

# DAVID COOK

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*Criminal Jurisprudence | S/C on Juvenile Justice, Chair | Delivery of Government Efficiency (DOGE)*



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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★ 2025 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION ★


★ LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025

★ EARLY VOTING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025

★ ELECTION DAY  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025  
*Polls are open 7 A.M. - 7 P.M. on Election Day.*



CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS AT [VOTETEXAS.GOV](https://votetexas.gov)



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District 96 Newsletter


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**Committees**

- Criminal Jurisprudence
- S/C on Juvenile Justice, *Chair*
- Delivery of Government Efficiency (DOGE)

STATE OF TEXAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Texas Legislature has officially adjourned Sine Die following the 89th Regular Session! I'm proud to share this update with you on the meaningful results accomplished this legislative session.

**Property Tax Relief**

The state budget appropriated \$51 Billion to property tax relief through Senate Bill (SB) 1, signaling the Legislature's continued dedication to reducing the burden property taxes on homeowners. SJR 2 & SB 4 raised the public school district resident homestead property tax exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000. SJR 85 & SB 23 raised the homestead property tax exemption for individuals aged 65+ or disabled individuals from \$10,000 to \$200,000.

**State Budget & Infrastructure**


A historic \$8.5 Billion in new funding was allocated to Public Education, including a permanent across-the-board pay raise for teachers with at least 3 years of experience, \$850 Million for Special Education, and \$430 Million for School Safety. SB 75 created the Texas Grid Security Commission to protect our electrical grid from external threats including weather, cyberterrorism, and supply chain issues and House Bill (HB) 150 establishes the Texas Cyber Command to defend critical infrastructure and respond quickly to cyberattacks targeting state systems.

**Border Security & Bail Reform**


SB 36 established a Homeland Security Division within the Department of Public Safety to lead our border security & counterterrorism efforts and SB 17 prohibits hostile foreign entities (like China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia) from purchasing or controlling land in Texas. SJR 5 & SB 9 reformed pretrial confinement and proposed a Constitutional Amendment to allow judges to deny bail for certain violent offenders; SB 40 prohibited cities and counties from using taxpayer dollars to pay bail for criminal defendants; and SB 8 required counties with population over 100,000 to participate in the 287(g) program.

These are just a handful of the historic results that the Legislature delivered this year. Additionally, the Governor has called us back to Austin for two Special Sessions to address emergent topics such as natural disaster response and flood warning systems. It is the honor of a lifetime to represent you in the Texas House. Please feel free to contact my office if you are ever in need of assistance.

Sincerely,



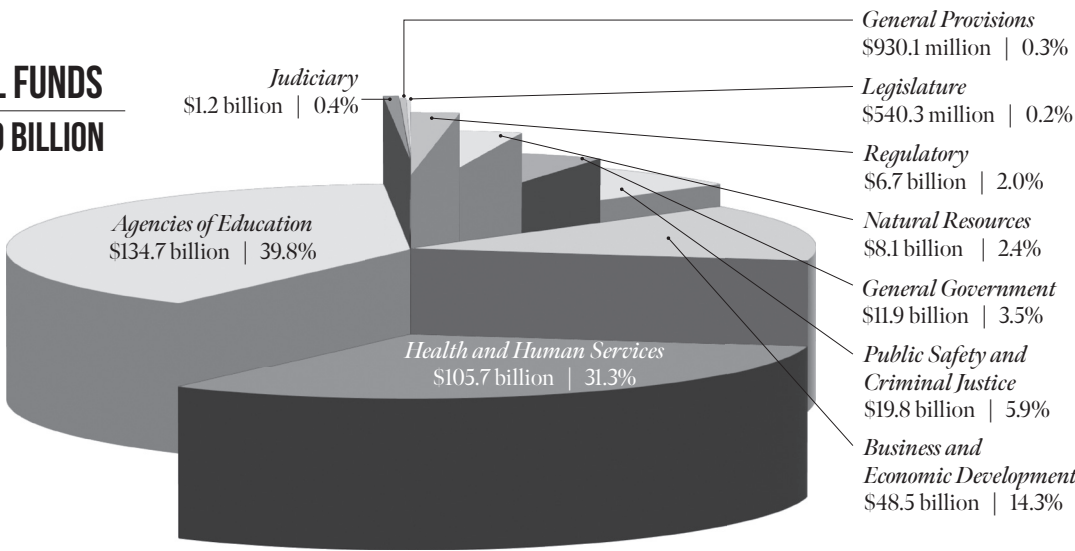
Representative David L. Cook  
State Representative, House District 96





STATE BUDGET

2026 - 27 ALL FUNDS  
TOTAL = \$337.9 BILLION



*Budget Highlights:* The 2026-2027 Texas Budget includes \$75 Billion for Public Education, \$51 Billion for Property Tax Relief, \$30 Billion for statewide Road Projects, \$5 Billion for the Texas Energy Fund, and \$2.5 Billion for Water and Flood Infrastructure.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

This session, I was appointed to serve as the Chair of the House Permanent Standing Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, which oversees legislation related the commitment and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, youth correctional facilities, juvenile delinquency and gang violence, and criminal law and procedure as applicable to juvenile offenders. Additionally, I was appointed to serve as a member of the House Government Efficiency (DOGE) Committee, which deals with a plethora of issues including, eliminating inefficiencies in state government, open government matters, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, data privacy and identity theft, cybersecurity, and detection of fraud, waste, and abuse in state government programs. I was also reappointed to serve on the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence, which manages legislation related to criminal law, probation, parole, and criminal procedure in our criminal courts.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

This session, I authored 57 House Bills, sponsored 12 Senate Bills, joint-authored 75 House and Senate Bills, and co-authored 117 Bills, which eliminate government inefficiencies, support workforce development, and ensure fair but tough-on-crime policies. I successfully passed HB 1902 creating the felony offense of “Jugging,” where a suspect lies in wait, follows a person from a financial institution or high-end retail store, follows a victim, and subsequently, robs them. Additionally, I was proud to pass SB 1300, creates a robust legal framework to deter Organized Retail Theft, a sophisticated criminal enterprise which has devastated Texas retailers and small businesses.

Stay tuned to our next newsletter for a comprehensive summary of all my bills authored during the 89th Legislative Session!



With my colleagues for a press conference on Proposition 16, which clarifies that you must be a U.S. Citizen to vote in Texas – look for it on your November ballot!

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*.