

89th Legislative Session Recap... for now

Tuesday, June 10, 2025



Get to Know Texas Councils of Government (COGs)



Texas Association
of Regional Councils

What are COGs?

Councils of governments (COG), regional councils or regional planning commissions are political subdivisions created under Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 391 to **improve the health, safety and general welfare of residents and to plan for future development.**

Texas COG regions are made up of **counties, cities, school districts and special districts** and were developed from 1966 to the early 1970s.

Regional councils **are political subdivisions** but have no authority to make laws, levy taxes or exercise police powers.

Each council's policy decisions are made by its board of directors. At least two-thirds of this governing body **must be elected officials from participating counties or municipalities.**

What is TARC?

The **Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC)** is the statewide association of COGs whose members are **focused on enhancing quality of life** through regional strategies, partnerships and solutions.

COG activities typically include planning for:



Workforce Development



Housing Programs



Emergency Communications



Transportation Planning
& Rural Transit



Disaster Preparedness &
Recovery



Community & Economic
Development



Aging & Disability
Resource Centers



Services & Supports for
Older Texans



Environmental Quality

How are COGs funded?

COGs primarily receive funding through federal grants but also receive funding from state and local sources.

\$1.02 BILLION

The amount of funding that Texas' 24 member COGs collectively received, administered and awarded in revenue from federal, state and local sources in FY2020. Each COG is **required by statute** to report certain data annually, including the amount and source of funds expended and received. They are frequently audited, both by funders and by independent auditing firms.

The Value of Regionalism

Texas' 24 COGs are comprised of city, county and special district members working together to implement cost-effective, results-oriented strategies that address statewide and local needs on a regional scale for more than 50 years.



Local expertise solving regional challenges | TARC's member COGs are a bridge between federal, state and local governments.



Statewide coverage, regional focus | TARC's member COGs help local governments find solutions to pressing emerging issues, from water and environmental quality to broadband and planning for older Texans.



Finding common ground across Texas | TARC and its member COGs work with state and federal partners on vital projects and its initiatives.

