TASA Legislative Update
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Political Landscape

- House Democrats need 9 seats to flip the R House to a D
  - Party sees as many as 22 opportunities
  - Must also protect the previous 12 that they picked up last cycle

- Leading Texas Forward PAC
  - Karl Rove
  - 5 million dollar goal
  - $934,275.77 COH
Political Landscape, cont.

- Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer – One Texas PAC = $500,503.47
  - $100,000 to House Democratic Campaign Caucus

- HDCC raised $291,000 in the second half of last year
  - $623,047 COH
  - $1,537,572.47 contributed

- 16.6 million voters (almost 2 million more than previous Presidential race)

- New Speaker?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likely Republican</th>
<th>Lean Republican</th>
<th>Toss-up</th>
<th>Lean Democratic</th>
<th>Likely Democratic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HD17 (Cyrrier-R)</td>
<td>HD14 (Raney-R)</td>
<td>HD67 (Leach-R)</td>
<td>HD31 (Guillen-D)</td>
<td>HD34 (Herrero-D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD23 (Middleton-R)</td>
<td>HD26 open (R)</td>
<td>HD96 open (R)</td>
<td>HD45 (Zwiener-D)</td>
<td>HD41 (Guerra-D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HD70 (Sanford-R)</td>
<td>HD28 (Gates-R)</td>
<td>HD112 (Button-R)</td>
<td>HD47 (Goodwin-D)</td>
<td>HD105 (Meza-D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HD84 (Frullo-R)</td>
<td>HD29 (E. Thompson-R)</td>
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<td>HD52 (Talarico-D)</td>
<td>HD107 (Neave-D)</td>
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<td>HD85 (Stephenson-R)</td>
<td>HD32 (Hunter-R)</td>
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<td>HD65 (Beckley-D)</td>
<td>HD114 (Turner-D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HD89 (Noble-R)</td>
<td>HD54 (Buckley-R)</td>
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<td>HD66 (Shaheen-R)</td>
<td>HD115 (Ju. Johnson-D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HD106 (Patterson-R)</td>
<td>HD64 (Stucky-R)</td>
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<td>HD74 open (D)</td>
<td>HD117 (Cortez-D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HD122 (Larson-R)</td>
<td>HD92 open (R)</td>
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<td>HD102 (Ramos-D)</td>
<td>HD118 (Pacheco-D)</td>
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<td>HD129 (Paul-R)</td>
<td>HD93 (Krause-R)</td>
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<td>HD108 (Meyer-R)</td>
<td>HD136 (Bucy-D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HD133 (Murphy-R)</td>
<td>HD94 (Tinderholt-R)</td>
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<td>HD113 (Bowers-D)</td>
<td>HD144 (Perez-D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HD150 (Swanson-R)</td>
<td>HD97 (Goldman-R)</td>
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<td>HD132 (Calanni-D)</td>
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<td>HD121 (Allison-R)</td>
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<td>HD134 (S. Davis-R)</td>
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<td>HD126 (Harless-R)</td>
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<td>HD135 (Rosenthal-D)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>HD138 open (R)</td>
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</table>
Currently, 19 Rs and 12 Ds
- 19 votes needed for legislation to be brought to the floor
- Previously, 21 (2/3) and now 3/5

SD 19 – Flores has traditionally been a D seat
- Gutierrez, Xochil Pena Rodriguez, Belinda Shvetz

SD-30 – Fallon running for Congress
- Timing? House Majority?

“I’m right there at that number, and if we lose one or two seats, then we might have to go to 16 next session.” – Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, January 23rd, 2020.
Timing is everything

- May 2 local election allowed to be pushed to November
  - Bond elections & school board elections

- Mail-in Voting

- Census Extension
  - Census Bureau seeking 120 additional calendar day relief from Congress
    - October 31, 2020 – field data and self-response due
    - April 30, 2021 - apportionment counts due to President Trump
    - July 31, 2021 – redistricting data due to states

- Special Session
- Further delays & March 2022 primary election
Important Election Dates

Important 2020 Election Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 5, 2020</td>
<td>Last Day to Register to Vote</td>
<td>votetexas.gov/register-to-vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19-30</td>
<td>Early Voting for November 3 General Election</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>General Election Day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Early Voting Correction – Begins October 13th!

- TASA Toolkits and Resources on www.tasanet.org
- Click Advocacy then Toolkits/Resources
- Includes information in English and Spanish that may be posted;
- Pertinent information re: Voting, advertising, and more!
Comptroller Talk

- State’s current Revenue projected to be –$11.5 billion below prior projection - is 9.5% decline
- Shortfall for FY 2020-21 is now $4.6 billion
  - October 2019 Comptroller projected a surplus of $2.9 billion
- Projections lowered due COVID and to uncertainty and decline in oil prices
- The state’s current budget cycle runs thru August of 2021 – and continues thru session
Revenue Increases—Unanticipated

- $1.2 b CARES Act (reduces state obligation to GR to fund FSP)
- Property values increased more than projected so that lessens the state’s burden in GR for FSP money
- Increased collections resulting in online sales tax
  - still seem to be some cheaters per GH
- These are keeping the shortfall from being around $7.5b
Hegar Cautious Outlook

