

# Texas 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Summary



CITY OF WACO



# Legislative Dates of Interest

- **Tuesday, January 10, 2023:** 88th Legislature convened at noon.
- **Friday, February 17, 2023:** Deadline for requesting the drafting of nonlocal bills.
- **Friday, March 10, 2023:** 60-day bill filing deadline.
- **Monday, May 29, 2023:** Adjournment sine die.
- **Sunday, June 18, 2023:** 20-day deadline for Governor to sign or veto.
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Monday, May 29, 2023:**  
Ended on June 27, 2023
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session, Tuesday, June 27, 2023:**  
Ended on July 13, 2023



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# 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

## Engagement and Advocacy

### **Partnered with:**

- Texas Municipal League
- Blackridge
- Other departmental organizations/associations
  - Texas Association of City and County Health Officials (TACCHO)

### **Met with Legislators and staff:**

- Senator Birdwell (SD-22)
- Representative Charles “Doc” Anderson (HD-56)
- Representative Angelia Orr (HD-13)
- House and Senate Committee Staff
- Legislative Budget Board Staff

**Engaged City departments and staff.**



CITY OF WACO

# 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

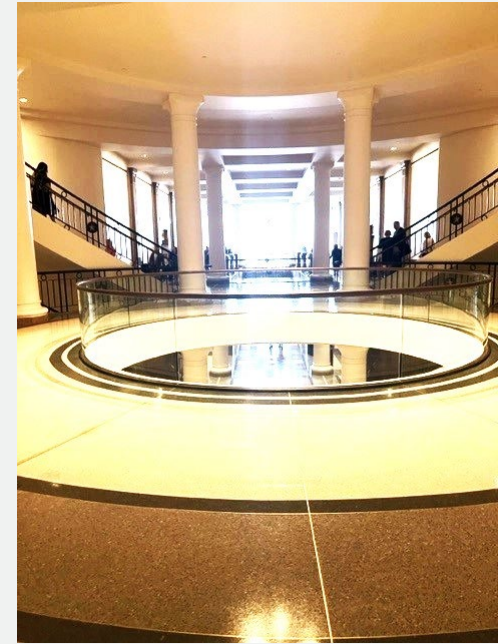
## Engagement and Advocacy

### Committee Testimony

- City Manager Ford testified before the Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee in support of S.B. 1167, QHP for Waco, authored by Senator Birdwell.
- Written testimony on H.B. 2827 - Dairy Bill.

### House and Senate Hearings

- Pursuant to the Texas Constitution, committees can begin considering legislation after the first 30 days of the session starting on **February 9** for this session.
- Attended hearings and registered the City's position on legislation.



# 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

## Engagement and Advocacy

### Letters

Wrote letters on key issues and provided fiscal impact statements to LBB.

- Mayor's letter to the House State Affairs Committee and members in **opposition to H.B. 2127 – Preemption Bill**, outlining its impact on Waco.
- Mayor's letter to the State Affairs Committee in **opposition to S.B. 175/H.B. 3538 – Prohibiting Taxpayer Funded Lobbying**.
- Mayor's letter to the House State Affairs Committee in **support of H.B. 3447 - Establishment and administration of the Texas Space Commission and the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium**.
- Multiple letters and engagement in opposition to H.B. 2827 – Dairy Bill.



# Waco Day in Austin at the Capitol

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

## Engaged with Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce

- Office of the Texas Governor
- Texas Workforce Commission
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Water Development Board
- Senator Birdwell
- Representative Charles “Doc” Anderson







# 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session: Summary

**Regular Session:** January 10<sup>th</sup>- May 29<sup>th</sup>

**Bills become effective:** immediately, September 1<sup>st</sup>, or special date.

House and Senate Bills	88 <sup>th</sup> Legislature	87 <sup>th</sup> Legislature	86 <sup>th</sup> Legislature	85 <sup>th</sup> Legislature
Filed	8,344	6927	7,324	6,631
Passed	1,259	1,073	1,429	1,211
Vetoed	76	21	56	51



# 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session: Bill and Session Facts

- The House filed more than twice as many bills as the Senate.
- The House passed 63% of bills sent to them by the Senate.
- The Senate passed 48% of bills sent to them by the House.
- Started with a \$33 billion budget surplus.
- Filed a record number of bills.
- Removed one of its members from office.
- Impeached the sitting attorney general.
- Two special sessions, thus far.



