

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Intergovernmental Relations Council Subcommittee
FROM: Jeff Coyle, Director of Government & Public Affairs
SUBJECT: 84th Interim Committee Charges
DATE: January 8, 2016

Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick and Speaker Joe Straus announced Senate & House interim charges, the policy issues they have assigned to various legislative committees for evaluation in preparation for the 85th Legislative Session in 2017. Interim hearings are currently underway and will be held throughout the coming months. Ultimately, each committee will issue an interim report with their findings, which may include recommendations for legislation during the 2017 session and often guide the discussions when bills are being considered.

The Government & Public Affairs Department (GPA) has reviewed the 335+ charges and identified those we believe are most relevant and may directly impact the City through future legislation. Our initial review can be found in *Attachment A*; some are related to legislation opposed by cities and defeated during the 84th legislative session. GPA is collaborating with individual departments to help determine whether certain charges merit further analysis and action during committee hearings, such as written or verbal testimony. Departments will take into consideration any concerns about City programs, funding or authority that may be targeted and potential opportunities to highlight City initiatives and successes.

There are currently a few scheduled interim hearings, listed in *Attachment B*, that are of interest to the City and will be monitored. The Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform & Relief is planning to meet in San Antonio on January 27th, which will be their first stop as they hold hearings across the state. The Lt. Governor appointed this committee to “improve property tax process and reduce the burden on property owners.” The hearing is expected to focus on property tax revenue caps, which impact cities and counties. GPA is working to identify a City representative to provide testimony at the hearing.

Additionally, below is a list of members retiring or not seeking re-election for their current seat, which will force key changes to some committee leadership next session. An overview of the upcoming election cycle for the Bexar County Delegation is also provided below with five (5) members not facing opposition. Please note Senator Campbell is not up for re-election until 2018.

I will continue to update the committee on interim hearings that will present the City with the opportunity to be engaged in the process and help shape recommendations.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you.

Open seats

Senate (2)	House (16)	
Eltife, Kevin(R) S-1 Fraser, Troy(R) S-24	Aycock, Jimmie Don(R) H-54 Crownover, Myra (R) H-64 Farias, Joe(D) H-118 Fletcher, Allen(R) H-130 Harless, Patricia(R) H-126 Hughes, Bryan(R) H-5 Keffer, Jim (R) H-60 King, Susan (R) H-71	Marquez, Marisa (D) H-77 Martinez Fischer, Trey (D) H-116 McClendon, Ruth Jones (D) H-120 Naishtat, Elliott (D) H-49 Otto, John (R) H-18 Simpson, David(R) H-7 Turner, Scott (R) H-33 Turner, Sylvester(D) H-139

2016 Bexar County Delegation Election

Texas Senate	Primary Election (D)	Primary Election (R)
District 19	Helen Madla Carlos Uresti*	Peter P. Flores
District 21	Judith Zaffirini*	
District 26	Trey Martinez Fischer Jose Menendez*	
Texas House	Primary Election (D)	Primary Election (R)
District 116 (Open)	Diana Arevelo Martin Golando Ruby Resendez	
District 117	San Carlos Antonio Philip Cortez	Rick Galindo, III*
District 118 (Open) *Special Election January 26th*	Gabe Farias Tomas Uresti	John Lujan Robert A. Casias
District 119	Roland Gutierrez*	
District 120 (Open)	LaTronda Darnell Barbara Gervin-Hawkins Art Hall Byron Miller Lou Miller Mario Salas	
District 121		Sheila Bean Jeff Judson Joe Straus, III*
District 122		Lyle Larson*
District 123	Diego Bernal*	
District 124	Sergio Contreras Ina Minjarez*	
District 125	Justin Rodriguez*	

