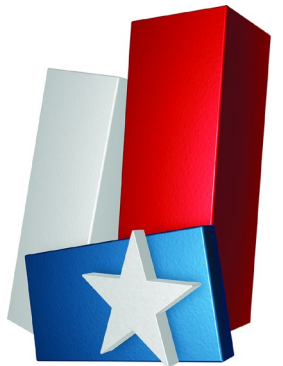


# **TML Legislative Update**

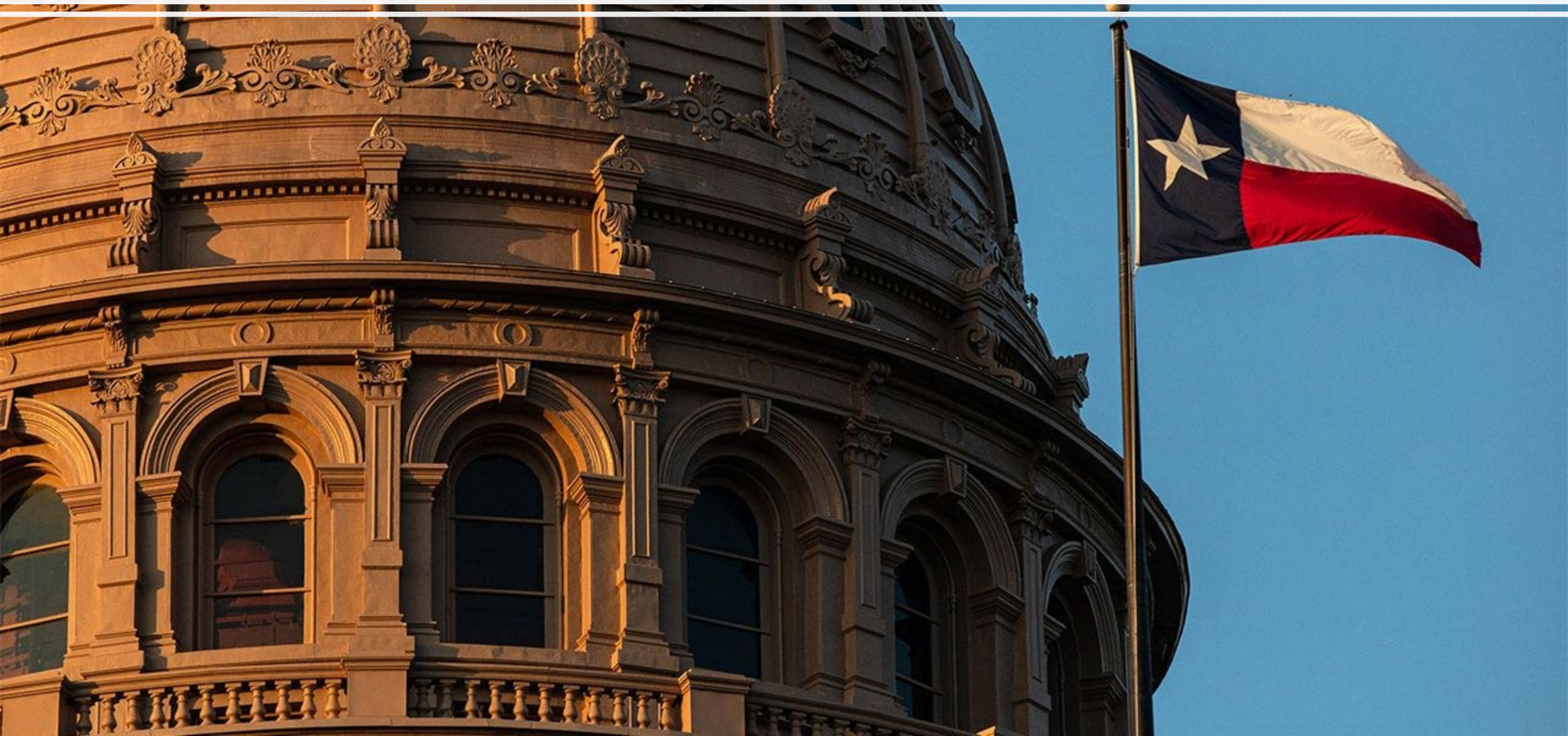
TMHRA Civil Service and Labor Relations Workshop

January 31, 2024

Michael Martin

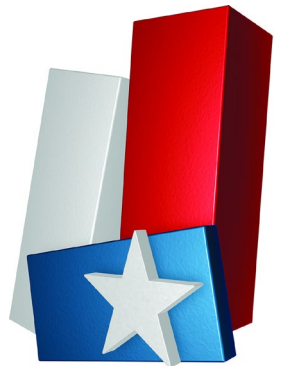


# 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature



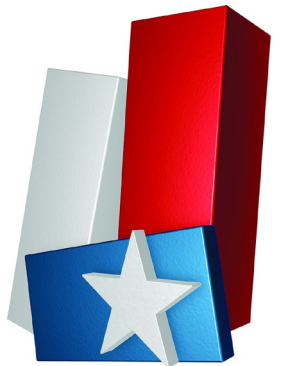
# “Slow” Legislative Session

- 12,000 bills filed – over 2,000 city-related bills
- 1 Regular Session
- 4 Special Sessions
- First removal of House member in over 100 years
- House impeachment of Attorney General
- Senate impeachment trial