- Lots of caveats with this year’s budget projections ending in August 2021
  - We don’t know what we don’t know
  - There’s an unprecedented amount of uncertainty
  - His estimates could change dramatically in the next several months
  - Updated projections coming
Assumptions in This Estimate

▶ Most COVID restrictions will be lifted in the Fall
▶ No additional government shutdowns of businesses
▶ No future federal funding
Tools for Current Crisis

▶ Federal funding – will there be more legislation passed going forward?
▶ State’s RDF/ESF expected to be $8.8 Billion at end of FY 21
▶ Reduction request of agencies – May 2020, Abbott requested 5% reduction for most state agencies for current biennium
▶ While oil prices have increased and some recent sales taxes have too– remember we need to catch up from prior losses, etc.
Existing Shortfalls in 2021

- Add the $4.6 Billion, to what was underfunded last session - like Medicaid - to the “Supplemental Budget/Appropriations”
- Legislators will need to pass to cover bills from the current biennium ending August 2021
  - In addition to recent shortfalls from COVID and oil crisis/prices
- Looking ahead to 2023 session – real budget scare?
Building the Next Biennial Budget

- Lots of Caution on the projections for the FY 2200-23 that legislature relies on for next session’s budgeting
  - After they shore up current biennial shortfalls – what will they have to build the next biennial budget?
    - Current projection is $110 billion
  - Will there be a request for agencies to revise their LARs with reductions for the upcoming biennium?
  - Will funding from 2019 continue with HB 3?
    - Fully fund, cut some programs, delay implementation?
- School Safety Allotment
- Zero-based budgeting – Senate Finance
Issues next session are daunting

- State budget
- Fallout from COVID, tax revenue declines, oil prices and economic markets – both state and local, unemployment
- Redistricting – April numbers
- New Speaker
- Governor, Lt. Governor will be on the 2022 ballot – along with other statewide elected officials
What’s on the PE Agenda?

- School Choice
- School finance – COVID, HB 3, cuts, delays
- “Taxpayer” funded lobbying
- Broadband connectivity / digital access
- Virtual Learning – funding, expansions, virtual charters
- Assessment & Accountability
- TRS sunset review
- Charter schools – transparency
- Personal financial literacy – graduation requirement
Legislature Open to Public?

- Capitol area complex buildings, including the state capitol and Governor’s mansion, are still closed to visitors
- Most state agencies are still working remotely
- Many committees are simply asking for submissions on interim charges in lieu of holding in-person or remote meetings
- What will hearings and floor debate look like?
  - Live testimony? virtual hearings? Workgroups vs. Committees?
  - Who has access?
What to Do Now?

▶ Start conversations with legislators today!
  ▶ Session may be too late – especially if few hearings, closed/limited access to the public

▶ Share information on cuts from 2011 – and compare how those same cuts would impact your district

▶ Educate legislators on what 1% to 5% cuts look like in your ISD
  ▶ Don’t just give dollar amounts
  ▶ Equate to employees and cuts to programs
  ▶ Enrollment numbers from this year – what declines mean to your ISD
Assessment and Accountability

- Letters advocating the Governor request a waiver for STAAR from USDE & waive state-level high stakes (TAMSA, and various legislators and trustees)
- Immediate district priorities are student/staff health and safety
- Unequal playing field for students in 2020-21 just as in spring 2020
- Secretary of Education correspondence to Chief State School Officers dated 9/3/2020 stating no waivers for testing in 2021
TASA Recs to HPE Committee: 1(B) Assessment/Accountability

- Remove TEC §39.101(c) that applies the same sanctions and interventions to certain D-rated campuses as those applied to F-rated campuses.

- Remove the provision in TEC §39.054 that states, “A district may not receive an overall or domain performance rating of A if the district includes any campus with a corresponding overall or domain performance rating of D or F.”

- Waive the A-F rating system for the 2020-2021 school year.
Carefully review and consider the concerns and recommendations of the State’s APAC and ATAC members.

July 2020 meetings:

- Concern about instructional loss from COVID-19 and academic growth for 2021;
- Need to deemphasize high stakes testing;
- Need to focus on diagnostic testing and intervention;
- Need to reset targets;
- Concern that schools will be punished for lack of performance, and;
- Consider four options for moving forward with the State’s Accountability System in 2021.
Potential Approaches: 2021 Accountability

▶ Option One: Maintain Status Quo
▶ Option Two: Modified System
▶ Option Three: Adapted/Temporary System
▶ Option Four: Transitional System
USDE Guidance

- Too early to speculate on allowable waivers for 2021
- Federal accountability appears to be required
- USDE developing an addendum template for states to use outside of state plan that lists all that was impacted (e.g., weights, targets, and other one-year changes)
  - Summer template release is anticipated, due in late 2020
  - Changes will apply for one year
  - Requires public comment
  - Includes a streamlined review process
Maintain Flexibility in High School Graduation Programs

Oppose legislation that would implement additional course requirements for high school graduation or reduce the number of elective courses currently available to students to take as part of the Foundation High School Program.

- Anticipate legislation to be filed mandating a Personal Financial Literacy (PFL) course as graduation requirement
- School trustees may already add PFL as local graduation requirement
- What are students expected to give up for new requirement?
- PFL already included in TEKS beginning with kindergarten
- What is the role of higher education and the banking industry in PFL?