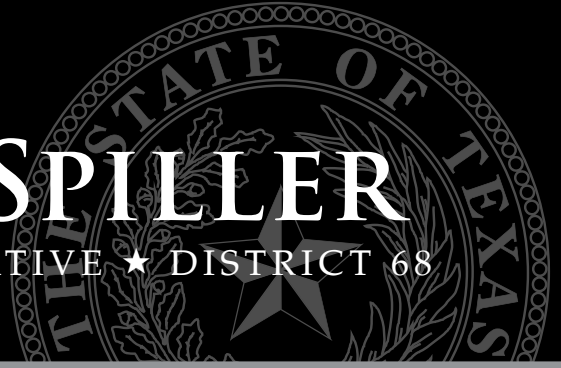




# DAVID SPILLER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 68



## 88<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 68

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As your voice in the Texas House of Representatives, I always strive to do my best to effectively represent House District 68, to continue to advance and defend the conservative principles, values and beliefs of the people of my district, and to continue to provide the experienced, knowledgeable and accessible representation that citizens deserve.

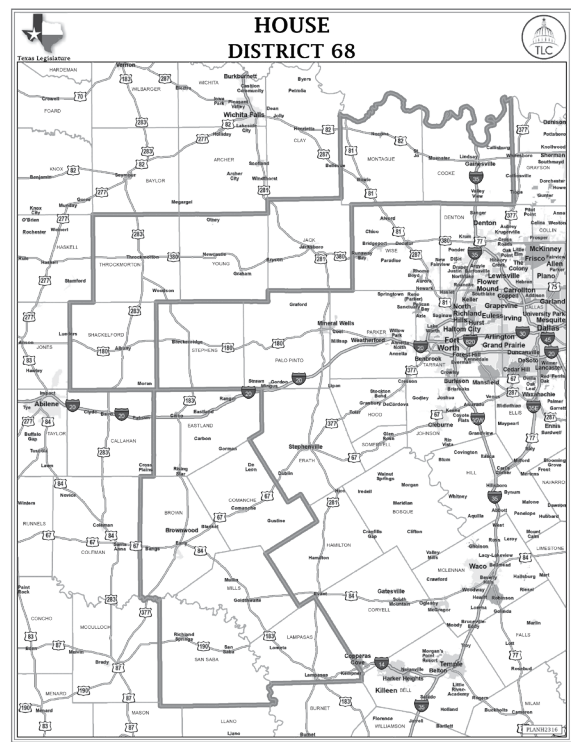
Inside the newsletter and categorized by subject matter, you will find specific examples outlining progress made this year, as well as many other policies aimed at improving the lives of all Texans. Additionally, information for the November Constitutional Amendment election is provided for your assistance.

The success accomplished in this session is due to your continued participation and involvement in the legislative process. As always, my staff and I are available at your disposal. If we can be of any assistance to you or your family, please contact our **Capitol Office** at 512-463-0526.

Thank you for the blessing and opportunity to serve as your State Representative.

Respectfully,

David Spiller



*Follow Rep. Spiller on Facebook and Twitter*

## PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

The new property tax relief plan represents a significant win for providing relief to Texas property owners and reflects the commitment of Texas leaders to address the concerns of taxpayers.

*The tax cut legislation totals \$18 billion and includes:*

- Over \$12 billion will be spent on reducing the school property tax rate for all homeowners and business properties.
- Every homeowner who homesteads their home (approximately 5.7 million homeowners) will get a \$100,000 homestead exemption.

- Non-homesteaded properties, valued at \$5 million and under, including residential and commercial properties, will receive a 20% circuit breaker on appraised values as a 3-year pilot project.

