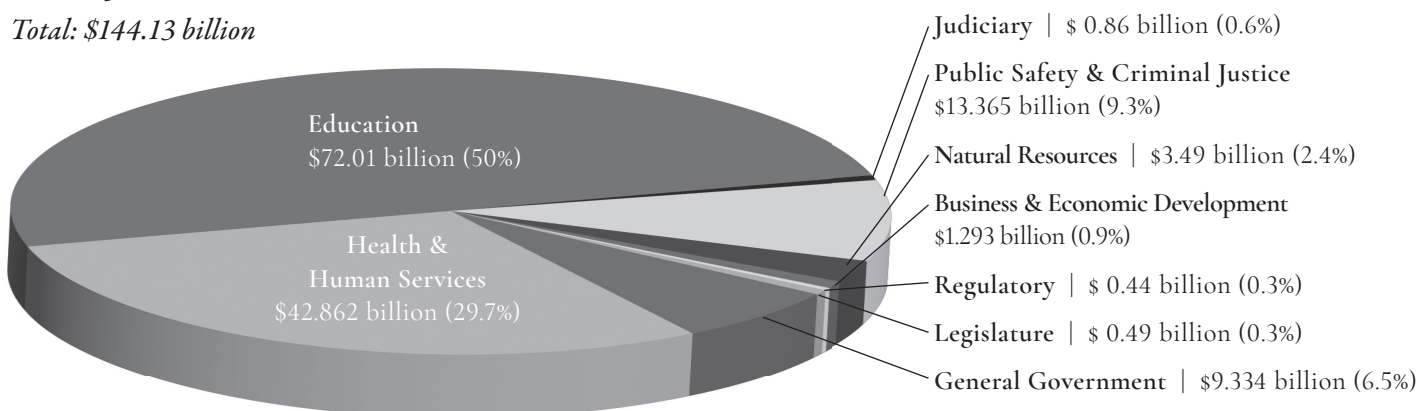


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THE STATE BUDGET

2024-25 GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS

Total: \$144.13 billion



Note: Appropriations for the 2024-25 biennium made in Article IX are included in the functional articles shown. Not included are 2024-25 biennium transfers of General Revenue Funds to the Property Tax Relief Fund (Other Funds), totaling \$12.3 billion. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Legislative Budget Board

The most important bill and the only bill the Texas Constitution states is a “must pass” each session is the state budget. This session, the Legislature passed a \$321.34 billion biennial budget that stayed well below all constitutional spending limits, and provided for an unprecedented \$18 billion property tax relief package - the largest ever in the country. The budget invested in our state’s long-term needs, including: Education, Public Safety, Water, and much more. In addition to the property tax relief, some other highlights include: \$9.3 billion to address infrastructure needs, \$50.4 billion to public education, \$5.1 billion for border security, and \$42.9 billion for public health.

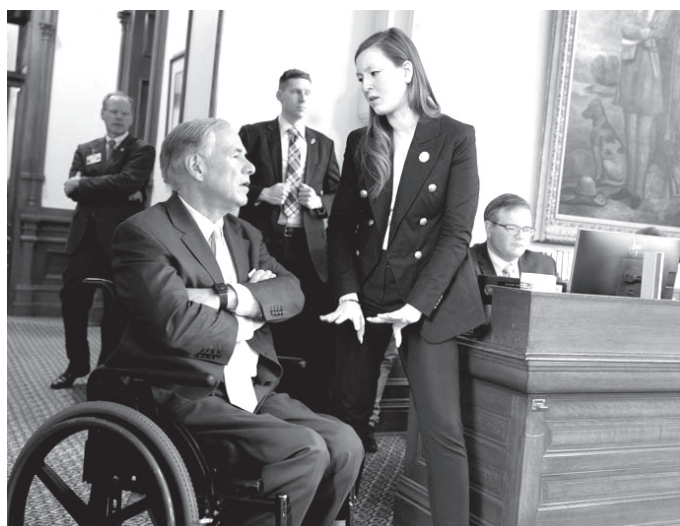
The state budget enhanced our commitment to our children’s education by appropriating an increase of \$3.2 billion to fund projected school enrollment growth, \$2.4 billion for the golden penny yield, and \$60.0 million for the New Instructional Facilities Allotment. In addition, the budget also

increased funding to school districts and charter schools for technology and instructional materials by \$307 million. Lastly, the Legislature appropriated \$1.6 billion to retired teachers through a 13th check and \$3.4 billion to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible Teacher Retirement System retirees. As a granddaughter of a grandmother who taught for more than 20 years, I have a deep appreciation for teachers and the incredible role they play in the lives of young Texans.