# Personnel

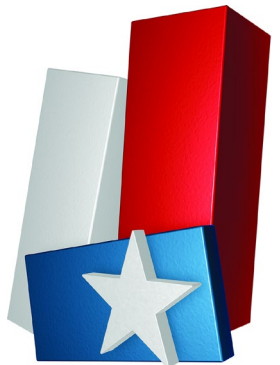
- Legislature did not pass many personnel-related bills this session:
- Significant legislation that passed:
  - **H.B. 471** – Paid illness and injury leave for first responders
  - **S.B. 1893** – Tik-Tok ban on city devices
  - **H.B. 1661** – Maximum age for new police officers
  - **S.B. 1445** – TCOLE Sunset – model psychological exam policy





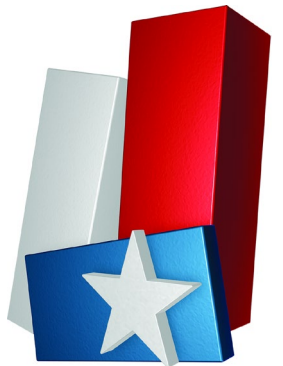
# Personnel

- But, the Legislature did consider several personnel-related bills:
  - **S.B. 2209** – Prohibiting civilian complaint review boards (passed Senate)
  - **H.B. 997** – Can't prohibit firefighters from circulating union petitions (passed House)
  - **H.B. 2925** – Mandatory civil service for cities over 10,000 (voted out of House County Affairs Cmte)



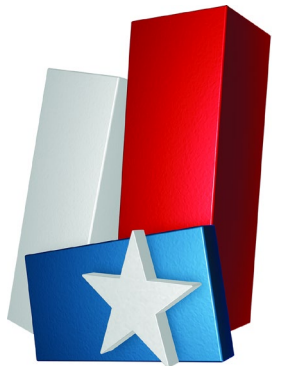
# Public Safety

- Legislature shifted focus from reform to address certain public safety issues – street takeovers, catalytic converter theft, and paper tags.
- Significant legislation that passed:
  - **H.B. 1819** – Prohibits local juvenile curfews
  - **H.B. 3186** – Mandatory youth diversion programs
  - **S.B. 1319** – Overdose mapping information
  - **H.B. 718** – Paper tags beginning in 2025
  - **H.B. 1442** – Seizure of cars used in street takeovers
  - **S.B. 224** – Increased penalties for catalytic converter theft



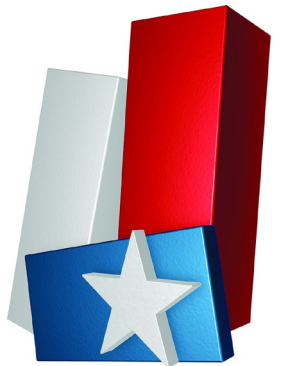
# Preemption

- The 2023 session saw breakthrough of “super preemption” legislation, in addition to the usual, narrowly-tailored preemption bills.
- Significant legislation that passed:
  - **H.B. 2127** – Prevents cities and counties from adopting, enforcing, or maintaining local regulations related to an activity located in a field of regulation occupied by state law in certain state codes.
- Litigation Update



# Land Use

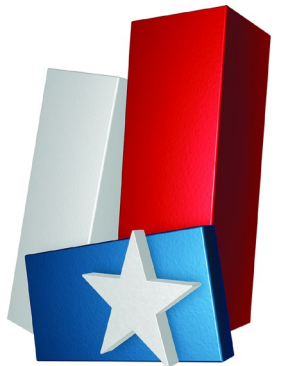
- Land use issues dominated the session as it related to cities, with a focus on disannexation, ETJ removal, development shot clocks, the right-to-farm in city limits, and zoning authority.
- Significant legislation that passed:
  - **S.B. 2038** – Release of area from ETJ by petition or election
  - **H.B. 1750** – Limits on city regulation of agricultural operations
  - **H.B. 3699/H.B. 14** – Numerous changes to platting review process
  - **S.B. 929** – Compensation for termination of non-conforming use
  - **H.B. 586** – Annexation of roadway connecting city and annexed area
- Litigation Update





