

REPRESENTING DISTRICT 122 IN THE LONE STAR STATE OF TEXAS:

MARK DORAZIO

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | EIGHTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE



“America belongs to ‘We the People.’ It does not belong to Congress. It doesn’t belong to special interest groups. It doesn’t belong to the courts. It belongs to ‘We the People’..”

– Founding Father John Jay

Dear Fellow Texan,

Thank you so much for the honor of representing you in the Texas House of Representatives. It is amongst the highest honors of my life, including those of a husband, father, grandfather, and missionary.

On the very first day of the 88th Legislature, representatives were asked to vote on a major increase for our office’s budget, totaling nearly \$50,000 per year. I was one of only three members to vote “no” on this proposal. At a time when inflation is crippling Texas families, supporting an increase of any kind to our budget was unjustifiable. When people across Texas are struggling to make ends meet because of the increased cost of groceries, gasoline, and everyday items, they can’t just vote themselves a raise. Your government should be no different.

Now, I have spent over 40 years of my professional life in the biggest team sport in the world: construction. It has been great preparation for the critical work of representing the good people of House District 122. Legislating, like construction, is a team sport. Each and every one of the 150 members of the Texas House of Representatives has a district to represent, as well as the interests of the entire state to consider. I take that seriously and greatly respect colleagues, on both sides of the political aisle, for working towards those ends, even when we disagree.

There’s an old saying in the Texas legislature that freshmen members are to be seen, not heard. While that is mostly said in good fun, it is true that newly-elected members truly need to establish themselves within the chamber, build strong relationships, and advocate fiercely for their constituents, or else the process will simply pass them by.

Our office worked hard on your behalf to meet that challenge. We went to work quickly and have achieved much on your behalf—not only through legislation, but also through constituent services work, helping folks in House District 122 navigate their state government and remedy a whole host of problems.

I will continue to represent you each and every day in a manner befitting this office in our most beloved Texas. Thank you again for the privilege of serving you and if you have an issue with a state agency, an idea for solving a problem with legislation, or anything else that our office may assist you with, please contact us immediately.

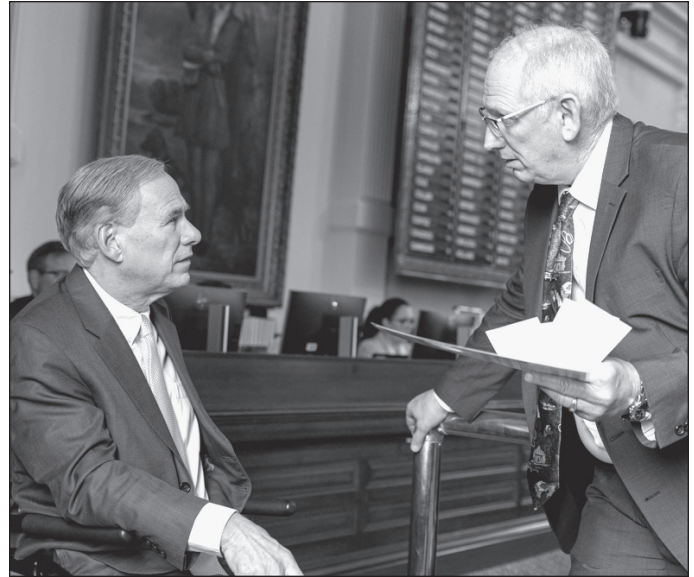
Respectfully, Representing You in Texas

Rep. Mark Dorazio, House District 122

ROOM E1.416 • P.O. BOX 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 • PHONE (512) 463-0646



Freshman Legislators of the 88th Texas Legislature



Working with Governor Abbott

Rep. Mark Dorazio's Governing Principles

- Every tax dollar comes from hardworking Texans and should be spent for their benefit or returned to them.
- A nation without borders is sacrificing more than its sovereignty—it's sacrificing the safety and well-being of its people and their property.
- The greatest enemy of poverty is the free market, and the greatest enemy of the free market is government intervention (e.g. favoritism, over-taxation, over-regulation, etc.).
- Parents are the most important influence in their children's lives and are their primary educators.
- Election security and integrity are critical to a well-functioning republic.
- The foundational rights of the American people are life, liberty, and property.

AS FRESHMAN, REP. MARK DORAZIO EARNS TOP COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Committee assignments in the Texas House of Representatives are made by the presiding officer, the House Speaker, with input from each member based on their preferences and seniority. As a newly-elected freshman, Rep. Mark Dorazio wanted to work on committees where he would have the most impact for House District 122 and Texans across the state.

Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs

With a robust active duty and veteran population across Bexar County, Rep. Mark Dorazio was extremely pleased to be assigned to the most important committee for their issues.

Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security

Rep. Mark Dorazio believes that border security is one of the most important issues facing Texas and our nation today, and was pleased to be assigned the House's top law enforcement and border security committee.

Select Committee on Community Safety

The Speaker formed this special committee to discuss and debate issues surrounding the sale, possession, and transfer of firearms and any related criminal penalties in the wake of the tragic shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

REP. MARK DORAZIO & 88TH LEGISLATURE MAKE HISTORY: LARGEST PROPERTY TAX BREAK IN U.S. HISTORY

Due to Texas's booming economy in the aftermath of COVID-19 and the conservative approach lawmakers took to spending during that time, legislators descended upon Austin with a historic budgetary surplus of over \$30 billion in January 2023.

Rep. Mark Dorazio and other state leaders advocated for utilizing this record surplus to slash property taxes across Texas and provide meaningful relief to businesses and homeowners.

In the end, a compromise was reached that dedicated over \$17 billion of the surplus to various forms of tax relief for local property owners, including expanding the Homestead Exemption to \$100,000—nearly tripling the current level. For the average homeowner, the expected savings on their property tax bill is about \$1,300 per year, which is real money back in the pockets of hardworking Texans everywhere.

Furthermore, for the next three years, Texas will pilot a new type of appraisal cap on non-homesteaded properties, including commercial properties, that are valued under \$5 million. This property tax “circuit breaker” will prevent qualifying properties from increasing in value on the tax rolls by more than 20% in a given year.

When they say that everything is bigger in Texas, that includes the tax breaks! This compromise package is the largest single property tax break in the history of our nation.

REP. MARK DORAZIO PASSES FIRST BILL, PROTECTS SENIORS AND ADVANCES ELECTION SECURITY

Early in the legislative session, a constituent approached Rep. Mark Dorazio with a problem: she had witnessed numerous mail-in ballots from elderly Texans thrown out because the individual's government identification number on the ballot did not match state records. She discovered that when many senior Texans surrender their Driver's License, they were not updating their voter registration, causing the discrepancy.

Rep. Mark Dorazio filed legislation that ensured when a senior citizen surrenders their Driver's License they are prompted to automatically update their voter registration, protecting their vote and ensuring that their voice is heard in our elections.

Rep. Mark Dorazio worked with colleagues on both sides of the political aisle and secured nearly 70 joint and co-authors for the House bill, ultimately passing the legislation unanimously in both chambers.

Election integrity and security means that every legal vote is counted and all fraud is rooted out and punished.



HB 2933, brought by a constituent, passed the House unanimously



Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee Members



Sine Die of the 88th Legislature's regular session



Visiting with the next generation of leaders

HIGHLIGHTS OF 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Texas state lawmakers filed 8,046 bills this legislative session and only 1,246 passed into law—about 15%. The legislative process is extremely challenging, by design, and most bills do not make it across the finish line. Below are some of the highlights of the bills that did successfully navigate the process and became Texas law:

SB 14 – Ban On “Gender Transition” Surgeries/Hormones For Children

Rep. Mark Dorazio proudly coauthored Senate Bill 14 by Sen. Donna Campbell that prohibits the use of hormones and surgeries by medical professionals that permanently alter the bodies of minors and children.

This legislation passed with bipartisan support in the Texas House of Representatives and stops life-altering medical interventions on children and prohibits the use of public tax dollars from being used to facilitate or support these practices.

HB 1243 – Restoring the Penalty for Illegal Voting to a Felony Offense

Rep. Mark Dorazio coauthored this important piece of legislation that restored the criminal offense for illegally voting to a felony after lawmakers reduced it to a misdemeanor in the previous legislative session.

Every illegal vote cancels out the legal vote of a citizen. As a Republic, the integrity of our system of elections is of the highest importance and if an individual knowingly and intentionally defrauds that system, their punishment should be significant.

HB 900 – Preventing Sexually-Explicit Books from Entering Public School Libraries

Known as the Restricting Explicit and Adult-Designated Educational Resources, or READER, Act, this important piece of legislation established needed statewide standards for school libraries and developed a rating system for materials to identify content that is sexually relevant or sexually explicit.

In doing so, the READER Act provides Texas public school students and their families with increased transparency regarding library materials and increased parental control over the types of content their children may access at school.

SB 10 – Cost-Of-Living Adjustment & 13th Check for Retired Teachers

Nearly 476,000 retired teachers are currently served by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, a pension fund that these public servants paid into throughout their years of service. Senate Bill 10 provided a one-time additional payment to eligible retirees over 75 years of age, known as a 13th Check, as well as a needed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for all retirees that entered the system prior to the end of 2021.

