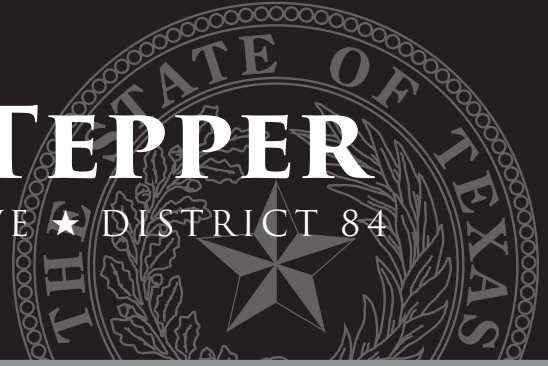




CARL H. TEPPER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 84



88TH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 84

Dear Fellow Texan,

As your state representative for House District 84, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to represent you in the Texas House of Representatives. It's important that Texas remains the best state for people to live, work, and raise a family. With this goal in mind, I'd like to share several important accomplishments of the state legislature.

The Regular Session of the 88th Texas Legislature convened on January 10, 2023, and lasted through Memorial Day. Since the Legislature only meets every other year, the "session" progresses at a rapid pace. As a "Freshman" legislator, I've learned many things and forged meaningful relationships with colleagues that will continue to serve Lubbock well.

The 88th Legislature passed historic reforms to ensure the continued success of Texas, which means maintaining our financial obligations, addressing deferred maintenance, and planning for the future. We successfully delivered historic property tax relief and created a monumental new fund that will benefit Texas Tech University. In addition, legislation was passed to pursue a future water supply, improve our infrastructure, strengthen school safety, provide financial relief to retired teachers, and shore up several state retirement funds. The legislature substantially increased funding for community colleges, technical schools, vocational programs, and more. A record amount of funding has been dedicated to the public schools and the final distribution will be decided in a special session.

Consequently, the Texas Legislature passed enabling legislation for 14 proposed Constitutional Amendments which will be presented to you, the voters, on the November ballot. This newsletter includes a summary of each amendment to aid you in forming your opinion.

Although the Regular Session has ended, please know that our work is not yet complete. Governor Abbott has indicated that another special session will be required to secure additional victories for Texans. My goal has been for this office to be accessible, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Texas House of Representatives
District 84

Carl H. Tepper
State Representative



The Texas House celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Texas Tech University with the adoption of House Resolution 354

★ STATE BUDGET OVERVIEW ★

I am pleased to share that your state legislature enacted a responsible budget for the 2024–25 biennium that stays well within the state’s constitutional spending limits and keeps well within the rate of the state’s population growth adjusted for inflation.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Provides \$5.1 billion for border security efforts coordinated through thirteen state agencies, including the Texas Military Department (\$2.3 billion), Office of the Governor (\$1.4 billion), and the Department of Public Safety (\$1.2 billion).
- Provides \$330.8 million for county law enforcement to establish grant programs to provide financial assistance to qualified sheriff, constable, and prosecutors’ offices in rural counties.
- Includes \$381.5 million to the Department of Public Safety to expand a training academy facility, funding for 50 additional officers (\$31.1 million) and a total of six recruit schools along with graduation recruitment bonus payments (\$35 million), expansion of statewide intelligence and analytics (\$27.1 million), and communication radio infrastructure improvements (\$23.7 million).
- Includes \$126.2 million in new funding for local adult probation departments at the Department of Criminal Justice, along with additional body scanners and metal detectors (\$8.4 million), video surveillance upgrades (\$6.3 million), additional protective gear for correctional staff (\$4 million), and expanded resources to the TDCJ-OIG (\$3 million) to pursue parole absconders.
- Includes \$200 million for new state secure facilities for the Juvenile Justice Department and \$142.5 million in additional funding for local juvenile probation departments.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

