

To: Speak Up Volunteers
From: Mayor Thurman

Sent: February 26, 2025

Thank you for joining Horseshoe Bay's Speak Up initiative. The 89th Texas legislative session is currently in progress, with your representatives making decisions that will directly affect our community.

As of today, legislators have filed over 5,800 bills, with projections indicating approximately 12,000 bills will be submitted this session — an unprecedented number that exceeds last session's record of 8,300+ bills. We anticipate that roughly one-third of these bills will seek to diminish local control from Texas cities and Property Owners Associations.

We're closely monitoring bills like SB 673, which would permit Accessory Dwelling Units on any property within single-family residential zones. This legislation would prevent cities from regulating these structures' size, height, or parking requirements. Such changes could negatively impact neighboring property rights, street parking availability, and potentially strain water and wastewater infrastructure. Many other concerning bills may advance to voting stages.

I've already discussed Horseshoe Bay's priorities with our local representatives. Our position is that local communities are better managed by local governments rather than distant state authorities. We don't want Horseshoe Bay to lose its distinct character and become indistinguishable from larger cities like Houston or Austin. We must preserve our ability to address our community's specific needs while protecting private property rights and values.

After the bill-filing deadline on March 14th, we'll begin requesting your involvement in supporting or opposing legislation that affects Horseshoe Bay's self-governance.

Thank you for your commitment to defending our community's future.

Elsie Thurman
Mayor
City of Horseshoe Bay