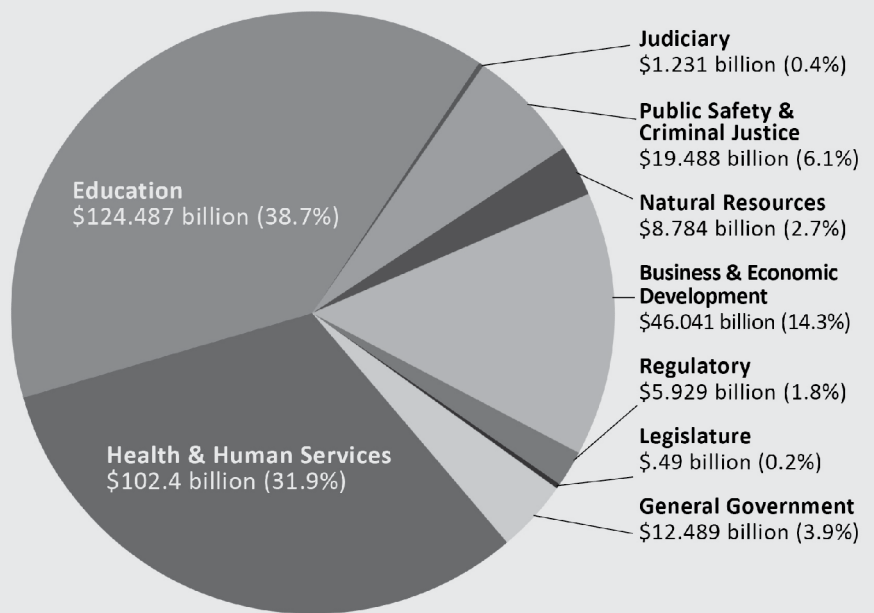
*Effective for tax year 2024, subject to the applicable Constitutional Amendments passing.*

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Appropriated \$144.3 billion to fund the state over the next two years (Balanced; within constitutional limits).
- \$5.1 billion in border security (largest investment in state history).
- \$50.4 billion for public education (\$8.9 billion increase) (state's share over 1/2).
- \$1.4 billion for school safety grants.
- Dedicating \$17.6 billion for property tax relief (including \$5.3 billion to tax rate compression and \$12.3 billion for various tax relief options).
- \$9.3 billion for infrastructure-related projects, including roads, water and broadband.
- \$9.4 billion for mental health, including \$1.6 billion for mental health bed capacity.
- \$40 million increase to the Alternatives to Abortion program.

## 2024- 25 ALL FUNDS

TOTAL \$321.34 BILLION



Source: Legislative Budget Board

Funding excludes Interagency Contracts.  
Totals may not sum due to rounding.



Brown County Day at the Capitol.



Young County Day at the Capitol.

## HOW CAN WE HELP?

**Flag Requests** - Texas flags flown over the State Capitol make great gifts and are available for purchase. All flags are accompanied with a beautiful state certificate encompassing the seal of the Texas House of Representatives.

**Certificates of Achievements** - At no cost to you, we're equipped to assist you in marking a special occasion by crafting an official proclamation by the Texas House of Representatives. Whether you are commemorating a birth, marriage, retirement or a special event, you can contact our office to learn more.

