

Legislative Planning



SAFE-D
Fall Event

September 16-18, 2021



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
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Welcome!

- 9:45am SAFE-D Legislative Caucuses
- 10:15am Break/Issues Networking
- 10:25am SAFE-D Legislative Caucuses
- 10:45am Break/Exhibit Hall
- 11:15am Caucus Presentations to Conferees
- 11:30am Conferee Debates
- 11:55am Issue Voting and Ranking
- 12:15 Adjourn



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SAFE-D LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES



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SAFE-D Caucuses

- 6-7 Caucus Committees
 - Municipal Issues
 - Sales Tax Issues
 - Service Provider Issues
 - Property Tax Issues
 - Government Transparency
 - Select Caucus – Disaster Response



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SAFE-D Caucuses

- 7-9 Members per caucus
- Each caucus elects Chair
 - » Chair will present Committee Report to Conference
- Follow Roberts Rules of Order for debate
- May inquire of Legislative Counsel



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2018 Caucus Results

1. Oppose 2.5% Property Tax Cap
2. Defend Sales Tax Authority
3. Authorize New Taxing Entity
4. Authorize MIH/Comm. Paramedicine
5. Require equal or better service when annex
6. Authority to determine who serves w/in ESD
7. Consolidate Reporting
8. Include Sales Tax in compensation when annex
9. Protection for ESD Employee Jobs post annex
10. Allow Sales Tax to Exceed 2%
11. Disqualify Service Provider members from board >25K



2019 Caucus Results

- Property Tax Reform – exception to rollback and election for Districts that provide disaster response services (20)
- Property Tax Reform – eliminate sales tax from exception to rollback (18)
- Consolidate Reporting for ESDs to single location (11)
- Authorize ESDs to repeal exemption for sales tax on electric utilities (9)
- Protect 2604 grant funds and require distribution (7)
- Move Texas Division of Emergency Management to TEEXS (6)
- Authorize ESDs to provide tax abatements to industrial projects (5)
- Move TIFMAS program to TEEXS (4)
- Simplify and expedite reimbursement for disaster funds (3)
- Exempt designated HR and Homeland Security documents from public records (2)
- Require ESDs to maintain website, provide exemption for small ESDs (1)



2020 Caucus Results

1. Allow repeal of Sales Tax Exemption on utilities for ESDs (14)
2. Eliminate ESD Property Tax Cap (12)
3. Treat ESDs as special taxing units under original SB 2 proposal (9)
4. Tap into Insurance Tax Premiums as revenue source for ESDs (6)
5. Provide ESDs with clear authority to provide Mobile Integrated Healthcare (5)
6. Protect ESD Sales Tax Authority (5)
7. Monitor annexation changes to protect ESDs from City annexation and loss of revenues (4)
8. Create protection of property tax funding loss from Recession (Financial Disaster) (3)
9. Maintain current Property Tax position (3)
10. Protect against municipal opt out by City in an ESD (2)
11. Clarify ESD control of services provided within ESD boundaries (2)
12. Require Social Media and Information Technology policies (2)
13. Clarify mechanism for ESD agreed Boundary adjustments (1)
14. Clarify ESD authority to conduct a single sales tax election with non-uniform rates (0)
15. Protect ability to conduct elections on May and November uniform election dates (0)
16. Address records retention requirements for social media postings (0)
17. Add Social Media and Information Technology training (0)



Caucus Issues



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Municipal Annexation & Municipal Issues Caucus

- Apportionment of the ESD's Debt (property tax vs sales tax)?
- Guaranteed Service/Coverage of the Annexed Area by the City?
- Should municipalities already in an ESD be able to withdraw? Arguments for/against?
- Municipal consent to annexation by ESDs?



Sales Tax Caucus

- Should ESDs be allowed to exceed 8.25% in an area?
- Sales tax agreements with other local jurisdictions? How do you keep the peace?
- Repeal of exemption for gas and electric utilities?



Service Provider Relations Caucus

- Should service provider members be allowed to serve on the ESD Board? What level of conflict of interest is too much?
- What level of information should a service provider have to provide the ESD to get funding?
- How should ESDs with Multiple Service Providers be working? Any legislative fixes?



Property Tax Caucus

- What are the good arguments for raising the \$0.10 tax cap? Against?
- Should the cap be a Constitutional cap or set in Chapter 775?
- Since they're levying a property tax, should ESD Commissioners be elected? Arguments for/against?
- What about an entirely new form of District with a higher/unlimited tax cap?
- Should the "ag exemption" be removed for ESD tax purposes?



Government Transparency Caucus

- What should the level of oversight on ESDs be from the State? Who should do the overseeing, if any?
- Should ESDs be required to maintain a website? Arguments for/against?
- Should the audit exemption be adjusted? Should there be any other exceptions to transparency/accountability standards for smaller ESDs?
- Should there be more exemptions related to Homeland Security documents?



ESD Services Caucus

- Should ESDs continue to provide the types of services they do?
- Should ESDs provide non-emergent services, such as:
 - Mobile integrated healthcare/community paramedicine
 - Fire Flow
 - Regulation of Transport Services



Select Caucus on Disaster Response

- Legislature funding of the Disaster Fund
- Fund the expansion of the Texas Regional Search and Rescue System at Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)
- Financial Recovery Task Force at TDEM to assist Texas communities in recovering as quickly as possible
- Strengthen the trauma system, especially in areas of the state that do not have access to Level I trauma centers, like South Texas.



Caucus Debates

- Raise issues
- Debate most significant
- Caucus ranks most significant issues
- Must be completed by 10:15AM



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Networking Break

- Discuss and lobby caucus issues with other conferees
- Break finishes at 10:25AM



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Caucus Drafting

- Caucuses prepare written recommendations for presentation to conferees
- Must be completed by 10:45AM



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Refreshment Break

- Discuss and lobby caucus issues with other conferees while on break in Exhibit Hall
- Break finishes at 11:15AM



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Caucus Presentations

- Each Caucus presents recommendation to Conferees
- 3 minutes to present
- 2 questions per presentation
- 1 follow up question per question
- Presentations end at 11:30AM



Debate

- Debate begins at 11:30AM
- Each Conferee may speak for no more than one minute on a single issue
- May not speak on more than one issue
- Debate ends at 11:55AM



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Voting and Ranking

- Each Conferee may vote for 3 issues
- Issues will be ranked based upon total votes received



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Tally and Reporting

- SAFE-D Staff will tally votes and report results after Conference



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Issues & Ranking

(__ Participants)



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Online Resource for Legislative Information

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>



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Questions?



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