

★ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT VOTING GUIDE ★	
PROPOSITION 1 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SJR 59 The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System.
PROPOSITION 2 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SJR 18 The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust.
PROPOSITION 3 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SJR 5 The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony.
PROPOSITION 4 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	HJR 7 The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue.
PROPOSITION 5 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	HJR 99 The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail.
PROPOSITION 6 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	HJR 4 The constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from enacting a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions.
PROPOSITION 7 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	HJR 133 The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been service-connected.
PROPOSITION 8 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	HJR 2 The constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing death taxes applicable to a decedent’s property or the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift.
PROPOSITION 9 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	HJR 1 The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income.
PROPOSITION 10 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SJR 84 The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire.
PROPOSITION 11 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SJR 85 The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled.
PROPOSITION 12 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SJR 27 The constitutional amendment regarding the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the membership of the tribunal to review the commission’s recommendations, and the authority of the commission, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to more effectively sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct.
PROPOSITION 13 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SJR 2 The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000.
PROPOSITION 14 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SJR 3 The constitutional amendment providing for the establishment of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on and prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and related disorders in this state, and transferring to that fund \$3 billion from state general revenue.
PROPOSITION 15 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SJR 34 The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children.
PROPOSITION 16 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SJR 37 The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen.
PROPOSITION 17 <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	HJR 34 The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements.
For more information and resources for voting in Texas, visit VoteTexas.gov .	





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COMMITTEES: Appropriations • Appropriations – S/C on Article III • Calendars
Congressional Redistricting, Select • Intergovernmental Affairs • Intergovernmental Affairs – S/C on County & Regional Government • Intergovernmental Affairs – S/C on State-Federal Relations (Chair) • Redistricting

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CARL H. TEPPER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Casework Our office is happy to connect you with a state agency if you are having issues contacting the agency. Please contact our office if you need assistance.

Certificates of Achievement At no cost to you, we are equipped to assist you in commemorating a special occasion by crafting an official proclamation or certificate by the Texas House of Representatives. Whether you are celebrating a birth, marriage, retirement, or special event, you can contact our office to learn more.

Visit the Capitol The Texas 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 10:00 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.

REP. TEPPER’S COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

At the beginning of each regular session, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives appoints each member to legislative committees for the biennium. Most members are appointed to two committees. I was appointed to serve on eight committees for the 89th Legislature, including the House Committees on Appropriations, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Article III (Education Funding), Calendars, Intergovernmental Affairs, Redistricting, and the Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting. I also served on the County & Regional Government Subcommittee and as Chair of the State-Federal Relations Subcommittee. My Subcommittee focused on relations between Texas, other states, nations, and the federal government.



CARL H. TEPPER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 84



89TH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 84

Dear Fellow Texan,

As your state representative for House District 84, “Thank You” once again for allowing me the honor of serving you in the Texas House of Representatives. Lubbock County boasts the best our state has to offer—where our shared values of faith, family, and freedom remain strong.

The 89th Regular Session was truly historic for the region as we fought for our own Representative Dustin Burrows to be elected as Speaker of the House. Subsequently, State Senator Charles Perry was elected as the new President Pro Tempore of the Texas Senate. Additionally, Lubbock’s own Congressman Jodey Arrington serves as Chairman of the U.S. House Budget Committee and authored the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Our region holds an unprecedented level of influence in the Texas legislature and United States Congress. The delegation from the top of the Panhandle down to the border is as unified as ever. West Texas is not just participating in leadership—we’re shaping it.

This session was among the most consequential in recent memory. We delivered conservative results with tangible benefits for Lubbock and the region—increasing property tax relief to \$51 billion; while substantially increasing teacher pay, strengthening school safety, and expanding educational options. We also continued our commitment to border security and law enforcement, defended parental rights, and bolstered election integrity. We addressed the issues with our power grid and water infrastructure. Additionally, I sponsored and passed legislation to transform Reese Technology Center which will elevate Texas Tech’s role in nationally recognized research. We also sponsored Lubbock’s future economic growth by accessing significant funding tools for major public projects, and we blocked legislation that would have harmed our cherished neighborhoods.

This newsletter provides a summary of important legislation passed, including a summary of the proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot this fall. Although the 89th Regular Session has ended, we will continue to serve our community with purpose and determination.

