



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

July 8, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas  
PO Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

Governor Abbott:

I am writing to congratulate you on the issues you added to the call for the legislative special session that began today. As you know, I firmly believe that, election integrity, voting reform and the other issues are critical to the future of our state and our democracy and must be acted upon quickly.

However, I am also writing to highlight several key issues missing from the call, that I strongly urge you to add to as they were overlooked during the past legislative session.

First, would be to specify including the limitation of property tax increases into our Texas Constitution to ensure that property taxes could not raise more than three percent annually and that no future legislature could change this without a vote of the people.

Second is the issue of a gender mutilation ban for minors. As you know, House Bill 1399 by Rep. Krause finally made it on the House Calendar but died there at the end of session. This bill, and this issue, is a bellwether for families across our state and our nation. If Texas cannot pass a bill that prevents the gender mutilation or reassignment of children, then that will send a signal across the country that traditional family values have no defender. Texas is the last bastion for common-sense, family value protections and I encourage you to lead on this issue. Failure to add this to the call for this special session is a failure to stand up for Texas families.

Third, Texas must stand up against taxpayer funding of lobbyists. When a governmental entity uses taxpayer money to pay for lobbyists to lobby legislators in Austin, sometimes on behalf of issues for which there is no consensus within the constituency of that governmental entity, is just plain wrong. Taxpayers expect their money to be used for roads, public safety, and other services, not to promote some issue or legislation they

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may not support. If a governmental entity has an agenda to push before the legislature, let them find another source of money other than their taxpayers.

Finally given the fact that it is has now been revealed that national teacher's unions are driving controversies such as critical race theory and forcing the acceptance of "gender reassignment" on young minds, Texas must have school choice in order to allow Texas parents the right to decide who educates their children and how.

Governor, again I look forward to your strong leadership on the issues now before legislators for this special session. I hope you will continue to lead by adding these four vital issues to your Special Session call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sid Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Sid Miller  
Texas Agriculture Commissioner