

Budget Crisis? What Budget Crisis?

You have probably heard about the Texas “budget crisis,” and been told that to avoid budget cuts we need to tap Texas’ savings account, the Rainy Day Fund. But the reality is very different from the headlines. Texas actually has *MORE* money to spend now than it spent two years ago:

Type of Funds	2016-17 Appropriated	2018-19 Available	2018-19 Increase
State Funds	\$141.1 B	\$149.8 B	\$8.7 B
All Funds	\$209.1 B	\$224.8 B	\$15.7 B

Of course, just because the state has money doesn’t mean it should spend all of it. That is why the Conservative Texas Budget Coalition sets limits on Texas government appropriations in the Conservative Texas Budget (CTB):



SB 1, up for debate in the Senate on Tuesday, shows that Texas can adopt a conservative budget that meets the needs of Texans. Both state and all funds appropriated in SB 1 are below the CTB limits:

Type of Funds	2018-19 CTB Limits	2018-19 SB 1	Amt. Below CTB
State Funds	\$147.5 B	\$145.2 B	\$2.3 B
All Funds	\$218.5 B	\$217.8 B	\$700 M

There is no budget crisis in Texas. The Texas Legislature can and should spend within its means, just like every Texas family, and adopt a Conservative Texas Budget without using the Rainy Day Fund.