



Conservative Texas Budget vs. Legislature's Budget

Conservative Texas Budget: \$234.1 Billion
House Budget: \$246.5 Billion (\$12.4 billion over)
Senate Budget: \$239.1 Billion (\$5 billion over)

Type (Millions)	Appropriated 2018-19	House Budget 2020-21	Senate Budget 2020-21	CTB 2020-21 Limits Pop+Inf: 8%	House v. CTB 2020-21	Senate v. CTB 2020-21
GR	\$106,663.2	\$117,423.1	\$116,830.0			
GR-D	\$6,295.4	\$6,303.5	\$6,133.0			
Other	\$31,795.0	\$41,833.1	\$37,070.0			
State Total	\$144,753.6	\$165,559.6	\$160,033.0	\$156,491.0	\$9,068.6	\$3,542.0
Federal	\$71,854.7	\$80,923.9	\$79,090.0			
All Funds Total	\$216,608.3	\$246,483.5	\$239,123.0	\$234,098.5	\$12,385.0	\$5,024.5
GR Change		10.1%	9.5%			
State Change		14.4%	10.6%			
Federal Change		12.6%	10.1%			
All Change		13.8%	10.4%			

Legislature's 2020-21 Budgets

The table provides an apples-to-apples comparison of funds appropriated for the 2018-19 budget from the Legislative Budget Board's Fiscal Size-Up and the House's and Senate's versions of the committee substitute for House Bill 1 (CSHB 1) for the 2020-21 period. Both chambers' versions of the budget include any money in their respective supplemental bills for that period.

Excludes Harvey Recovery Money

We exclude from both chambers' 2020-21 budgets the designated Harvey recovery expenses of \$8.3 billion because these should be one-time expenditures.

Conservative Texas Budget

We compare the Senate's budget with the Conservative Texas Budget (CTB) limits for state funds and all funds (includes federal) based on an increase of 8 percent in population growth and inflation over the last two fiscal years.

Comparison Results

Both chambers' budgets exceed the CTB limits in state funds and all funds. Even if the \$2.7 billion currently designated to property tax relief in both budgets was excluded from the spending limit, they would exceed the CTB limits and provide little-to-no tax relief.

Recommendation

The Legislature could get below the CTB limits by repurposing the \$2.3 billion tentatively allocated to public education and the \$2.7 billion currently dedicated to generic property tax relief to lasting property tax reductions beginning in the 2020-21 biennium. In order to be exempted from the CTB spending calculations, the \$5 billion would have to be used to buy down school property taxes using a mechanism similar to the one outlined in the Foundation's plan: [Abolishing the "Robin Hood" School Property Tax](#)