



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DAVID COOK

District 96 Newsletter

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Committees

- Calendars
- Criminal Jurisprudence,
Vice Chair
- Juvenile Justice &
Family Issues

STATE OF TEXAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Texas Legislature has officially adjourned *Sine Die* following the 88th Regular Session and two called Special Sessions! I am proud to share this newsletter with you which details the many important victories accomplished this year.

State Budget

Our state budget reflects our shared goals for the future of Texas. The 88th Legislature passed a conservative, balanced budget that prioritizes education, public safety, border security, healthcare, veterans, infrastructure, and much more.

Property Tax Relief

The government does not own your home – you do! During the 2nd Special Session, we delivered the BIGGEST property tax cut in Texas history – \$17.6 Billion! Additionally, our property tax relief bills, SB 2 and 3, raised the homestead exemption on school property taxes from \$40,000 to \$100,000, created a 20% appraisal cap pilot program for non-homesteaded property, and provided for savings on franchise taxes for small business owners.

Border Security

We must address the crisis at Texas' southern border. In addition to \$5.1 Billion appropriated for border security (our largest investment in state history), SB 1403 authorizes the Governor to execute an interstate border security compact, SB 1133 compensates landowners up to \$75,000 for property damage caused by illegal immigration, and SB 1900 designates drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations.

School Safety

The 88th Legislature passed HB 3 to require an armed security guard during school hours, to require mental health first aid training for teachers, and appropriated \$15,000 to each campus to shore up safety and security measures and HB 669 to require silent panic buttons in every Texas classroom.

State Infrastructure

The future of Texas depends on our choices now. SB 2627 creates the Texas Energy Fund to secure our electrical grid, HB 9 creates the Broadband Infrastructure Fund to provide access to high-speed internet for all Texans, SB 28 creates the Texas Water Fund to shore up our state's water resources, and Propositions 1 & 7 funding for the State Highway Fund is continued to provide for highway construction and maintenance.

Law & Order

The rule of law must be respected in Texas. The 88th Legislature passed HB 17 to rein in rogue district attorneys who adopt or implement policies of refusing to prosecute crimes under current law and HB 6 to increase the criminal penalty for manufacturing or delivering the lethal drug, fentanyl, and allows for fentanyl poisonings to be prosecuted as murder.

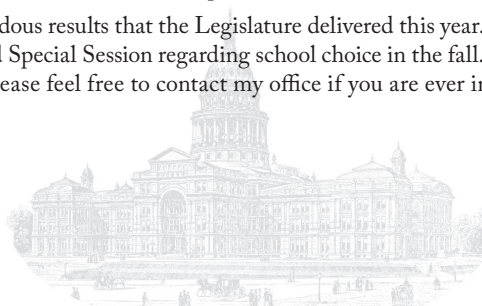
Family Values

Parents should be empowered to protect their children from materials which go against their values. HB 18, the "Securing Children Online through Parental Empowerment (SCOPE) Act" requires parental consent and control over social media usage, HB 900, the "READER Act," keeps sexually explicit books out of our public schools, and SB 12 restricts drag shows to adults-only.

These are just a handful of the tremendous results that the Legislature delivered this year. Additionally, the Governor has announced his intention to call a third Special Session regarding school choice in the fall. It is the honor of a lifetime to represent you in the Texas House. Please feel free to contact my office if you are ever in need of assistance.

Sincerely,

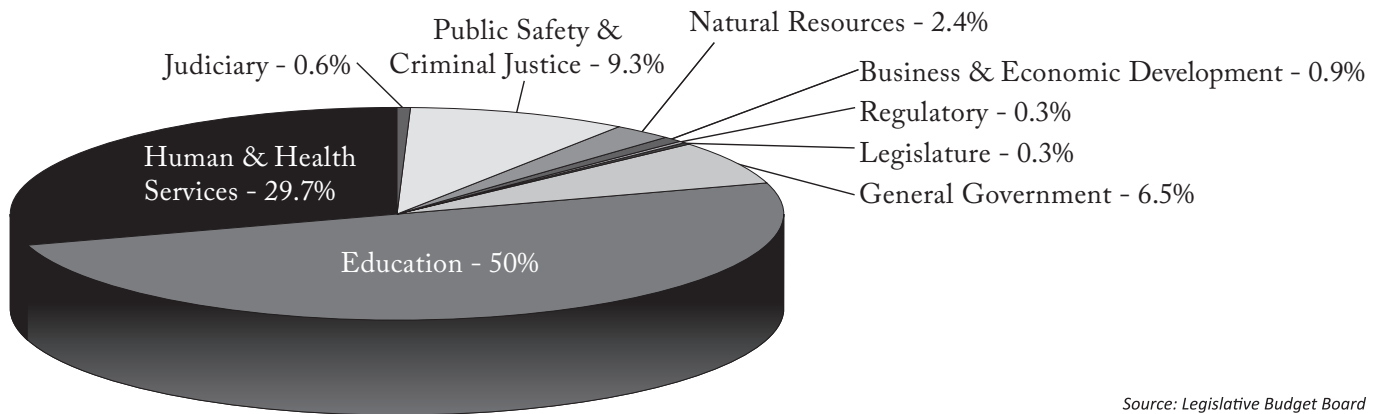
State Representative David L. Cook
House District 96