As the state continues to grow, this budget meets our infrastructure needs by allocating \$150 million to improve Texas ports, \$625 million for flood mitigation, \$200 million for deferred maintenance at state facilities, \$300 million for preserving and restoring historic sites throughout the state, and \$1 billion to repair aging, deteriorating water systems and create new water supplies.



Legislative staff of House District Fifty-Two join Representative Harris Davila around her desk in the House Chamber.



Rep. Harris Davila discusses priority legislation with Governor Abbott.

PROTECTING TEXANS

SCOPE Act – House Bill 18: equips parents with tools to better protect our children online, including the ability to stop addictive algorithms and prevent companies from collecting children’s private information.

Prohibiting Sexually Oriented Performances – Senate Bill 12: creates civil penalties for an individual who controls the premises of a commercial business and allows a sexually-

oriented performance to occur in front of a child. A person who engages in the sexually-oriented performance can also be charged with a Class A misdemeanor.

The Children’s Gender Protection (CGPA) Act– Senate Bill 14: prohibits a physician from performing a surgery or administering a drug to a minor for the purpose of modifying a child’s biological sex.



Joined by her fellow colleagues, Representative Harris Davila presents her first bill before the House Chamber.

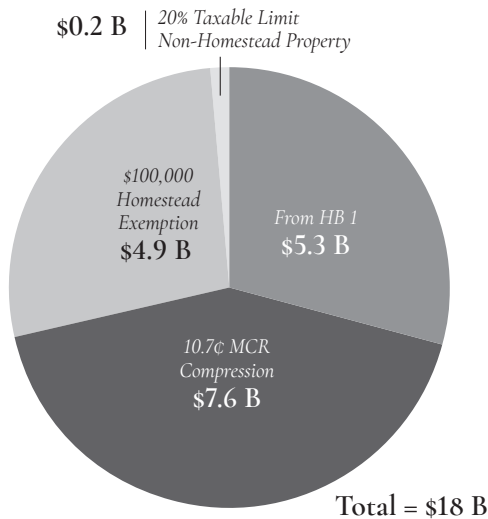


Don't forget to ask about our Page Program.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Texans are all too familiar with skyrocketing property taxes and it was high time for property tax relief. We heard your call. After months of diligent work, the Legislature approved the largest property tax relief in Texas history during the Second Special Session.

This action will not only significantly reduce property taxes, but will also provide relief to small business owners and reform the appraisal system to ensure economic growth and prosperity. Listed are key statistics and information which explain how this will be accomplished.



- First, the property tax relief package further reduces school district Maximum Compressed Rates by 10.7 cents which provides an additional \$7.6 billion of state money into public education funding by further compressing ISD tax rates for ALL property owners. Along with what was appropriated in the State Budget, this amounts to nearly \$13 billion in total compression.
- Second, this package increases the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000, meaning that homestead owners will have \$100,000 of home value that is untaxable. Seniors and the disabled already receive an additional \$10,000 exemption off their homestead, so they will have a \$110,000 homestead exemption.
- For the first time in history, non-homesteaded properties valued at \$5 million or less will have their taxable value capped at 20% per year for the next three years. This limit will provide predictability and stability for small and medium-sized businesses that have struggled with double and triple digit increases the last few years.
- Lastly, the Central Appraisal Districts will go through reforms which will bring accountability and transparency to taxpayers by creating three elected members to the CAD board of directors for counties with a population of 75,000 or more. This action also provides a petition option for appraisal board candidates instead of filing fee.

HOUSE DISTRICT 52

One of the highlights of being your State Representative is attending events in the community. Whether it's a ribbon cutting ceremony, a charity donation drive, a local sporting event, or anything else that supports Williamson County, I love to stay connected to the community I grew up in.

VISIT THE CAPITOL

The Texas State Capitol is open to the public all year, with the exception of major holidays. The Capitol is open Monday – Friday, 7 am to 8 pm on weekdays and Saturday/Sunday 9 am to 8 pm, Tour the Capitol on your own or take advantage of the free professional guided tours. Let us know when you'll be in the Capitol. I'd love to host you for a visit.

