

# 2017 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

85TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE  
& SPECIAL SESSION



SIERRA  
CLUB

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## SCORES BY GRADE

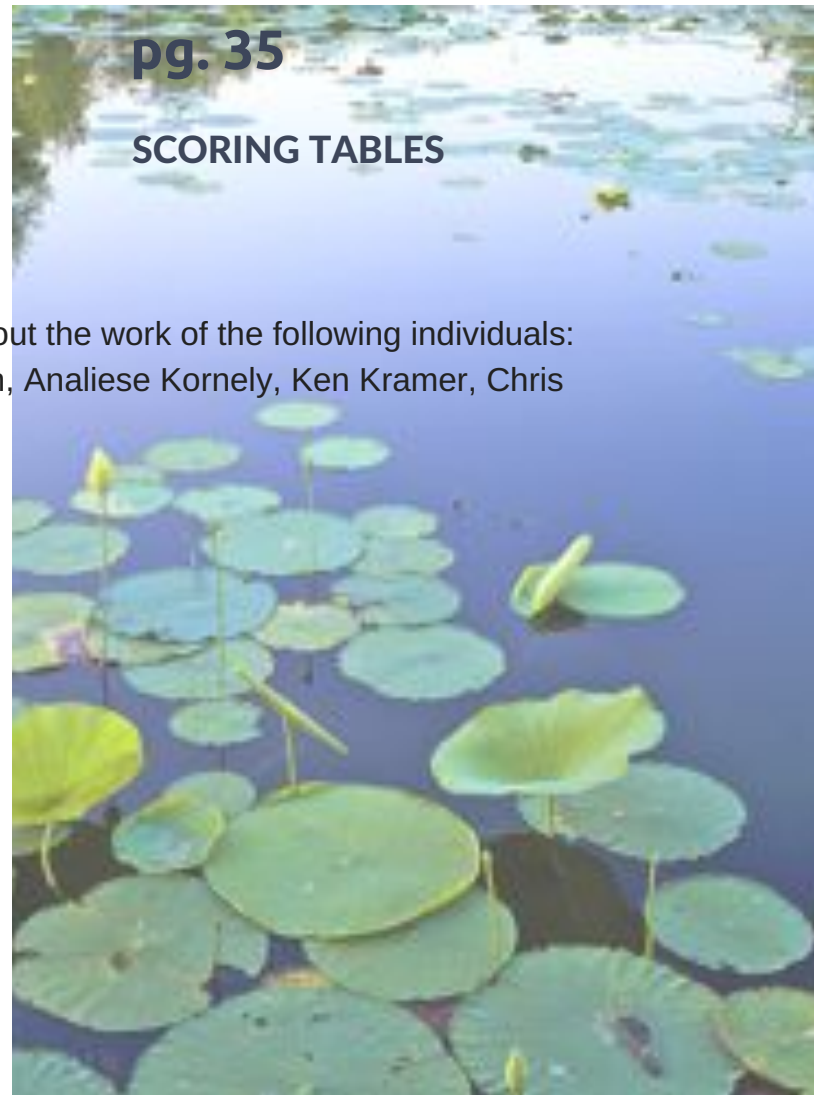
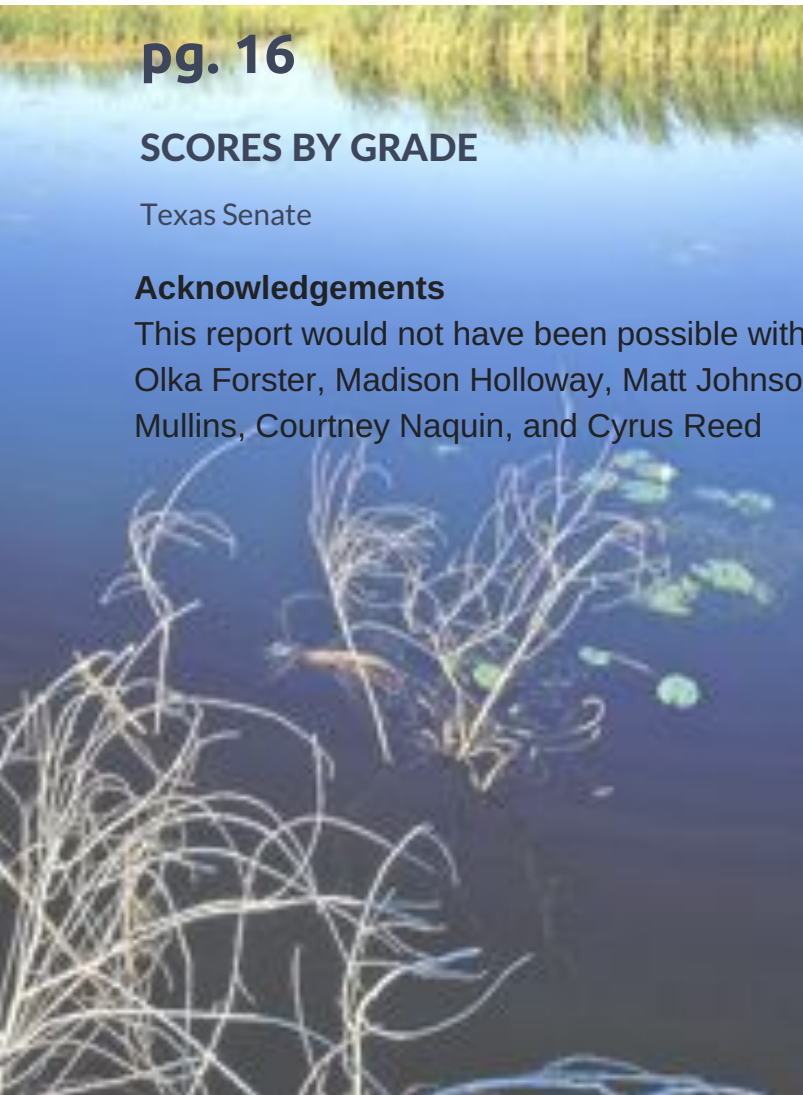
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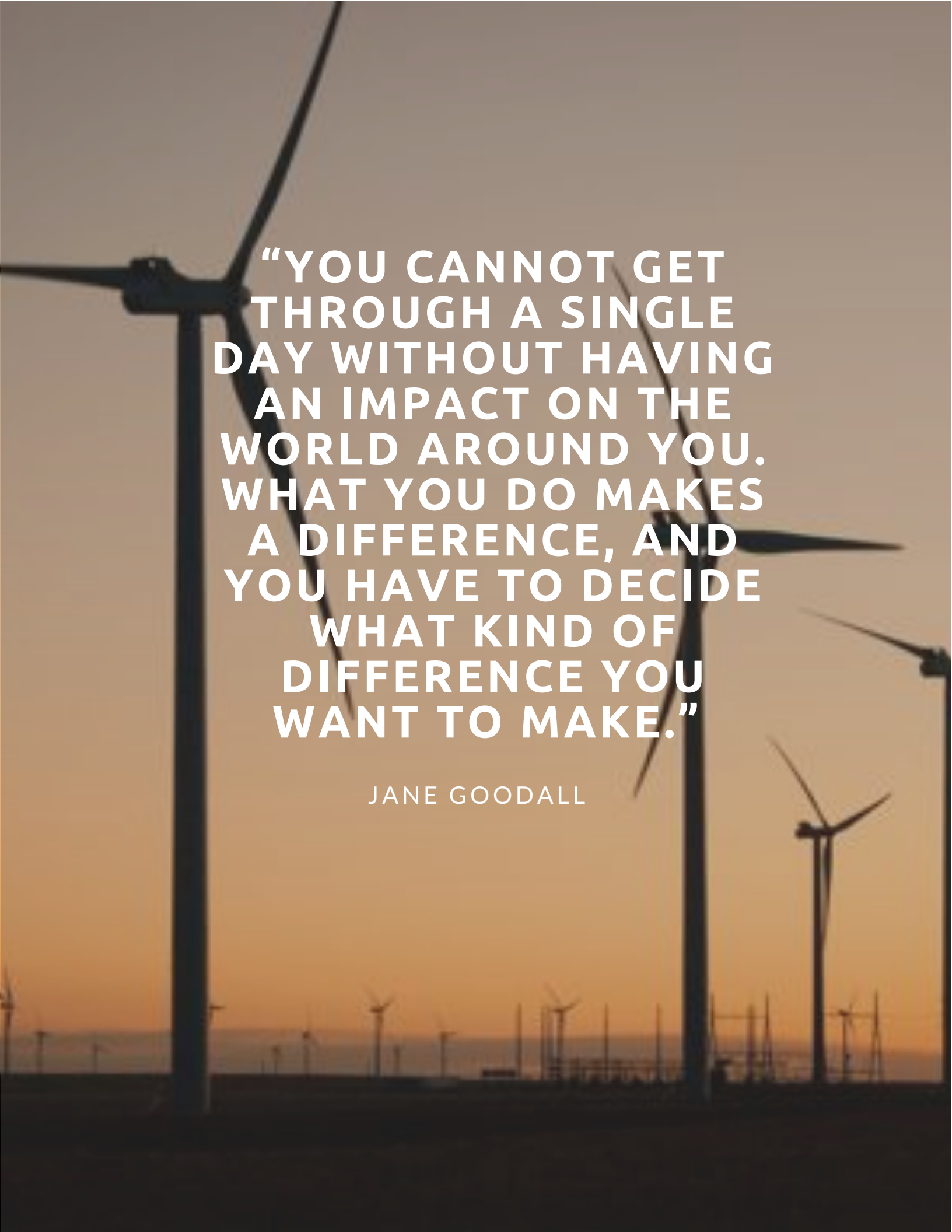
### Acknowledgements