Sincerely,

Texas House of Representatives
District 84



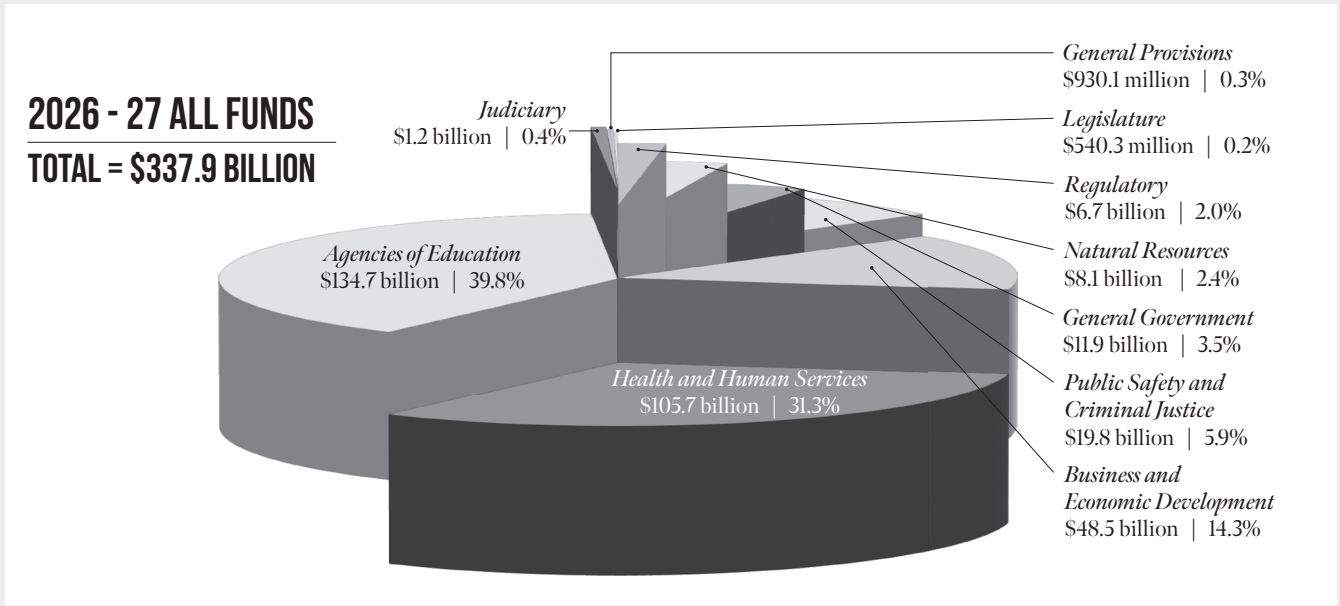
Carl H. Tepper
State Representative



Representative Tepper and his beloved rescue dog Margaret Thatcher.

★ STATE BUDGET OVERVIEW ★

I am pleased to inform you that the state legislature has adopted a budget that reflects a balanced approach to fiscal responsibility and strategic investment, ensuring essential services are maintained while safeguarding the state's long-term financial well-being.



PROPERTY TAX RELIEF:
\$51 BILLION

- Over \$11 billion more than the previous state budget cycle
- Funds a \$140K homestead exemption (\$200,000 for seniors & individuals with disabilities) and a \$125,000 exemption for businesses, contingent upon voter approval
- Adds 6.8 cents in additional school district rate compression to buy down property taxes.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$30 billion for road projects
- \$5 billion for the Texas Energy Fund
- \$2.5 billion for water & flood infrastructure
- \$135 million to establish the Texas Cyber Command
- \$493 million to improve wildfire response & readiness, including a dedicated Texas aerial firefighting fleet
- \$91 million for local & state parks

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& WORKFORCE

- \$5.5 billion for workforce development programs
- \$100 million to expand access to childcare for low-income families
- \$100 million in loans and grants to support farmers & ranchers
- \$300 million to expand Texas’ space industry
- \$250 million to support semiconductor & microchip manufacturing

PUBLIC SAFETY

- \$3 billion for border security
- \$421 million to add nearly 500 state troopers & improve driver license services

- \$411 million to expand correctional facilities
- \$330 million to boost corrections/probation officer pay
- \$174 million for judicial pay raises

K-12 EDUCATION

- \$100.3 billion in total, including \$8.5 billion in new, targeted education reforms
- \$4 billion for record teacher and staff pay raises
- \$1 billion for school choice via Education Savings Accounts
- \$430 million for school safety upgrades
- \$369 million to reduce the cost of health insurance for teachers

HIGHER EDUCATION

- \$2.5 billion in additional funding for universities and research initiatives
- \$2.3 billion to increase affordability for students and faculty through financial aid and employee health insurance cost relief
- \$71 million to expand first-year residency slots in medical schools
- \$850 million to establish the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Endowment

