

Photo Credit: Al Braden Photography



2025 Legislative Team Meeting

Sierra Club
Lone Star Chapter Team

Overview

- 1 Updates, Intel, and Calendar
- 2 Preparing to Engage
- 3 Supporter Outreach
- 4 People's March, Next Steps



January at a Glance

Jan 14

Legislature begins

Jan 18

People's March

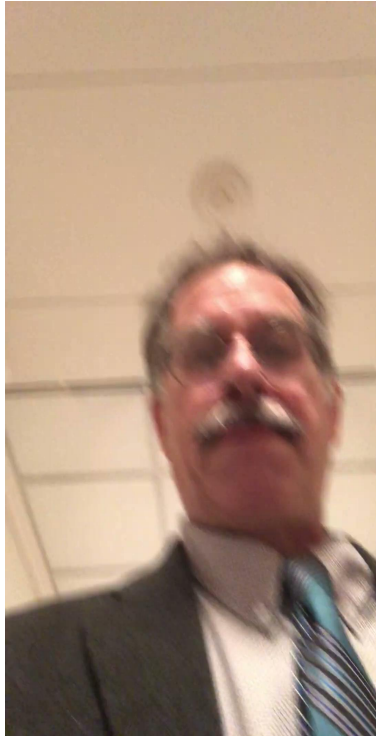
Jan 25

Next Sierra Club lege meeting

Jan 29

ACT Staff Briefing & Happy Hour

Bill Updates, Intel from the Capitol



So Far, about 2700 bills filed through this week, including 1632 House Bills, 732 Senate bills, and lots of joint and concurrent resolutions.

True Story - Walked into Terry Meza's office and she was reading our legislative priorities that a constituent had sent her through our legislative action alert! Thank you!

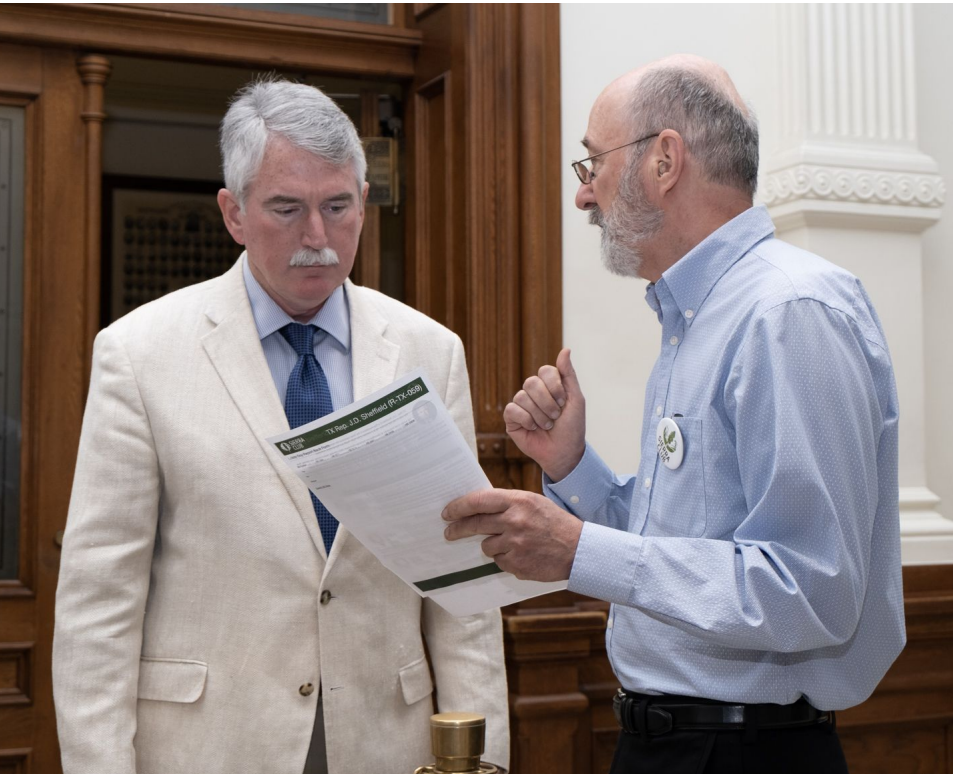
Good and bad bills filed related to our agenda (for full list visit website)

