



The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator Pete Flores

District 24

Senate District 24 Capitol Update: Priority Bills and Start of Session

The 88th Legislative Session is up and running! Last week, we passed the first two bills on the Senate floor, committees started meeting, and bill filing deadline has come and gone.

As bill filing deadline passed Friday, March 10, all legislation is in for consideration this session. I am proud to be working on key issues brought to me by the incredible folks in SD-24 that will make our district, and the entire State of Texas a better place to live and work. This session, my top priority bills are;

Senate Bill 1788 - creating a racketeering offense in Texas

There are costly, and often deadly gaps in current law that leave our law enforcement officers and prosecutors without the resources to build strong cases against gangs and criminal organizations. SB 1788 hits these group where it hurts and matters most - their financial assets. I am committed to expanding the arsenal of Texas law enforcement officers and prosecutors so they may take down the despicable groups who profit off of trafficking innocent human beings, drugs, and weapons. This bill will establish new penal prohibitions, enhanced sanctions, and increased penalties for certain offenses. Racketeering refers to any act of committing or participating in organized, coercive criminal activity, including trafficking, drug dealing, and illegal financial activities.

Senate Bill 748 - expanding state aid for disabled veteran property tax exemption

Every day, more people and companies are moving to the great State of Texas, which has made the need for meaningful property tax relief even more important. I introduced SB 748 to ensure our communities have access to tangible resources and aid as they continue to navigate the growth. This legislation will make State funds available to local governments that aren't home to or near a military instillation and put more money back into the pockets of taxpayers. As a strong supporter of our military men and women, it is a great honor to represent not only Fort Hood, but also the neighboring areas that are home to thousands of veterans that have so valiantly served our country and protected our freedoms.

Senate Bill 750 - accountability for appraisal districts' Board of Directors

With the passage of SB 2 in the 86th Legislature, taxpayers were promised noticeable tax relief. Over the past few years, however, property owners have seen skyrocketing appraisals of their property values that have negated the reliefs passed in SB 2 (86R). The property tax process is complex, making transparency and accountability even more prudent. SB 750 will provide taxpayers with a stronger sense of involvement and accountability by requiring members of an appraisal district board of directors to be an elected member of the taxing unit's governing body. This bill gives power back to the taxpayers through the ballot box.

All legislation can be viewed online at capitol.texas.gov

This session, I have the honor of serving as Vice Chair of the Senate Committees on Border Security and Criminal Justice. Additionally, I am a member of the Finance committee, in charge of passing the State's multi-billion dollar budget, as well as the committees on Education and Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

If my office is ever able to assist you or your family with state issues, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our Capitol Office can be reached at 512-463-0124 or by visiting my website [here](#).