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Over \$215 million for rural healthcare and grants for new ambulances
- \$1 billion in wage increases for personal care attendants
- \$340 million for new mental health and hospital beds, plus \$54 million for youth crisis outreach
- \$252 million for women’s health
- \$177 million to support victims of rape, trafficking, and child abuse
- \$116.5 million to keep foster children closer to home with community-based care

★ ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION ★

TAX RELIEF

Homeowner Property Tax Relief –
Senate Bill 4 & Senate Joint Resolution 2

- Increases the homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000, contingent upon voter approval.

Senior & Disability Property Tax Relief –
Senate Bill 23 & Senate Joint Resolution 85

- Increases the homestead exemption from \$110,000 to \$200,000 for seniors and individuals with disabilities, contingent upon voter approval.

Business Property Tax Relief –
House Bill 9 & House Joint Resolution 1

- Increases the tax exemption on items a business uses to produce income from \$2,500 to \$125,000, contingent upon voter approval.

Taxation Ban on Intangible Personal Property –
House Bill 22

- Eliminates the taxation of intangible personal property, including stocks, trademarks, cryptocurrency, and other intellectual property.



Representative Tepper asks questions from the back microphone of the House Floor.

EDUCATION

Public School Funding – House Bill 2

- Provides \$8.5 billion in new funding to public schools, including:
 - \$4.2 billion for record permanent teacher and staff pay raises;
 - Expanded incentive pay and teacher training programs;
 - \$1.3 billion in Allotment for Basic Costs (ABC) to assist districts with expenses like insurance, utilities, and TRS contributions;
 - Nearly \$2 billion to update special education formulas and fund full-day pre-K, early learning interventions, and Career & Technical Education (CTE); and
 - \$430 million for school safety.

Teacher Bill of Rights – House Bill 6

- Empowers teachers with greater authority to discipline or remove disruptive students from the classroom to foster a productive learning environment.

Texas Education Freedom Act – Senate Bill 2

- Establishes a landmark school choice program that is the largest day-one launch in the country, allowing parents to choose the best educational environment for their child.

Parental Bill of Rights – Senate Bill 12

- Bans discriminatory diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies and programs in public schools. Prohibits instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity and gives parents more control over their child’s education.

Special Education Funding – Senate Bill 568

- Overhauls special education funding by implementing key recommendations from the Texas Commission on Special Education Funding, including a new service intensity-based funding system to align resources with student needs.

PUBLIC SAFETY &
BORDER SECURITY

Immigration Law Enforcement – Senate Bill 8

- Requires local law enforcement authorities to enforce federal immigration law, including arresting, jailing, and deporting illegal aliens, in collaboration with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It provides local law enforcement with training and allows them to verify the immigration status of individuals booked into their facilities.

Bail Denial – Senate Bill 9 &
Senate Joint Resolution 5

- Enhances the regulation of bail processes and magistrates by revising conditions and procedures for setting bail, expanding access to and use of the public safety report system, and providing for certain crime victims’ rights. Contingent upon voter approval, bail may be denied to those accused of certain violent felonies, reducing the risk of offenders committing new crimes while on release and awaiting trial.

Volunteer Fire Departments – Senate Bill 34

- Increases funding for volunteer fire departments and creates a study to better prepare for, prevent, and manage wildfires.

COMBATTING
FOREIGN ADVERSARIES

Foreign Adversary Banking – House Bill 34

- Prohibits the investment of state funds in securities, companies, or banks owned by, based in, or controlled by adversarial nations, such as China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia.

Protecting Higher Education from Foreign
Adversaries – House Bill 127

- Enhances security at Texas universities by restricting ties with foreign adversaries. It establishes a Research Security Council, prohibits certain gifts and partnerships, requires background checks for research applicants, mandates preapproval for international travel, and calls for a review of foreign-owned education software.

Land Ownership – Senate Bill 17

- Prohibits companies, governments, and agents from foreign adversary nations—like China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia—from purchasing, owning, or controlling property in Texas.

HEALTH CARE &
PUBLIC HEALTH

Supporting Rural Health Care – House Bill 18

- Creates a comprehensive framework to support, stabilize, and modernize rural health care, providing targeted support to keep hospitals open, expand mental health access, and improve long-term sustainability.

Life of the Mother Act – Senate Bill 31

- Provides clarity on life-threatening conditions that may put pregnant women at risk of death or serious impairment so physicians may provide life-saving care without delay.