- THE BAD
- Lots of anti-renewable, anti-storage bills filed including SB 714 and SB 715 by Kevin Sparks but also other bills by Senator King (SB 388). Patterson (HB 553) and Ellen Troxclair (HB 1343), also rad waste fee reductions (SB 713)
- The Good
 - Energy Codes bill (HB 1360) Low-Income Electricity Discount (HB 1359), Building Codes (HB 882, HB 871), Hydrogen Sulfide Bill (HB 1341) , PFAS in Sludge (HB 1674), Drones to inspect oil and gas facilities (HB 1285)
- Concerned
 - HB 1808 by Landgraf would encourage use of fracked wastewater – needs some protections in the bill for environment and public health

News from the Texas Capitol

- Speaker's race: David Cook vs. Dustin Burrows
 - Both have terrible voting records on Sierra Club issues though Burrows less bad
 - MAGA/School Vouchers vs. slightly more Moderate Rs
 - Unclear but Burrows has upper hand if the Democrats stick together
- Water Infrastructure Bill
 - Senator Perry has announced he has support of Lt Governor and Governor to do something bit on funding on water
 - Bill will be introduced likely in February
- Comptroller to release the Biennial Revenue Estimate on Monday
 - The BRE determines how much money the Legislature has to write the budget and how much money is in the Rainy Day Fund
 - Education, School Vouchers, Texas Energy Fund, Property Tax Relief, Water, Well Plugging

Preparing to Engage



Ways to connect

1. In-district visit
2. Capitol office visit
3. Personal letter
4. Originally composed email
5. Social media posts
6. Phone call message with admin assistant
7. Click through email

Research your legislators

What motivates them?
Influences? Track record?

- Hometown?
- Profession?
 - Hobbies?
- Associations or affiliations?
 - Voting record?
- Committee assignments?
 - Caucuses?
- Campaign contributions?
 - Seniority?

Work on your story. Why do you care?

- Which issues in our legislative agenda (or legislative issues generally) do you care most about?
- Why do you care about them? Is there a personal connection/story about why it matters to you?
- What about the policy solutions appeals to you?
- Take 3 minutes: reflect, write a few bullet points.
- **Raise hand if want to share and report out for 1 minute**

Option 1

Asking for a face to face meeting

- Coordinate with Chapter
- 1-3 people ideal
- In-district office more likely early in session
- Make a clear ask
- Let's connect before you meet!

Option 2

Unscheduled engagement (eg.,
phone call, office drop by)

- Short time to convey information
- May speak with staff or intern
- Make a clear ask
- Report back!

Option 3

Writing a letter or personal email

- Offices notice personalization vs. automation.
- All the message and prep points still apply.
- Report back!

So... What Would You Actually Say?

“Rep. Hunter, hi! My name is [NAME], and I’m a constituent of yours from Corpus Christi. I wanted to let you know that I care deeply about keeping my energy bills as low as possible, and I’m really concerned about the proposals circulating about subsidizing new power plants with taxpayer dollars. I really believe strongly that you and your colleagues should focus on energy efficiency and making our buildings need less energy. Will you support HB XXX that would increase the state’s goal for energy efficiency?”

What Would You Say?

“Sen. Zaffirini, hi! My name is [NAME] and I’m a constituent of yours from San Antonio. I’d like you to know that one of my biggest concerns is water quality. I have deep family connections to the Gulf Coast, and every time I’m back there I see these plastic pellets on the shoreline. I know you have supported legislation in the past that would have led to standards for nurdle pollution. There is a new bill this session, SB XXX, that would revive that effort. Would you support this bill?”

What Would You Say?

State Sen. Checklist

- In-district lobby visit
- Lobby in Austin
- Personal letter
- Originally composed email
- Social media posts
- Phone call message with secretary
- Click through email

State Rep. Checklist

- In-district lobby visit
- Lobby in Austin
- Personal letter
- Originally composed email
- Social media posts
- Phone call message with secretary
- Click through email

What else can I do?

Building Our Team

Base counting... how can we multiply?

- Legislative Action Team volunteers: 32
- Legislative agenda action alert takers: 409
- SC members in Texas: ~19,000
- SC emailable supporters: 106,000

Upcoming Events

Jan 18

People's March

Jan 25

Next Sierra Club lege meeting

Jan 29

ACT Staff Briefing & Happy Hour

Resources

- Legislative Action Center
- Issue Pages
- Blogs
- Contact Information
- Action Alerts
- Newsletter
- Social Media

What else?



Thank you!



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Activities/Volunteering

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Agenda/Lobby

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