

Howdy, Ags!

Let me begin by saying "well done," Advocates! The 86th Texas Legislature wrapped up another busy session this past Monday, and the vast majority of lawmakers and pundits have deemed the session a big success. It takes a team effort to ensure the university's legislative agenda — and the impacts of potential laws — is understood by both members and their staffs in Austin. In a time where there are some "headwinds" against higher education, we are fortunate to have so many people — both staff and volunteers — dedicated to ensuring that Texas A&M receives the proper amount of state funding. Whoop!

With that in mind, you can read the article below to get both Chancellor Sharp and President Young's opinion on the session; summed up by the quotes: "best financial session ever" and it's a "game changer." Bipartisan efforts in the legislature to increase funding for higher education in the state resulted in several areas of improvement for Texas A&M:

- About \$91 million in new general revenue funds will be allocated over the 2020-2021 biennium.
- This includes a \$24.5 million increase in formula funding.
- A \$12 million increase in the Texas Research University Fund.
- A sum of \$55 million for "institutional enhancement." (We refer to this as equity funding.)

The higher education successes in the 86th Texas Legislature represent a huge step towards narrowing the gap in per-student general revenue funding levels, and will contribute tangible advancements in student success initiatives, core academic functions and faculty reinvestment.

Thank you again, Advocates. Your actions — and the resulting impact — show both the power and the potential of The Texas A&M Advocacy Network. Please be on the lookout for opportunities to thank the members — Aggies or otherwise — for their support of Texas A&M during this past session.

Gig 'em,

Dave Fujimoto '17
 Director of Strategic Engagement



Texas A&M Has Best Financial Legislative Session Ever

"Texas A&M University is poised to have a winning legislative session, according to preliminary

estimates of actions taken [last week] by Texas House and Senate conferees who are negotiating the final touches on the FY 2020-21 state budget.

"The conferees approved approximately \$91.5 million in new money for Texas A&M University for the next two-year budget cycle, as compared to about \$20 million in new money in the 2017 legislative session. The conferees' final report must be approved with floor votes by the House of Representatives and the Senate before going to Governor Greg Abbott for his consideration."

To get Chancellor Sharp's and President Young's thoughts, click [here](#).

It's done: Texas Legislature gavels out of session



"And on the 140th day, they rested.

"The 86th session of the Texas Legislature ended Monday with ceremony, a sense of accomplishment and the sweetest words imaginable after a five-month marathon turned sprint to the finish — no special session in sight.

"Unlike previous sessions that were dominated by one or two big fights — the bathroom bill and "sanctuary" cities in 2017, the open carry of handguns in 2015, an effort to close most abortion clinics in 2013 — this one featured frequently behind-the-scenes slogs through rewriting property tax and school finance law, the effects of which will be debated for years."

Read more about the 86th Texas Legislative Session from the *Austin American-Statesman* [here](#).



State Rep. Brad Buckley '89 & '93 (DVM) selected Freshman of the Year by Texas House Republican Caucus

The Texas House Republican Caucus selected state Rep. Brad Buckley '93 as its Freshman of the Year. We offer our congratulations and thanks for his hard work this session!

Elaine Mendoza '87 Elected As Chair Of A&M System Board of Regents



"Elaine Mendoza is a distinguished alumna of Texas A&M whose professional achievements in science and healthcare, as well as her service to her community, truly embody what it means to be an Aggie," said Gov. Greg Abbott.

Click on this AggieNetwork [link](#) to read more about Mendoza's appointment.

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