AGRICULTURE, ENERGY,
& INFRASTRUCTURE

Unleashing Nuclear Energy – House Bill 14

- Establishes Texas as a national leader in nuclear industry by providing funding mechanisms for the development, construction, and completion of advanced nuclear energy projects.

Supporting Agricultural Producers –
House Bill 43

- Supports agricultural producers by alleviating their operating costs through larger financial grants and reduced-interest loans.

Strengthening the Texas Grid – Senate Bill 6

- Increases grid reliability by enacting new requirements governing the planning, interconnection, and operation of large electrical loads and generation resources in ERCOT.

Creation of the Texas Water Fund –

Senate Bill 7 & House Joint Resolution 7

- Establishes a dedicated funding stream for critical water infrastructure projects—including reservoir improvements, conservation efforts, and new water supply development—contingent upon voter approval.



Representative Tepper and his colleagues celebrate Texas Tech University System Day at the State Capitol.

The bill requires the Texas Water Development Board to provide oversight, and it expands eligible water projects to include desalination, water reuse and wastewater treatment centers, aquifer storage and recovery, out-of-state water acquisition, and reservoir infrastructure.

PROTECTING CHILDREN
& TEXAS VALUES

Women’s Bill of Rights – House Bill 229

- Defines biological sex in state statute for the first time, providing the strongest legal foundation to protect women’s private spaces, their right to equal opportunity, and their safety.

Protecting Children from AI Exploitation –
Senate Bill 20

- Creates an offense for the possession or promotion of explicit sexual material that appear to depict a child, including materials that are generated by artificial intelligence (AI), animated, or do not depict a real child.

Increased Child Protections – Senate Bill 127

- Strengthens child protection laws by extending the statute of limitations to prosecute certain professionals (teachers, doctors, etc.) who fail to report child abuse to when the offense is discovered—rather than when it occurred.

NEW LEGISLATION
AUTHORED (SPONSORED) BY
REPRESENTATIVE TEPPER

During the 89th Legislative Session, I worked to deliver solutions that reflect the priorities of our district. Below is a look at legislation that I helped bring across the finish line, as the author or sponsor.

Lubbock Project Financing Zone –
House Bill 2313

- Allows the City of Lubbock to designate a project financing zone (PFZ), a special financing tool that helps municipalities fund large-scale projects like a convention center. The bill will give the City of Lubbock an estimated \$121.7 million in state tax rebates over 30 years.

Reese Air Force Base – House Bill 5092

- Bolsters Lubbock as a hub for research at the former Reese Air Force Base that will now be governed by Texas Tech University.

Name, Image and Likeness – House Bill 126

- Ensures that our state’s name, image, and likeness (NIL) law will keep our university athletic programs competitive and ensures we retain top student athletes in light of expected changes to NCAA rules. We worked with representatives from Texas Tech, Texas A&M, the University of Texas and others to allow schools to enter into direct NIL agreements with student athletes.

Military Leave for Firefighters –
House Bill 2513

- Ensures firefighters do not have to use their own paid time off to complete military service.



Representative Tepper and Speaker Burrows attend an event with Governor Abbott.

Cybersecurity Contracts – House Bill 3112

- Protects governmental entities from publicly disclosing or discussing a cybersecurity measure, policy, or contract solely intended to protect a critical infrastructure facility.

State Board of Education – House Bill 3627

- Authorizes the State Board of Education (SBOE) to employ personnel to assist the board in performing its duties.

First Responders Memorial Loop –
Senate Bill 1895

- Designates State Highway Loop 88 as the First Responders Memorial Loop as a fitting tribute and lasting reminder of those dedicated public servants who have fallen in the line of duty.

Local Virtual Hearings – Senate Bill 2145

- Allows public improvement districts and reinvestment zones to hold virtual meetings while ensuring the public can still participate in and observe meetings.

Higher Education Telework – Senate Bill 2615

- Standardizes telework policies for public institutions of higher education by requiring in-person work for most roles with many important exceptions.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Day –

House Concurrent Resolution 7

- Designates September 29 as Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for a 10-year period.

Plat Tax Certificates – House Bill 2025

- Ensures that a filing for a plat, replat, or amended plat is not rejected if the taxes owed for a property on which a plat was filed are calculated after a person files a plat but before the county clerk records the plat.

Banana Pudding Capital –
House Concurrent
Resolution 135

- With Speaker Burrows; designates Slaton as the official Banana Pudding Capital of Texas for a 10-year period.

