



Austin Landline Report September 2019

State issues continue to be dominated by gun and public safety policy discussions, with the Speaker appointing a House select committee to study the issues and Democrats asking Governor Abbott to call a special session. Underlying these activities is the simmering controversy among GOP legislators over a private meeting the Speaker had with an individual known for creating intra-party strife that is now being investigated by the Texas Rangers.

In the meantime, fundraising activities are being announced and candidates up and down the ballot are beginning to emerge, while some incumbents announce their retirements. In the next few days, Rep. Nevarez of Eagle Pass and Sen. Zaffirini of Laredo are holding fundraising events in Austin. It is yet to be seen if Nevarez will challenge State Sen. Pete Flores, who was elected in a special election last year as a Republican in a traditionally Democratic district.

Interim study charges are expected to be released by the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker in the next month or two, but the House Redistricting Committee has already scheduled a series of hearings around the state and the Senate Redistricting Committee has scheduled a hearing in Austin in October. We are discussing topics to suggest for interim charges with our members and allies and welcome any ideas you may have.