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# Governor Abbott's Legislative Priorities

## Seven Emergency Items



- Providing Property Tax Relief
- Ending Covid Restrictions “Forever”
- Expanding School Choice
- School Safety
- Ending “Revolving Door” Bail Policies
- Border Security
- Prosecution of fentanyl deaths



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# SENATE - Lt. Governor Dan Patrick's Priority Bills

**Of the Lt. Governor's top 30 priorities, these are an example of a few that have an impact on cities.**

- **S.B. 3** Increasing homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000 and tangible business property exemption.  
(billed passed House and Senate w/no further action)
- **S.B. 4** Additional school property tax relief.  
(died in committee)
- **S.B. 5** Increasing business personal property tax exemptions.  
(died in committee)
- **S.B. 28** Addressing Texas' future water needs.  
(signed by the Governor, effective 9/1/23)
- **S.B. 29** Banning local COVID-19 mandates.  
(signed by the Governor, effective 9/1/23)

# HOUSE - Speaker Dade Phelan's Priority Bills

## Property Tax Relief

- **H.B. 2** Property Tax Relief Act.  
(died in committee)

## School Safety/Officers

- **H.B. 3** Ensuring Public School Safety and Security Funding. (signed by the Governor, effective on 9/1/23)

## Economic Development

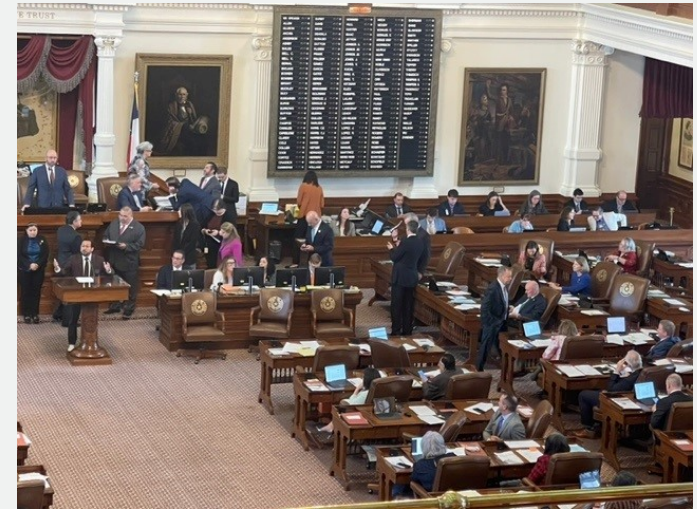
- **H.B. 5** School District Tax Abatement Program.  
(signed by the Governor, effective January 1, 24; Sect. 10 effective 9/1/23)

## Broadband Funding

- **H.B. 9/H.J.R. 125** Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund.  
(signed by the Governor, effective 1/1/24)

## Development Plans and Platting

- **H.B. 14** 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Review and Inspections for Development Documents and Permits.  
(signed by the Governor, effective 9/1/23)



# Waco's Bills of Interest

At the end of the regular session, the legislature sent a total of 1,258 bills and joint resolutions to the Governor for his signature.

- There were 230 bills passed that affected cities.
- Bills ranging from property taxes and public safety, to transportation and the municipal courts.

Among others included in the 230 bills impacting cities, these three bills also have a direct impact on the City of Waco.

- H.B. 5012 QHP Omnibus  
(filed without Governor's signature, effective on 9/1/23)
- H.B. 2127/S.B 814 Pre-emption Bill  
(signed by the Governor, effective on 9/1/23)
- H.B. 2827 Dairy Bill, relating to the permitting of and performance of annual soil tests for certain concentrated animal feeding operations by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
(left pending in committee)

# H.B. 5012 QHP Omnibus

The Qualified Hotel Program (QHP) provides for use of state and local tax dollars to leverage private investment and receive long term benefits of attracting large capital investments, increasing tourism and creating jobs.

- Filed without Governor's signature.  
(effective on 9/1/23)
- H.B. 3728/S.B. 1167 QHP for Waco  
(left pending in committee)
  - These were the original bills filed in the House and Senate that were eventually rolled into H.B. 5012.



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# H.B. 2127/S.B 814 Pre-emption Bill

## H.B. 2127/S.B 814 Pre-emption Bill

**(signed by the Governor, effective 9/1/23)**

- Expressly preempts certain home rule city regulations.
- Potentially preempts other home rule city regulations in fields occupied by state statute in particular codes, depending on how courts rule.
- Creates a cause of action for lawsuits against a home rule city to determine whether a city regulation is preempted.
- Requires three months notice before a claimant may bring a lawsuit against a city.



# H.B. 2827 Dairy Bill

Filed by Rep. DeWayne Burns on behalf of the Texas Association of Dairymen.

- Targeted legislation from 2001 protecting the North Bosque River Watershed – Lake Waco's primary water source.
- Quickly became Waco's top legislative priority.
- Passed the House, died in the Senate for lack of a committee hearing.