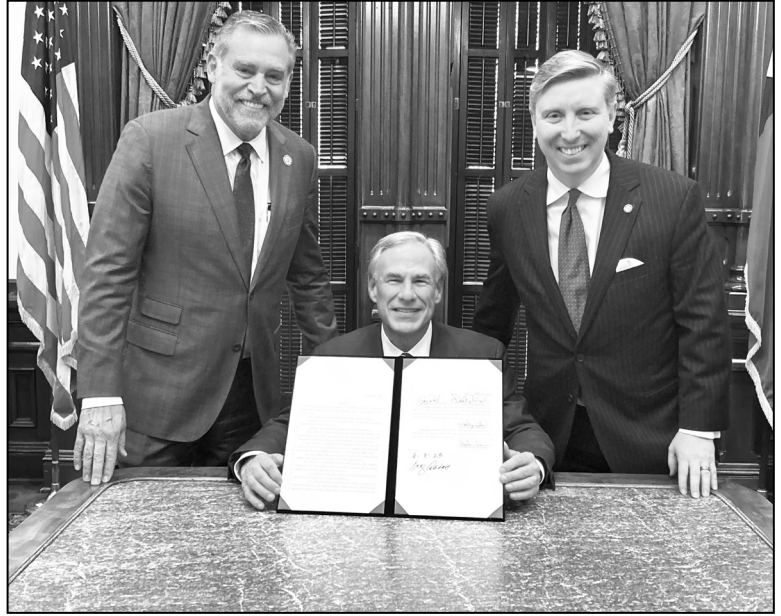


## BORDER SECURITY AND FENTANYL CRISIS

### *Spiller Interstate Compact Bill*

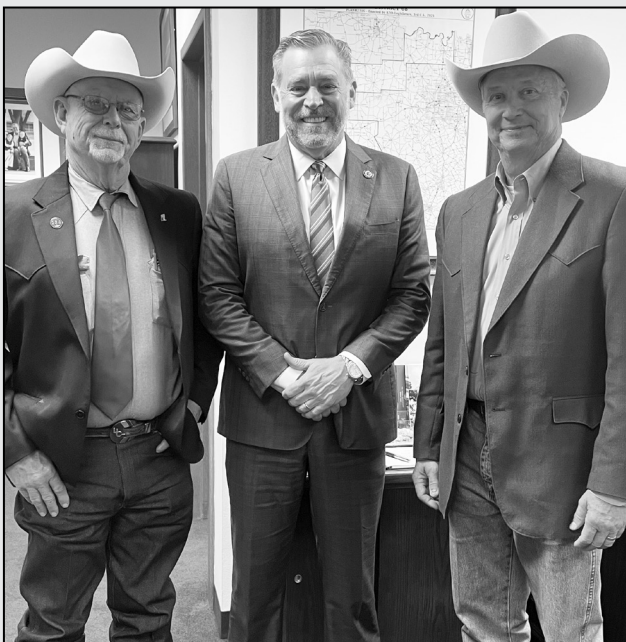
It is especially rewarding to have passed my Border Interstate Compact Bill, House Bill 82 (Senate Bill 1403). This bill creates an interstate compact that allows states to collaborate and share resources for the purpose of border enforcement. It is important to note, this bill does not require the consent of Congress. Simply put, this legislation allows participating states and their law enforcement agencies to share resources, intelligence, and funding for border enforcement efforts. This would strengthen our capabilities to address, manage, and overcome the continuing security crisis at our border.

- **SB 423** - Provides Texas military forces the authority to use unmanned aircraft as part of an operation, exercise, or mission. The bill legalizes the use of drones for search and recovery missions after natural disasters and for monitoring the Texas-Mexico border as part of Operation Lone Star.
- **SB 602** - Expands the authority of U.S. Border Patrol agents who have completed a DPS training program to include arrest, search, and seizure at established border checkpoints and points of entry for felony offenses under Texas law.
- **SB 1133** - Creates a grant program to compensate agricultural landowners up to \$75,000 for property damage caused by trespassers committing a border crime.
- **SB 1403** - Authorizes the Governor to coordinate and execute an interstate compact for border security among interested states without congressional approval. The compact will allow participating states to share law enforcement intelligence and resources and protect personnel and property.
- **SB 1484** - Creates a collaborative border operations training program through DPS for peace officers employed by local law enforcement agencies along the border. It allows DPS to share expertise in identifying and preventing transnational criminal activity with local authorities.
- **SB 1900** - Designates Mexican drug cartels and criminal organizations as foreign terrorist organizations in the State of Texas and increases penalties for the destruction of illegal drugs and the operation of stash houses. This bill also adds foreign terrorist organizations to current intelligence databases and allows local entities to seek public nuisance claims against them.



Rep. Spiller signs SB 1403 into law with Governor Abbott and Senator Parker.

- **SB 22** - Establishes Rural Law Enforcement Grant Program for Sheriff, Constable, and Prosecutor's Offices in qualifying districts/counties.
- **HB 90** - The Bishop Evans Act improves worker's compensation and death benefits for Texas National Guard and State Guard on state active duty.



Rep. Spiller with Judge Randy Hoyer and Commissioner Bobby Carroll from Lampasas County.

## ENSURING OUR ELECTIONS ARE SECURED

- **HB 1243** - Returns the penalty for voter fraud to a felony.
- **HB 5180** - Provides for public inspection of ballots after 60 days of an election.
- **HB 87** - Requires each presidential elector to be nominated by their political party. Additionally requires the filing of a replacement nominee for an original nominee who withdraws, dies, or is declared ineligible.
- **SB 1933** - Provides procedures for state oversight of a county office administering elections or voter registration in the event the office has a complaint filed against them or where problems repeatedly occur.
- **SB 1070** - Ensures Texas participates in an efficient and cost-effective interstate voter registration cross-check program by expanding the factors a publicly developed system can compare and provides that a private option the state uses must meet certain cost and functionality standards.

## RURAL TEXAS WINS & SPILLER BILLS

### *State Water Infrastructure Security*

SB 28 - Creates the Texas Water Fund, allowing applicants to receive assistance in financing new water sources for the state.

### *Rural Healthcare*

HB 3119 - Clarifies and standardizes the election process for general law hospital district's board of directors.

