

LEGISLATIVE WINS FROM THE 89TH SESSION

HB 3348 – Denton County Local Provider Participation Fund (LPPF)	Codifying the current Denton County LPPF, which allows local hospitals to pull the maximum federal funds they can to reduce healthcare costs.
SB 412 – Removing the Obscenity Exemption	Removing the obscenity exemption from the Texas Penal Code, protecting minors from sexual displays or explicit content under the guise of education.
HB 1639 – Female Firefighter Cancer Study	Studying the cancer rates for female-specific cancers in female firefighters.
HB 331 – Protecting First Responders	Providing an 8-hour heart attack window following the end of a first responder’s shift, ensuring that if an individual has a cardiac event, they are covered under workers’ compensation.
HB 647 – Corrective Eye Surgery	Allowing individuals who have received corrective eye surgery, such as LASIK, to submit forms proving their surgery, without needing to increase wait times with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to receive a new license.
SB 2037 – Reforming State Permitting Requirements for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Sites	Shortening the timeline and the permitting requirements for LNG sites to operate in Texas, ensuring that Texas remains a global powerhouse with LNG.
SB 1555 – Railroad Grade Separation Projects	Allocating \$350 Million to TxDOT to increase public safety, enhance economic development, and reduce traffic through building overpasses and underpasses near railroads.
HB 621 – Preventing Homeowner Association (HOA) Restrictions	Originating from an issue directly from HD 106, this mandates that HOAs cannot restrict the use of meeting spaces simply because of an individual’s political party.



Rep. Patterson advocating for HD 106 constituents



Rep. Patterson questioning the author of a bill on the House floor

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FLAG REQUESTS

Texas flags flown over the State Capitol make great gifts and are available upon request. All flags are accompanied by a beautiful state certificate with the seal of the Texas House of Representatives.

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT

At no cost to you, we’re equipped to assist you in marking a special occasion by crafting an official proclamation by the Texas House of Representatives. Whether you are commemorating a birth, marriage, retirement, or a special event, please reach out to my Capitol or District Office for assistance.

VISIT THE CAPITOL

The State Capitol Building is open to the public all year, with the exception of major holidays. The Capitol’s visiting hours are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Professionally guided tours of the Capitol are available throughout visiting hours, free of charge.

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JARED PATTERSON
DISTRICT 106

89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE NEWSLETTER

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 106

Dear Neighbor,

It is an honor to represent you in the Texas House of Representatives. Every two years, the Texas Legislature convenes for the regular session, and this year I was fortunate to serve a fourth consecutive session as the State Representative for House District 106, encompassing Northeastern Denton County.

The 89th Legislative Session and the subsequent Special Sessions have provided some of the most conservative wins in recent history. I am proud to have sent sixteen bills to Governor Abbott’s desk, providing much-needed changes across the state in various sections of code.

The House and Senate passed a balanced budget under all required spending caps, which allocated \$51 billion toward property tax relief, almost \$40 billion for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and increased protections for the southern border. We also approved record pay raises for teachers and a record increase in funding for our public schools, banned hostile foreign nations from buying Texas land, and enhanced grid reliability.

When the deadline for the 89th Legislative Session passed on June 2nd, more than 1,100 laws were passed aiming to improve the lives of Texans across the state. Despite our successes, there was more work to be done in Austin. This summer, Governor Abbott called a special session on a host of issues, including flood relief following the devastating July 4th floods, changing the school accountability system, and drawing updated congressional maps. I stand ready to serve whether it’s during a regular session of the Texas Legislature or during a special session - but it’s always better to be home with my family and all of you.

Thank you for making Denton County a great place to call home. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Capitol or District offices with questions, concerns, or ideas. I, along with the Capitol and District staff, are here to serve you.

