



See how **pro-taxpayer** and **pro-property rights** your Texas state legislators were on transportation and property rights legislation in the 86th Session of the Texas State Legislature in 2019.

The overall methodology & list of the bills used to compile this Report Card can be found on the last two pages.

REPORT CARD

Governor Greg Abbott

One of the big reasons Texans didn't see any major toll road bills advance during the 86th legislative session was in large part due to Governor Abbott's 'No toll' pledge when he ran for office (and reiterated ever since). However, he didn't back any of our anti-toll reform bills, leaving all of them to die in committee. If the Governor had added our reforms to his emergency items as he did for Prop 7 when he took office, they would have passed. When the toll tax burden is now over \$3/mile on some Texas highways during rush hour, keeping the status quo doesn't go far enough to reduce this crushing tax burden on driving. *Texans need toll tax relief!*

B

Lt Governor Dan Patrick

Though none of our anti-toll reform bills got a hearing AGAIN, **Sen. Robert Nichols**, whom Patrick appointed as Senate Transportation Committee Chair, did stop every bad toll road and tax/fee hike bill that came over from the House. This was a victory and kept the grassroots in having to mount repeated fights to stop these bills on the floor of the Senate. Given the voting records of the senators during the 86th, all of the bad bills would likely have passed. However, as is the case with the Governor, keeping the status quo doesn't go far enough in reducing the overall toll tax burden felt daily by Texas drivers and families struggling to make ends meet. With non-toll highway expansion failing to keep up with the growth in congestion, few in our urban areas have a choice but to pay tolls to get to work.

B

Speaker Dennis Bonnen

The Speaker appointed Rep. Terry Canales as Chair of House Transportation, who betrayed the trust of voters by flip flopping on the toll issue after promising, in writing, that he was anti-toll when he ran for office and sought the endorsement of Texans for Toll-free Highways, PAC. Canales proceeded to pass virtually every bad toll road bill and many tax/fee hike bills all session long, including authoring one to extend the SH 130 public private partnership contract (on the road that's already gone bankrupt once) for another 20 years! Meanwhile, he sent our anti-toll reform bills to a subcommittee to die (giving them a hearing far too late in the session for them to have a prayer of passing), never bringing up a single one for a vote in committee despite massive grassroots support for it.

F

The House of Representatives



REPORT CARD



| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|-----|-------|
| House District 131 | Alma | Allen | 10% | F |
| House District 121 | Steve | Allison | 33% | F |
| House District 103 | Rafael | Anchia | 10% | F |
| House District 56 | Charles "Doc" | Anderson | 38% | F |
| House District 57 | Trent | Ashby | 48% | F |
| House District 18 | Ernest | Bailes | 24% | F |
| House District 65 | Michelle | Beckley | 14% | F |
| House District 3 | Cecil | Bell | 76% | C+ |
| House District 4 | Keith | Bell | 38% | F |
| House District 123 | Diego | Bernal | 11% | F* |
| House District 73 | Kyle | Biedermann | 71% | B** |
| House District 76 | Cesar | Blanco | 10% | D- |
| House District 138 | Dwayne | Bohac | 81% | B** |
| House District 24 | Greg | Bonnen | 86% | B+** |
| House District 113 | Rhetta | Bowers | 5% | F |
| House District 54 | Brad | Buckley | 71% | C- |
| House District 136 | John | Bucy, III | 19% | F* |
| House District 58 | DeWayne | Burns | 67% | D+ |
| House District 83 | Dustin | Burrows | 46% | F |
| House District 112 | Angie Chen | Button | 29% | F |
| House District 128 | Briscoe | Cain | 95% | A+*** |
| House District 132 | Gina | Calanni | 10% | F* |
| House District 40 | Terry | Canales | 19% | F* |
| House District 98 | Giovanni | Caprigilone | 71% | C- |
| House District 11 | Travis | Clardy | 38% | F |
| House District 46 | Sheryl | Cole | 18% | F |
| House District 147 | Garnet F | Coleman | 19% | F |
| House District 95 | Nicole | Collier | 14% | F |
| House District 117 | Phillip | Cortez | 20% | F* |
| House District 82 | Tom | Craddick | 52% | F* |
| House District 17 | John | Cyrier | 67% | D+ |
| House District 72 | Drew | Darby | 33% | F |
| House District 134 | Sarah | Davis | 24% | F |
| House District 111 | Yvonne | Davis | 19% | F |
| House District 7 | Jay | Dean | 76% | C |
| House District 22 | Joe | Deshotel | 16% | F |
| House District 37 | Alex | Dominguez | 14% | F |
| House District 142 | Harold V. Jr. | Dutton | 10% | F |
| House District 148 | Jessica | Farrar | 10% | F |
| House District 79 | Art | Fierro | 19% | F* |
| House District 2 | Dan | Flynn | 43% | F |
| House District 69 | James | Frank | 76% | C |