### *Texas Broadband Infrastructure*

HB 9/HJR 125 - Establishes the TX Broadband Infrastructure Fund, expanding the state's framework for improving broadband connectivity across the state.

SB 1710 - Ensures support for connectivity throughout rural Texas is continued through the Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF).

### *ERCOT and Grid Sustainability*

SB 1015 - Change to the existing Distribution Costs Recover Factor (DCRF) to allow utilities to file a DCRF proceeding twice a year instead of once a year.

HB 1500 - Makes necessary changes to the functions and operations of the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and strengthens the ERCOT power grid by requiring the development of reliable energy programs like the performance credit mechanism or dispatchable reliability reserve services.

SB 2627 - Enables the Public Utility Commission to approve low-interest loans to provide dispatchable electric generation facilities to the ERCOT power region. Dispatchable power generation includes facilities using coal, nuclear, and natural gas as fuels.

SB 2011 - Provides consumer protection to Texans by increasing the administrative penalties for power generators that are not compliant with their plan filed with the Public Utility Commission.

SB 2013 - Fortifies the Texas power grid by establishing new policies and procedures for businesses and their employees operating in the ERCOT power region. Businesses associated with China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia may not access the grid. It also mandates background checks for employees working with Texas' critical infrastructure.

### *Agriculture and Farming*

HJR 126 - Proposing a constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.

HB 1750 - Prohibits cities from imposing "governmental requirements" on all agricultural operations within city limits, no matter when the land was annexed by the city.

HB 2308 - Strengthens the current protections in law to prevent nuisance lawsuits against agricultural operations.

HB 2271 - Revises the Texas Agricultural Code to include "aquaculture" as an agricultural operation.

SB 664 - States that producers of imitation meat products will be in violation of the new requirements if the food's labels, brands, images, depictions, or graphics misrepresent the food in the package.

HB 73 - Prevents landowners from being held liable for damages caused by livestock due to a damaged fence.

SB 505 - Imposes an annual registration fee for electric vehicles that will be deposited to the credit of the state highway fund to maintain roads.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RETIRED TEACHERS

- **HB 3** - Defines the roles and responsibilities of the TX School Safety Center and the TX Education Agency, ensuring school safety standards can be properly enforced.
  - At least one armed security officer is to be present on every school campus to ensure campuses are monitored and protected.
- **HB 1416** - Revises accelerated learning requirements established in the 87th session by increasing parental opt-out & providing educator flexibility and school district control.
- **HB 1133** - Provides additional options as to how schools and places of religious worship can better protect their students and congregations by allowing any peace office to provide voluntary security services.
- **SB 10** - Delivers a COLA (first time since 2013) for retired teachers (pending the Constitutional Amendment passing by the voters) while ensuring the TRS pension fund remains actuarially sound for the next generation to retire. Additionally, eligible annuitants at least 70 years of age will receive a lump sum of \$5k.
- **HJR 2** - Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. Community College Funding.
- **HB 8** - Establishes a new funding model for community colleges in Texas focused on recognizing and rewarding them for the important role they play of value required in more than 60% of jobs in the state over the next decade.



Rep. Spiller with Jack County Retired Teachers, Jean Henderson and Phyllis Best.



**★ 88TH LEGISLATURE ★**

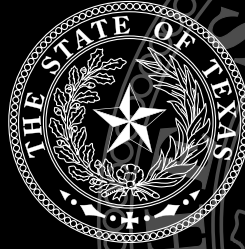
<p><b>Proposition 1</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 2</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 3</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 4</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 5</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 6</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 7</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 8</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 9</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>“The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 10</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 11</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 12</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 13</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.</p>
<p><b>Proposition 14</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.</p>



# DAVID SPILLER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 68

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Appropriations - S/C on Strategic Fiscal Review • General Investigating • State Affairs*

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**DAVID SPILLER**



★ ELECTION DAY ★  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

**POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. – 7 P.M.  
ON ELECTION DAY**

**LAST DAY TO REGISTER: MONDAY, OCTOBER 10**

**EARLY VOTING: MONDAY, OCTOBER 23 –  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

*For more information on voting, visit the Texas Secretary of State's  
website at [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov)*



For condensed analyses and comments  
in Support or Opposition of the proposed  
Constitutional Amendments, visit [TLC.Texas.gov](http://TLC.Texas.gov)



*Rep. Spiller visiting with Governor Abbott on the House Floor  
about Property Tax Relief for his constituents.*