This report would not have been possible without the work of the following individuals: Olka Forster, Madison Holloway, Matt Johnson, Analiese Kornely, Ken Kramer, Chris Mullins, Courtney Naquin, and Cyrus Reed

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## SCORING TABLES





**“YOU CANNOT GET  
THROUGH A SINGLE  
DAY WITHOUT HAVING  
AN IMPACT ON THE  
WORLD AROUND YOU.  
WHAT YOU DO MAKES  
A DIFFERENCE, AND  
YOU HAVE TO DECIDE  
WHAT KIND OF  
DIFFERENCE YOU  
WANT TO MAKE.”**

JANE GOODALL



# The Texas Legislature Is Sick. It Needs Medicine.

**You.**

**By: Matthew Johnson**

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When members of the Texas Legislature officially recognize a group of constituents on the floor of the House, they say, “Welcome to your Texas Capitol.” They always emphasize “your.” The sad truth, however, is that the building is not yours. It belongs to an increasingly radical and insulated group of individuals who are more often unwilling to act in the best interests of their constituents or of our state.

Evidence of this was on display during the so-called “Mother’s Day Massacre” where, in the last days of the session, right-wing Texas Freedom Caucus members intentionally and arbitrarily killed more than 100 non-controversial bills out of pure spite for House Speaker Joe Straus and other Republican legislators’ unwillingness to support their anti-woman and anti-immigrant legislative efforts.

Good environmental legislation was practically a non-starter this session. Unfortunately, what few champions remain in the Legislature these days are more unlikely to file good environmental bills or amendments because there is no way they are going to pass. There was no real chance to unlock clean energy’s massive job-creating potential, or take the next step on water protection and water conservation. Real reform of the Railroad Commission rolled over at the feet of the oil and gas lobby. Putting the word “climate” in any bill would have been a mark of death, and in one case, it was.

To be fair, though, there were a few good bills filed this session, a handful passed, and some members fought polluting interests bravely.

## **Influence and Irresponsibility**

How has it come to this? How has the Legislature become so irresponsible and unscrupulous? How have its priorities become so out of sync with the vast majority of Texans? If it were a living organism, you could say it is sick. It should surprise no one that polluting interests, such as the Texas Oil and Gas Association, have a tight grip on the Texas Legislature. Campaign cash from polluters gives them unprecedented access and influence, and their lobbyists clog the corridors of the Capitol. (Check out the Texans For Public Justice report on the influence of oil and gas money at the Legislature at [sc.org/TPJ2017](http://sc.org/TPJ2017)). Our Conservation Director, Cyrus Reed, noted early in the session that when the Railroad Commission Sunset bill was being voted on in the House, there were some 75 oil and gas lobbyists outside the House chamber and in the gallery, texting legislators to ensure they got the outcome they wanted. In contrast, our Conservation Director and only a handful of other conservation organizations were there to protect people and the environment.

Another symptom of a sick legislature is lack of competition. There are serious structural barriers to more competitive electoral races. Since 2003, federal courts have found over and over that the Texas Legislature has violated the voting rights of minorities and diluted their power when drawing electoral districts. Other reasons include: no limits on campaign contributions, which gives incumbents a huge fundraising advantage; a part-time citizen legislature that pays \$7,200 a biennium weeds out potential candidates that don't have family and job flexibility, and favors those of independent means; and a lack of local party and grassroots support to help new candidates.

All this means that too many seats are safe and secured for Republicans and Democrats to the point where would-be contenders don't even bother running against incumbents. In the last election, 81 of 150 House seats went uncontested. That's more than half of the Texas House. Even in races with a contender, 17 contests did not have a Democrat or Republican challenger. Yes, they did have either a Green Party or Libertarian challenger (or both), but none were even close to a competitive race. That's 98 seats, or 65% of the Texas House, that felt virtually no electoral pressure.

It's no wonder that so many legislators treat consensus building and compromise as relics of a bygone era of lawmaking. The spirit of compromise appears dead. It means that neither Democrats nor Republicans, in most cases, fear ramifications from their votes.