- The Texas Tech University System, celebrating its Centennial Anniversary, had an incredibly successful legislative session that will continue to positively impact our institutions for future generations.
- The Texas University Fund (TUF) was established with \$3 billion and then merged with another fund of \$0.9 billion for a total of \$3.9 billion, to be shared with three other university systems, contingent upon the passage of a constitutional amendment. If adopted, the TUF will give Texas Tech University an initial distribution of \$44 million in fiscal year 2024. Each year, an additional \$100 million will be invested into the TUF from the Economic Stabilization Fund.
- \$50 million for Institutional Enhancement at Texas Tech University for investments in academic excellence and student success.
- \$10 million to develop the Institute for Telehealth and Technology Innovation at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Telehealth is vital to our region where our population often resides in remote locations.
- \$5 million to implement Senate Bill 1047 (Perry/Tepper) for the Texas Produced Water Consortium at Texas Tech University. This will serve as an experiment to clean water used in hydraulic fracturing. Water is the biggest issue for the future of Texas.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- The state budget fully funds our public schools, including increases of \$3.2 billion to fund projected enrollment growth, \$2.4 billion for increases in the golden penny yield, and \$60 million for the New Instructional Facilities Allotment. The budget also increases funding to districts and charter schools for technology and instructional materials by \$307 million.
- Includes \$5 billion in additional funding for Public Education.
- Increases funding for school safety measures by \$1.4 billion, including grants to districts and charter schools and new statewide initiatives.
- Includes \$1.6 billion for a one-time supplemental annuity payment for certain Teacher Retirement System retirees and \$3.4 billion to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible retirees.
- Provides \$588.5 million to the Teacher Retirement System to maintain health insurance premium increases below 10 percent each year for TRS-ActiveCare participants.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Provides a state focus on student affordability for general academic universities. The budget provides \$9.9 billion, which is a \$1.1 billion increase to the current biennium, to fund the formulas at these valuable institutions.

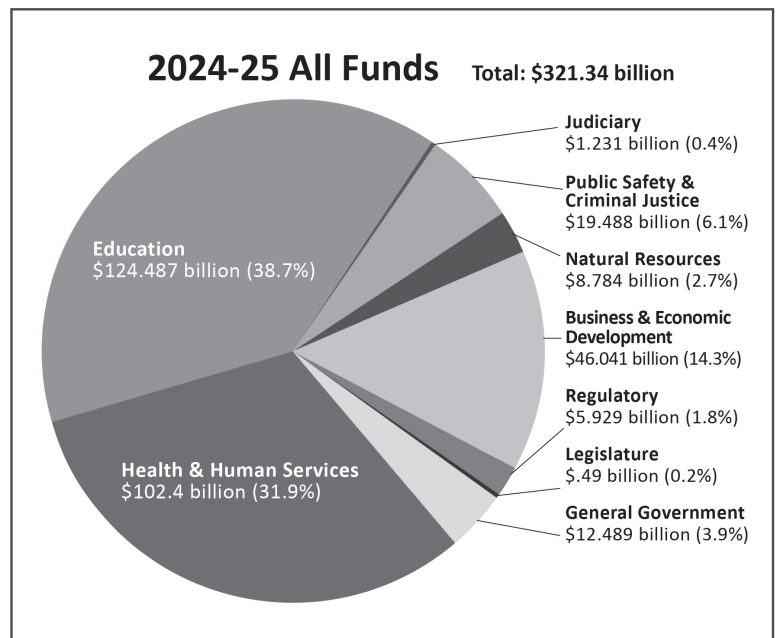
- Provides \$683 million to substantially increase funding and establish a new dynamic state funding formula for public junior colleges, as enacted in House Bill 8. This funding will tremendously benefit South Plains College!
- Bolsters Texas’ healthcare workforce by providing \$233.1 million for graduate medical education to maintain a 1.1 to 1.0 ratio for residency slots, \$280.5 million for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium, and \$124.8 million for other related workforce programs.
- Includes \$1.54 billion for financial aid programs.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Provides Sunrise Canyon Hospital \$45 million for repairs, renovations, and the construction of 30 additional beds and an additional \$7 million to increase funding for existing inpatient beds.
- Provides an additional \$178.2 million for rural hospitals, including increased funding for rural labor and delivery and a new rural hospital grant program.
- Strengthens commitment to mental health services by providing \$11.6 billion for behavioral health. The state budget includes \$302 million for mental health community hospitals, \$199.4 million for mental health state hospital operations, \$83 million for community mental health grant programs, \$1.6 billion for new construction of mental health state hospitals, \$0.5 billion for new construction at mental health community facilities, and \$0.1 billion for maintenance and information technology projects related to mental health services.
- Includes \$447.2 million for women’s health programs, an increase of \$160.1 million over current spending.
- Provides a total of \$80.8 billion across all three Health and Human Services agencies for Medicaid, including \$2 billion to support community attendant services and \$206.8 million to increase rates for pediatric services, women’s health-related surgeries, private duty nursing, and ground ambulances.
- Increases funding for the Department of Family and Protective Services by \$548 million, including \$971 million to expand community-based care into new regions and stages and \$219.7 million for foster care rate modernization.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Increases funding to the Texas Department of Transportation by approximately \$5 billion for highway planning and design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction and maintenance.
- Provides to the Water Development Board \$1 billion to capitalize the Texas Water Fund for financing water projects, and \$625 million to be transferred to the Flood Infrastructure Fund to increase funding for flood control, drainage, and mitigation projects.
- Provides the Parks and Wildlife Department \$1 billion to capitalize the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund for the purpose of establishing state parks.



★ ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION ★

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

- The Restricting Explicit and Adult-Designated Educational Resources (READER) Act prevents sexually explicit and inappropriate literature from being in public school libraries. Dozens of extremely inappropriate and even vile texts have been discovered circulating in the school library systems.

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.

Abolishing DEI Offices – Senate Bill 17

- Prohibits public institutions of higher education from establishing or maintaining discriminatory diversity, education, and inclusion (DEI) offices. The term "DEI office" is a misnomer that has allowed our universities to use public funds to advance partisan political ideologies, discrimination, segregation, and more. Representative Tepper was a leader in the effort to abolish DEI offices in Texas.

Reforming Tenure – Senate Bill 18

- Establishes a uniform policy across all public university systems for the awarding of tenure to university faculty.

BUSINESS & COMMERCE

Business Courts – House Bill 19

- Establishes a specialty business trial court with statewide jurisdiction over business law cases in which the amount in controversy is at least \$10 million. These are actions arising between business organizations or their governing authorities, governing persons, investors, members, or owners and should be timely resolved.

Right to Farm – House Bill 1750

- Ensures the right to farm for all agricultural operations by requiring cities to provide evidence of an actual threat to public health when regulating agricultural operations.

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 unless the city or county is expressly permitted in state law to do so, with certain exceptions. This law ensures that local governments do not impose duplicative, conflicting, or more burdensome regulations on industries that are already regulated by the state.

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, bringing jobs and long-term revenue to the state. This bill resolves problematic issues with previous incentive programs.

OTHER NOTABLE LAWS

Tax Relief – Senate Bill 2, Senate Bill 3, and House Joint Resolution 2

Provides \$18 billion in tax relief to Texans by:

- Increasing the homestead exemption to \$100,000;
- Buying down the M&O portion of ISD property taxes by 10.7 cents;
- Implementing appraisal caps of 20% for non-homesteaded property valued at \$5 million or less for three years; and
- Doubling the franchise tax exemption and removing burdensome filing requirements for exempt entities.

Protecting Children from Drag Shows – Senate Bill 12

- Prohibits commercial businesses from hosting sexually oriented performances in front of children and makes it an offense for a person to engage children in a prohibited sexually oriented performance.

Prohibiting Gender Modification – 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.

Ending COVID-19 Mandates – Senate Bill 29

- Prohibit 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.

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.

HEALTHCARE

Prohibiting Vaccine Discrimination – House Bill 44

- Prohibits health care providers from refusing to provide health care services based solely on the patient's refusal or failure to obtain a vaccine.

Itemized Billing – Senate Bill 490

- Requires health care providers to itemize all services and supplies when billing patients.

Thriving Texas Families Act – Senate Bill 24

- Better coordinates and ensures proper access to pregnancy and services for children.

PUBLIC SAFETY & FIRST RESPONDERS

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.

Combating Fentanyl – House Bill 6

- Creates a criminal offense of murder for supplying fentanyl that results in death and 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 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, that die while on active state duty.

Paid Leave of Absence – House Bill 471

- Requires a political subdivision to provide a paid leave of absence to a firefighter, police officer, or emergency medical services personnel for an illness or injury related to the person's line of duty.

REPRESENTATIVE TEPPER'S COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

At the beginning of each regular session, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives appoints each member to legislative committees for the biennium. For the 88th Legislature, I was appointed to serve on the House Committees on Appropriations and Urban Affairs. The prestigious House Committee on Appropriations is responsible for developing the state budget, while the Urban Affairs Committee considers legislation related to metropolitan areas and local governments.

Within the House Committee on Appropriations, I served on the Subcommittee on Article III and Subcommittee on Strategic Fiscal Review. The Article III Subcommittee has jurisdiction over all state appropriations related to public education and higher education. My appointment to the Article III Subcommittee allowed me to participate in historic investments for the Texas Tech University System.

★ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT VOTING GUIDE ★

Proposition 1 (*H.J.R. 126, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: The proposed constitutional amendment creates a new right for people to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management practices on land they own or lease. The proposed amendment does not affect the legislature's authority to authorize state or local regulation of those agricultural practices when necessary to protect health and safety, animal health and crop production, or natural resources, or to use the power of eminent domain.

Proposition 2 (*S.J.R. 64, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

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.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: S.J.R. 64, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, proposes to add Section 1-r to Article VIII, Texas Constitution, to authorize the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from ad valorem taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The resolution authorizes the governing body of the county or municipality to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, provided that the percentage adopted by the governing body is not less than 50 percent. The resolution further authorizes the legislature by general law to define "child-care facility" for purposes of the exemption and to prescribe eligibility requirements for the exemption.

Proposition 3 (*H.J.R. 132, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

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.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: H.J.R. 132 would amend the Texas Constitution to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax on the wealth or net worth of individuals or families. The prohibition would specifically cover a tax on the amount equal to the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

Proposition 4 (*H.J.R. 2, 88th Leg., 2nd C.S.*)

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.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: H.J.R. 2, 88th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 2023, proposes several amendments to the Texas Constitution relating to ad valorem taxes and the administration of the ad valorem tax system. S.B. 2, Acts of the 88th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 2023, the Property Tax Relief Act, is the enabling legislation for the proposed amendments.

1. The proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead in a tax year of the lesser of the market value of the property or 120 percent, or a greater percentage, of the appraised value of the property for the preceding tax year. If the proposed amendment is approved by the voters, S.B. 2 implements this appraisal limit so that the appraised value of real property does not increase by more than 20 percent a year for the next three years.

2. The proposed amendment increases the portion of the market value of a residence homestead that is exempt from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

3. The proposed amendment provides for a reduction of the limitation, or "tax freeze," on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for public school purposes on the homestead of an elderly or disabled person to reflect increases in the amount of school district residence homestead exemptions, including the increase to \$100,000 described above and any future increases.

4. The proposed amendment excepts appropriations of state tax revenue for purposes of paying for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limit on the rate of growth of appropriations. This change has the effect of exempting state payments to reduce school district taxes from the general state spending cap on appropriations and applies to the amounts appropriated by the 88th Legislature to decrease school tax rates as directed by S.B. 2.

5. Finally, the proposed amendment authorizes the legislature to provide for four-year terms for members of the governing body of an appraisal district established for a county with a population of 75,000 or more. S.B. 2, which provides for a combination of elected and appointed appraisal district board members in counties with a population of 75,000 or more if this amendment is approved, increases the terms of board members in those populous counties to four years.

Proposition 5 (*H.J.R. 3, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

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.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: H.J.R. 3, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to rename the national research university fund, which is used to support emerging research universities in Texas, as the Texas University Fund. The amendment would exclude state universities that are supported by the Permanent University Fund (PUF) from eligibility to receive money from the Texas University Fund, and exempt money in the fund and state tax revenues appropriated to the fund from the constitutional state spending cap, which generally limits the rate of growth of appropriations. The proposed amendment further provides for a dedicated source of revenue for the Texas University Fund from the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the state's economic stabilization fund ("rainy day fund"), not to exceed \$100 million per state fiscal year, as adjusted for inflation up to two percent per state fiscal year after the 2024 state fiscal year.

Proposition 6 (*S.J.R. 75, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: S.J.R. 75 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to create the Texas water fund as a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund to be administered by the Texas Water Development Board or that board's successor in function. The resolution authorizes the administrator of the fund to use the fund only to transfer money to other funds or accounts administered by the board or its successor in function. The resolution also provides that money transferred from the fund to another fund or account may be spent as provided by general law, or may be restored to the Texas water fund without further appropriation. The resolution provides that not less than 25 percent of the initial appropriation to the fund must be used for transfer to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund. The resolution authorizes the expenses of managing the investments of the Texas water fund to be paid from that fund. Finally, the resolution provides that an appropriation of state tax revenues for the purpose of depositing money to the credit of the fund does not count against the constitutional limit on the rate of growth of appropriations, which has the effect of excluding the appropriation from the state spending limit.

Proposition 7 (*S.J.R. 93, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: S.J.R. 93, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, proposes the addition of Section 49-q to Article III, Texas Constitution, to provide for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities. If this amendment is approved by the voters, the legislature has provided initial funding of \$5 billion and enacted enabling legislation to begin providing loans and grants from the fund.