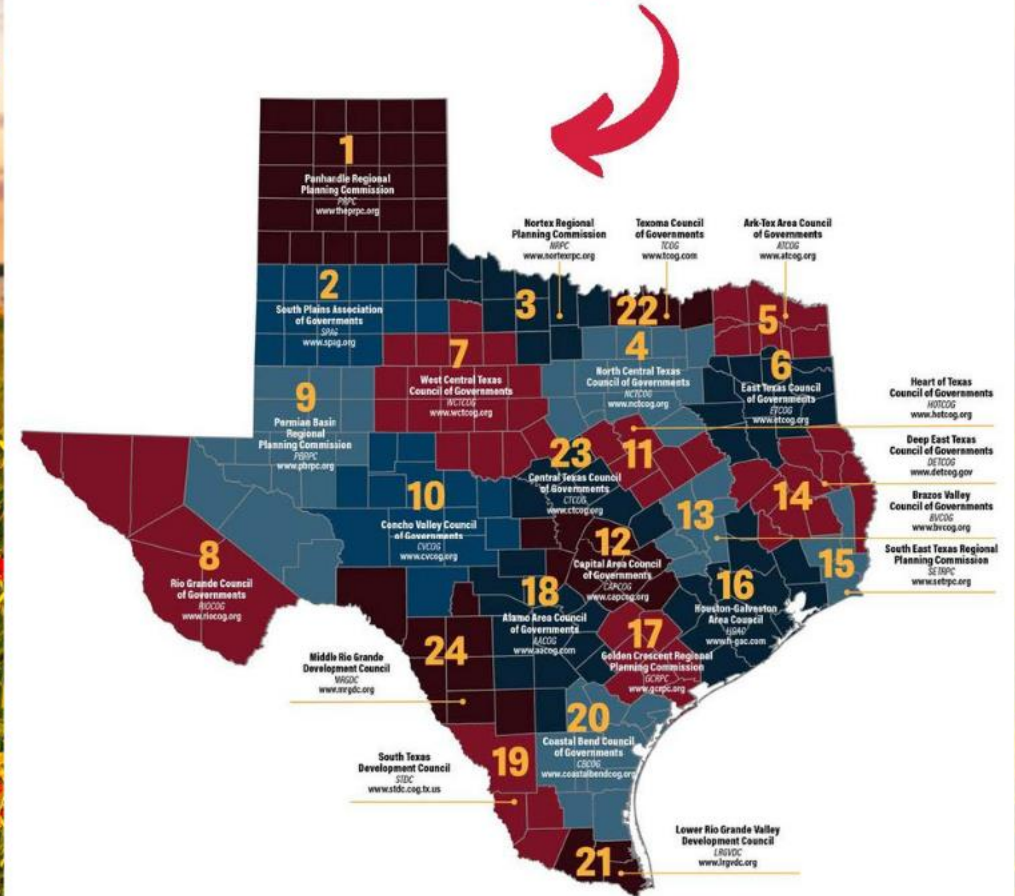


Building regional partnerships | TARC's member COGs help spur economic development across Texas by strengthening efficiency and cooperation across geographic boundaries.

Statewide Coverage

24 COGs
serving all 254
counties

Get to know your local
COG on the map below.



Learn
More



www.TXRegionalCouncil.org



[@txregionalism](https://twitter.com/txregionalism)



Texas Association
of Regional Councils

Updated March 3, 2025



Big Picture

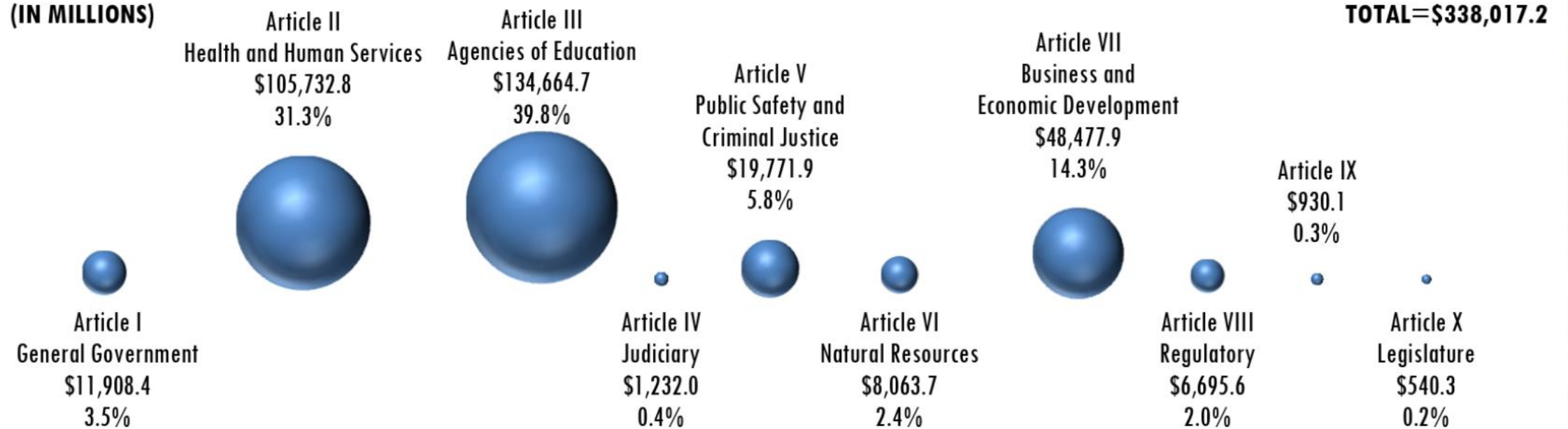
- **Bills Filed 8,719**
- **Percentage Passed 13.8%**
 - (Usual Average is 20%)
- **Governor's Veto Period Ends June 22, 2025**
- **Where did the time go?**
 - Speaker's Race
 - House Local & Consent
 - Three Friends

