Fact Sheet **July 2026**

Texas 2026 Interim Charges and Governor's Executive Agenda

Implications for Human Capital Investments[1] and Latino *Bienestar*[2]

By Juan H. Flores, M.U.P., LTPC Board Chairperson

KEY TAKEAWAY: The House and Senate interim charges function as a policy-development bridge between legislative sessions. They direct oversight and research, signal likely bill priorities for the 90th Legislature (January 2027), and largely align with Governor Greg Abbott's executive agenda. The strongest shared direction is toward governance, accountability, economic competitiveness, workforce preparation, infrastructure, public safety, and fiscal control. The agenda contains some meaningful human-capital investment entry points but comparatively limited explicit focus on reducing disparities and inequities in health, education, housing, wealth, and civic opportunity.

1. Role and Direction of the 2026 Interim Charges

Texas interim charges are issued by the Speaker of the House and Lieutenant Governor to standing committees during the period between regular sessions. They guide hearings, implementation review, agency oversight, evidence gathering, and committee recommendations. Because committee findings often inform legislation, appropriations, and statutory revisions, the charges also help establish the policy and bill-development agenda for the next session.

Priority Category	House Direction	Senate Direction	Likely Policy Signal
Government oversight and implementation	Broad monitoring of laws enacted by the 89th Legislature; agency rulemaking and implementation.	Program review, accountability, efficiency, fraud prevention, and implementation monitoring.	Additional compliance, reporting, audit, enforcement, and agency-governance bills.
Education and workforce	School finance implementation, advising, credentials, teacher and student outcomes, workforce transitions.	Governance, accountability, curriculum, higher education oversight, and workforce alignment.	Continued education governance and workforce-readiness legislation; selective investment tied to performance.
Health and human services	Medicaid, behavioral health, child welfare, long-term care, and implementation of enacted measures.	Program integrity, service delivery, vulnerable populations, fraud prevention, and fiscal oversight.	Administrative reforms and targeted program changes are more likely than broad coverage expansion.
Economic competitiveness and fiscal policy	Business climate, data centers, infrastructure, local taxation, and regulatory issues.	Property taxes, business regulation, economic competitiveness, and state fiscal priorities.	Tax relief, regulatory changes, incentives, and limits on local fiscal or regulatory authority.
Infrastructure, water, and energy	Water supply, desalination, electric demand, data-center growth, transportation, and resilience.	Grid reliability, water security, infrastructure, and high-demand energy users.	Major infrastructure and financing bills, paired with oversight and system-reliability requirements.
Public safety, border, elections, and state authority	Emergency response, election procedures, noncitizen voting concerns, border and public safety implementation.	Border security, criminal justice, election integrity, religious liberty, and state authority.	Continued enforcement-centered bills and expansion of state control, penalties, and preemption.

---

[1] Quality of life status affected by social, environmental, and system factors; embodies social justice concerns with institutional racism and harmful public policies.
[2] Policies that recognize and support the economic value of workers' experiences and skills, including assets like education, training, intelligence, home ownership, and health, which have monetary value and impact mobility toward financial stability and independence.

2. Alignment with the Governor's Executive Agenda

Governor Abbott does not issue legislative interim charges, but his executive agenda is communicated through State of the State emergency items, budget recommendations, special-session proclamations, agency directives, public initiatives, and the 2026 Report to the People of Texas. Taken together, these actions show substantial alignment with the House and Senate agendas.

Governor's Executive Priority	House/Senate Alignment	Alignment Level	Interpretation
Jobs, workforce, and economic growth	Both chambers emphasize workforce preparation, business competitiveness, and high-demand industries.	High	Strong likelihood of workforce, credential, regulatory, and economic-development bills.
Education reform and parental authority	Both chambers address education governance, accountability, student pathways, and implementation of recent reforms.	High	Future bills may continue governance, curriculum, choice, transparency, and performance priorities.
Property tax relief and fiscal restraint	Especially strong in the Senate; also reflected in House tax and local-government studies.	High	Tax relief and constraints on local revenue or spending remain likely.
Water, energy, and infrastructure	Both chambers study water supply, grid reliability, demand growth, and resilience.	High	Infrastructure investment is likely, but paired with fiscal, regulatory, and performance controls.
Border security and public safety	Strong Senate alignment and meaningful House oversight of border/public-safety implementation.	High	Enforcement, state authority, and public-safety measures remain central.
Government efficiency and implementation	House monitoring charges and Senate oversight charges closely match the Governor's implementation focus.	High	Expect reporting, auditing, agency-performance, and compliance legislation.
Health and family wellbeing	Present, but often framed through administration, vulnerable populations, and program integrity.	Moderate	Targeted reforms are more likely than a comprehensive health-equity or coverage agenda.