## **We Are Keeping Score**

It is in this context that we release our Legislative Scorecard for the 85th Texas Legislature, including the Special Session.

But wait, isn't that a waste of time given what we just said? No, because constituents like you need to know what these lawmakers are doing in your name. We are shining a light on bad votes and good votes so that Texans across the Lone Star State will be more informed about the actions of their elected officials, because they hide behind official positions and talking points too often. What matters is action – in other words, their votes.

We've selected 10 distinct votes in the House and 11 in the Senate that we feel represent the issues and priorities of the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter. Some are votes on bills, some are on crucial amendments to bills or a vote to table good amendments. In some circumstances, we supported a "yes" vote, and in others a "no" vote. In each case, we clearly stated what our position was.

While there are certainly some unsurprising scores, like Rep. Eric Johnson's A+ and Sen. Konni Burton's F-, there are some that may surprise you. Again, what counts is action and actions are votes, not words. We acknowledge that the Legislature is a frenzied circus and some votes can be legitimate mistakes. The legislative session is far too short a time to meet the needs of such a large and complex state as Texas. But in the end, it is your elected official's responsibility to cast each vote intentionally.

## **Omissions**

What's missing from these scores is a stronger lens of social justice. While we oppose discriminatory legislation such as SB 4, SB 8, and the attempts made to discriminate against transgender Texans, our limited capacity to actively lobby against these bills meant that we left them off the scorecard. Nevertheless, we encourage you to learn what your legislator did to oppose these hateful bills by checking out:

**Worker's Defense Project** ([workersdefense.org](http://workersdefense.org)) for information about the anti "sanctuary cities" SB 4.

**NARAL Pro-Choice Texas** ([prochoicetexas.org](http://prochoicetexas.org)) for information about the anti-choice SB 8.

**Equality Texas** ([equalitytexas.org](http://equalitytexas.org)) for information about SB 6 and other anti-LGBTQ bills.

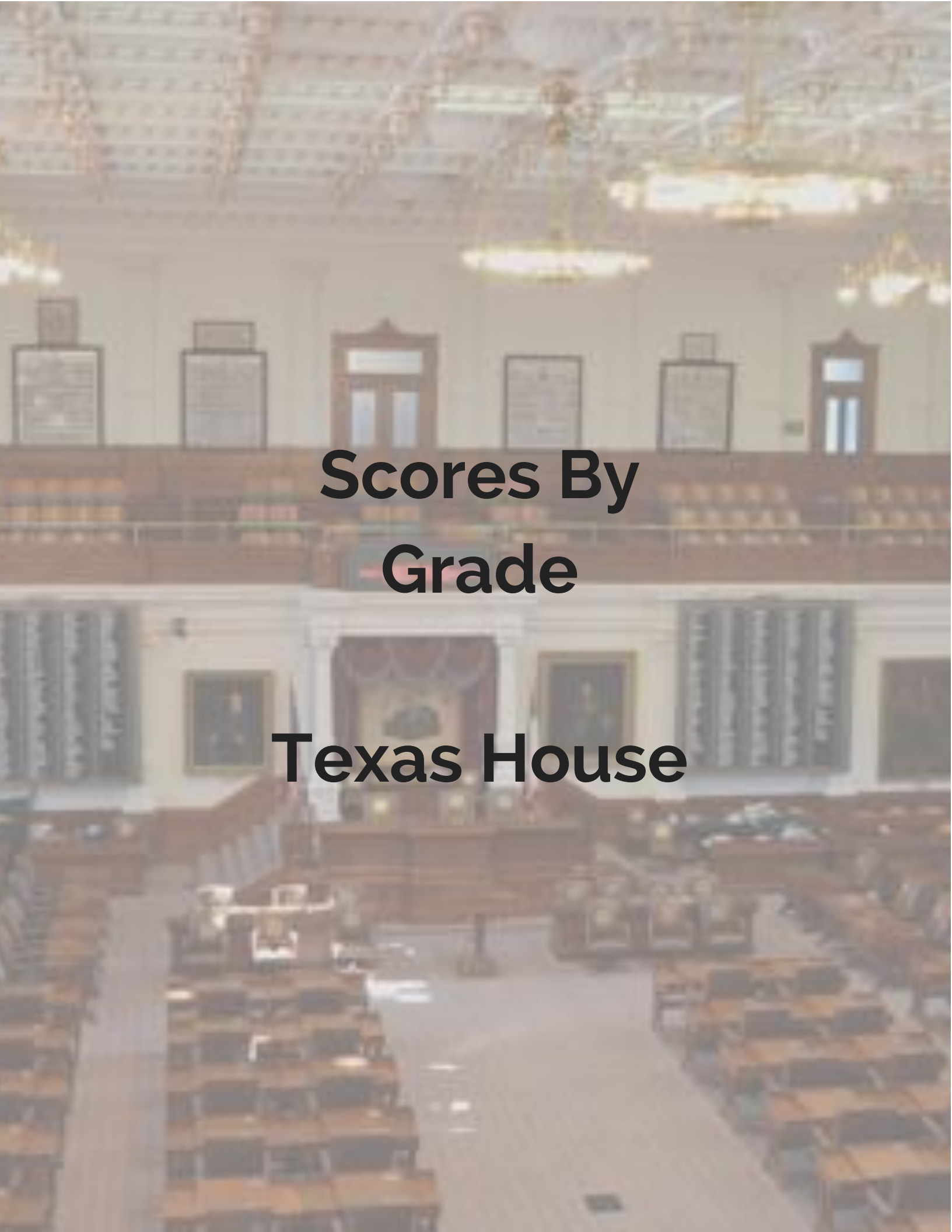
Also missing from this scorecard is legislative legacy. In many cases, members are solidly anti-environment or pro-environment, but some of them received higher scores or lower scores than they deserve if you consider their career as a lawmaker. For example, Rep. Drew Darby received a 5/10 (D) because he voted with our position on five of the 10 bills we scored on this session, but it doesn't factor in that he authored the notorious HB 40 from the 84th Legislature that took away cities' rights to protect their citizens from urban fracking operations.

Another example is Rep. Rafael Anchia's 7/10 (B), mostly due to a couple of missed votes. This doesn't reflect the great work he has done in past legislative sessions to advance strong clean energy bills, to say nothing of his heroic work standing up for immigrant communities.

## **How To Use This Scorecard**

However your legislator scored, we hope this helps you get more involved and spurs you to action. There is a concerted and coordinated effort underway at the national and state level to consolidate power and bypass democratic process. From Trump to Abbott and in each chamber of the Texas Capitol, our leaders are stripping away our rights and freedoms to live how we choose to live, and to ensure environmental protections are in place for all Texans now and in the future.

It takes people like you to step up and administer the medicine the Legislature needs, and that means your vote and your voice. If you would like to get more involved in our efforts, please consider donating, becoming a member, or joining one of our political committees across the state. You are the key to turning the Texas Capitol back to your Texas Capitol. Let's Turn Texas Green! Let's have more legislators who are not afraid to stand up to corporate polluters and vote to protect public health, clean water and clean energy!

