



DADE PHELAN



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Dear Members,

October 17, 2024

Thank you for your diligent work throughout the interim as we prepare for the 89th legislative session. From our conversations, it is clear this upcoming session will bring a unique set of complex issues for the House to address. To ensure the House makes the most of its time in session, my office will be forming a series of voluntary working groups to begin working through a range of identified issues in need of new and innovative solutions. These optional working groups will be open to current and prospective House members (no staff) and will meet in person at the Capitol starting later this month.

The objective of these working groups is to provide a nonpartisan, constructive forum for members with interest in specific policy areas to brainstorm ideas, explore solutions, and collaborate with colleagues ahead of the session. They will not be a venue for formal debate on specific proposals, nor will they replace the role of our standing House committees, which have conducted excellent work over the interim. Rather, they are intended to complement committees' efforts by offering members who plan to file pertinent legislation a chance to collaborate and fine-tune their ideas ahead of the 89th Legislature. The issues we have identified as warranting extra attention from a work group are outlined below. In many cases, the identified issues span the jurisdiction of several different House committees and could thus benefit from a multi-faceted, collaborative approach.

- Budget reform
- Childcare accessibility & affordability
- Water supply & infrastructure (including nuclear)
- Support for law enforcement
- Veterans services
- Healthcare infrastructure & access to care
- Housing availability & affordability
- Property & casualty insurance

Please note that the absence of a particular issue from this list does not indicate it is not a priority for the upcoming session. Over the past year, the House has already dedicated significant time, research and debate to a number of issues that remain high priorities. Should you have suggestions for additional subjects that might benefit from the extra attention of a working group, we welcome your input.

If you are interested in participating in one or more working groups or have recommendations for additional topics, please email your preferences to Mike.Toomey@speaker.texas.gov by close of business on Tuesday, October 22. Details about working group sessions will be shared as soon as possible, including instructions for remote participation, although in-person attendance is encouraged.

I appreciate your commitment to these issues and your service to our great state.

Sincerely,

Dade Phelan