



Texas Public Policy Foundation

Agenda for the *85th* Legislature Special Session

Governor Greg Abbott has called a special session of the Texas Legislature, beginning July 18, 2017. Of the 20 items on the agenda, more than half are long-standing TPPF priorities. The special session, therefore, offers a significant opportunity to advance the following goals:

Empowering Texas Families

Empower Texas families through enhanced educational opportunities and quality.

- **School Finance:**
Overhaul—finally—Texas' antiquated, unjust regime of funding schools.
- **Teacher Pay:**
Incentivize excellent performance through a merit pay system, using funds from the excessive spending on non-instructional purposes.
- **Teacher Hiring and Retention:**
Ease restrictions on recruitment of best teachers and termination of low performers.
- **Education Choice for Special Needs Students:**
Enhance parents' ability to identify best options for their children.

Defending Local Liberty

Help citizens defend liberty from local government overreach.

- **Property Tax Reform:**
Enact rollback rate reform.
- **Cap on Local Spending:**
Stop the excessive rate of local government growth—which often occurs at expense of liberty and economic growth.
- **Local Government Permitting Reform:**
Eliminate costly permitting delays that reduce job growth and make living in cities less affordable.
- **Preventing Excessive Regulation of Trees:**
Stop the practice of some local governments that place trees over private property rights.
- **Municipal Annexation Reform:**
Allow residents the right to vote on whether their property will be annexed by another jurisdiction.

Promoting Statewide Reform

Stop excessive government growth.

- **Cap on State Spending:**
Keep spending growth to less than population growth plus inflation.
- **Paycheck Protection:**
Stop governments from being dues collectors for unions.
- **Mail-in Ballot Fraud:**
Protect the integrity of the ballot box.

Look for our TPPF Guide to the Special Session, to be released on July 10!