The image shows the interior of the Texas House of Representatives chamber. The room is large and ornate, with a high ceiling featuring several chandeliers. The walls are light-colored with decorative elements, including framed panels and windows. The floor is dark wood. In the foreground, there are rows of wooden desks and chairs arranged in a semi-circle, facing a central area. The text "Scores By Grade" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Scores By Grade

# Texas House



## A+ Head of the Class

Twelve disciplined House members earned a perfect score. They were all Democrats. All 12 deserve credit for supporting Sierra Club's positions, but we would highlight in particular the role played by Rep. Donna Howard, who worked tirelessly in the Committee on Appropriations to make sure there was adequate funding for key environmental programs, and also went to bat for the Sierra Club, introducing amendments on key environmental votes. She did so while maintaining good relations with leadership and reminding us what dignity in elected office looks like. Rep. Reynolds also worked tirelessly in the Committee on Environmental Regulation to ensure that an improved TERP bill was introduced and ultimately passed, and also brought up important issues like climate change and methane pollution. Finally, we want to recognize the four "first years" - Reps. Ortega, Uresti, Thierry, and Minjarez - who showed wisdom far beyond their years.



Alma Allen (HD 131)



Philip Cortez (HD 117)



Joe Deshotel (HD 22)



Jessica Farrar (HD 148)



Donna Howard (HD 48)



Eric Johnson (HD 100)



Mando Martinez (HD 39)



Ina Minjarez (HD 124)



Evelina Ortega (HD 77)



Ron Reynolds (HD 27)



Shawn Thierry (HD 146)



Tomas Uresti (HD 118)

## A Almost Perfect

Earning an A in our book were 17 other Democrats, voting with us almost all of the time, and generally being stalwart environmentalists. Almost all of them were from urban centers, and several new members like Reps. Victoria Neave (D-Dallas) and Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-San Antonio) started their new careers strongly pro-environment. We also salute Rep. Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie) for his efforts to improve the Railroad Commission Sunset bill, and his huge efforts to pass new Drive-a-Clean Machine legislation that ultimately failed in the Senate and subsequently got its entire budget gutted by Governor Abbott after Sine Die.



Diego Bernal (HD 123)



César Blanco (HD 76)



Nicole Collier (HD 95)



Barbara Gervin-Hawkins  
(HD 120)



Helen Giddings (HD 109)



Mary González (HD 75)



Roland Gutierrez (HD 119)



Gina Hinojosa (HD 49)



Joe Moody (HD 78)



Victoria Neave (HD 107)



Alfonso Nevárez (HD 74)



René Oliveira (HD 37)

**A** Almost Perfect



Mary Ann Perez (HD 144)



Justin Rodriguez (HD 125)



Chris Turner (HD 101)



Hubert Vo (HD 149)



Gene Wu (HD 137)

## B Pretty Solid

Thirteen additional House members (all Democrats) earned a respectable B. Many of these are environmental leaders like Rep. Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas), who introduced not one but four good reform bills on oil and gas legislation that unfortunately ran up against corporate oil and gas interests. In addition, Rep. Eddie Lucio III (D-Brownsville), who unlike his father, Sen. Lucio, consistently voted correctly and worked tirelessly on good bills meant to improve water conservation and preserve unique ecological streams.



Rafael Anchia (HD 103)



Diane Arévalo (HD 116)



Terry Canales (HD 40)



Yvonne Davis (HD 111)



Harold Dutton, Jr. (HD 142)



Ana Hernandez (HD 143)



Abel Herrero (HD 34)



Celia Israel (HD 50)



Eddie Lucio III (HD 38)



Sergio Muñoz, Jr. (HD 36)



Eddie Rodriguez (HD 51)



Toni Rose (HD 110)



Senfronia Thompson (HD 141)

## C Needs Improvement

Nine members (all Democrats) got grades that George W. Bush would have been proud of had he earned them, but we expected better. Still, we recognize these members voted right the majority of the time, and note that Rep. Armando Walle (D-Houston) played a key role in important legislation like the Tire Regulation bill (SB 570) (ultimately vetoed by Governor Abbott) and introduced amendments to improve the budget and Railroad Commission Sunset bill.



Roberto Alonso (HD 104)



Carol Alvarado (HD 145)



Garnet Coleman (HD 147)



Bobby Guerra (HD 41)



Ryan Guillen (HD 31)



Jarvis Johnson (HD 139)



Joe Pickett (HD 79)



Ramon Romero, Jr. (HD 90)



Armando Walle (HD 140)

## D Big Disappointments

Twenty-two House members (19 Republicans and three Democrats) voted right only about half the time. In this hyper-partisan age, getting a D might be considered pretty good for Republicans. We recognize that some Republican leaders - members like Natural Resources Chair Rep. Lyle Larson (R-San Antonio), Energy Resources Chair Drew Darby (R-San Angelo), and Rep. Chris Paddie (R-Marshall), who sponsored important energy efficiency legislation, Rep. Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont), an important voice for more funding for TCEQ, and Rep. Geanie Morrison (R-Victoria), who tried to improve permitting legislation, deserve credit for bucking the general anti-environment trend in the modern Republican party. However, they voted in favor of discriminatory bills like SB 4. Still, we are disappointed that these members didn't lead more, and we are particularly disappointed in the three Democrats, Reps. Richard Raymond (D-Laredo), Oscar Longoria (D-Mission), and Tracy King (D-Batesville), who voted against public health and the environment almost as much as they voted for it.

## F Failures

Fifty-seven House members (all Republicans) earned an F. This doesn't mean they always voted wrong, and didn't at times play a positive role in helping to protect the environment. It means that most of the time they did not.

## F- Epic Failures

Eighteen House members (all Republicans) earned the Epic Failure label for either voting wrong every single time, or only voting right once. Four of them, Reps. Matt Krause (R-Fort Worth), Mike Lang (R-Granbury), Tony Tinderholt (R-Arlington), and Terry Wilson (R-Marble Falls), earned a zero. They really needed to work to be this awful.

## ? Unclassifiable

Speaker Joe Straus (R-San Antonio) doesn't vote, except on the rare occasion when there is a tiebreaker. That didn't happen and he didn't vote. We give the Speaker some credit for standing up to the Senate on the discriminatory bathroom bill, and for naming some balanced committees that allowed for more thoughtful legislation on environmental issues, but ultimately, it is pretty hard to judge someone who doesn't say much and doesn't vote.

Then there is Dawna Dukes (D-Austin). She votes right when she is there. Thus, on four of the 10 scored votes, she voted with our position, as she has consistently done throughout her long career. However, she wasn't even there for the other six votes, and she missed more record votes than any other House member. Maybe she should just get an incomplete and an opportunity to step aside and let someone else represent HD 46.