STATE BUDGET

2024-25 General Revenue Funds

Total: \$144.13 billion



Budget Highlights: The 2024-2025 Texas Budget includes \$17.6 Billion in property tax relief, \$5.1 Billion for border security (our largest investment in state history), \$9.3 Billion to address infrastructure, \$42.9 Billion for public health funding, and \$50.4 Billion to fully-fund public education.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

This session, I was appointed by Speaker Phelan to serve as Vice Chair of the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, which oversees legislation related to criminal law, probation, parole, and criminal procedure in our criminal courts. Additionally, I was appointed to serve as a member of the House Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Committee, which has jurisdiction over gang violence, youth correctional and rehabilitation facilities, criminal procedure related to juveniles in our criminal courts, and civil procedure in our family courts, as well as the powerful House Calendars Committee, a procedural committee which sets the order of priority legislation for consideration on the House floor.



MY LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

This session, I authored 75 House Bills, sponsored 9 Senate Bills, joint-authored 79 Bills, and co-authored 87 Bills, which roll back government overreach, cut taxes, secure the border, defend family values, and ensure fair but tough-on-crime policies. I successfully passed **HB 17**, which allows Texas residents to remove district attorneys who adopt or implement policies of refusing to prosecute crimes under current law. This bill was a top priority for Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, & Speaker Phelan and I was honored to carry this critical public safety legislation. Stay tuned to our next newsletter for a summary of all of my bills authored (41 of which passed out of the House and 25 of which were sent to the Governor for signing) during the 88th Legislative Session!

I was honored to introduce House Resolution 875, which recognized National Medal of Honor Day on March 25th. Pictured here with (left) Major General Patrick Brady (Medal of Honor Recipient), Chris Cassidy with the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, and Speaker Phelan. ▶





★ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT VOTING GUIDE ★

<p>Proposition 1 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 1 (HJR 126) – Right to Farm & Ranch in Texas <i>“The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 2 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 2 (SJR 64) – Property Tax Exemption for Child-Care Facilities <i>“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.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 3 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 3 (HJR 132) – Wealth & Net Worth Tax Prohibition <i>“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.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 4 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 4 (HJR 2) from the second special session – \$100,000 Homestead Exemption for School Property Taxes <i>“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.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 5 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 5 (HJR 3) – Funding for the Texas University Fund <i>“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.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 6 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 6 (SJR 75) – Funding for Texas Water Infrastructure <i>“The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 7 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 7 (SJR 93) – Securing the Texas Energy Grid <i>“The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 8 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 8 (HJR 125) – Funding for Texas Broadband Infrastructure <i>“The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 9 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 9 (HJR 2) – Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Retired Teachers <i>“The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 10 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 10 (SJR 87) – Medical Device Tax Exemption <i>“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.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 11 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 11 (SJR 32) – El Paso County Parks & Recreation Funding <i>“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.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 12 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 12 (HJR 134) – Abolishing Galveston County Treasurer Position <i>“The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 13 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 13 (HJR 107) – Increasing Retirement Age for State Judges <i>“The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.”</i></p>
<p>Proposition 14 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Proposition 14 (SJR 74) – Funding for Texas State Parks <i>“The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.”</i></p>



For more information and resources related to voting in Texas, please visit the Secretary of State’s website at www.VoteTexas.gov.

DAVID COOK

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE



★ ★ **ELECTION DAY** ★ ★
TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 7TH

POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY

EARLY VOTING:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023

LAST DAY TO REGISTER: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

