

## First week of the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

The first week of the 88th Legislature was a busy one. Tuesday, January 10, Rep. Dade Phelan was able to beat his opponent for Speaker Tony Tinderholt by a vote of 145 to 3.

On Wednesday House leadership was able to shut down a long-building push to ban Democrat committee chairs by deploying a procedural legislative maneuver to defeat multiple proposals on the issue despite many Texans showing up to support banning this decades old practice. Banning Democrat chairs was second on the list of the state's official legislative priorities for 2023. State GOP Chairman Matt Rinaldi of Irving, though not at the rally, said in a written statement that Phelan "showed utter contempt for Republican voters by refusing to even allow a vote" on the proposition of prohibiting minority-party committee chiefs.

Later in the day the chamber was able to pass a rules amendment to punish members who break quorum including a \$500 fine for each day a member is gone. Those members are also responsible for their share of the cost of dispatching the sergeant at arms to bring back members to restore quorum. The chamber passed the overall rules package by vote of 123 to 19 with Democrats making most of the opposition.

In the coming days, the Speaker will start appointing committee chairs. It is critical that you make your voice known by contacting your representative.

You can find who represents you by going to [Who Represents Me](#) or my mailing them at the address below.

To a State Senator:  
The Honorable (Senator's Full Name)  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711

To a State Representative:  
The Honorable (Representative's Full Name)  
Texas House of Representatives P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

You can also visit the [Texas Legislature Online](#) to follow bills

Thank you,  
Matt Okerson  
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