**Scores By Grade**

**Texas Senate**



## A+ Head of the Class

Five Senators voted right every time and were also present for nearly every vote. Sens. Kirk Watson (D-Austin), Carlos Uresti (D-San Antonio), José Menéndez (D-San Antonio), Borris Miles (D-Houston), and Sylvia Garcia (D-Houston) were our A+ students. Sen. Garcia in particular gets special praise for her efforts on the Senate Committee on Natural Resources where she tirelessly tried to improve or stop bad legislation and approve good legislation. In particular, she made a valiant effort to pass legislation on testing for lead in drinking water in schools, which was stymied by her Senate colleagues.



Sylvia Garcia (SD 6)



José Menéndez (SD 26)



Borris Miles (SD 13)



Carlos Uresti (SD 19)



Kirk Watson (SD 14)

## A Almost Perfect



José Rodríguez (SD 29)

Earning a near perfect score was Senator José Rodríguez (D-El Paso). The only reason Sen. Rodríguez didn't get an A+ was his "yes" vote on SB 1045, a bill that he actually voted against in committee. He also authored an important bill to better regulate tires (SB 570) and several bills to improve enforcement at the Railroad Commission of Texas. He was also the author of an important amendment on the Railroad Commission.

## B Pretty Solid



Judith Zaffarini (SD 21)

Sen. Judith Zaffarini (D-Laredo) continued to make heroic efforts to improve her constituents' public health and environment and she was an important voice on the Committee on Natural Resources, where she served as Co-Chair. However, her support for two bills to "grease" permitting on the water rights and air quality side prevented her from getting a top score.

## C Needs Improvement



John Whitmire (SD 15)



Royce West (SD 23)

Sens. Royce West (D-Dallas) and John Whitmire (D-Houston) supported bills that cut out the public in permitting decisions and also voted to strip incentives for wind around military bases, but they continued to vote right on most basic pro-environmental efforts, including defending local protections for heritage trees.

# D Big Disappointments

Seven Senators - two Ds and five Rs - only voted right five or six times on the Sierra Club scorecard. These included Sens. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D-McAllen), Eddie Lucio (D-Brownsville), Joan Huffman (R-Houston), Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), Charles Perry (R-Lubbock), Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) and Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury). Now, for the Republicans, who have some rationale for voting with the “leadership,” a D rating at least offers some basis for hope and improvement. We acknowledge these Senators for bucking with leadership at times, but for Democrats, this is a big disappointment, particularly the decision by Sen. Hinojosa to vote to approve Kelcy Warren for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Sen. Lucio is a special case. From voting for Warren’s appointment to voting for pro-industry permitting bills, and allowing an anti-local bill (SB 636) out of his committee and initially placing it on the local calendar, he was a major disappointment on multiple levels. While we salute his work to help those living in Colonias and his efforts to secure funding for these constituents, his continual capitulation to polluting interests, his support of an anti-wind bill (SB 277), and his shameful support of discriminatory legislation like SB 6 (aka, the “bathroom bill”) makes us believe that perhaps it is time for him to consider a new career. Through the years, he has often been an environmental champion, but the last two sessions have shown a man more interested in pleasing the Senate leadership than representing his community.



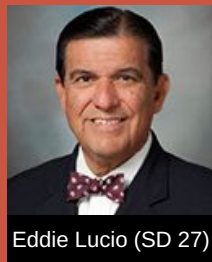
Brian Birdwell (SD 22)



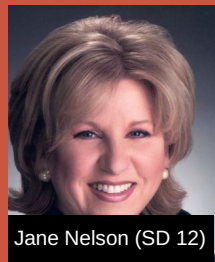
Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (SD 20)



Joan Huffman (SD 17)



Eddie Lucio (SD 27)



Jane Nelson (SD 12)



Charles Perry (SD 28)



Kel Seliger (SD 31)

# F Failures

Ten Senators earned an F, for earning a score of 20-39. All were Republicans. Sen. Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls) is also a special case. While he earned an “F” because of his poor votes and his authorship of SB 1045, we do recognize the important role he held by sponsoring and working so hard to pass a decent version of the TERP bill (SB 26). We also acknowledge his even-handed leadership as Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources. Thus, we maintain some hope that he will improve his “score” in the future.



Dawn Buckingham (SD 18)



Donna Campbell (SD 25)



Brandon Creighton (SD 4)



Craig Estes (SD 30)



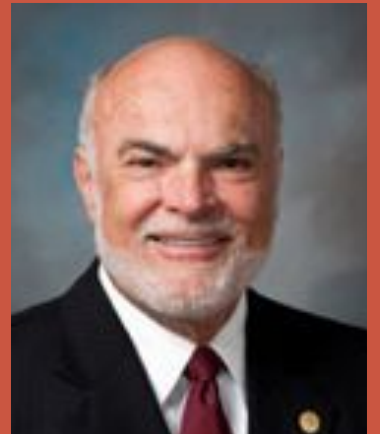
Kelly Hancock (SD 9)



Don Huffines (SD 16)



Bryan Hughes (SD 1)



Robert Nichols (SD 3)



Charles Schwertner (SD 5)



Larry Taylor (SD 11)

# F- Epic Failures

Five Senators earned such low scores - a zero or a 9% - that we declare them epic failures. Sorry not sorry, Sens. Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston), Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham), Bob Hall (R-Hedgewood), Konni Burton (R-Colleyville), and Van Taylor (R-Plano), you fail miserably on protecting natural resources and the environment.



Paul Bettencourt (SD 7)



Konni Burton (SD 10)



Bob Hall (SD 2)



Lois Kolkhorst (SD 18)



Van Taylor (SD 8)



# Key House Votes

## Cleaner Vehicles

### **Vote: HB 2321** (97-37-2-11)

HB 2321 by Rep. Turner (D-Grand Prairie) and Sen. Watson (D-Austin) would have expanded the Low-Income Vehicle Repair and Replacement Program (LIRAP) and made it more flexible. HB 2321 was a bill introduced by Rep. Chris Turner intended to allow the 16 counties currently running LIRAP (also known as the Drive-A-Clean Machine program) more flexibility by issuing replacement and repair grants to drivers that fail emissions inspection tests. The bill would have also allowed the counties to decide how much to dedicate to local initiative projects like enforcement and how much to devote to grants.

**Sierra Club's position:** The Sierra Club supported HB 2321. A vote for HB 2321 was a vote for the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** HB 2321 passed the House on a 97-37-2-11 vote but didn't get enough support to make it to the Senate floor. To add insult to injury, Governor Abbott then line-item vetoed the entire budget for LIRAP, wiping out \$87 million from the budget that would have reduced vehicle pollution.

