

Week 2 of the 88th Legislative Session

As the second week of the 88th Legislature wraps up, the House and Senate call for \$130.1 billion in state spending over the next two years. The proposals leave more than \$50 billion up for grabs. Gov. Greg Abbott said in his inauguration speech that Legislature will prioritize the budget surplus on schools and the power grid. The [House](#) and [Senate](#) bills both include \$15 billion for property tax relief, \$1.8 billion for state employee pay raises and \$4.6 billion for the Governor's border security program, [Operation Lone Star](#). In total the state has \$188.2 billion in funds available over the next spending cycle including the \$32.7 billion in cash reserves.

Gambling proposals are gaining traction in the Legislature. [SJR17](#) could allow a public vote on expanding gambling in [Texas](#). It was filed by state Sen. Carol Alvarado. "We would have a casino in Houston, one in Dallas, one in Austin, and one in San Antonio. So it's very specific. This is not, you know, people putting in a blackjack table or slot machine in their bar. This is very specific," said Alvarado.

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 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,
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