Retired Texas teachers had not received a COLA since 2013. According the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the inflation rate between 2013 and today is around 30%, meaning that the buying power of \$100 in 2013 is equal to about \$131 dollars today.

HB 3 – Public School Safety Reforms

House Bill 3 mandates that an armed person—such as a peace officer, school resource officer, or school marshal—is on every public school campus in Texas. Furthermore, a new department within the Texas Education Agency was created to oversee each school district's protocols for active shooter events and ensure that they are being followed.

Additionally, each district will receive \$15,000 per campus and \$10 per student to fund school “hardening” measures, designed to protect students and staff while at school.

(Article continues on folded interior right page.)

(Continues from Highlights of the 88th Texas Legislature.)

HB 17 - Removing Rogue District Attorneys from Office

Rep. Mark Dorazio proudly coauthored major reforms designed to remove prosecutors from office that willfully ignore the laws of our state and allow criminals back on our streets. Unfortunately, prosecutors across Texas have begun setting public policies of non-enforcement of various Texas criminal laws, including property theft, drug use, and more.

House Bill 17 is a necessary step to protect the public and their property and ensure that those who break the law in Texas are held accountable.

HB 5 - Re-Instituting Powerful Economic Development Tools

Rep. Mark Dorazio coauthored this critical legislation to bring back powerful economic development tools to our local community, ensuring that Texas and House District 122 remain as competitive as possible for the construction of new facilities and office complexes by major employers in the highest-paying job sectors of our economy.

House Bill 5 allows for our local leaders to temporarily reduce the property tax burden on major commercial and business construction projects to make our area more attractive for new job opportunities.

SB 17 - Abolishing “DEI” Offices in Texas Universities and Colleges

Senate Bill 17 will go a long way to fulfill the promise of the United States Constitution in Texas higher education by abolishing so-called “Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion” offices. Our universities should be solely focused on educating, not indoctrinating, the next generation of leaders to compete in an increasingly global economy.

SB 28 - Historic State Investments in Water Infrastructure

In a time of extreme drought and booming population expansion in Texas, Senate Bill 28 earmarked one billion dollars for new water projects and necessary repairs to existing infrastructure. For Texas to stay the most attractive place to live and do business, we must prioritize critical infrastructure needs, and while more is needed, SB 28 is a fantastic start.

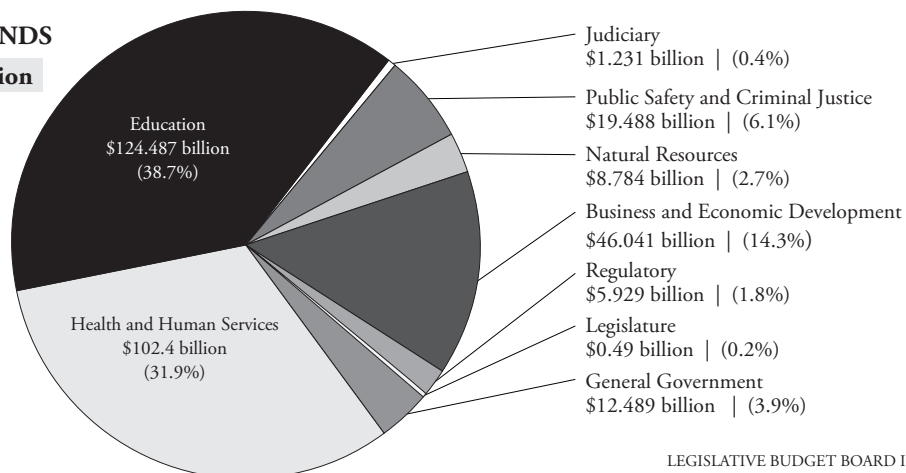
HB 6 - Cracking Down On Fentanyl Manufacturers And Dealers

As fentanyl deaths in Texas continue to skyrocket, Texas lawmakers increased the criminal penalties associated with the creation and distribution of this dangerous drug. Coupled with an increase in state border operations, where this drug overwhelmingly enters our country, Texas is doing what it can to stop the flow of fentanyl and severely punish those who endanger our communities.