BUSINESS & COMMERCE

Texas Data Privacy and Security Act – House Bill 4: provides Texans with: the right to know when their personal data is collected, the right to access their personal data, the right to correct and delete personal data, and the right to opt out of the collection and sale of personal data.

Texas Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act – House Bill 5: establishes a new, transparent, and accountable state economic development incentive tool that provides temporary tax limitations for large capital investments which will bring jobs and long-term revenue to the state. This bill resolves problematic issues with previous incentive programs.

Texas Regulatory Consistency Act – House Bill 2127: maintains the state’s business-friendly economy by prohibiting cities and counties from adopting, enforcing, or maintaining a rule, order, or ordinance that is incompatible with state law. This ensures that local governments do not impose duplicative, conflicting, or more burdensome regulations on industries that are already regulated by the state.

Texas Space Commission – House Bill 3447: creates the Texas Space Commission as well as the Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium in the state of Texas.



Dr. Oliverson and Representative Harris Davila stand their ground and argue the case for furthering medical transparency through SB 490.

HEALTHCARE

Extending Postpartum Medicaid – House Bill 12: extends Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women from 2 months to 12 months postpartum, so Texas mothers will be better able to care for their babies and themselves.

Ensuring Affordable Prescription Drugs – House Bill 25: improves health outcomes by allowing certain low-cost prescription drugs to be safely imported from Canada.

Prohibiting Vaccine Discrimination – House Bill 44: prohibits health care providers from refusing to provide health care services based solely on the patient’s unvaccinated status.

Ending COVID-19 Mandates – Senate Bill 29: prohibits governmental entities from implementing, ordering, or imposing a mandate related to masks, vaccinations, or the closure of businesses for the purpose of preventing the spread of COVID-19.



Always a great day to recognize the hard-working high school athletes of House District 52.

EDUCATION

School Safety – House Bill 3: enacts comprehensive measures to increase school safety that, among many components, requires each public school campus to have at least one armed guard and establishes an Office of School Safety and Security within the Texas Education Agency.

READER Act – House Bill 900: prevents children from accessing sexually explicit and inappropriate literature in public school libraries.

Protecting Women’s Sports – Senate Bill 15: protects women’s sports by requiring student-athletes at Texas universities to compete based on their biological sex at birth.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fighting Fentanyl – House Bill 6: creates a criminal offense of murder for supplying fentanyl that results in death, and it enhances the criminal penalty for the manufacturing or delivery of fentanyl.

Removing Rogue Prosecutors – House Bill 19: allows for the removal from office of a prosecutor who refuses to prosecute specific criminal offenses, such as laws relating to marijuana, shop lifting, or abortion.

Bishop Evans Act – House Bill 90: establishes an assistance payment for certain survivors of a member of the Texas Military, including the Texas National Guard, Texas State Guard, and other state military forces who pass while on active state duty.

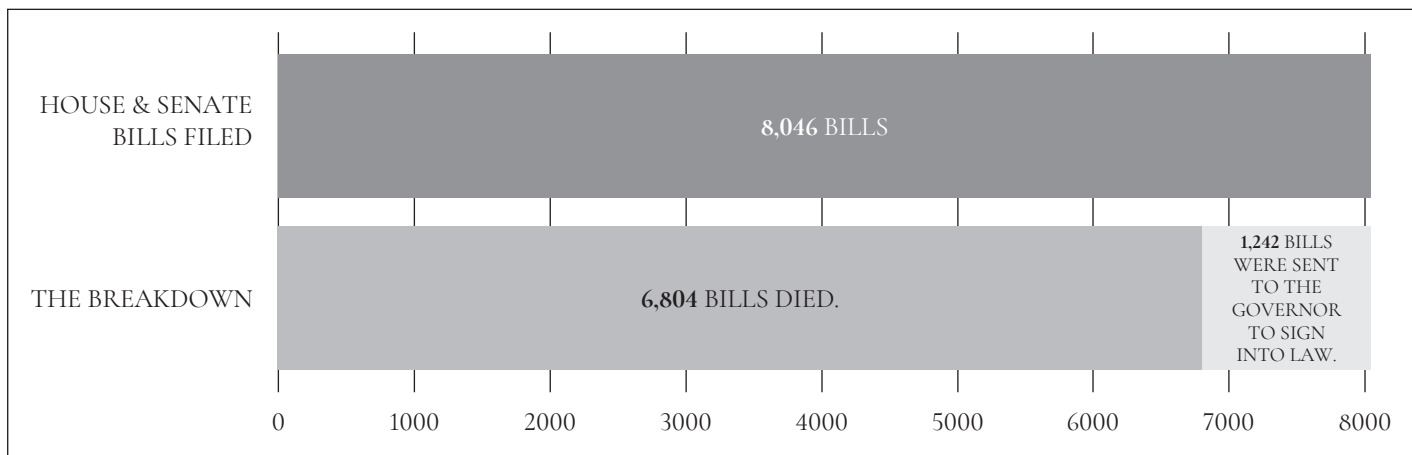
Paid Leave of Absence – House Bill 471: requires a political subdivision to provide paid leave of absence to firefighters, police officers, or emergency medical services personnel for an illness or injury incurred in the line of duty.