	House Bills (HBs) & House Joint Resolutions (HJR)	Senate Bills (SBs) & Senate Joint Resolutions (SJR)
Filed	5,852	3,162
Reported out of committee	1,901	1,116
Passed by chamber of origin	1,178	1,004
Referred to committee in opposite chamber	1,004	996
Reported out of committee in opposite chamber	670	819
Passed opposite chamber	633	606
Sent to the Governor	617	566
Signed by the Governor	95	213
Filed without the Governor's signature	8	16
<u>Vetoed</u> by the Governor	1	1

FUNDING BY ARTICLE

FIGURE 1
FUNDING BY ARTICLE, ALL FUNDS

(IN MILLIONS)



NOTE: Object size is proportional to the percentage of recommended All Funds appropriation for all articles.

SOURCE: Legislative Budget Board.

Major Priorities Passed in Education

SB 2: Private school vouchers

- \$1billion
- Creates ESAs to pay for private school tuition and expenses of around \$10,500, \$2,000 for homeschoolers or up to \$30K for students receiving special education
- Administered by Comptroller and set up by 2026-2027

HB 2: Teacher pay raises

- \$8.5 billion for public schools
- Nearly half will go to pay raises for teachers and support staff, \$1.3 billion goes to districts to use on overhead expenses and hundreds of millions more are set aside for special education, teacher preparation, early learning, merit-based teacher pay and other legislative priorities.
- Raises Allotment by \$55

SB 10: Ten Commandments in schools

HB 1481: Cell phone restrictions in schools

- ISDs adopt policies by beginning of next school year. Medical exception



Property-Related Bills

SB 17: Ban on foreign land ownership

- Citizens of China, Russia, North Korea and Iran
- Does not apply to US citizens, LPRs but visa holders are restricted to small properties for residential
- Gives Governor power to designate other countries as hostile

SB 38: Squatters crackdown

SB 4: Property tax cuts

- Raised homestead exemption from \$100K to \$140K
- Seniors and disabled to \$200K
- Must be approved by voters in November with cost to state of \$4b
- \$51b set aside for new and current

Entertainment Tonight



SB 3: THC Ban

- All cannabis compounds like delta-8 & 9 would be illegal
- 53K employees and 8,500 retail locations

SB 22: Film incentives

- \$1.5 billion over next 10 years

HB 46: Medical marijuana expansion

- The Texas Compassionate Use Program will expand to serve people with chronic pain
- The program will also issue new licenses to medical marijuana companies and allow them to establish satellite locations in far-flung areas of the state.

SB 3070: Lottery reform

- Abolish the Texas Lottery Commission and give over control to TDLR
- Revisit in 2029



Infrastructure

HJR 7/SB 7: Billions for water security

- \$1b/ 20 year carve out of state's sales tax revenue
- Split between new water projects and aging infrastructure
- Administered by TWDB
- Ballot in November

Misc. Action

- **HB 3010: Rural Infrastructure Disaster Recovery Program**
 - Critical Infrastructure: roads, schools, hospitals, water treatment facilities
 - Covers smaller disasters (non-FEMA)
- **HB 149: Regulating AI**
 - Ask CHAT GPT 😊
- **HB 1522: Open Meetings**
 - Three business days in place accessible at all times
 - Physical copy of budget is being discussed or adopted, physical copy + taxpayer impact statement
- Where do I get more detailed information?
 - TML 89th Legislative Wrap Up : June 27
 - TAC Legislative Conference: August 27-29