3. Possible Legislative Direction and HCI/Bienestar Implications

The combined agenda points toward a 90th Legislature that is likely to emphasize institutional control and measurable performance, selective economic and infrastructure investment, tax relief, public safety, and continued state oversight of local and public institutions. This creates limited alignment, tensions and challenges with Latino Human Capital Investment *Bienestar* policy social and economic mobility priorities.

HCI/B Domain	Likely Legislative Direction	HCI/B Alignment	Latino Implications / Opportunity Gaps
Education & Skills Development	Governance, accountability, school-finance implementation, advising, credentials, and workforce alignment.	Moderate-High	Potential gains in pathways and credentials, but limited explicit focus on bilingual education, pre-k, affordability, completion gaps, and equitable access to high-quality schools.
Health	Medicaid administration, behavioral health, vulnerable populations, fraud prevention, and delivery-system oversight.	Moderate	Program improvements may help, but uninsured rates, preventive access, maternal health disparities, and Latino population health are not central organizing priorities.
Housing	Supply, infrastructure, taxation, land-use, and local-government regulation.	Low-Moderate	Housing is treated mainly as a market and infrastructure issue rather than a stability, homeownership, or wealth-building strategy.
Labor & Employment	High-demand skills, credentials, employer needs, economic competitiveness, and workforce supply.	Moderate-High	Strong workforce relevance, but less attention to wages, job quality, occupational mobility, immigrant workers, and closing

			earnings gaps.
Family Stability	Targeted child welfare, behavioral health, public-assistance oversight, and public-safety measures.	Low-Moderate	Childcare affordability, food security, family wealth, mixed-status family impacts, and economic resilience remain underdeveloped.
Business & Economic Development	Business climate, tax policy, infrastructure, incentives, regulation, and entrepreneurship generally.	High	Strong growth orientation but limited explicit attention to Latino-owned business scaling, capital access, procurement, and regional inclusion.
Civil Rights & Civic Participation	Election administration, border enforcement, public safety, religious liberty, and state authority.	Low / Risk-Sensitive	The agenda prioritizes control and enforcement more than voting access, language access, immigrant integration, representation, or community trust.

Bottom-Line Assessment

The House, Senate, and Governor are broadly aligned around a governance-and-growth model: improve implementation, strengthen oversight, control costs and taxes, protect state authority, support business expansion, and invest selectively in workforce and infrastructure. This agenda can support some human capital where it expands educational pathways, workforce skills, health-system effectiveness, and infrastructure capacity. However, the policy direction and alignment are weak when measured against goals to reduce disparities and inequities in human capital investments that contribute to increasing and supporting middle-class families - e.g., access to public and higher education, stronger workforce opportunities with increased wage and benefits, healthcare access, home affordability, assets building, and civic inclusion.

Strategic implication for Latinos: The interim period offers an opportunity to connect legislative concerns about accountability and economic competitiveness to evidence showing that closing Latino education, health, housing, wage, business-capital, and civic-access gaps is a statewide growth and fiscal strategy—not a separate equity agenda.

Selected Official Sources

- Texas House of Representatives, Speaker Dustin Burrows, Interim Committee Charges, March 2026.
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor, 2026 Interim Legislative Charges, including the March 27, 2026, release.
- Office of Governor Greg Abbott, 2026 Report to the People of Texas, May 6, 2026.
- Office of Governor Greg Abbott, 2025 State of the State Address and designated emergency items.
- Office of Governor Greg Abbott, agency directives on preparing Texans for high-demand jobs, June 22, 2026.
- Office of Governor Greg Abbott, Proposed State Budget for Fiscal Years 2026-2027.