



Texas School Alliance

May 8, 2024

Senate Interim Charges

- 57 charges for 13 Senate committees to study in preparation for the 89th Legislature
- “The priorities of the conservative majority of Texans will be accomplished, including school choice, continued property tax relief, and strengthening the power grid.”
- Reviewing proposed legislation from prior sessions that did not pass can shed light on what may arise next session...

Education Committee

- **COVID-19 Funding Oversight:** Examine and report on how public schools spent federal funds since the beginning of the pandemic, including funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), with a dual focus on demonstrated improved student outcomes and efficient use of taxpayer funds.

State Affairs Committee

Charge

- **Maintaining Election Security:** Identify threats to Texas's election integrity, including those from "Big Tech" and foreign entities. Recommend ways to neutralize such threats. Additionally, evaluate the countywide polling place program in Texas. Make recommendations to address countywide polling issues, such as increased wait times, longer travel distances, supply shortages, and reporting irregularities. **Evaluate current laws that prohibit political subdivisions and public school districts from using government resources for illegal electioneering. Make recommendations to strengthen these laws and put a stop to illegal electioneering.**

Related Materials

- **All Bond Counsel Letter**

"... as school districts must expressly include in the ballot the fully capitalized statement "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE", there is no basis for the voter information document or other election materials to include language contradicting the statement statutorily required to be in the ballot."

- **HB 3018** Relating to the offense of unlawful use of public funds for communications relating to a measure.
- allows only the official election notice and bans other communication describing the measure

Interim Hearing

- COMMITTEE: State Affairs
- TIME & DATE: 9:00 AM, Wednesday, May 29, 2024
- PLACE: E1.012 (Hearing Room)
CHAIR: Senator Bryan Hughes
- **Maintaining Election Security:** Identify threats to Texas's election integrity, including those from "Big Tech" and foreign entities. Recommend ways to neutralize such threats. Additionally, evaluate the countywide polling place program in Texas. Make recommendations to address countywide polling issues, such as increased wait times, longer travel distances, supply shortages, and reporting irregularities. Evaluate current laws that prohibit political subdivisions and public school districts from using government resources for illegal electioneering. Make recommendations to strengthen these laws and put a stop to illegal electioneering.

Finance Committee

Charge

- **Continue Cutting Property Taxes:** Identify the best combination to further increase the amount of homestead exemption and compression to continue cutting Texans' property taxes. Additionally, establish and report on the cost of eliminating:
 - School maintenance and operation property taxes;
 - All school property taxes; and
 - All property taxes.
- Determine the fiscal consequences of each action, including whether revenue reallocations would be required for public education funding and local government funding, and impacts on the state's ability to respond to disasters and other urgent priorities. For example, determine the effect on other state programs if general revenue were used to fully replace school property taxes, particularly during economic downturns. Evaluate and report on how much state revenue would need to be generated to replace foregone property tax revenue, and from what source.

Related Materials

- **HB 29** relating to the elimination of school district maintenance and operations ad valorem taxes and the creation of a joint interim committee on the elimination of those taxes.



Finance Committee

- **Monitor Property Tax Relief and Infrastructure Funds:** Monitor the appropriations supporting, and implementation of, legislation passed during the 88th Legislature, Regular or Special Sessions, and approved by voters, amending the Texas Constitution:
 - Property Tax Relief: Senate Bill 2 and House Joint Resolution 2, 88th Legislature, Second Called Special Session

Local Government Committee

Charge

- **Additional Property Tax Relief and Reform:** Report on the effects of prior property tax relief and reform, including the \$18 billion tax cut with the \$100,000 homestead exemption authorized by the 88th Legislature. Focus particularly on the interaction between Senate Bill 2, 88th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, and Senate Bill 2, 86th Legislature. Make recommendations for further property tax relief and reform, **including methods to improve voter control over tax rate setting and debt authorization, and mechanisms to dissolve** taxing entities such as municipal management districts (MMDs) and **tax increment reinvestment zones (TIRZs) when they have outlived their purpose.**

Related Materials

- [SB 977](#) relating to the definition of debt for the purpose of calculating certain ad valorem tax rates of a taxing unit.
- [SB 946](#) relating to the election date for the authorization of the issuance of bonds or a tax increase.
- [SB 2337](#) relating to an election to approve the issuance of bonds or other debt.



