

Likely Texas Legislative SPECIAL SESSION(s)

There is a variety of chit chat these days regarding Governor Greg Abbott calling a 30 - day special session in the next six months to take care of required business & a few additional items. This paper breaks down how that is likely to happen. Remember, the Governor is the only one that can: 1) call a special legislative session and 2) determine what items can be placed on the agenda.

Special State Legislative Session for Redistricting

For sure, one special session will be held in September / October BEFORE the next election year begins in December and AFTER the U. S. Census data is released to the states by the federal government --- which is anticipated to be after September 1, 2021. This census data is needed to determine how population shifts have occurred in the U. S. over the past decade, which then results in the redrawing of legislative district boundaries or redistricting. Most observers believe this particular special session will contain only one issue ---- redistricting for:

- The 150 state representatives
- 31 state senators
- 38 U. S. Congressmen from Texas

The Other Special State Legislative Session

Most observers feel the other Special Legislative Session will occur before the one on “redistricting”, which would probably mean sometime in a July / August time frame. Governor Abbott has not been certain yet on what that other agenda will look like, but many believe, at minimum, the following will be on that call:

- Election integrity
- How to allocate \$16 billion in COVID relief funds to Texas from the federal government, and
- Jail bail reform

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick is encouraging, & to some degree Governor Abbott is agreeing, to possibly also add:

- Banning taxpayer funded lobbying by governmental bodies
- Direct financial payer relief from regulated power systems
- Punishing those social media companies censoring Texans
- Banning transgender athletes from playing sports based on gender identity
- Limiting gender – affirming healthcare for minors