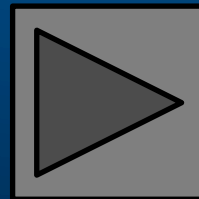


Legislative Task Force



SAFE-D
Annual Conference
February 22-24, 2024



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

Welcome!

- 11:15 am SAFE-D Legislative Caucuses
- 11:40 am Caucus Presentations to Conferees
- 11:55 am Conferee Debates
- 12:10 pm Issue Voting and Ranking
- 12:15 pm Adjourn



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

SAFE-D LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

SAFE-D Caucuses

- Six Caucus Committees
 - Municipal Issues
 - Sales Tax Issues
 - Service Provider Issues
 - Property Tax Issues
 - Government Transparency
 - ESD Services



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

SAFE-D Caucuses

- Max Eight Members per caucus group
- Each caucus elects Chair
 - » Chair will present Committee Report to Conference
- Follow Roberts Rules of Order for debate
- May inquire of Legislative Counsel
- Raise issues
- Debate most significant
- Caucus ranks most significant issues
- Must be completed by 11:30 AM



Caucus Drafting

- Caucuses prepare written recommendations for presentation to conferees
- Must be completed by 11:40 AM



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

Caucus Issues



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

Municipal Annexation & Municipal Issues Caucus

- Guaranteed Service/Coverage of the Annexed Area by the City?
- Should municipalities already in an ESD be able to withdraw? Arguments for/against?
- Other Issues?



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

Sales Tax Caucus

- Should ESDs be allowed to exceed 8.25% in an area?
- Sales tax agreements with other local jurisdictions? How do you keep the peace?
- Other Issues?



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

Service Provider Relations Caucus

- Should service provider members be allowed to serve on the ESD Board? What level of conflict of interest is too much?
- How should ESDs with Multiple Service Providers be working? Any legislative fixes?
- Other Issues?



Property Tax Caucus

- Should the Constitutional Cap be changed?
- Should ESDs be able to tax property that is subject to exemptions?
- Should ESDs be able to use De Minimis tax rate calculations?
- Should all ESDs be exempt from 3.5% tax increase limit?
- Other Issues?



Government Transparency Caucus

- What should the level of oversight on ESDs be from the State? Who should do the overseeing, if any?
- What should the standard be for removal of ESD Commissioners? Any adjustments to the current standards/process?
- Should ESDs be able to spend funds for legislative advocacy?
- Other Issues?



ESD Services Caucus

- Should ESDs continue to provide the types of services they do?
- Should ESDs provide non-emergent services, such as:
 - Mobile Integrated Health Care
 - Fire Flow
 - Regulation of Transport Services
- Other Issues?



Presentations



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

Caucus Presentations

- Each Caucus presents recommendation to Conferees
- 3 minutes to present
- 2 questions per presentation
- 1 follow up question per question
- Presentations End at 11:55 AM



Debate



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

Debate

- Each Conferee may speak for no more than 30 seconds on a single issue
- May not speak on more than one issue
- Debate ends at 12:10 PM



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

Voting



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

Voting and Ranking

- Each Conferee may vote for 3 issues
- Issues will be ranked based upon total votes received
- Voting Completed by 12:15 PM



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

2022 Ranking of Issues

1. Give ESDs the option to repeal the automatic sales tax exemption granted for electric and gas utility bills (35)
2. Protect ESDs from County Approval of Budget (23)
3. Authorize an increase in the Constitutional Cap on ESD property taxes(23)
4. Authorize ESDs to have bonded debt in addition to the \$0.10 cap on property tax (21)
5. Protect ESDs from municipal annexation/removal (14)



2022 Ranking of Issues

6. Protect ESD ability to have paid representation at Legislature (10)
7. Provide mechanism for ESDs to have direct access to Federal funds (CARES Act, ARPA, etc.)
8. Authorize ESDs to provide Mobile Integrated Health Care and non-emergent transport and criminal enforcement of fire code/wildland fire prevention
9. Eliminate authority for Strategic Partnership Agreements
10. Simplify ESD creation process to mirror ESD Annexation
11. Require same level of service in areas annexed by municipality



Tally and Reporting

- SAFE-D Staff will tally votes and report results after Conference



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

Online Resource for Legislative Information

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024

Questions?



www.safe-d.org



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 614-0901
www.carltonlawaustin.com
©2024