

SAFE-D's Third Tuesdays 88th Texas Legislature



Third Tuesdays, 2023



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WELCOME!



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Today's Schedule

- 8:00AM Breakfast and Meet & Greet
- 8:30AM Presentation on 88th Legislature
- 9:00AM Go to Capitol for Visits with Members
- 12:15PM Lunch Available in Thompson Auditorium
- 1:00PM Return to Capitol for Visits with Members
- 4:30PM Depart Capitol
- 4:45PM Debriefing in Thompson Auditorium at TMA



Today's Issues at the Capitol

- How to Participate in the First Responders Third Tuesdays
- What to Expect from the Day
- Planning Ahead
 - Let SAFE-D Know
 - Let your local Representative and Senator know
 - Schedule a meeting for the afternoon
 - Wear comfortable walking shoes
 - Wear uniform or District logo



BUILDING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS



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The “Goal”

- Have a close interactive relationship with your key Legislators.
- The Legislator must feel like you are invested in the success of the Legislator and not just using the relationship to accomplish your own goals.
- Developing a friendship is the ultimate measure of success.



The “Relationship”

- Definition:
 - The relationship between two people or groups is the way in which they feel and behave toward each other.
- Develop a relationship based on more than just the “Ask”
- Dedicate regular time and attention to the relationship



Meeting with Members and Staff

- Give Personal History
 - Who, What, Where, Why
 - Community ties
- Ask About Legislator’s Personal History
- Provide ESD “work” background
 - key facts about your ESD and your role
- Discuss ESD “talking points” for the Day
- ASK what you can do for Legislator
- PROVIDE personal contact information and ...
- COMMIT to follow up with Legislator



Talking Points

1. ESDs are the BEST method to provide fire and EMS services in Texas, serving approximately 10 Million Texans.
 - Two economic studies by The Perryman Group support this
2. ESDs need protection from cities trying to annex areas or withdraw from an ESD unilaterally and without a vote of the people.
3. ESDs need authority to determine exactly how emergency services are provided within their voter approved boundaries.
4. ESDs need revenue protection from cities trying to defund emergency services by taking sales tax and property tax for city projects and developer agreements that are unrelated to public safety.



The Perryman Report

CONCLUSIONS:

- “Emergency Services Districts provide a stable source of funds for fire protection and other protective services, cost savings, and economic benefits.”
- “These savings generate significant economic benefits of an estimated **\$1.2 billion** in annual gross product and **12,081 jobs** across Texas.”
- “Without the resources provided by ESDs, many areas would be faced with inadequate protective services.



TML Attack on ESDs

- allow cities to **remove themselves** from an ESD if the city is capable of providing services to the area.
- expressly authorize ESDs to expand into a city's limits or ETJ **only** with city council approval; and
- **require** an ESD to enter into a **sales and use tax sharing agreement** with a city when a city annexes territory located in an ESD and, should negotiations fail, enter into binding arbitration and/or mediation.



Online Resource for Legislative Information

<http://www.capitol.texas.gov/>



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Legislative Process



- [How a Bill Becomes Law](#)
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Redistricting

- [Texas Redistricting Website](#)
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Looking Up Bills



How to Attend

- Make Room Reservation at Doubletree in Austin
 - <https://www.Hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/safe-dfebruary2023roomblock/>
- Email Clay Avery about attending (admin@safe-d.org)
- Show up at 8:00AM
 - SAFE-D will email details on meeting location and time



Questions?



www.safe-d.org



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