

# Legislative Task Force



SAFE-D  
Annual Conference  
February 17-19, 2022



4301 Westbank Drive, Suite B-130  
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# *Welcome!*

- 3:30 pm SAFE-D Legislative Caucuses
- 3:50pm Caucus Presentations to Conferees
- 4:10pm Conferee Debates
- 4:25pm Issue Voting and Ranking
- 4:30pm Adjourn



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# SAFE-D LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES



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# SAFE-D Caucuses

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



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# 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 3:45PM



# Caucus Drafting

- Caucuses prepare written recommendations for presentation to conferees
- Must be completed by 3:50PM



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# Caucus Issues



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# 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?



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# 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?



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# 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



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# 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 4:10PM



# Debate



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# 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 4:25PM



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# Voting



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# Voting and Ranking

- Each Conferee may vote for 3 issues
- Issues will be ranked based upon total votes received
- Voting Completed by 4:30PM



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# 2020 Ranking of Issues

Votes (x) out of 68 votes (23 voters, 1 undervote)

1. Allow repeal of Sales Tax Exemption on utilities for ESDs (14)
2. Eliminate ESD Property Tax Cap (12)
3. Treat ESDs as special taxing units under original SB 2 proposal (9)
4. Tap into Insurance Tax Premiums as revenue source for ESDs (6)
5. Provide ESDs with clear authority to provide Mobile Integrated Healthcare (5)
6. Protect ESD Sales Tax Authority (5)
7. Monitor annexation changes to protect ESDs from City annexation and loss of revenues (4)
8. Create protection of property tax funding loss from Recession (Financial Disaster) (3)
9. Maintain current Property Tax position (3)
10. Protect against municipal opt out by City in an ESD (2)
11. Clarify ESD control of services provided within ESD boundaries (2)
12. Require Social Media and Information Technology policies (2)
13. Clarify mechanism for ESD agreed Boundary adjustments (1)
14. Clarify ESD authority to conduct a single sales tax election with non-uniform rates (0)
15. Protect ability to conduct elections on May and November uniform election dates (0)
16. Address records retention requirements for social media postings (0)
17. Add Social Media and Information Technology training (0)



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# Tally and Reporting

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



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# *Online Resource for Legislative Information*

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



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*Questions?*



[www.safe-d.org](http://www.safe-d.org)



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