*Incumbent

SENATE

1. **Annexation:** Identify areas of concern in regards to statutory extraterritorial jurisdiction expansion and the processes used by municipalities for annexation, specifically reviewing whether existing statute strikes the appropriate balance between safeguarding private property rights and encouraging orderly growth and economic development. Make recommendations for legislative action, if necessary.
2. **Local Ordinance Integrity:** Examine the processes used by home rule municipalities to adopt ordinances, rules, and regulations, including those initiated by petition and voter referendum. Determine if additional statutory safeguards are necessary to ensure that ballot language accurately describes proposed initiatives. Identify ways to improve transparency and make recommendations, if needed, to ensure that local propositions and the means by which they are put forth to voters, conform with existing state law.
3. **Debt Transparency in the Voting Booth:** Examine ways to improve government accountability in elections regarding the issuance of public debt. Include a review of the information that is currently provided to individuals in the voting booth and provide statutory recommendations, if necessary, to improve transparency.
4. **Property Tax Process:** Study the property tax process, including the appraisal system, and recommend ways to promote transparency, simplicity, and accountability by all taxing entities. (Charge to a select subcommittee on Property Tax Reform and Relief)
5. **Reduce Tax Burden:** Examine and develop options to further reduce the tax burden on property owners. (Charge to a select subcommittee on Property Tax Reform and Relief)
6. **Monitoring Charge:** Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on State Affairs during the 84th Legislature, Regular Session and make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, and/or complete implementation. Specifically, monitor the following: 1) Implementation of open and campus carry legislation and determine if the current laws regulating the places that handguns can be carried are easily understood or if clarification is needed to ensure the average citizen understands when, where, and under what circumstances it is lawful to carry a weapon, versus when it is a criminal offense for which there may be a defense.
7. **Monitoring Charge:** Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice and make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, and/or complete implementation. Specifically, monitor the following: 1) Decriminalization of school truancy and the response of school districts to take steps to address truancy before referring students to court; 2) Progress and success of the Governor’s Office grant program for law enforcement body cameras.
8. **Monitoring Charge:** Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Finance Committee during the 84th Legislature and make recommendations for the legislation needed to improve, enhance, and/or complete implementation. Specifically, monitor the following: 1) Tax relief provided to property owners.
9. **Defense Adjustment Authorities, Compatibility Use, and Encroachment:** Consider best practices for improving the military value at military installations in Texas. Determine cost-effective policies and make recommendations that would strengthen military value.
10. **Economic Development:** Evaluate the effectiveness and necessity of programs and resources currently used to support economic development in Texas. Make recommendations regarding continuation of effective strategies, modification of existing administrative or regulatory barriers, and the reduction or elimination of ineffective programs.

HOUSE

1. Study the appraisal of agricultural land for taxation and related issues, including the change-of-use "rollback" provision.
2. Examine current regulatory authority available to municipalities in their extraterritorial jurisdiction. Study current annexation policies in Texas. Make necessary legislative recommendations to ensure a proper balance between development, municipal regulations, and the needs of citizens in Texas.
3. Explore how encroachment (environmental, technological, and architectural) impacts the vital missions of our military bases in Texas and which policies can be put into place while retaining respect for private property rights, economic growth, and the operation of military facilities.
4. Explore adding notifications to the Texas Real Estate Commission Seller Disclosure Form, as well as a notification to buyers of new home construction, in order to inform buyers that a property may be located near a military installation or a military airport and could be affected by high noise or its air installation compatible use zones, or other operations.
5. Assess ways the State of Texas can further aid our federal military installations and their communities in order to minimize the negative consequences of a potential forthcoming BRAC round by the federal government.
6. Assess the continuing effect and the impact of sequestration and federal defense spending on Texas military bases, soldiers and their families, base communities, and Texas defense contractors. Identify solutions to address issues raised by federal policy.
7. Monitor initiatives at the local level to regulate environmental issues. Consider if legislative changes are needed to resolve ambiguous regulations regarding the priority of state or local authority.
8. Evaluate what local governments are doing to attract businesses to their communities and examine ways the state can leverage these practices and provide support. Include ways to improve local economic development programs to ensure a continued return on investment for taxpayers. In addition, study the authority, financial accountability, and types of statutorily allowed expenditures of economic development corporations. Provide analysis of 4A and 4B sales tax programs and determine if they are still meeting their intended purpose effectively.
9. Examine the petition process for addressing local ordinances, the time necessary to prepare a petition, the collection of signatures, and the enforcement of local standards required for a petition to be valid. Make necessary recommendations to clarify the petition process to ensure accountability.
10. Evaluate options to improve the transparency of local bond elections, including but not limited to: current processes used to educate voters about how tax dollars will be spent, the time of year bond elections are held, and the description of bond proposals on the ballot. Make appropriate legislative recommendations.
11. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature, including legislation that expanded the ability to carry handguns openly and on the campuses of institutions of higher education.
12. Investigate the operation and regulation, including a review of standards, monitoring, and enforcement, of boarding homes in municipalities and unincorporated areas of counties. Identify communities that have adopted local standards, and review procedures for investigating and closing unlicensed facilities that are providing services which require state licensure.
13. Evaluate local transportation funding mechanisms authorized by the state, such as transportation reinvestment zones, to determine their effectiveness. Identify methods for local entities to utilize these tools to improve congestion.

Attachment B

City of San Antonio
Government and Public Affairs
Interim Committee Hearing Schedule

House Select Committee on Transportation Planning

Wednesday, January 20th

- Update from TxDOT working group on project selection criteria, rules and policies for project prioritization and selection, and funding categories (TxDOT).

Senate Subcommittee on Border Security

Friday, January 22nd

- Study the various sanctuary city policies statewide.

Senate State Affairs

Tuesday, January 26th

- Discuss the implementation of open carry legislation and determine if the current laws are easily understood or if clarification is needed.

Senate State Affairs

Wednesday, February 17th

- Examine measures to affirm 1st Amendment religious liberty protections in Texas, along with the relationship between local ordinances and state and federal law.