



Senator Peter P. Flores

Highlights from the 86th Texas Legislature

Representing All Parts of Senate District 19

Senator Flores authored or sponsored dozens of constituent-focused bills, representing all interests across Senate District 19. For San Antonio, Sen. Flores sponsored legislation allowing the Texas General Land Office to sell the G.J. Sutton Building, east of downtown. The building has been unused for years, costing taxpayers \$300,000 annually for security and upkeep; legislative approval was required prior to selling the building. He also passed legislation allowing Texas A&M University – San Antonio to create an athletics program, fostering school spirit, enhancing student culture, and promoting the school's brand.

Sen. Flores passed legislation to allow the cities of Pearsall and Carrizo Springs to use money derived from their hotel occupancy taxes for economic development projects. For Pecos, Sen. Flores passed legislation to create the West Pecos Management District: a 1,000+ acre area that will construct and finance infrastructure improvements to address critical housing and other community needs in the area. For Maverick County, Sen. Flores authored and passed a bill to allow the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas to commission peace officers, reducing the public safety strain on local city and county law enforcement. To foster business growth in the district, Sen. Flores cosponsored legislation legalizing industrial hemp, matching Texas law with federal standards.

Senate District 19 Financial Investments

Sen. Flores fought for Senate District 19's financial well-being as a member of the budget-writing Senate Finance Committee during the 86th Texas Legislature. Sen. Flores secured over \$200 million of infrastructure for the district, including a crucial \$190.3 million for the renovation of San Antonio State Hospital (SASH). SASH serves 12 of the 17 counties in Senate District 19. He also secured \$13 million for UT Health San Antonio, a leader in neurological research, and an additional \$1.9 million to the Veterans Commission for increased access to rural Veterans Claims Counseling.

Property Tax Relief and Reform

One issue united all constituents of Senate District 19: ever-rising property taxes, forcing families out of homes and closing businesses. Sen. Flores addressed this top issue as a coauthor of the Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of 2019, which provides immediate property tax relief and limits future tax-rate growth. This is achieved by \$5 billion being allocated for property tax relief through the compression of school district tax rates. For long term impact, the Legislature provided property tax reform by lowering the voter-approval tax rate threshold, formerly known as the rollback rate, from 8% to 3.5%. This means moving forward, taxing units attempting to raise taxes by more than 3.5% annually will need voter approval first.

Educating the Future of Texas

The school finance system was in dire need of reform: the Legislature started by increasing the basic allotment schools receive per student from \$5,140 to \$6,160—the largest increase in a decade, giving schools more resources for students, classrooms, and teachers. The Legislature also allocated \$2 billion for dynamic pay raises for teachers, librarians, counselors, and nurses, including \$140 million for a merit pay program to reward good teachers with better pay. For the educators who have already served this state, the Legislature provided a "13th check" for all eligible retirees under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas to receive a one-time supplemental check up to \$2,000. The Legislature also allocated funds to preserve current health care insurance costs, avoiding a spike in prices for retired educators.