

Photo Credit: Al Braden Photography



2025 Legislative Program & Agenda

Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter Team

Overview

- 1 Level setting
- 2 Legislative landscape
- 3 Sierra Club's agenda
- 4 The work to get there

Photo Credit: Al Braden Photography

89th Texas Legislature

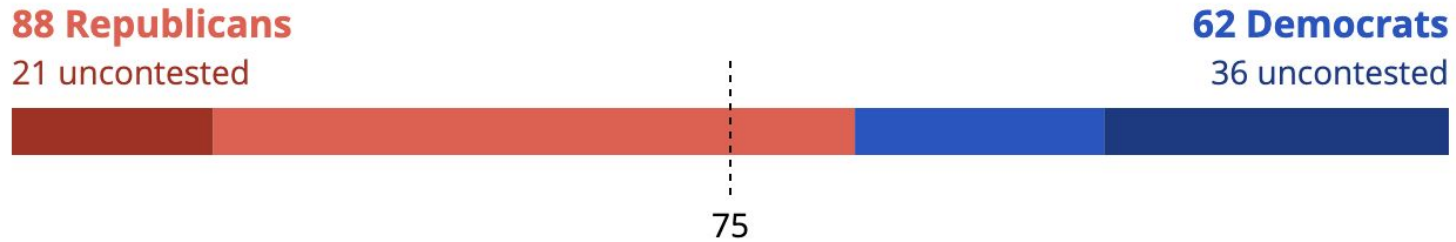
How much really changed?



For the last two years, the balance of power in the Texas House has looked like this:

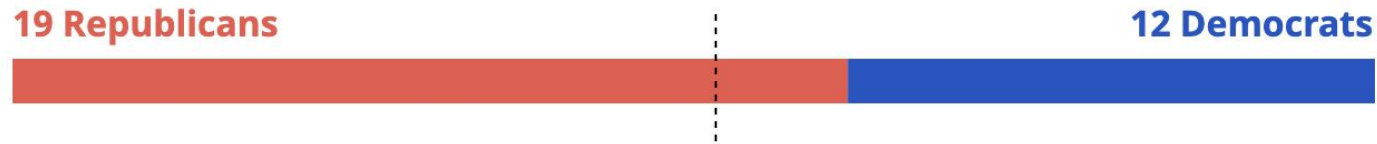


Here's what it will look like now as results come in:

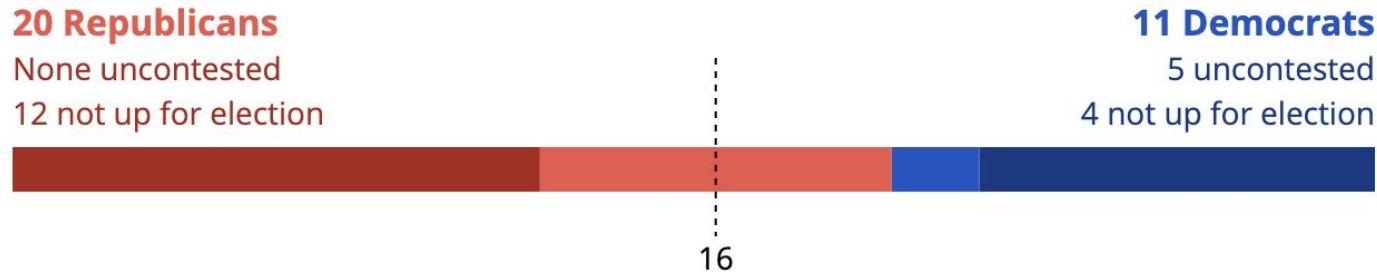


Texas House

For the last two years, the balance of power in the Texas Senate has looked like this:



Here's what it will look like now as results come in:



Texas Senate

Legislative FAQ

How many bills pass each session?

- Most bills do not pass!
- In 2023:
 - 5413 House Bills Filed, 744 Sent to Governor (14%)
 - 2633 Senate Bills Filed, 502 Sent to Governor (19%)
- **Abbott vetoed 77 of those bills**

Which is the only bill that the legislature must pass and contains many of our key priorities?

- **The State Budget!**

Who's going be Speaker of the House?