### **Vote: A motion to table an amendment to SB 1045** (77-63-1-8)

SB 1045 was sponsored by Rep. Kacal (R-College Station). The amendment by Rep. Morrison (R-Victoria) would have doubled the amount of time that the public would be allowed to comment on TCEQ air permit applications from 30 to 60 days. SB 1045 was sold as a way to consolidate requirements for air quality permits for relatively minor sources of pollution, by only requiring one public notice once a draft permit was issued by TCEQ. Every new application for an air quality permit requires notice to the public both when the application is declared administratively complete, and also if and when a draft permit is issued, giving the public two opportunities to make comments, ask for a public meeting, or formally oppose the permit. SB 1045 allows certain permits to forego the first notice period if they can get TCEQ to accept the permit and issue a draft within 15 days of receiving the permit application.

**Our position:** The Sierra Club opposed the motion to table the good amendment by Rep. Morrison. A vote for the Motion to Table the amendment was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** The amendment was defeated on a 77-63-1-8 vote. SB 1045 ultimately passed the House and the Governor has signed the bill into law.

**Vote: SB 1045** (87-53-1-8)

SB 1045 (Estes/Kacal) was sold as a way to consolidate requirements for air quality permits for relatively minor sources of pollution by only requiring one public notice once a draft permit was issued by TCEQ. Under current law, every new application for an air quality permit requires notice to the public both when the application is declared administratively complete, and also if and when a draft permit is issued, giving the public two opportunities to make comments, ask for a public meeting, or formally oppose the permit. SB 1045 allows certain permits to forego the first notice period if they can get TCEQ to accept the permit and issue a draft within 15 days of receiving the permit application. The Sierra Club fought this change vigorously since it could allow all kinds of permits to only provide neighbors and others with notice before a permit is issued..

**Our position:** The Sierra Club opposed SB 1045. A vote for SB 1045 was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** Unfortunately, the bill ultimately passed the House 87-53-1-8 and the Governor has signed the bill into law.

## **Oil & Gas**

**Vote: A motion to table an amendment to HB 1818** (94-48-2-6)

The motion was made by Rep. Darby (R-San Angelo). The amendment, by Rep. Chris Turner (D-Arlington) would have amended the Railroad Commission Sunset Bill to require the Commission to hold public hearings for proposed injection wells located within a municipality. HB 1818 reauthorized the agency that is supposed to regulate oil and gas for another 12 years. While the bill had a few good reforms, it lacked demands made by the Sierra Club and thousands of Texans to modernize the agency, including changing its name or adding basic protections for the public. Rep. Turner's amendment was in response to a proposed injection well that could impact public drinking water resources in the City of Arlington. Unfortunately, this modest amendment was tabled.

**Our position:** The Sierra Club supported the amendment to HB 1818. A vote against the motion to table the proposed amendment was a vote for the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** The motion to table was successful and the amendment was not adopted.



**Vote: A motion to table an amendment to HB 1818** (102-39-2-7)

The motion was made by Rep. Gonzales (R-Round Rock). The amendment by Rep. Howard (D-Austin) would have required the Railroad Commission to increase the maximum fine that the RRC could assess from \$10,000 to \$25,000. HB 1818 was the Sunset bill for the Railroad Commission (see above). The RRC's maximum fines were established in Texas law in 1983, and raising the fines would have put the RRC in line with other agencies like the TCEQ and the Attorney General's Office.

**Our position:** The Sierra Club supported the amendment to HB 1818. A vote for the motion to table the proposed amendment was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** The motion to table the amendment was approved on a 102-39-2-7 vote, defeating the amendment.

## **Renewable Energy**

**Vote: Motion to adopt the Conference Committee Report for SB 277** (97-47-1-5)

SB 277 was sponsored by Sen. Campbell (R-New Braunfels). It eliminates property tax incentives for wind turbine projects within 25 miles of certain military bases with aviation equipment. SB 277 was introduced to "protect" military bases from encroachment from wind power plants, even though hundreds of megawatts of wind already operate safely near military bases with aviation equipment.

Furthermore, Department of Defense and an ERCOT processes already exist to only allow such wind development if the Department of Defense signs off on it. After different versions of SB 277 passed both the House and Senate, a Conference Committee Report was introduced that unfortunately stripped a good amendment that had been added in the House.

**Our position:** The Sierra Club opposed the Conference Committee Report for SB 277. A vote for the bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** The CCR for SB 277 passed both the House (97-47-1-5) and the Senate and was signed into law by Governor Abbott.

## Tire Dumping

**Vote: SB 570** (114-30-1-4)

SB 570 was sponsored by Sen. Rodriguez (D-El Paso) and Rep. Walle (D-Houston). It would have improved regulation and enforcement of the management, storage, transportation, and disposal of used and scrap tires. SB 570 represented a long-time effort of Sen. Rodriguez (and his predecessor, Eliot Shapleigh) to bring better regulation and enforcement of illegal tire dumping and other dangerous tire management practices that can reduce fires, mosquitoes, and toxic messes. While the bill passed the Senate, it had a more difficult road in the House, first failing to pass on the House floor. However, one of the members of the House who had voted initially against it, Rep. Phelan (R-Port Neches), asked for a revote later that day.

**Our Position:** The Sierra Club supported SB 570. A vote for SB 570 was a vote for the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** After considerable lobbying by many parties, including the Sierra Club, the bill passed on a 114-30-1-4 vote.

## Energy Efficiency

**Vote: HB 1571** (124-14-3-9)

HB 1571 was sponsored by Rep. Paddie (R-Marshall) and Rep. Hughes (R-Mineola). It boosts the ability of local government and local school districts to enter into performance contracts to save energy, fuels, water, and money. HB 1571 was an uncontroversial bill that expanded the types of energy savings performance contracts that local governments, including school districts, will be able to do by making it easier to take into account future savings. Essentially, local governments and school districts will be able to pay for upgrades in their buildings and vehicles from the savings in utility bills. It should lead to more energy efficiency and water conservation projects.

**Our position:** The Sierra Club supported HB 1571. A vote for HB 1571 was a vote for the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** The bill passed both the House (124-14-3-9) and the Senate and was signed into law by the Governor.

## Water Policy

**Vote:** HB 1862 (97-47-1-5)

HB 1862 was sponsored by Rep. Lucio III (D-Brownsville). It was a bill that would have designated several Texas stream segments as being of "unique ecological value," based on recommendations made by regional water planning groups. When a stream segment gets this designation, "a state agency or political subdivision of the state may not finance the actual construction of a reservoir in the designated segment." Stream segments recommended for this designation include streams important for fish and wildlife habitat and/or streams adjoining parks or other public lands.

**Our position:** The Sierra Club supported HB 1862. A vote for HB 1862 was a vote for the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** HB 1862 passed the House (97-47-1-5) but was not acted on in the Senate.

**Vote: HB 1536** (62-77-2-2)

HB 1536, sponsored by Rep. Farrar (D-Houston), would have required the TCEQ, every two years, to appoint a Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Low Impact Development Report Group to prepare a report on the use of green stormwater infrastructure and low impact development in the state. These terms refer to systems and practices that use or mimic natural resources instead of conventional engineered systems to manage stormwater and protect water quality and associated habitat. The report would have documented the use of these green practices and systems in Texas, identified impediments to their use, and made recommendations on ways to increase their use.

