

Capitol Update from Senator Pete Flores

Howdy to all constituents of Senate District 24,

As we mark the completion of the first thirty days of the legislative session, I am pleased to share some significant updates and developments from the Texas Senate.

Budget Proposal: Senate Bill 1

The Texas Senate has introduced a comprehensive budget proposal for the 2026-27 biennium, amounting to \$332.9 billion. This proposal, encapsulated in Senate Bill 1, emphasizes key areas such as property tax relief, public education, and infrastructure development. Here are the main highlights:

- **Property Tax Relief:** A substantial allocation of \$32.2 billion is earmarked for tax reductions, including increased homestead exemptions. Further discussions are underway to potentially expand these exemptions significantly.
- **Education Funding:** The proposal includes between \$4.9 billion and \$5.3 billion for public schools and a \$1 billion Education Savings Account (ESA) program to bolster school choice initiatives. Teacher pay raises also feature prominently, with a \$4,000 statewide raise and an additional \$6,000 for rural teachers.
- **Infrastructure Investments:** Key investments include \$5 billion for the Texas Energy Fund, \$2.5 billion for water infrastructure, and \$40.4 billion for the Texas Department of Transportation.

Committee Leadership and Legislative Focus

I am honored to have been appointed by Lt. Governor Patrick Chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee for the 89th Legislative Session. Our first hearing focused on bail reform legislation, a critical issue designated as an emergency item by Governor Greg Abbott. The hearing was emotionally charged, and I am pleased that the committee agreed to consider these bills favorably. My focus will continue to be on public safety and addressing the concerns of crime victims.

Proposed Legislation for Senate District 24

I have filed several bills to address pressing issues in our district:

- **SB 247:** Expands eligibility for local government relief for disabled veterans exemption.
- **SB 244:** Proposes to freeze homestead property tax appraisal to the purchase price of your home.
- **SB 251:** Aims to create criminal law magistrates for Bell County.
- **SB 1194:** Seeks to establish the Central Texas Water Alliance to tackle water issues in the central Texas region.

Next Steps and Engagement

As we proceed into the next thirty days, Senate Committees will begin hearings on crucial bills affecting our citizens. I encourage you to reach out to our Capitol office with your thoughts and suggestions. The most effective solutions often come from those closest to the issues at hand.

For more information or to contact me, please visit my official website: [Senate District 24 Website](#).

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter P. Flores". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Pete Flores