Dade Phelan



David Cook

Key Committees

House

Energy
Resources

House

State Affairs

Senate

Business &
Commerce

Senate

Agriculture,
Water, &
Rural Affairs

House

Environmental
Regulation

House

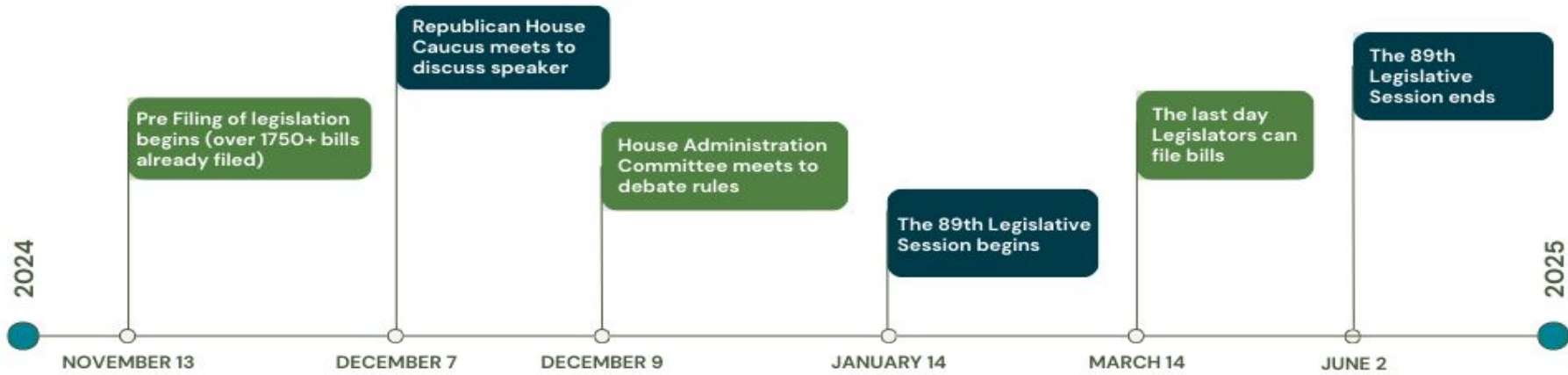
Appropriations

Senate

Natural
Resources

Senate

Finance