TSA Strategic Staff Recommendations

- Prepare survey for membership
 - Inflationary cost pressures with local specific district information
 - ESSER uses – success stories, challenges
- Create database of district budget materials so that TSA members can share ideas
- Pursue funding for programs districts know they need: teacher pay, special education, etc. while still emphasizing the need for local flexibility
- Be clear and specific in election communications. Work with school attorney.



Legislative Landscape

- Growing frustration with "basic allotment" complaint by educators

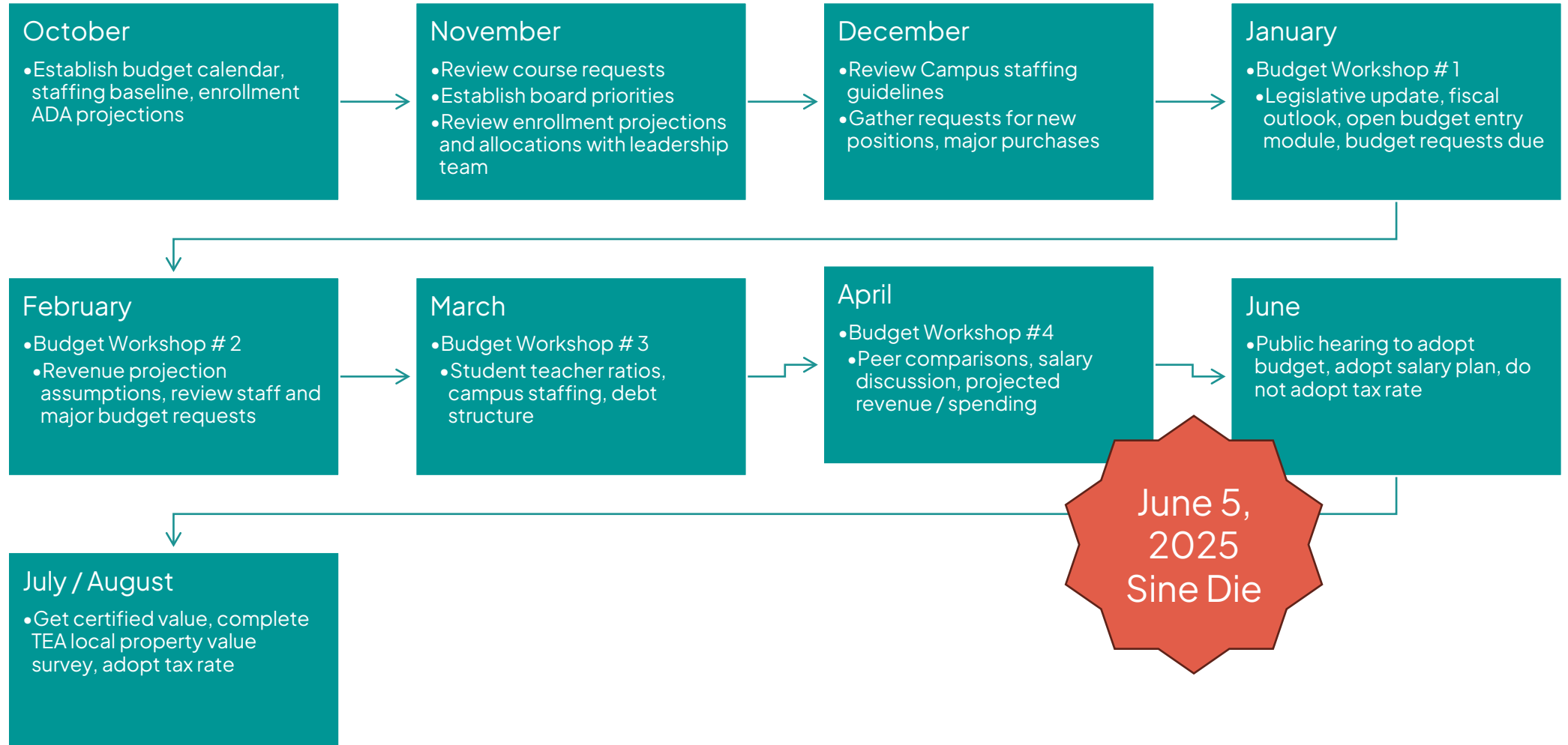
"It's a bogus talking point because the basic allotment represents only about half of the total funding that goes to schools. And the reason for that is because the full amount of what they receive is between \$12,000 and \$14,000. And we as a state, as the legislature, we decide what the priorities are about, what we want to fund. And that's outside of the basic allotment."