God bless,

Jared Patterson

Jared Patterson
House District 106



Rep. Patterson, wife Leslie, and their three children

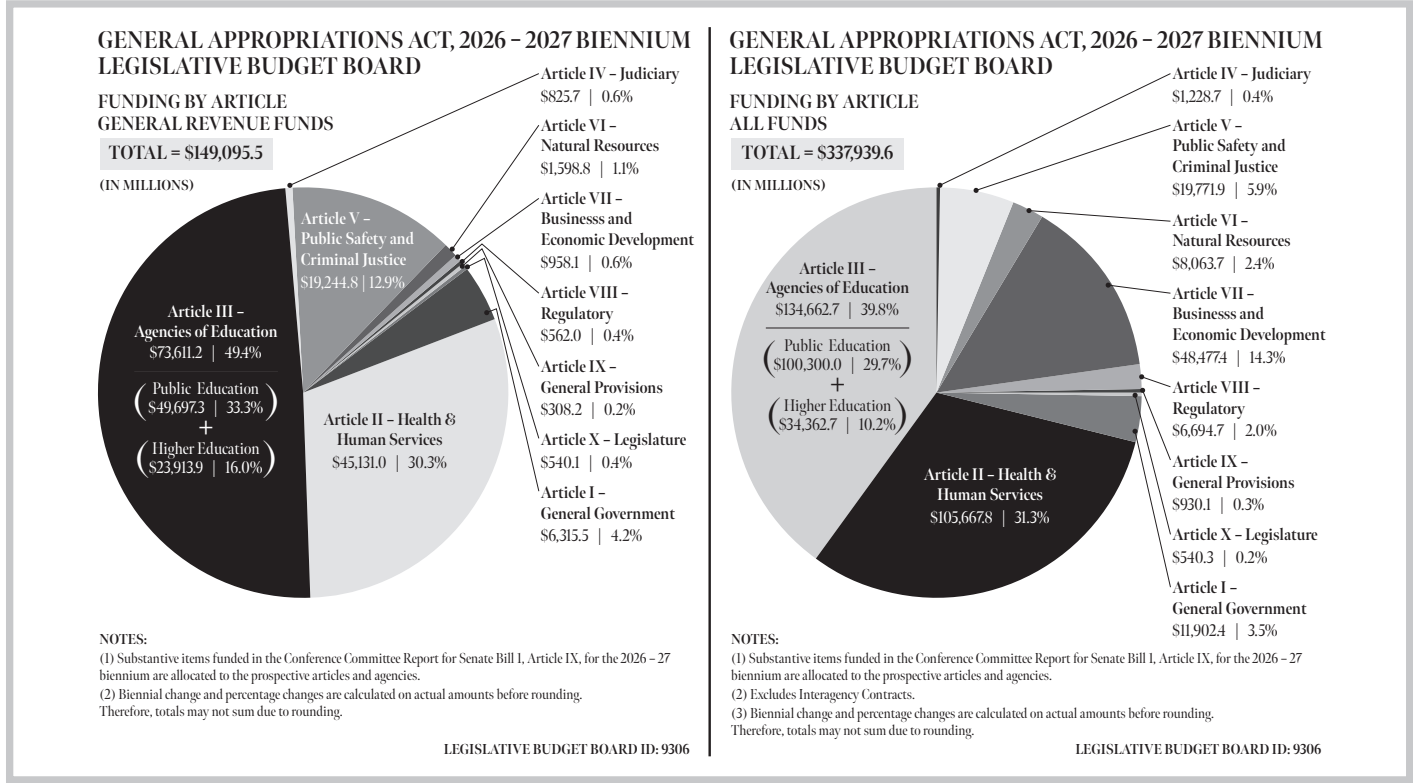
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PUTTING TEXANS FIRST

SENATE BILL 1 – A BALANCED BUDGET

The one bill the Texas Constitution requires us to pass each session is the state budget – and unlike Washington D.C., our budget must be balanced. In the 89th Legislative Session, the House and Senate were able to pass SB1, the budget. This fiscally conservative budget is \$15 billion below the limit on General Revenue spending, \$39 billion below the limit on what can be spent without borrowing, and \$10 billion below the total spending constitutional limits. Significant parts of the budget include the following allocations:

- \$51 billion to lower property tax rates, which is more than one out of every seven dollars within the budget.
- \$2.5 billion to the Texas Water Fund to ensure that water is not scarce across the State.
- Over \$3.3 billion to continue securing the southern border.
- In conjunction with HB 2, \$8.5 billion was allocated for Texas public schools, resulting in teacher and staff pay increases, and special education allotments.