The Legislature has already started

What goes into picking our priorities?

Impact

Capacity

Politics

Viability



#1 How many tons of methane are emitted each year from oil and gas facilities in Texas?

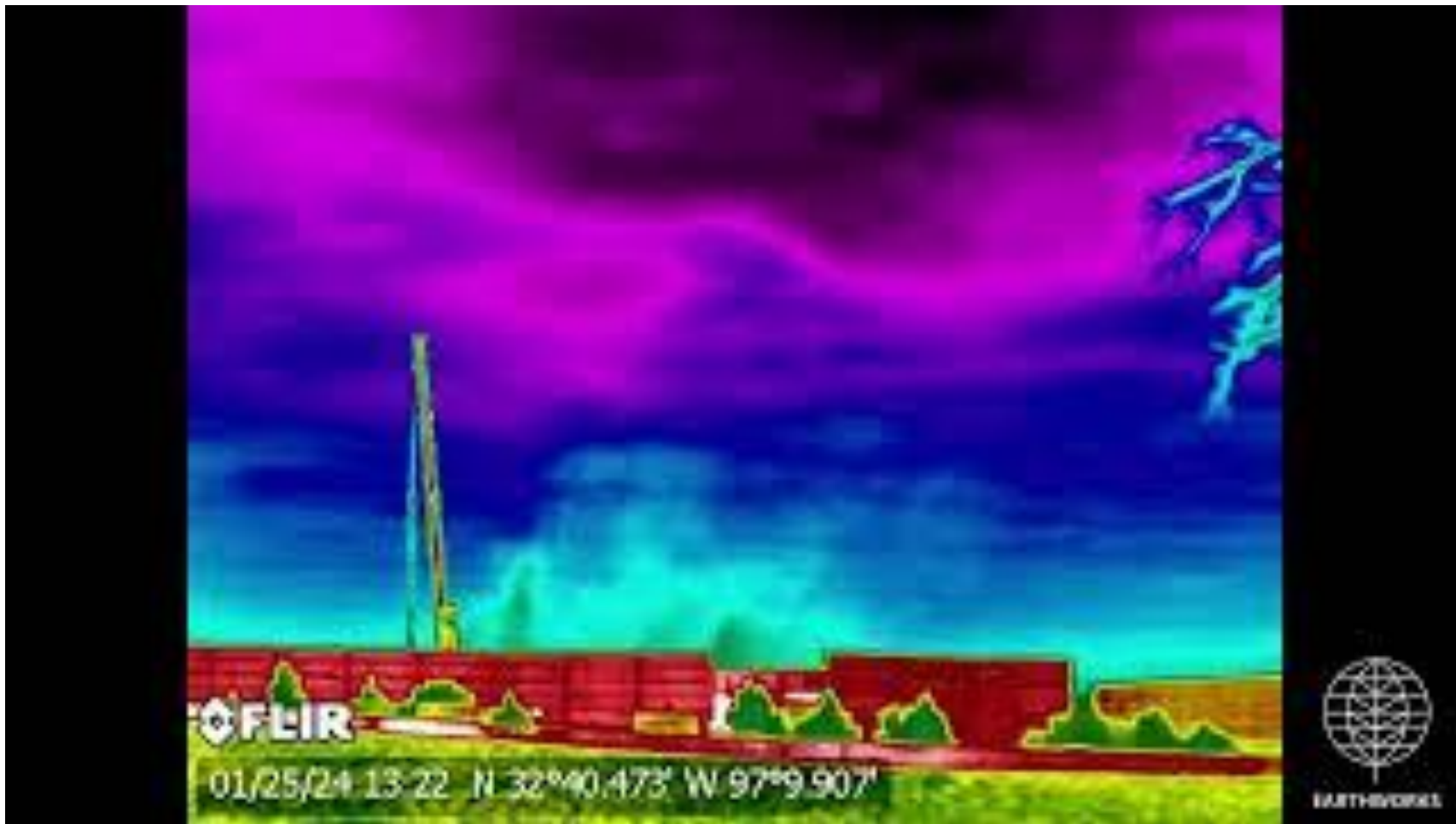
- A) 10 tons
- B) 300,000 tons
- C) 3,000,000 tons
- D) 6,000,000 tons



