

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

TO: Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee
FROM: Jeff Coyle, Director of Government & Public Affairs
SUBJECT: State Legislative Update
DATE: September 8, 2017

As reported a few weeks ago, the Texas House & Senate adjourned sine die from a special session of the 85th Texas State Legislature. Eight of the twenty items on Governor Abbott's call would have directly impacted Texas cities and threatened the authority of local elected officials to represent the unique interests of their local communities. City Council received a briefing on the outcome of the session on August 17, 2017.

Between now and beginning of the 86th Legislative session, which will commence in January 2018, the City will monitor interim charges and legislative committee hearings, as well as continue to meet with State delegation members and staff to discuss priorities. It is expected that there will be a continued effort at the legislature to undermine local authority, so it is important for the City to remain active in the interim process.

At the Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting on September 13, 2017, the City's legislative consultant team will provide insight on the 85th legislative session, answer questions and discuss potential interim session issues and strategies for the City to consider.

85th Interim Session

In the next few months, it is anticipated that Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick and Speaker Joe Straus will announce Senate & House interim charges, the policy issues they will assign to various legislative committees for evaluation in preparation for the 86th Legislative Session in 2019.

House and Senate members have historically reached out for input from the City for issues to submit to the speaker and lieutenant governor for consideration. This provides an opportunity for the City to help shape recommendations and impact legislation for the upcoming legislative session. The Government & Public Affairs (GPA) Department will work with City departments to determine what issues the City should suggest for interim charges.

When interim charges are released, GPA and the City's legislative consultants will review and identify those we believe are most relevant while taking into consideration any concerns about City programs, funding or authority that may be targeted and potential opportunities during the interim session to highlight City initiatives and successes.