



# The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator Pete Flores

District 24

## Senate District 24 Capitol Update: Second Called Special Session Updates and a Happy Fourth of July!

I hope everyone had a happy Fourth of July celebrating our country's freedoms and independence! Last week I had the privilege to participate in a few parades in Belton and Castroville and my district liaison, Willie Gonzalez, took part in the Kingsland parade. It was nice to be out in the district amidst the back to back special sessions to get to spend time with many of you and celebrate our great nation.

### Second Called Special Session begins:

Immediately following the end of the first called special session, Governor Abbott called the legislature back into action. This time, property tax reform was the lone issue on the call. After inaction from the House during the first special, the work was unfinished and Texans were left with no relief – unacceptable.

The Senate was back to work on Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and unanimously passed another historic property tax reform package. The provisions closely mirror the last package we passed in the first special with one key addition – **teacher pay raises!** Senate Bill 1 and Senate Joint Resolution 1 (88(2)) provide the following:

- Increases the property tax cut by \$400 million to a total of \$18 billion. The additional \$400 million is going toward lowering the ISD Collection Limit Rate (CLR).
- Provides a total of \$12.7 billion for ISD tax rate reduction and lowering the CLR, which benefits all Texas property tax payers.
- Exemption for paying the franchise tax for business expands by doubling to \$2.47 million, which will remove 67,000 small to medium-sized business from paying the franchise tax.
- 4. Reduces the ISD CLR from 2.5% to 1.75%, a 30% permanent reduction in future tax levy increases paid by local taxpayers.
- Removes the requirement to file a No-Tax Due franchise tax return, saving businesses both time and money.
- Includes a provision that restricts all taxing units from reducing or eliminating any existing local option homestead exemptions for a period of four years. *This provision was not a part of SB 26 (88(1)).*
- A \$2,000 supplemental one time payment to all Texas teachers, and an additional \$4,000 for teachers in districts with enrollment under 20,000.

Providing our teachers with this raise has been a priority of the Senate. We passed Senate Bill 9 (88R) early in April of the regular session, and it sat in the House and eventually failed to pass. Texas teachers consistently go above and beyond their duties to provide for their students, and deserve higher wages for their impactful work.

In total, SB 1 and SJR 1 (88(2)) put **\$21 billion** back into the pockets of Texas taxpayers! I look forward to the House's swift action to consider these necessary reforms and relief. As I've said many times now, Texans deserve to truly own their property and should not be taxed out of their generational homes. SB 1 and SJR 1 must pass now, and I'll continue to advocate for this issue until we complete the work to provide meaningful relief that genuinely puts dollars back in your pocketbooks!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can ever be of service to you and your family. Whether it be needing help with a state agency, or making your thoughts on a bill heard, please contact your office either by phone at (512) 463-0124 or by email to [pete.flores@senate.texas.gov](mailto:pete.flores@senate.texas.gov) or via my state website.