Photo Credit: Al Braden Photography

Answer:

We don't know but most likely C



Video courtesy of Earthworks

Priority 1: Air Quality Monitoring

- Methane Sensors
- Hydrogen Sulfide
- PM 2.5
- Ozone
- Ethylene Oxide
- Cumulative Impacts
- Drone Technology



#2 During the emergency energy alert of September 6, 2023, what percentage of power did battery storage resources provide that evening to keep the power on?

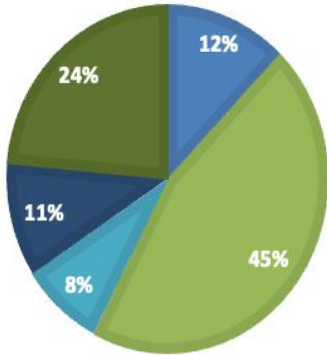
- A) 1%
- B) 3%
- C) 10%
- D) 15%



Answer: B

**ELECTRICITY BY FUEL TYPE, JAN-OCTOBER
2024, ERCOT**

■ Coal ■ Gas ■ Nuclear ■ Solar ■ Wind



**Priority 2:
Clean, Reliable,
Affordable
Energy for All**

#3 What year did Texas last update its statewide goal for energy efficiency?

- A) 1955
- B) 1999
- C) 2011
- D) 2023



Answer: C

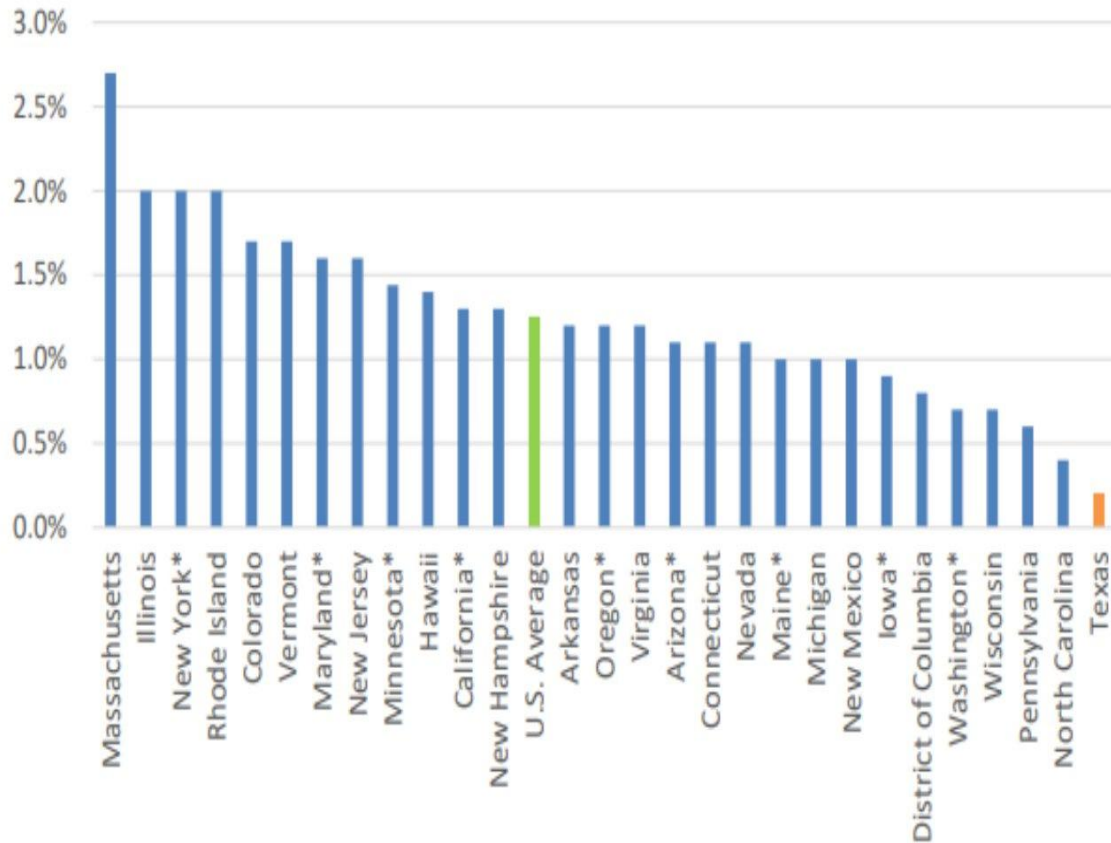


Figure 2. Annual electricity savings as a percent of state energy MWh sales per state EERS policies. For the purpose of comparison, ACEEE estimated an average annual savings target by calculating each state's EERS

Priority 3: Modernize Our Electric Grid

#4 How much money did the Texas Legislature approve for low-interest loans for new gas power plants in 2023?

- A) \$500,000
- B) \$500 million
- C) \$5 billion
- D) \$10 billion



Answer: C*

Priority 4: Oppose Fossil Fuel Subsidies

- Performance Credit Mechanisms
- \$10 billion Texas Energy Fund
- Renewable energy and energy storage exclusions



#5 How many water bodies in Texas are listed as impaired in the 2024 Texas Integrated Report?

