

For Immediate Release

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County leaders meet in New Braunfels to discuss impacts to Hill Country communities at the close of the 2025 Legislative Session

“Being a County Commissioner is already a full-time job without engaging the Legislature, but it’s critical for Austin to know what problems look like on the ground in our communities,” said Comal Commissioner Jen Crownover. “That’s why this workshop series is important. If we want to protect our communities and encourage responsible development, we have to be able to navigate the Texas Legislature on behalf of our constituents.”

Last week, more than 40 County officials and staff representing nine counties across the Hill Country gathered for a County-to-County Coalition meeting in New Braunfels to share key takeaways from 2025’s busy state legislative session. Legislative updates focused on topics critical to natural resource management, such as water supply, wastewater and stormwater quality and management, land use conflicts, and the aggregate industry. Organized by Commissioners Jen Crownover and Kevin Webb (Comal County), Andra Wisian (Kendall County), Stephen Germann (Guadalupe County), and former Commissioner Lon Shell (Hays County), this was the coalition’s fifth meeting, bringing together county leaders from across the Hill Country region.

The group included county commissioners, engineers, planners, and groundwater conservation district managers from Bandera, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, Kendall, Kimble, Medina, Travis, and Williamson counties. These leaders represent some of the fastest growing counties in the country. Joined by former State Representative Andrew Murr, District Director for State Senator Donna Campbell’s office Joyce Yannuzzi, and water consultant Leah Martinsson, the workshop empowered participants to navigate the Texas Legislature for their constituents and provided information on which bills moved through the Capitol and why.

Capitol insiders shared more on the 2025 Texas legislative session, the upcoming special session, and the results of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker’s priorities. Local leaders learned about the state budget, passage rates from different house and senate committees, and gained context on the 13% overall bill passage rate from this year’s legislative session. Presenters also shared legislative outcomes on topics including water supply, wastewater and stormwater quality and management, land use conflicts, and the aggregate industry. With an eye to the future, attendees began to outline specific goals for the 2027 legislative session and define opportunities for collaboration with state legislators.

“We’re so lucky to live in a region where our local elected leaders share a common vision, collaborate on shared issues, and show up in Austin for their constituents,” said Grace Gilker, Hill Country Alliance Communities Program Manager. “With a record-breaking 9,460 bills filed at the Texas Legislature this year, this coalition of county leaders has been crucial to ensuring that the work of monitoring bills is shared, that nothing slips through the cracks, and that the Hill Country’s voice is heard at the Capitol.”

The County-to-County Coalition is an ongoing collaboration driven by host commissioners and supported by nonprofit partners Hill Country Alliance, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, National Wildlife Federation's Texas Coast and Water Program, Comal Conservation, and the Heart of Texas Conservancy. Since 2023, the Coalition has grown and evolved into a regular collaboration between 5 host Commissioners, 5 nonprofits, and over 100 Hill Country County officials and key staff.

About: *The Hill Country Alliance is a nonprofit organization, bringing together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and unique character of the Texas Hill Country. Learn more at hillcountryalliance.org.*

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Photos:



Kendall County Commissioner Andra Wisian addresses the group.



One group discusses issues related to preventing water waste in new developments.



Former Representative Andrew Murr discusses the interim of the Texas Legislature.