PROPERTY TAX REFORMS

Property taxes are set at the local level, but the State of Texas plays a role in determining the guardrails. Despite the fact that the state does not collect a property tax – and is constitutionally prohibited from doing so – we continue to invest your state tax dollars to offset this massive burden at the local level. This session, we invested \$51 billion to fund these reforms:

- **SB 4 & SJR 2** - Increasing the homestead exemption for most families from \$100,000 to \$140,000.
- **SB 23 & SJR 85** - Increasing the homestead exemption from \$110,000 to \$200,000 for seniors and those with disabilities.
- **HB 9 & HJR 1** - Increasing the small business personal property tax exemption from \$2,500 to \$125,000.
- **HB 30** - Removing the ability for local governments to raise property taxes after a disaster without voter approval.
- **HB 2730** - Preventing appraisal districts from forcing residents to reapply for homestead exemptions without providing a written notice as to why the resident no longer qualifies for a homestead exemption.

ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

- This session, I was proud to help establish the Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Office, through the passage of HB 14. This new office will help to bring next-generation nuclear energy production to the state of Texas, greatly expanding access to safe, reliable energy for everyone in the state. HB 14 along with the passage of the budget created a dedicated fund to administer grants to encourage investment in nuclear energy here in Texas.
- I sponsored SB 2368, which was an update to the Lone Star Infrastructure Protection Act. This legislation aims to ensure that equipment and parts used for critical grid infrastructure do not come from hostile nations such as China, North Korea, Russia, or Iran. This extra layer of protection helps maintain control of our grid equipment and prevents third-party access to the Texas grid.
- Texas' population continues to increase at a rapid rate, and with this comes a need to swiftly build more power plants to accommodate this growth. I was proud to support SB 1, which will lead to a \$5 billion increase to the Texas Energy Fund, bringing the total fund to \$10 billion. This fund was created to give low interest loans to companies looking to build energy generation facilities in Texas.

HARD FOUGHT BATTLES IN AUSTIN

PROTECTING CHILDREN

In the past few sessions, I have filed legislation with the overall goal of protecting children online from continued mental and physical harm, as well as from other harms in today's world. In the 89th Legislative Session, I filed **HB 186**, which would have removed children from social media platforms, and though this legislation was unable to pass out of the Senate, many other significant changes were made to protect children.

- **HB 1481** – Which I joint authored, seeks to ease the burden on teachers and school personnel by mandating phones are not a distraction to children during class or instructional time. This legislation gives local control to independent school districts around the state to implement their own phone policies, and will ensure that school hours are dedicated to learning rather than teachers having to fight for a student's attention.
- **SB 2420** - Requires enhanced protections for children within app stores. I joint-sponsored this important bill, establishing an age verification and rating system for apps to better guide parents and protect children online.
- **SB 412** – Removes the so-called “Obscenity Exemption” from the Texas Penal Code, ensuring that anyone exposing minors to harmful sexual content can be prosecuted, removing the legal loopholes that existed previously. I carried this bill through the House as a follow-up to the 2023 legislative session's victory on the READER Act, which aimed to eliminate overtly sexual content from public schools.

ELECTION INTEGRITY

Having faith in free and fair elections is of the utmost importance. Every session, the legislature tweaks the election code to ensure every Texan who is eligible to vote – and only Texans eligible to vote – can do so with confidence and security. This session, these bills I supported became law:

- **SJR 37** – Adds a constitutional amendment to mirror current state law, ensuring only US citizens are eligible to vote.
- **SB 510** - Authorizes the Secretary of State (SOS) to withhold funds from voter registrars who fail to cancel the voter registration of an ineligible voter. This legislation emphasizes



The Representative answering questions about HB 186 - A bill to protect children from the harms of social media.

the necessity of voter registrars to work quickly so that ineligible individuals do not vote when they are no longer legally eligible.

- **SB 1470** - Mandates that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) share with the SOS when a Texan applies for a license in another state. This partnership will streamline the timeline so that citizens are voting in the state where they reside.