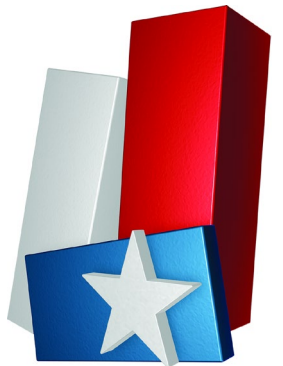
# City Finance and Tax

- Property tax relief the focus of regular and special sessions.
- Legislature addressed city fees more than other revenue sources.
- Few bills passed addressing city sales taxes or city debt.
- Significant legislation that passed:
  - **H.B. 1228** – Electronic property tax communication system
  - **H.B. 1922** – 10-year renewal of building permit fees
  - **H.B. 3492** – Prohibits value-based city permit fees
  - **S.B. 577** – Local alcohol fees and public health districts
  - **S.B. 1420** – Local HOT reporting



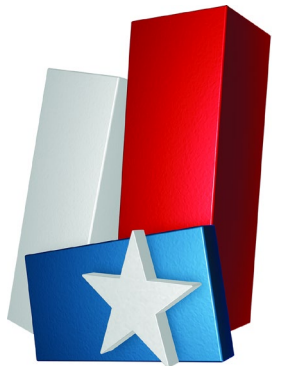
# Economic Development

- Former Chapter 313 school value limitations were updated and recodified, with indirect impact on cities. Some positive economic development authority passed for cities, along with expanded reporting requirements.
- Significant legislation that passed:
  - **H.B. 5** – ISD tax limitation program
  - **S.B. 543** – City transfer of land in 380 agreements
  - **S.B. 1340** – Expands 380 and tax abatement reporting



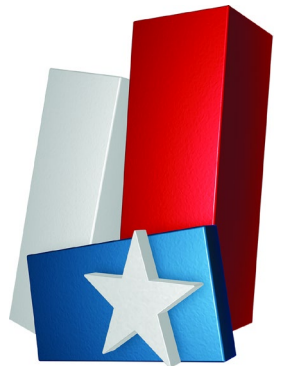
# Open Government and Elections

- As always, the session featured a push for increased transparency. Some of the legislation that passed will create additional work and expense for cities in years to come.
- Significant legislation that passed:
  - **H.B. 357** – Scheduling runoff elections
  - **H.B. 1434** – Staggering Type A alderman terms
  - **H.B. 2626** – Campaign finance reporting on city website
  - **H.B. 3033** – Omnibus PIA reform bill
  - **H.B. 3613** – Unified city elections after redistricting
  - **H.B. 5180** – Public inspection of voted ballots
  - **S.B. 943** – Requirements on newspapers to post notices



# Utilities and Environment

- Utility legislation highlighted with historic investments in broadband deployment and water infrastructure.
- Significant legislation that passed:
  - **H.B. 9/H.J.R. 125** – Broadband Infrastructure Fund
  - **S.B. 1238** – Eligibility for broadband funding
  - **S.B. 28/S.J.R. 75** – Texas Water Fund and Water Supply Fund
  - **S.B. 1017** – Local engine and energy source regulations
  - **S.B. 1860** – No city charter climate provisions





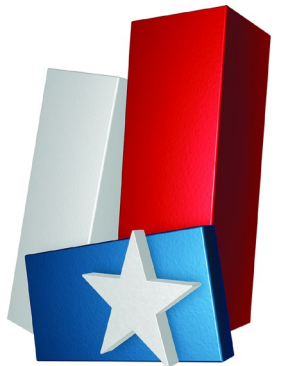
# Looking Ahead to 2025





# Grassroots Efforts

- Get to know your legislators, contact them often
- Stay informed on issues
- Understand the legislative process
- Become a resource for your legislator and TML
- Be able to act quickly during session





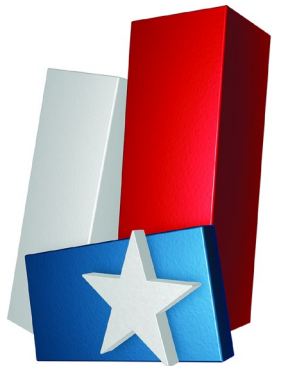
# TML Legislative Process

- **Municipal Policy Summit**

- August 12-13, 2024
- Policy briefing in Austin on all municipal issues
- Members appointed by TML President
- Report goes to annual business meeting for approval

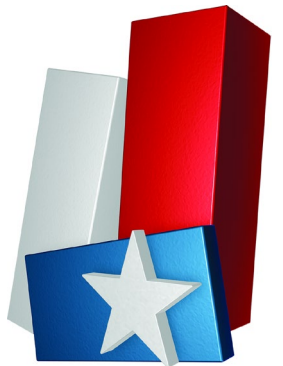
- **TML Business Meeting**

- Delegates consider resolutions submitted by the membership at Annual Conference
- One delegate from each city
- Resolutions due August 2024



# Stay Informed – TML Legislative

- TML *Legislative Update*
- Post-Session Update articles
- Full list of passed bills:  
[https://www.tml.org/DocumentCenter/View/3820/LU2023\\_23](https://www.tml.org/DocumentCenter/View/3820/LU2023_23)
- Call/email TML Legislative or Legal department with questions
- Monthly legislative webinars during session
- TML alert emails



# Questions?