- A) 25
- B) 75
- C) 900
- D) 1,400

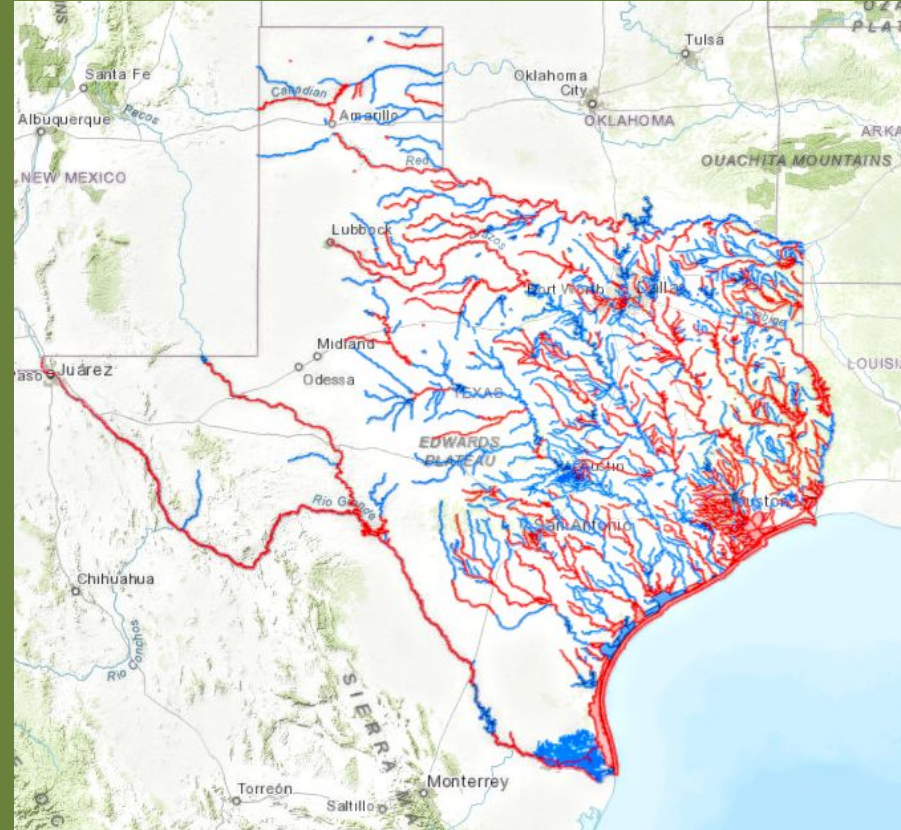
Photo Credit: Al Braden Photography

Answer: D



Priority 5: Water Protection Standards & Solutions

- Pre-production plastic pollution
- Salinity
- Discharge standards for desalination plants
- Impaired waters list backlog
- Fracking wastewater



#6 How many Texans
don't have reliable access
to clean water?

- A) 1,000
- B) 10,000
- C) 100,000
- D) 1,000,000

Answer: D



Priority 6: Big Water Funding & Infrastructure Bill

- Resilient water supply strategies
- State Flood Plan and Recommendations
- Texas Water Fund
- Economically Distressed Areas Program
- Environmental Flow Adaptation, Agricultural Water Conservation

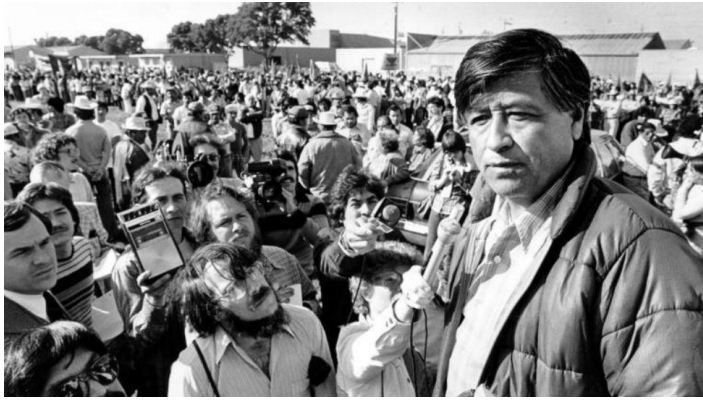


- Guardrails around water quality, public input and local ecological/economic protections

Photo Credit: Genya O'Neall

A photograph of a family having a picnic in a park. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white tank top and blue shorts, is sitting on a blue blanket, smiling and looking at a young boy. The boy is wearing a yellow and white striped shirt and blue shorts, and is also smiling. They are surrounded by picnic items like a water bottle, a bowl of food, and a bag. In the background, a man in a blue shirt and a woman in a pink dress are standing and talking near a large tree. The scene is set in a lush green park with many trees and grass.

Together, we will create
a future Texas deserves.



“Society is made up of groups, and as long as the smaller groups do not have the same rights and the same protection as others – I don’t care whether you call it capitalism or communism -it is not going to work. Somehow, **the guys in power have to be reached by counterpower**, or through a change in their hearts and minds, or change will not come.” - Cesar Chavez



Popular Education

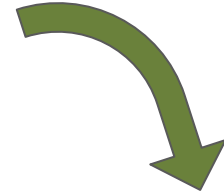
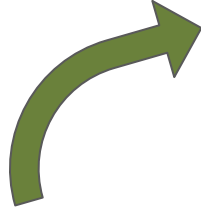
(share, teach, support each other)

