



# 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Update

# Session by the numbers

- Day 78 of 140
- 5,792 bills filed in the House
- 3,106 bills filed in the Senate
- 496 bills tracked by the City
- 60 bills related to the City's Legislative Program
- 2,000+ bills tracked by Texas Municipal League

# City of Denton Legislative Program



**COMMUNITY FOCUS**



**CITY SERVICES**



**LAND USE AND  
DEVELOPMENT**



**MUNICIPAL COURT**



**TAXATION AND  
FINANCIAL  
STRATEGIES**



**TRANSPORTATION  
AND AVIATION**



**UTILITIES**



# Community Focus

The City of Denton values strong partnerships with key community organizations—including Denton ISD, Denton County, Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA), North Central Texas College (NCTC), Texas Woman’s University (TWU), and the University of North Texas (UNT). To advance legislation that addresses shared priorities and enhances the well-being of the entire Denton area, the City supports the following initiatives:

- Expand access to affordable mental health care through legislation and funding.
- Support legislation and funding for community-based services for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Protect the autonomy of local officials to make decisions in the best interest of their communities.
  - Oppose restrictions on cities' ability to contract with registered lobbyists for legislative services. If restrictions are imposed, allow cities to maintain contracts for non-lobbying legislative services, such as bill analysis and tracking.
- Support legislation that enhances the City’s vibrant community and economy including affordable housing, economic development agreements, environmental sustainability, public and higher education funding, public safety, and tourism.



## City Services

- Support legislation that designates essential city employees, like solid waste, utilities, and animal control officers, as first responders.
- Support legislation mandating that retail pet stores only sell animals acquired from animal control agencies, shelters, or rescue organizations, and require stores to maintain records of the animals' origins.
- Support legislation that restores a city's ability to regulate retail pet stores.
- Support legislation and funding for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Local Parks Grant Program.
- Oppose legislation that limits franchise fee authority for solid waste services.
- Oppose legislation that restricts libraries' authority to make decisions regarding materials, implements a state-issued rating system for purchases, or prohibits libraries from hosting community events.



# Land Use and Development

- Support legislation that protects and clarifies the City's role in requests for removal from their extraterritorial jurisdictions (ETJ).
- Support legislation that preserves the City's authority to establish lot sizes, parking requirements, density, and accessory dwelling unit (ADU) requirements within city limits.
- Oppose legislation that restricts a city's authority over development issues, including annexation, eminent domain, zoning, regulatory takings, building codes, tree preservation, short-term rentals, and manufactured housing.
- Oppose legislation that diminishes the City's authority to manage and control its rights-of-way, including limitations on requiring dedications or studies as part of plat submissions.



# Municipal Court

- Support legislation that amends extended-term protective orders to include offenses against pregnant individuals and those involving strangulation.
- Support legislation that creates a nominal court fee to provide need-based funding for court-appointed attorneys in Class C misdemeanor cases.
- Support legislation that improves virtual or remote access for defendants in municipal court.
- Oppose legislation that eliminates the option of issuing warrants for Class C misdemeanors.



# Taxation and Financial Strategies

- Support legislation allowing municipalities to issue debt and protecting debt issuances.
- Support increasing the competitive bidding threshold to reflect rising costs and inflation.
- Oppose legislation limiting a city's ability to issue Certificates of Obligation (COs) and levy necessary fees.





# Transportation and Aviation

- Support legislation that invests in the State's multimodal transportation systems and increases funding for growing urban areas.
- Support legislation that provides cities with greater flexibility to fund local transportation projects.
- Support legislation that invests in the State's aviation program capital improvement.



# Utilities

- Support legislation that increases state grant funding to the Texas Water Development Board, in alignment with the priorities outlined in the State Water Plan.
- Support legislation that promotes direct potable reuse water, and other water conservation initiatives.
- Support legislation that clearly defines technology resources capable of meeting the goals of the Dispatchable Reliability Reserve Service.
- Support legislation that classifies electric power generation units as critical infrastructure, giving them the same priority protections as entities with priority access to natural gas during emergencies.
- Oppose any legislation that restricts large load interconnections to the distribution systems of Municipal-Owned Utilities (MOUs).
- Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates on Municipal-Owned Utilities.

# Important Deadlines

- June 2 – Last day of session (Sine Die)
- June 22 – Governor's veto period ends
- September 1 – Bill effective date