BORDER SECURITY & PROTECTING TEXAS FROM FOREIGN OWNED INFLUENCE

- **SB 17** – The strongest bill of its kind in the nation, I joint-sponsored this critical piece of legislation stopping people and organizations from hostile foreign nations from buying or owning Texas land. Anyone connected to or allied with China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia – or their agents – are now prohibited from owning our land. The Attorney General must now establish procedures to investigate and enforce violations of SB 17, and violators of this law will have their property taken by the courts. The Governor may designate additional verified and vetted countries or transnational criminal organizations to this list but must consult with the Department of Public Safety and the Homeland Security Council to do so.
- **SB 8** – A robust partnership between Texas law enforcement and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under the 287(g) program, this new law provides local law enforcement with training and the authority to verify the immigration status of individuals booked into their facilities. If a detainee is found to be in the country illegally during this booking process, the program would allow ICE to issue a federal immigration detainer, holding the individual until ICE can directly take custody.
- **HB 421I** - This session, there were a lot of conversations about how to deal with the East Plano Islamic Center (EPIC City), attempting to be built in North Texas. I was proud to support HB 421I to help stop the EPIC City project in its tracks. This legislation made changes to how groups or individuals can invest in planned communities and created reforms to the Fair Housing Act, ensuring that a single religious group cannot discriminate against others.



The Representative on the Texas House Floor

EDUCATION FUNDING & REFORM

EDUCATION REFORM & PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT

- **HB 2** – The largest funding increase in the history of our state for our teachers and public schools, this bill allocated \$8.5 billion in new funding, a \$1,500 total funding increase per student over the 2026 - 2027 biennium. This new funding is allocated largely toward teacher pay raises, school safety, increased dollars for students with disabilities, and a new permanent allotment for fixed costs allocated by enrollment, not average daily attendance.
 - Additional Annual Revenue of \$107,900,839 for public schools in House District 106!
- **HB 6** - Introduces a Teacher Bill of Rights, giving teachers back their ability to properly discipline children in the classroom, remove disruptive children, and have the full legal backing to perform their duties of teaching the next generation.
- **SB 2** – Establishes a \$1 billion school choice program by utilizing Education Savings Accounts to pay for tuition, transportation, and tutoring for students who choose an option outside of our traditional public schools. Children with special needs and children who are economically disadvantaged are prioritized in this program, ensuring those who are in need of an alternative educational program are funded first.
- **SB 12** - Creates the Parental Bill of Rights, ensuring that parents are the ultimate decision makers when it comes to their child's education. Among other reforms, SB 12 eliminates Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in schools, strengthens the parental grievance process, and increases transparency in various facets of the educational field.



The Representative and his colleagues defending SB 412 - A bill to prevent harmful material from being shown to a child.

School Districts in HD 106	Increased Funding for Operations Revenue	Increased Funding per Student
Aubrey ISD	\$3,273,146	\$694
Celina ISD	\$4,719,607	\$817
Denton ISD	\$19,700,513	\$659
Frisco ISD	\$33,330,626	\$545
Lewisville ISD	\$21,654,300	\$491
Little Elm ISD	\$4,017,366	\$547
Pilot Point ISD	\$1,857,392	\$1,250
Prosper ISD	\$17,195,533	\$496
Sanger ISD	\$2,152,356	\$816

OTHER LEGISLATIVE WINS

- **HB 331** - Throughout my time in the Legislature, I have made an effort to protect First Responders who continue to run toward danger. HB 331 will cover heart attacks that occur within 8 hours following the end of a shift and will be presumed to be due to the first responder's line of work, and therefore covered under workers' compensation.
- **HB 229** - In recent years, the concept of womanhood has been degraded, and some believe it to be a difficult term to define - Texas has had enough. HB 229 defines and codifies what a woman is, ensuring that women's rights are protected in Texas.
- **SB 31** - In the 87th Legislative Session, I helped pass The Heartbeat Bill, one of the strongest pro-life measures to pass in the nation. However, due to doctors not fully understanding the protections, SB 31, also known as The Life of The Mother Act, was passed to clarify that the only reason for an abortion is if the mother's life is at risk or under substantial harm due to the pregnancy. This measure ensures that children and mothers are fully protected.