* Authored bad bills or amendments ** Authored one or more good bills or amendments advocated by TURF



REPORT CARD



| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|-------|
| House District 84 | John | Frullo | 45% | F |
| House District 99 | Charlie | Geren | 33% | F |
| House District 120 | Barbara | Gervin-Hawkins | 24% | F* |
| House District 97 | Craig | Goldman | 49% | F |
| House District 104 | Jessica | Gonzalez | 14% | F |
| House District 75 | Mary | González | 19% | F |
| House District 47 | Vikki | Goodwin | 14% | F* |
| House District 41 | Bobby | Guerra | 29% | F |
| House District 31 | Ryan | Guillen | 23% | F |
| House District 119 | Roland | Gutierrez | 19% | F* |
| House District 126 | Sam | Harless | 62% | D- |
| House District 8 | Cody | Harris | 79% | C+ |
| House District 5 | Cole | Hefner | 70% | C+*** |
| House District 143 | Ana | Hernandez | 10% | F |
| House District 34 | Abel | Herrero | 10% | F |
| House District 49 | Gina | Hinojosa | 5% | F |
| House District 33 | Justin | Holland | 71% | C- |
| House District 48 | Donna | Howard | 10% | F |
| House District 127 | Dan | Huberty | 24% | D |
| House District 32 | Todd | Hunter | 57% | F |
| House District 50 | Celia | Israel | 19% | F* |
| House District 100 | Eric | Johnson | 10% | F |
| House District 115 | Julie | Johnson | 19% | F |
| House District 139 | Jarvis | Johnson | 24% | F |
| House District 12 | Kyle | Kacal | 29% | F |
| House District 88 | Ken | King | 33% | F |
| House District 61 | Phil | King | 76% | B** |
| House District 80 | Tracy | King | 24% | F |
| House District 91 | Stephanie | Klick | 62% | D- |
| House District 93 | Matt | Krause | 58% | F* |
| House District 44 | John | Kuempel | 33% | F |
| House District 71 | Stan | Lambert | 38% | F |
| House District 81 | Brooks | Landgraf | 43% | F* |
| House District 60 | Mike | Lang | 95% | A+*** |
| House District 122 | Lyle | Larson | 24% | D |
| House District 67 | Jeff | Leach | 81% | B- |
| House District 13 | Ben | Leman | 49% | F |
| House District 35 | Oscar | Longoria | 38% | D |
| House District 125 | Ray | Lopez | 10% | F* |
| House District 43 | J.M. | Lozano | 33% | F |
| House District 38 | Eddie III | Lucio | 14% | F |
| House District 39 | Armando "Mando" | Martinez | 8% | F* |
| House District 116 | Trey | Martinez Fisher | 10% | F |
| House District 16 | Will | "Metcalf" | 64% | C |