**Our position:** The Sierra Club supported HB 1536. A vote for HB 1536 was a vote for the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** The bill failed to pass on the floor of the House on a 62-77-2-2 vote.



**Key  
Senate  
Votes**

## Clean Air

### **Vote: SB 26** (22-6)

SB 26 was sponsored by Sen. Estes (R-Wichita Falls). It would have extended the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) beyond its original end date in 2019 until Texas meets Federal Clean Air Standards. The bill would have added a Government Fleets Program and Light-Duty (passenger) Vehicle Incentive Program, while also expanding a program aimed at cleaning up ports and rail yards.

**Our Position:** The Sierra Club supported SB 26. A vote for SB 26 was a vote for the Sierra Club's position.

**Outcome:** Passed in the Senate (22-6) but no House vote. Key provisions from SB 26 were added to SB 1731 which passed House and Senate and was signed into law.

### **Vote: SB 1045** (26-4-1)

SB 1045 was sponsored by Sen. Estes (R-Wichita Falls). It shortens the public intervention period for companies seeking air quality permits from two public notices to one. SB 1045 was sold as a way to consolidate requirements for relatively minor sources of pollution. Under previous law, every new application for an air quality permit requires one notice to the public when the application is deemed administratively complete, and a second notice when a draft permit is issued. Texans could make comments, ask for a public meeting, or formally oppose the permit. SB 1045 allows certain permits to forego the first notice period if they can get TCEQ to accept the permit and issue a draft within 15 days of receiving the permit application.

**Our Position:** The Sierra Club opposed SB 1045. A vote for SB 1045 was against the Sierra Club's position.

**Outcome:** The bill passed the Senate with relative ease (26-4-1), but faced more opposition in the House. The Governor has signed the bill into law.

## **Railroad Commission Reform**

### **Vote: Amendment to HB 1818** (20-11)

This amendment by Sen. J. Rodriguez (D-El Paso) would have put enforcement data at the Railroad Commission (RRC) online and searchable. HB 1818, the RRC Sunset bill, reauthorized the Railroad Commission of Texas for another 12 years. The bill did not include the Sunset Advisory Commission recommendation to change the Railroad Commission's name to accurately reflect the agency's duties concerning oil, gas, and other energy resource mining regulations. Sen. Rodriguez's amendment would have added a requirement that the RRC put its enforcement data online and make it searchable for the public.

**Our Position:** The Sierra Club supported the proposed amendment to HB 1818. A vote for the amendment was a vote for the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** The amendment was rejected on a 20-11 party-line vote. Ultimately, HB 1818 did pass the House and Senate, but all pro-people amendments were rejected.

## **Parks & Wildlife**

### **Vote: Confirmation of Kelcy Warren as a Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner.** (22-9)

Governor Greg Abbott gave Kelcy Warren, CEO of Energy Transfer Partners, the company behind the Dakota Access and the Trans-Pecos pipelines, a seat on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. Warren can now influence oil and gas leasing decisions in state lands and the granting of easements to allow pipelines to go across state parks or wildlife management areas.

**Our Position:** The Sierra Club opposed the confirmation of Kelcy Warren. A vote for Kelcy Warren was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** Despite our efforts, and massive protests at Parks and Wildlife HQ, Warren was approved on a 22-9 vote and will continue to regulate our protected green spaces.

## Renewable Energy

### **Vote: Conference Committee Report for SB 277** (19-11)

SB 277 was sponsored by Sen. Campbell (R-New Braunfels) and Rep. Frank (R-Wichita Falls). It eliminates property tax incentives for wind turbine projects within 25 miles of certain military bases with aviation equipment. SB 277 was introduced to “protect” military bases from encroachment from wind power plants, even though hundreds of megawatts of wind already operate safely near military bases with aviation equipment. Furthermore, Department of Defense and ERCOT processes already exist to only allow such wind development if the Department of Defense signs off on it.

**Our Position:** The Sierra Club opposed the CCR for SB 277. A vote for the bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** SB 277 passed both the House and the Senate (19-11) and was signed into law by Governor Abbott.

## Tire Dumping

### **Vote: SB 570** (20-11)

SB 570 was sponsored by Sen. J. Rodriguez (D-El Paso) and Rep. Walle (D-Houston). It would have improved regulation and enforcement of the management, storage, transportation, and disposal of used and scrap tires. SB 570 represented a long-time effort of Sen. Rodriguez (and his predecessor, Eliot Shapleigh) to bring better regulation and enforcement of illegal tire dumping and other dangerous tire management practices that can reduce fires, mosquitoes, and toxic messes.

**Our Position:** The Sierra Club supported SB 570. A vote for SB 570 was a vote for the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** The Senate (20-11) and House passed the bill, but pen-happy Gov. Abbott vetoed it.

## Energy Efficiency

**Vote: HB 1571** (27-3-1)

HB 1571 was sponsored by Rep. Paddie (R-Marshall) and Rep. Hughes (R-Mineola). It boosts the ability of local governments and school districts to enter into performance contracts to save energy, fuels, water, and money. HB 1571 was an uncontroversial bill that allows local governments and school districts to take into account future utility bill savings when considering payments for upgrades to buildings and vehicles. The bill should lead to more energy efficiency and water conservation projects.

**Our Position:** The Sierra Club supported HB 1571. A vote for HB 1571 was a vote for the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** The bill passed both the House and the Senate (27-3-1) and was signed into law by the Governor.

## Building Codes

**Vote: SB 636** (22-9)

SB 636 was sponsored by Sen. Huffines (R-Dallas) and Rep. Isaac (R-Dripping Springs). It requires cities to have a public hearing and a complicated cost-benefit analysis before any adoption of national building codes or amendments to existing codes. Many organizations, including the Sierra Club and the Texas Municipal League, were concerned about the potential for freezing progress on new building codes that can lead to safety and environmental benefits, but also felt that it is not the state's job to set the procedure for code adoption.

**Our Position:** The Sierra Club opposed SB 636. A vote for SB 636 was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** While SB 636 did pass the Senate on a 22-9 vote, it failed to get out of committee in the House.



## Water Policy

### **Vote: SB 226** (22-6)

SB 226 was sponsored by Rep. Taylor (R-Plano). It exempted certain water rights permit revisions from requirements for public notice and opportunities for hearings. SB 226 was one of several bills introduced this session to limit public involvement in decisions about the issuance or amendment of surface water right permits by the TCEQ. In Texas, surface water (water flowing in rivers and streams) is owned by the public and held in trust by the state, but the state issues the right to use that water to municipalities, industries, agricultural producers, and others. TCEQ, as the agency that issues or revises these permits, must provide public notice and the opportunity to request a contested case hearing on all applications for a new permit or for any amendment to an existing permit. SB 226 would have eliminated that public notice and opportunity for hearing for certain types of proposed revisions to water rights permits.

