



Hello TCA Members!

It's that time again - the Texas Legislature has returned to Austin for its biennial legislative session. The House and the Senate convened on Tuesday, January 14th for the 140-day session that will conclude on June 2.

The Legislature

Because it was the first week of Session, the Legislature's business was largely ceremonial and organizational, but not without fireworks. As you may know, there has been a contentious race brewing in the House for Speaker. Former Speaker Dade Phelan had indicated in early December that he would not run again. There were three members that threw their hats in the ring: Rep. David Cook (R-Mansfield); Rep. Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock); and Rep. Ana-María Rodríguez Ramos (D-Richardson). After two rounds of voting, the House elected Rep. Dustin Burrows as speaker, 85-55 (Rep. Ramos lost the first round; runoff was between Cook and Burrows). The headline being the breakdown of Speaker Burrows' votes of 36 Republicans and 49 Democrats. Now we wait and see what kind of retribution is in store, if any, for Republicans who voted for Rep. Cook. The first clue will be House committee assignments which are expected early next month.

As far as the other chamber goes, the Senate elected a new President Pro-Tempore, Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe); and Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) is the new "Dean" of the Senate (longest serving member of the Senate).

Both the House and the Senate have adjourned until Wednesday, January 22th due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and presidential inauguration on Monday.

TCA Walk on the Capital

TCA's biennial Walk on the Capital will take place in just a few - February 11th - 12th. Be sure to register on the TCA website - there is NO COST to TCA members to attend the Walk, but you must be a member of the TCA PAC to attend the Roundup Reception with legislators and staff. If you are not already a TCA PAC member, you can join and attend the Roundup Reception for a \$200 contribution (admittance for you and a guest). If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Patrick or myself.

TCA Legislative Issues

The TCA Board adopted a legislative agenda for the 2025 session and it has been posted on the TCA website. Visit the Government Affairs tab for more information.

Additionally, I will be utilizing the same Legislative Alert system as last session later in the Spring when our bills are before committees or on the House or Senate floor calendar. Keep an eye out for my Alert emails. It is important that you register your position with your legislator in a timely fashion.

As always, please feel free to email or call me with any questions.

Jennifer Fagan

Vice President - Governmental Affairs

Texas Construction Association

jfagan@texcon.org

(512) 473-3773