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REPORT CARD



| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|------|-------|
| House District 108 | Morgan | Meyer | 45% | F |
| House District 105 | Terry | Meza | 20% | F |
| House District 23 | Mayes | Middleton | 88% | B+*** |
| House District 26 | Rick | Miller | 55% | F |
| House District 124 | Ina | Minjarez | 26% | F* |
| House District 78 | Joe | Moody | 18% | F |
| House District 145 | Christina | Morales | 19% | F |
| House District 30 | Geanie W. | Morrison | 24% | F |
| House District 36 | Sergio Jr. | Munoz | 35% | F |
| House District 133 | Jim | Murphy | 36% | F |
| House District 53 | Andrew | Murr | 77% | C+ |
| House District 107 | Victoria | Neave | 10% | F |
| House District 74 | Poncho | Nevarez | 10% | F* |
| House District 89 | Candy | Noble | 100% | A+ |
| House District 130 | Tom | Oliverson | 58% | F |
| House District 77 | Evelina 'Lina' | Ortega | 6% | F |
| House District 118 | Leo | Pacheco | 15% | F* |
| House District 9 | Chris | Paddie | 43% | F |
| House District 63 | Tan | Parker | 63% | D |
| House District 106 | Jared | Patterson | 86% | A** |
| House District 129 | Dennis | Paul | 82% | B- |
| House District 144 | Mary | Perez | 5% | F |
| House District 21 | Dade | Phelan | 57% | D |
| House District 87 | Four | Price | 39% | F |
| House District 102 | Ana-Marie | Ramos | 19% | F |
| House District 14 | John | Raney | 16% | F* |
| House District 42 | Richard Peña | Raymond | 27% | F |
| House District 27 | Ron | Reynolds | 15% | F |
| House District 51 | Eddie | Rodriguez | 18% | F |
| House District 90 | Ramon | "Romero, Jr." | 5% | F |
| House District 110 | Toni | Rose | 10% | F |
| House District 135 | Jon | Rosenthal | 10% | F |
| House District 70 | Scott | Sanford | 57% | F |
| House District 6 | Matt | Schaefer | 91% | A- |
| House District 66 | Matt | Shaheen | 78% | B*** |
| House District 59 | J.D. | Sheffield | 27% | F* |
| House District 109 | Carl | Sherman | 19% | F |
| House District 55 | Hugh | Shine | 36% | F |
| House District 62 | Reggie | Smith | 73% | C |
| House District 86 | John T. | Smithee | 43% | F |
| House District 68 | Drew | Springer | 68% | D+ |
| House District 85 | Phil | Stephenson | 36% | F |
| House District 92 | Jonathan | Stickland | 90% | A+*** |
| House District 64 | Lynn | Stucky | 45% | F |

* Authored bad bills or amendments ** Authored one or more good bills or amendments advocated by TURF



REPORT CARD



| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|-----|------|
| House District 150 | Valoree | Swanson | 91% | A- |
| House District 52 | James | Talarico | 24% | F |
| House District 146 | Shawn | Thierry | 24% | F* |
| House District 29 | Ed | Thompson | 34% | F* |
| House District 141 | Senfronia | Thompson | 24% | F |
| House District 94 | Tony | Tinderholt | 91% | A- |
| House District 15 | Steve | Toth | 78% | B** |
| House District 101 | Chris | Turner | 5% | F* |
| House District 114 | John | Turner | 10% | F* |
| House District 1 | Gary | VanDeaver | 27% | F |
| House District 149 | Hubert | Vo | 19% | F |
| House District 140 | Armando | Walle | 4% | F |
| House District 19 | James | White | 86% | B |
| House District 20 | Terry | Wilson | 86% | B |
| House District 10 | John | Wray | 48% | F |
| House District 137 | Gene | Wu | 10% | F |
| House District 96 | Bill | Zedler | 95% | A+** |
| House District 28 | John | Zerwas | 24% | F* |
| House District 45 | Erin | Zwiener | 10% | F |