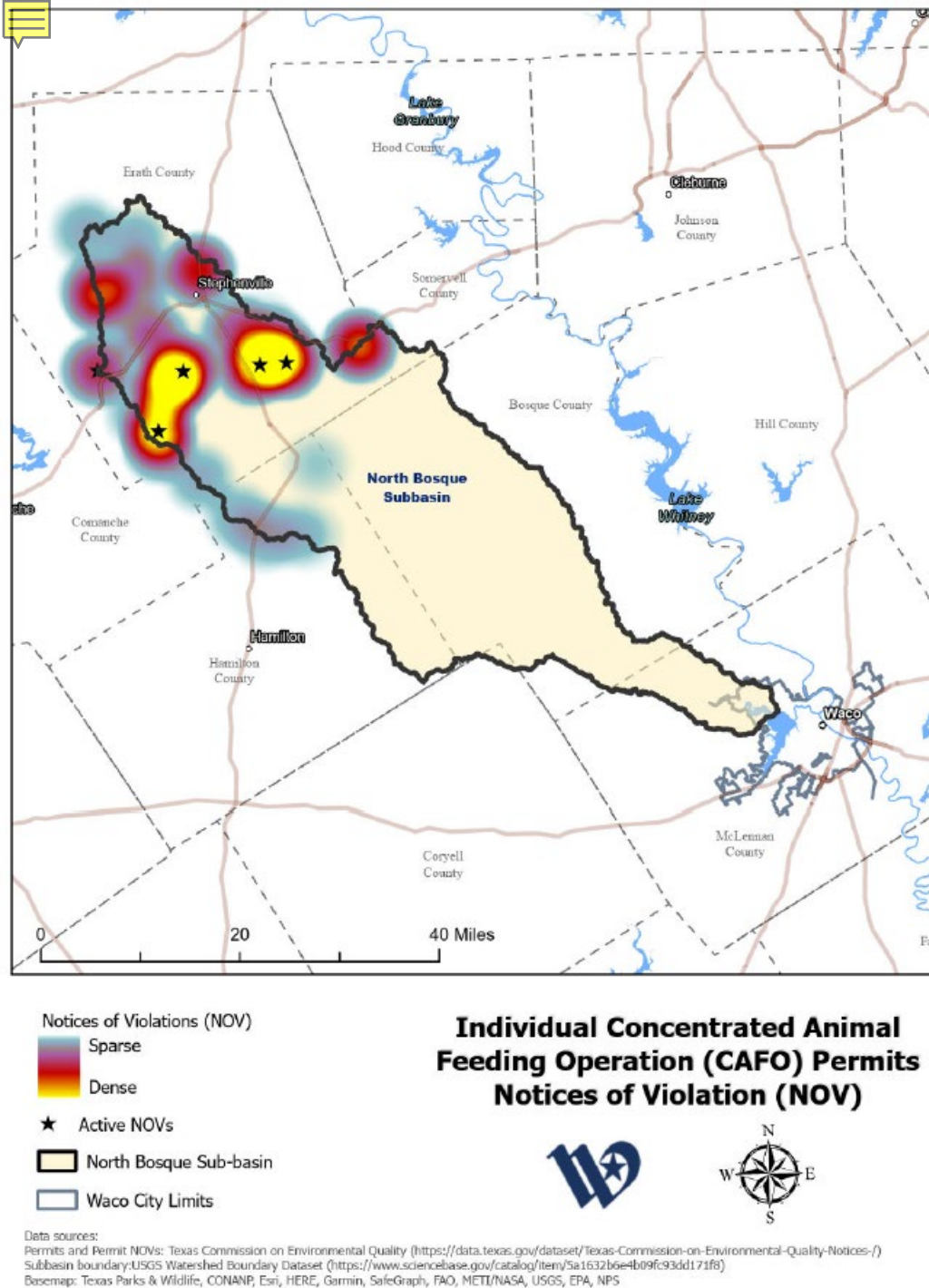


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# H.B. 2827 Dairy Bill

- Legislation would have enacted sweeping changes to the current TCEQ permitting system – significant negative impacts to property owners and water users.
- Grateful for the quick and effective community action and support to oppose this legislation.
- Commitment to look at potential solutions for compromise in the interim – need all stakeholders at the table.



# Attorney General Ken Paxton Impeachment

- The House voted to bring Impeachment Charges
- 20 Articles of Impeachment
- Paxton suspended
- A trial in the Senate is expected to begin on **Tuesday, September 5, 2023**



# 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session

**The 1st called session of the 88th Legislature began on May 29<sup>th</sup> and ended on June 27, 2023.**

- Governor Abbott directed the legislature to pass bills related to **property tax relief and border security**.
- The House passed their version of a property tax relief plan and a border security plan and quickly adjourned sine die.
- The Senate gaveled in on June 6th, 2023, to advance their own versions of the initiatives.



CITY OF WACO

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session

The 2nd Called Session of the 88th Texas Legislature began June 27, 2023, and ended July 13, 2023, adjourning sine die after passing their agreed-to property tax relief package and enacting a constitutional amendment.

- Over \$12 billion in state funding to reduce school property tax rates.
- \$100,000 homestead exemption for school property taxes.
- A 20% circuit breaker (essentially an appraisal cap) on appraised values for non-homesteaded properties that are valued at \$5 million and under, as a three-year pilot project, on school property taxes.
- Creates newly elected positions on local appraisal boards.
- Savings on franchise tax for small business.

It is widely expected there will be a **third special** session called by Governor Abbott **focused on public education and school voucher proposals**, likely to begin sometime this fall.



# QUESTIONS?



Thank You!



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