Matt Dawson Act – House Bill 2468: extends lifetime income benefits to first responders who were rendered permanently unemployable by serious bodily injury in the course and scope of their duties.

88TH LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

During the session and special sessions, I passed bills that will not only benefit our community in House District 52, but also the lives of all Texans. Below are a few of those pieces of legislation.

<p>SENATE BILL 490 (HB 1973) <i>Improving Medical Bill Transparency</i></p>	<p>Senate Bill 490 requires medical providers to give a clear and itemized bill of charges to patients so that they know exactly what they are paying for. This piece of legislation received overwhelming bipartisan support and will provide millions of Texans with further medical transparency.</p>
<p>HOUSE BILL 4500 (SB 863) <i>Physician Access to Patient Benefit Information</i></p>	<p>House Bill 4500 furthers transparency between health care providers and health benefit plan issuers by requiring the issuers to create a secure online system that contains key insurance information of patients. This allows providers to more easily coordinate with health plan issuers to see whether the patient is covered, and whether there is a deductible, copayment, or coinsurance.</p>
<p>SENATE BILL 459 (HB 1574) <i>Higher Education Priority Registration</i></p>	<p>Senate Bill 459 requires public institutions of higher education to provide priority registration to parenting students. This will ensure that student-parents can align their schedules with the hours they have access to childcare.</p>
<p>HOUSE BILL 2109 <i>Lower Brushy Creek</i></p>	<p>House Bill 2109 affords the Lower Brushy Creek WCID the same protections that were given to the Upper Brushy Creek in the 87th Legislative Session. It prevents future councils from usurping control over the dam systems for environmental reasons which could slow the construction and maintenance of critical dams.</p>
<p>HOUSE BILL 1968 <i>Officer Charles Whites</i></p>	<p>House Bill 1968 designates a portion of I-35 in Williamson County as the Officer Charles Whites Memorial Highway to remember and honor his service.</p>
<p>HOUSE BILL 3287 (HB 2132) <i>TSTC Campus</i></p>	<p>House Bill 3287 converts Texas State Technical College’s extension center in Hutto to a fully-fledged campus with the flexibility to operate multiple sites in East Williamson County.</p>
<p>SENATE BILL 702 (HB 3187) <i>Embossed Plates</i></p>	<p>Senate Bill 702 allows car owners to purchase embossed license plates through the state online portal, <i>Myplates.com</i>.</p>



Visiting with retired teachers and learning about the initiatives that matter most to them.



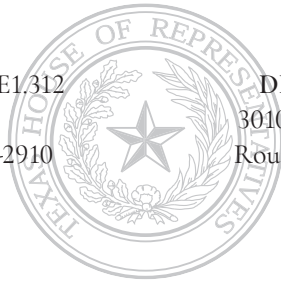
Grateful to have the support of my loving family!

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HELPFUL NUMBERS & WEBSITES

- Texas Dept. of Agriculture.....(800) 835-5832
www.texasagriculture.gov
- Office of the Attorney General..... www.texasattorneygeneral.gov
- Child Support Enforcement*.....(800) 252-8014
- Consumer Protection*.....(800) 621-0508
- Crime Victims*.....(800) 983-9933
- Consumer Protection Hotline*(800) 621-0508
- Texas Education Agency.....(512) 463-9734
www.tea.texas.gov
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).....(512) 239-1000
www.tceq.texas.gov
- Texas Dept. of Family and Protective Services.....(512) 438-4800
- Abuse and Neglect Hotline*.....(800) 252 5400
- Texas Youth Hotline*(800) 989 6884



Rep. Caroline Harris Davila welcomes award-winning actress Jennifer Garner to discuss education policy on the House Floor.