**Recruit,
Mobilize,
Expand**

**How We
Build Power**

**Connect
Local
Solutions**

Train & Develop Skills



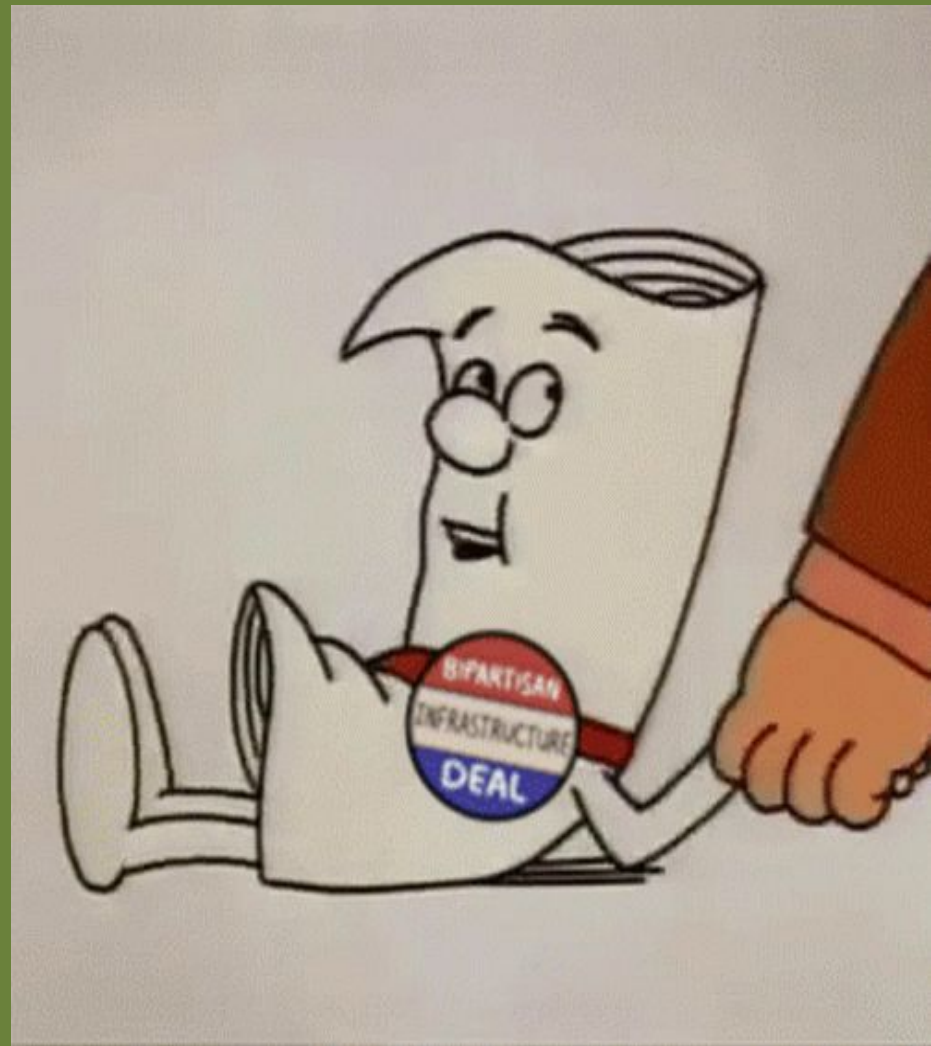
What we're setting out to do, Together

- Build one step at a time.
- Relationship building
- Connect people through state-and-local network of activists
- Build legislative staff relationships
- Emphasize the long game: building power to win
- Change that people see themselves benefiting from