-- Governor Abbott



Sample Budget Calendar

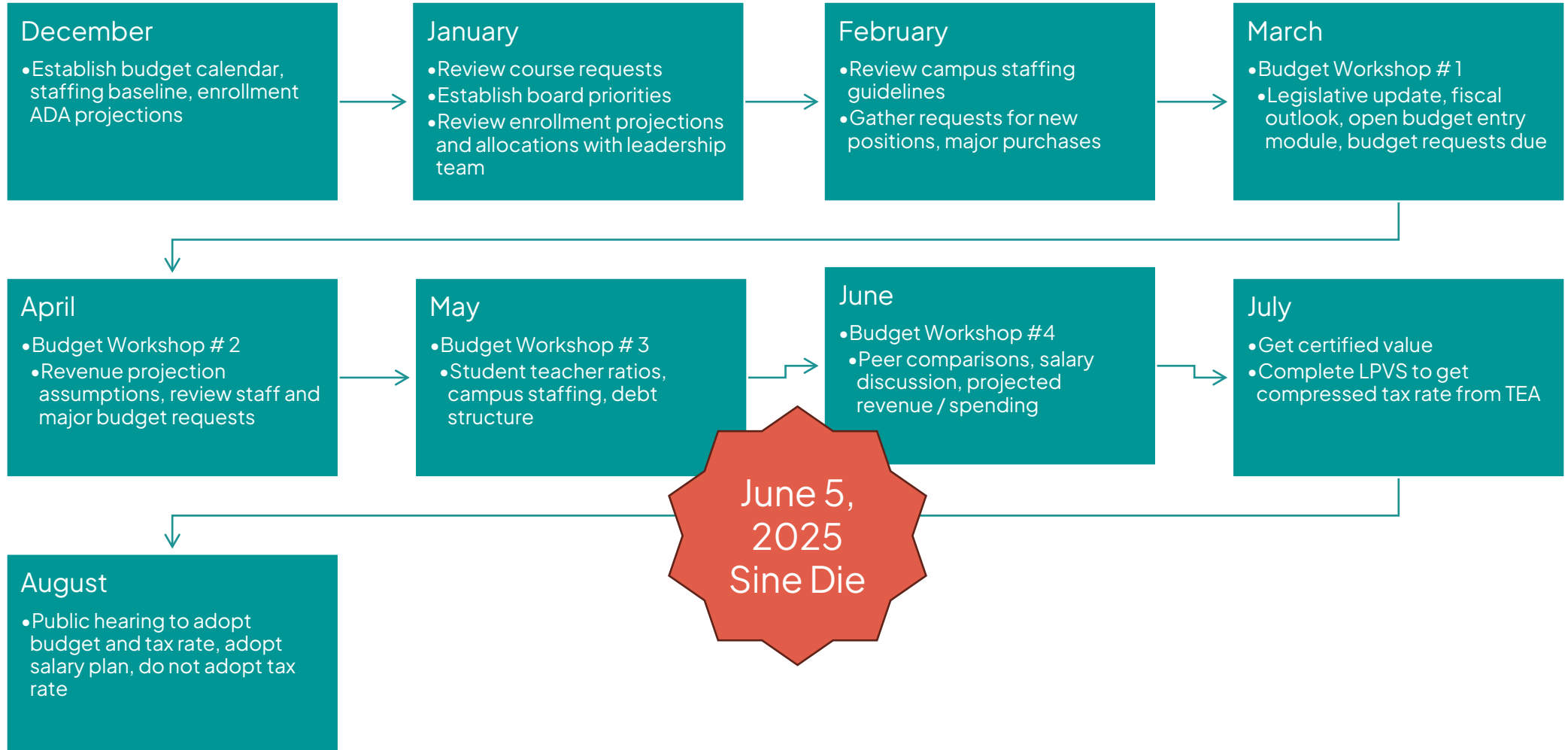
July 1 Fiscal Year





Sample Budget Calendar

September 1 Fiscal Year



Thank you for Your Time Today!

Contact Information:

Tracy Ginsburg	tginsburg@tasbo.org
Amanda Brownson	abrownson@tasbo.org
Kristi Clark	kclark@tasbo.org
Janét Spurgin	jspurgin@tasbo.org
Karen Wilson	kwilson@tasbo.org

(512) 462-1711

www.tasbo.org