Proposition 8 (*H.J.R. 125, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: H.J.R. 125 proposes the addition of Section 49-d-16, Article III, Texas Constitution, to create the broadband infrastructure fund for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The proposed amendment takes effect January 1, 2024, and expires on September 1, 2035, unless extended for 10 years by a concurrent resolution approved by a record vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature. The legislature has appropriated \$1.5 billion to the proposed fund contingent on voter approval of the proposed amendment.

Proposition 9 (*H.J.R. 2, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: H.J.R. 2, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, proposes a temporary amendment to the Texas Constitution that authorizes the current 88th Legislature to (1) provide by general law a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and (2) appropriate state money to pay for the adjustment. The legislature has appropriated \$3.355 billion to fund the cost-of-living adjustment contingent on voter approval of the proposed amendment.



House Committee on Appropriations

Proposition 10 (*S.J.R. 87, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

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.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: The constitutional amendment proposed by S.J.R. 87 amends the Texas Constitution to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation the tangible personal property held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

Proposition 11 (*S.J.R. 32, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

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.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: The constitutional amendment proposed by S.J.R. 32, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, would amend Section 59(c-1), Article XVI, Texas Constitution, to add El Paso County to the list of counties in Section 59(c-1) in which the legislature may authorize conservation and reclamation districts (special districts such as water control and improvement districts, municipal management districts, and special utility districts) to develop and finance parks and other purely recreational facilities with taxes. The amendment, without limiting any power to finance parks and recreational facilities in El Paso County that currently exists, provides for the issuance of bonds financed by taxes in districts located wholly or partly in El Paso County.

Proposition 12 (*H.J.R. 134, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: The constitutional amendment proposing to add Section 44(d), Article XVI, Texas Constitution, if approved by the voters, would abolish the office of county treasurer in Galveston County and authorize the commissioners court of that county to employ or contract with a qualified person, or designate a county officer, to perform any of the functions that would have been performed by the county treasurer if the office had not been abolished. The amendment also provides that the amendment takes effect only if, in addition to approval by voters across the state, a majority of the voters in Galveston County voting on the question also approve the amendment.

Proposition 13 (*H.J.R. 107, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: The proposed amendment amends Section 1-a(1), Article V, Texas Constitution, to increase the mandatory age of retirement of state justices and judges from 75 to 79 years unless the legislature sets a lower mandatory retirement age. The proposed amendment also increases the lowest age the legislature may prescribe from 70 to 75 years of age.

Proposition 14 (*S.J.R. 74, 88th Leg., R.S.*)

The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS: S.J.R. 74, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, proposes the addition of Section 49-e-1, Article III, Texas Constitution, to provide for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.



CARL H. TEPPER

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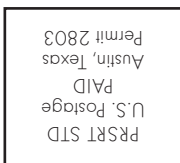
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CARL H. TEPPER
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE



New Laws Authored (Sponsored) by Representative Tepper

During the 88th Legislative Session, I introduced a legislative package that prioritizes the needs of our growing community and reflects the shared values of House District 84. Here is a closer look at the legislation that I directly authored or sponsored and passed:

Campaign Finance Transparency – House Bill 2626

Increases the transparency of state and local political candidates and their campaigns by requiring all local governments that receive campaign finance reports from candidates to make those reports publicly accessible online.

Sunrise Canyon Hospital – House Bill 4415

Transfers the real property on which Sunrise Canyon Hospital is deeded back to the StarCare Specialty Health System from the Health and Human Services Commission. This bill will allow Sunrise Canyon Hospital to more efficiently and quickly upgrade its facilities without having to obtain as much state approval for its construction.

Texas Produced Water Consortium – Senate Bill 1047

Directs the Texas Produced Water Consortium to conduct pilot projects for cleaning produced fracking water for beneficial use. The Consortium is housed at Texas Tech University and consists of statewide stakeholders.

Lubbock Power & Light – House Bill 2664

Ensures the Electric Reliability Council of Texas can effectively transition Lubbock Power & Light (LP&L) customers to the retail competitive market among retail electric providers. This bill was essential for LP&L to join the retail competitive market.

Lubbock Power & Light – Senate Bill 1170

Allows Lubbock Power & Light (LP&L) to operate as a transmission distribution service provider or “wires company” once it joins the retail competitive market. This bill was also essential for LP&L to join the retail competitive market.

It was a successful session in no small part due to our talented staff, including Chief of Staff Parker Stathatos, Legislative Director Sydney Suss, and interns: Brody Dickson, Blake Halpern, and Hudson Thomas. Locally we have Donna Corbin as our great District Director.