What's on the Horizon

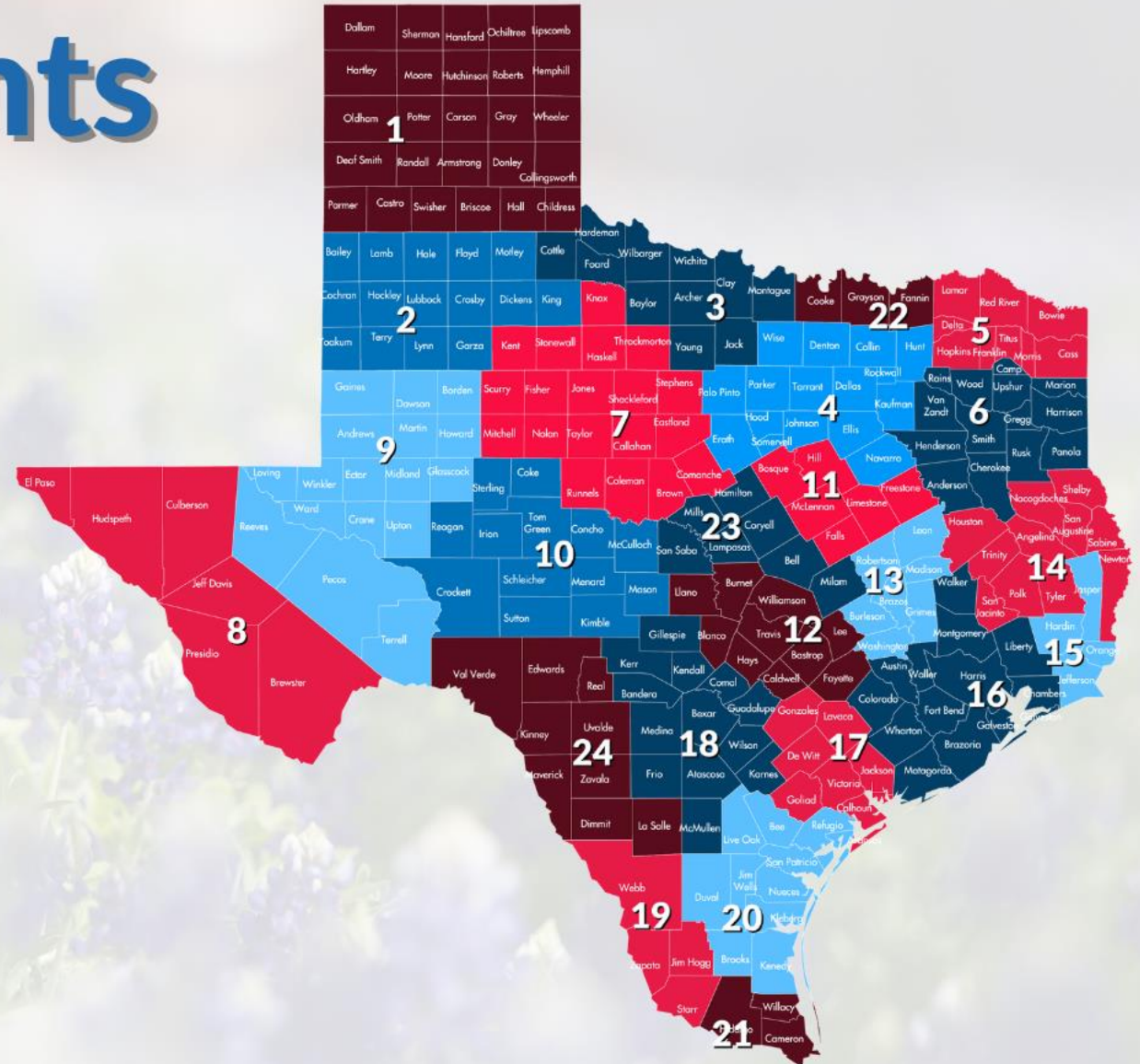
- Federal Action and Uncertainty
 - \$11b for Operation Lonestar
 - Federal Program Cuts to States
 - Congressional Redistricting
 - House Districts
 - Special Session Required
 - March Primaries
- Economic Stabilization Fund projected to be \$28.5 billion by August of 2027

Locating Grants

Contact your COG -
they know grants!

A lot of state & federal
grant awards flow through
the regional process.

COGs can assist with
applications or identifying
partnerships to strengthen
your projects.





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