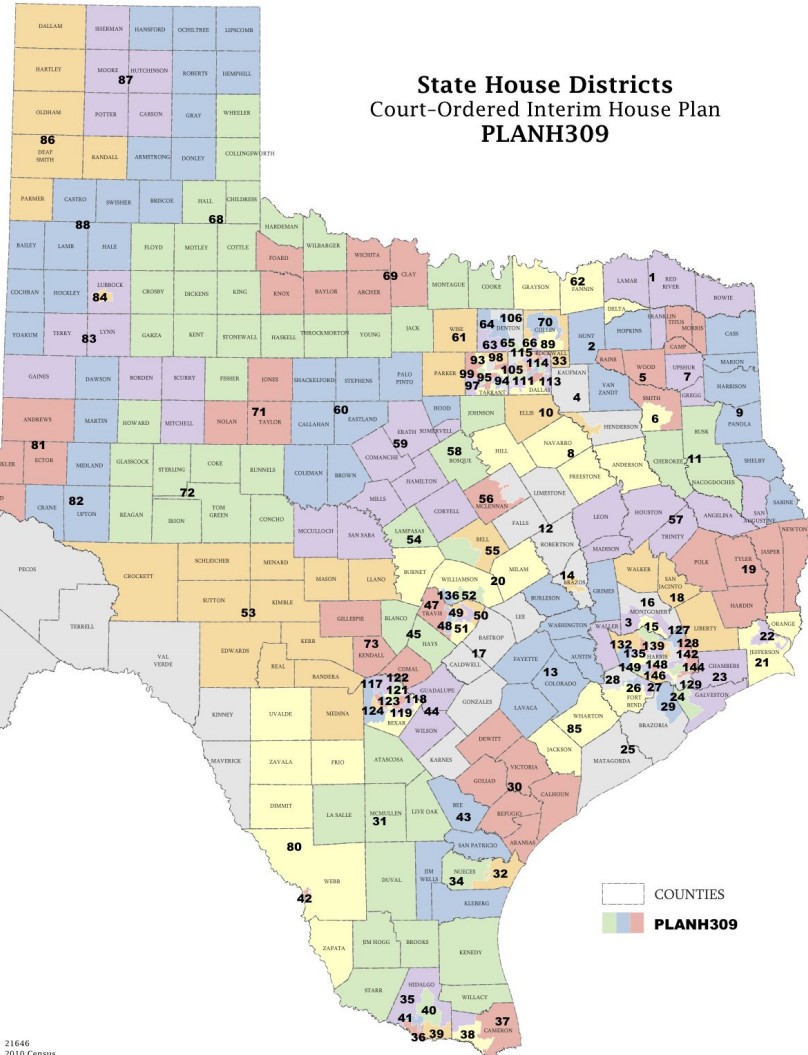
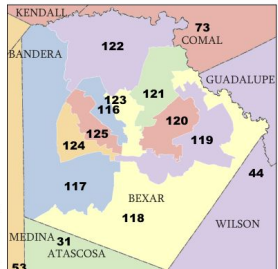
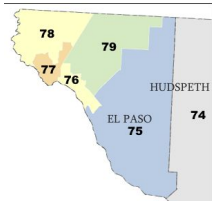
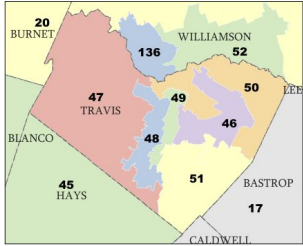
Remember
Schoolhouse Rock?



If only it was that simple.
Now, comes the hard
part.



State House Districts Court-Ordered Interim House Plan PLANH309



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Texas Legislative Council

HELP SHAPE A FUTURE TEXAS DESERVES

Stay In Touch

Sign up for our newsletter and never miss an update from the Lone Star Chapter.

Take Action

Ready to join our Legislative Action Team? We need folks on the ground fighting for Texas' future.

Get Involved

Visit our website to learn more.





Sierra Club Texas Legislative Action Network Volunteer Interest Form

To win at the Texas Capitol takes a lot of people. Sign up to receive more information about ways you can get involved advancing our pro-Texan, pro-environment legislative agenda.

Before, during and after the 89th Texas Legislature, we'll organize different activities to get involved in, such as:

- Meeting your State Representative or State Senator
- Lobby Day at the Texas Capitol
- Contacting legislators and their staff in your own community
- Social Media engagement
- Writing letters to the editor
- Organizing postcard drives
- Lit drops at the Texas Capitol
- Recruiting new volunteers
- Creating art
- ...and more

Do you know who your
State Rep and
State Senator are?

Visit
wrm.capitol.texas.gov
to find out, then put
it in the chat!

What will the work look like?

Lobby

Digital

Press

Partner
Engagement

Social
Media

Research

In-District
Meetings

Oral
Testimony

Written
Testimony



Capitol

- Lit drops
- Committee Testimony
- Lobby Day Organizing



Anywhere

- Meet with your legislator
- Letter to the editor
- Postcard campaigns
- Action alert/online petitions
- Education

TIMELINES: Legislation and Advocacy



Homework!

**Help update the
legislator contact
directory**

Easy action for people who
like to research and use
spreadsheets

**Begin building or
reigniting relationship
with your legislators**

Introduce
Top issue
SC Legislative Priorities
Via email

Thank you!



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Activities/Volunteering

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