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The Senate



REPORT CARD



| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|------|------|
| Senate District 6 | Carol | Alvarado | 41% | F* |
| Senate District 7 | Paul | Bettencourt | 100% | A+** |
| Senate District 22 | Brian | Birdwell | 100% | A+** |
| Senate District 24 | Dawn | Buckingham | 71% | B** |
| Senate District 25 | Donna | Campbell | 71% | B** |
| Senate District 4 | Brandon | Creighton | 100% | A+** |
| Senate District 30 | Pat | Fallon | 100% | A+ |
| Senate District 19 | Pete | Flores | 71% | C- |
| Senate District 2 | Bob | Hall | 100% | A+** |
| Senate District 9 | Kelly | Hancock | 81% | B- |
| Senate District 20 | Juan "Chuy" | Hinojosa | 56% | F |
| Senate District 17 | Joan | Huffman | 76% | C |
| Senate District 1 | Bryan | Hughes | 81% | B- |
| Senate District 16 | Nathan | Johnson | 14% | F |
| Senate District 18 | Lois | Kolkhorst | 63% | B** |
| Senate District 27 | Eddie Jr. | Lucio | 56% | F |
| Senate District 26 | Jose | Menendez | 21% | F |
| Senate District 13 | Boris | Miles | 29% | F |
| Senate District 12 | Jane | Nelson | 100% | A+** |
| Senate District 3 | Robert | Nichols | 67% | D+ |
| Senate District 8 | Angela | Paxton | 100% | A+** |
| Senate District 28 | Charles | Perry | 67% | C** |
| Senate District 10 | Beverly | Powell | 43% | F* |
| Senate District 29 | José R. | Rodríguez | 28% | F |
| Senate District 5 | Charles | Schwertner | 75% | B-** |
| Senate District 31 | Kel | Seliger | 46% | F |
| Senate District 11 | Larry | Taylor | 62% | D- |
| Senate District 14 | Kirk | Watson | 31% | F |
| Senate District 23 | Royce | West | 56% | F |
| Senate District 15 | John | Whitmire | 86% | B |
| Senate District 21 | Judith | Zaffirini | 63% | F* |

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The Methodology

Two top priorities for the 86th Legislature:

- Remove the toll when the road is paid for (toll cessation).
- Expand toll collection reform to ALL toll entities, capping fines/fees, and removing the criminal penalty for unpaid tolls (impounding cars, blocking vehicle registrations).

While there were not record votes on our two anti-toll reform bills, there were 18 bills used to determine the grades of the 86th Legislature. Not all legislators voted on all 18 bills. Some were strictly committee votes, others were a vote by the full House or full Senate, but might not have made it to a floor vote in the opposite chamber. Below are the bills we tracked. Every lawmaker was notified prior to each vote of TURF's opposition and/or support of these bills and why.

NOTE: If a member authored one of our reform bills, that received a step up in their grade. Conversely, if a member authored one of the bad bills, they were downgraded by a step for each one.

Bills used for Report Card Transportation

BAD Bills:

HB 1287 (Israel) - Would have lowered the speed limits in urban districts (downtown areas, loose definition could apply to anywhere in a city) down to 25 MPH making them, in effect, like a school zone.

Fee hike bills (all attempted to do an end run around Gov. Abbott's pledge of no new road taxes or fees):

HB 3258 (Minjarez, et al) - A hike in the Advanced Transportation District sales tax in Bexar County. Passed House Ways & Means Committee and Calendars, but floor vote postponed multiple times due to lack of support.

HB 2814 (Goodwin) - Would DOUBLE traffic fines on roads dubbed 'highway safety corridors.' Passed House Transportation Committee, but never made it any farther.

HB 130 (Minjarez et al) - Another \$10/year vehicle registration fee hike for Bexar County & border counties. Passed House Transportation Committee.

HB 642 (Raney) - Would allow unelected toll bureaucracies known as a Regional Mobility Authorities to increase vehicle registration fees by \$10 (presumably to subsidize their toll projects) if the county's minimum population is 190,000. This was local government's attempt at an end run around Gov. Abbott's 'No more tolls' pledge. Passed House Transportation Committee, Calendars Committee, and the full Texas House. Died in Senate Transportation Committee.

HB 1666 (Martinez) - To increase the vehicle registration fee in Cameron, Willacy and Hidalgo Counties. Passed House Transportation Committee, Calendars Committee, and the full Texas House. Died in Senate Transportation Committee.

