

**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 Interim Update

**DATE:** December 8, 2017

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As previous reported, 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 86th Legislative Session in 2019. In total, including hurricane related charges, Speaker Straus issued more than 230 interim charges and Lt. Governor Patrick issued more than 100.

Interim session committee hearings are currently underway, with most hearings focusing on Hurricane Harvey recovery, as well as protective measures of how Texas can prepare for future natural disasters. Ultimately, each committee will issue an interim report with their findings, which may include recommendations for legislation during the 2019 session and often guide the discussions when bills are being considered.

At the December 13<sup>th</sup> IGR Committee meeting Government & Public Affairs (GPA) and Focused Advocacy, the City's state consultant, will provide an update on recent interim activities, as well as review specific interim charges most relevant to City programs, funding or authority. The IGR Committee will receive a briefing on recommended interim legislative session strategy, including opportunities to be active in the process and help shape recommendations while highlighting City initiatives and successes. We will also discuss a recommended strategy for the IGR Committee to engage with members of the Bexar County State Delegation on key interim charges.

Lastly, as requested by the Committee, GPA will present opportunities to be engaged on the public school finance issue, including collaborating with Bexar County Independent School Districts and advocacy groups. During the 85<sup>th</sup> special legislative session, House Bill 21 created the Texas Commission on Public School Finance. For the first time in nearly four decades, a 13-member commission will exclusively examine the state's public school finance system and develop recommendations for the legislature to improve it. Governor Abbott and Lt. Governor Patrick have announced their appointees to the commission; Scott Brister, former Texas Supreme Court Justice, was named chair by the Governor. Speaker Straus has yet to announce House appointees and no hearings have been scheduled.