2024-2025 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2024-2025 ALL FUNDS

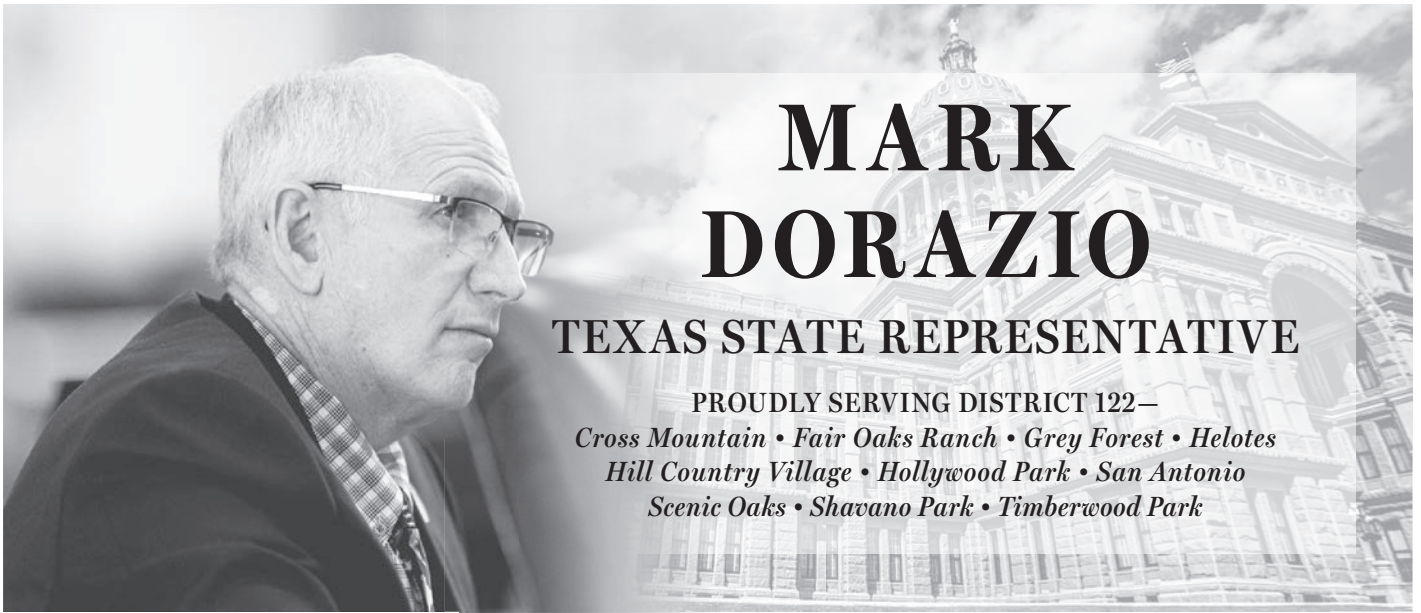
TOTAL = \$321.34 billion



LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD ID: 8117

Texas is rare in that its legislature meets every other year. One of the consequences of this system is that we pass two-year, or biennial, budgets to manage state spending. The budget we recently passed will cover the years 2024 and 2025 and contains the following highlights:

- \$17.6 billion dedicated to providing property owners major tax relief, the largest property tax cut in state history.
- \$5.1 billion for border security operations, the most in Texas history.
- \$3.4 billion for a cost-of-living adjustment for retired teachers and an additional \$1.6 billion for a one-time 13th Check to eligible retirees.
- \$1.4 billion for new school safety measures, again, the most in Texas history.
- \$1 billion to expand and preserve our state park system for future generations.
- Maintained Rainy Day Fund (state’s emergency savings account) balance of \$22 billion



MARK DORAZIO

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PROUDLY SERVING DISTRICT 122—

*Cross Mountain • Fair Oaks Ranch • Grey Forest • Helotes
Hill Country Village • Hollywood Park • San Antonio
Scenic Oaks • Shavano Park • Timberwood Park*

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MARK DORAZIO
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State Agency Assistance

Working through the bureaucracy of a state agency can be frustrating. If you need assistance navigating a response, please contact my district office staff at district122.dorazio@house.texas.gov or (512) 463-0646. Some examples include:

- Requesting a review of Medicaid or SNAP benefits
- Concerns with Child Protective Services
- Assistance with unemployment benefits

If we are not able to help, you will be directed to the appropriate office.

Special Recognition

Our district is filled with wonderful people who are achieving great things. If you know of someone who deserves special recognition in the form of a congratulatory letter, certificate, or state resolution, don't hesitate to get in touch with the district office. Please include:

- Your name
- Your contact information
- Honoree(s) name
- Reason for recommendation
- form of requested recognition
- Requested date of delivery, if applicable
- Mailing instructions

Flag Requests

Did you know you can request a Texas flag to be flown over the state Capitol in honor or memory of a loved one? Visit flags.house.texas.gov to order!