HB 333 (Nevarez) - Bill to create another unelected Regional Mobility Authority in the Middle Rio Grande Valley (where there's virtually no congestion or need for toll roads anyway), and allow it to increase vehicles registration fees by \$20/year. This would have been a MEGA RMA involving 7 counties! Passed House Transportation Committee, Calendars Committee, and the full Texas House. Died in Senate Transportation Committee.

Public Private Partnership bills (all attempted to do an end run around Gov. Abbott's 'No more tolls' pledge):

HB 4427 (Canales) - To extend the SH 130 foreign owned toll contract another 20 years. This privately-operated toll road already went bankrupt once. Extending the contract until 2062 is theft of public assets, corporate welfare, and a way to guarantee the profits of private corporations at the expense of Texas drivers and taxpayers. Passed the House Transportation Committee and Calendars Committee. Lacked support to go any farther.

A REALLY
BAD BILL

**WORST BILL
OF THE SESSION**

HB 1951 (Krause et al) - To re-authorize unlimited public private partnership toll contracts, allow tolls to continue even after the road is paid for, among other anti-taxpayer gotcha provisions. One of the worst special interest bills of the session. One by one, every so-called toll payer protection was removed or watered down. Passed House Transportation Committee, Calendars Committee, then lacked support to pass a vote of the full Texas House, so Krause was forced to withdraw his bill.

HB 2531/SB 1299 (Romero/Powell) - To allow regional public transit agencies in Dallas-Ft. Worth to engage in public private partnerships (with guaranteed profits, taxpayer loan guarantees, etc.). Passed House Transportation Committee, Calendars Committee, vote of the full House. Failed to pass Senate Transportation Committee.

HB 1644 (Martinez) - Would have authorized 20 new foreign-owned toll roads in Texas, with taxpayer-backed loan guarantees and guaranteed profits. The North Tarrant Express toll rates imposed by foreign company, Cintra, exceed \$3/mile in rush hour.

HB 2578 (Thompson, Ed) - To exempt the private, foreign companies holding the contract for the SH 288 foreign owned toll project from the \$48/cap on toll fines and other caps on fees. Allows special exception to levy unlimited toll fines and exceed the cap lawmakers placed on public toll entities. Passed House Transportation Committee, Calendars Committee, and the full Texas House. Died in Senate Transportation Committee.

Over criminalization of drivers:

HB 448 (Turner) - Nanny state car seat bill forcing two year olds (currently allowed to be forward facing) to be rear facing until 40 inches tall and 40 pounds (which is the size of the average 4-5 year old). The bill would have made parents criminals for violating it. The bill made it all the way to the Governor's desk. Thankfully, Gov. Abbott vetoed the bill. (Record Vote #372)

Good Bills:

Good government/property rights reforms:

HB 1631 (Stickland) - To ban red light cameras and remove the criminal penalty for red light tickets. This sets a needed precedent for de-criminalizing unpaid toll bills for many of the same reasons like how it's unconstitutional to allow a camera to bring a criminal offense against someone without a witness to the actual alleged violation (same with toll cameras as well as holding the owner of a vehicle liable not the actual driver who committed the offense). Passed and signed by the Governor.

HB 803 (Patterson) - To increase financial transparency of toll agencies to help the public and elected officials be able to determine how much these entities make in tolls, versus fines/fees, how much is going to retire the debt, are there surplus revenues, and can tolls come off certain projects that are technically paid off. Passed and signed by Governor.

SB 29 (Hall) - To end taxpayer funded lobbying. The state's 13 toll agencies hire lobbyists using taxpayer money to lobby against our anti-toll reforms (usually multiple lobbyists per agency). Until we end this practice, taxpayers don't stand a chance of getting meaningful reforms like removing the toll once the debt is paid off and capping these outlandishly high toll fines & fees. Failed to pass.

SB 421 (Kolkhorst) - Eminent domain reform to restore basic rights to landowners when facing forced condemnation by private pipeline companies. Failed to pass.

HB 347 (King, P) - To end tiered annexation and ensure all communities have the right to vote on being annexed by a city in Texas. Forced annexation without a vote by residents whose taxes would go up is taxation without representation (which is the principle that started our anti-toll movement). Passed and signed by Governor.



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