**Our position:** The Sierra Club opposed SB 226. A vote for SB 226 was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** SB 226 passed the Senate (22-6) but was not acted on in the House.

### **Vote: HB 1648** (26-4-1)

HB 1648 was sponsored by Rep. Price (R-Amarillo), and Sen. Seliger (R-Amarillo). It requires designation of a water conservation coordinator to implement water conservation plans at the utility level. HB 1648 requires public water utilities with 3,300 or more connections (roughly 10,000 people) that are already required to prepare and submit a water conservation plan to the Texas Water Development Board to designate a person responsible for implementation of that plan. The recommendation was intended to promote accountability and transparency for implementation of water conservation plans, which are usually prepared and submitted but not always actively put into practice.

**Our position:** The Sierra Club supported HB 1648. A vote against HB 1648 was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** HB 1648 passed the House without opposition, passed the Senate (26-4-1), and was signed into law by the Governor.

## Special Session

### **Vote: Committee Substitute for HB 7 (17-14)**

Governor Abbott called a Special Session to order the Texas Legislature to take up 20 items, including not only the discriminatory "bathroom bill" but also legislation to remove protections for heritage trees that more than 50 cities have enacted through local ordinance-making authority. Despite passage of such a bill by the Senate (SB 14), the House refused to budge and would not pass any bill that removed local authority on trees. Instead, they passed a more modest bill, HB 7 by Rep. Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont), which gave developers credit for mitigation efforts when a city does protect trees, and established some basic parameters for mitigation and mitigation fees. HB 7 passed the House on a 130-9-1-10 vote.

The Governor was not amused by the "weak" bill and his staff put particular pressure on Sen. Lois Kolthorst to "strengthen" HB 7, which was rewritten and changed to a bill that effectively prevented cities from protecting all but a handful of trees. That bill was passed on a 17-14 vote in the Senate, and then rejected by the House, which refused to take up the version. Ultimately, the Senate backed down and passed a bill that was remarkably similar to the version of HB 7 the House had passed. The Governor then signed the bill into law.

**Our position:** The Sierra Club opposed the Senate committee substitute of HB 7. A vote for the bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

**Outcome:** All Democrats voted against the Senate version of HB 7, and were joined by Republicans Jane Nelson, Brandon Creighton, and Joan Huffman. The Senate then worked on another version of HB 7 which ultimately passed and was signed by Governor Abbott.



# Scorecard Table

## How Scoring Worked

The "score as percentage" reflects the total number of votes a member made in line with the Sierra Club's position. Excused and unexcused absences, as well as "present not voting" counted the same as a vote against our position for the raw score (see "We Our Keeping Score" section in the introduction for explanation). However, each legislator's letter grade was based off of the "percentage voted right" column which reflects the votes in line with our position.

For example, Rep. Farrar voted in line with our position nine out of 10 times but did not vote on SB 277. Her score as a percentage is 90%, but she voted with us for all nine of the other votes so her "percentage voted right" is 100%, giving her an A+. By contrast, Rep. Bernal voted all 10 times but he voted against our position on SB 277, giving him a 90% score as percentage but a percentage voted right of 90%, giving him an A rather than an A+.

The letter grades correspond to the percentage voted right as follows:

90%-100% (without vote against our position): A+

70%-99% (without vote against our position): A

80%-89%: B

70%-79%: C

50%-69%: D

20%-49%: F

0%-19%: F-



Photo Courtesy of Nick Swartzell/Texas Observer

State Representative	HB 2321	SB 1045 Am.	SB 1045	HB 1818 Am.	HB 1818 Am.	SB 277	SB 570	HB 1571	HB 1862	HB 1536	Score as %	Voted Right %	Grade
Allen, Alma (D-Houston)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100%	A+
Alonzo, Roberto (D-Dallas)		✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	78%	C
Alvarado, Carol (D-Houston)	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	70%	C
Anchia, Rafael (D-Dallas)	✓	✗✗		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		70	88%	B
Anderson, "Doc" (R-Waco)	*	✓	✗✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	40	44%	F
Anderson, Rodney (R-Rio Grand Prairie)	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	40	40%	F
Arévalo, Diana (D-San Antonio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	80%	B
Ashby, Trent (R-Lufkin)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓		50	56%	D
Bailes, Ernest (R-Coldspring)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	40%	F
Bell, Cecil (R-Magnolia)	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	30	30%	F
Bernal, Diego (D-San Antonio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Biedermann, Kyle (R-Fredericksburg)				✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	10	14%	F-
Blanco, César (D-El Paso)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Bohac, Dwayne (R-Houston)		✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	50	63%	D
Bonnen, Dennis (R-Angleton)		✓	✗	✗	✗	*		✓	✗	*	30	43%	F
Bonnen, Greg (R-Friendswood)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	30	30%	F
Burkett, Cindy (R-Sunnyvale)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	40	40%	F
Burns, DeWayne (R-Cleburne)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		✓	✓	✗	30	33%	F
Burrows, Dustin (R-Lubbock)	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	40	40%	F
Button, Angie Chen (R-Richardson)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	20	20%	F
Cain, Briscoe (R-Deer Park)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	10%	F-
Canales, Terry (D-Edinberg)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		✓	✓	80	89%	B
Capriglione, Giovanni (R-Southlake)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	30	30%	F
Clardy, Travis (R-Nacadoches)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	40%	F
Coleman, Garnet (D-Houston)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		✓	✓	70	78%	C
Collier, Nicole (D-Fort Worth)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Cook, Byron (R-Corsicana)		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	30	33%	F
Cortez, Phillip (D-San Antonio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100%	A+
Cosper, Scott (R-Killeen)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	40%	F
Craddick, Tom (R-Midland)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	30	30%	F
Cyrler, John (R-Lockhart)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	20	20%	F
Dale, Tony (R-Cedar Park)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	30	30%	F
Darby, Drew (R-San Angelo)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	50	50%	D
Davis, Sarah (R-West University Place)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✓	✓		30	38%	F
Davis, Yvonne (D-Dallas)	✓	✓	✓		✗	✓	✓	✓	✓		70	88%	B
Dean, Jay (R-Longview)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	40%	F
Deshotel, Joe (D-Beaumont)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100%	A+
Dukes, Dawna (D-Austin)		✓	✓	✓			*			✓	40	100%	UN
Dutton Jr., Harold (D-Houston)	✓			✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	88%	B
Elkins, Gary (R-Houston)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	30	30%	F
Faircloth, Wayne (R-Galveston)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	40	40%	F
Fallon, Pat (R-Frisco)	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗		✗	✓	✗	✗	30	33%	F

Green check marks indicate a vote with the Sierra Club position. Red x's indicate a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Blank cells indicate the legislator did not vote (i.e. excused/unexcused absences, present-not-voting, etc.).

Asterisks indicate a legislator noted in the record after the fact a change in their intended vote.

Farrar, Jessica (D-Houston)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	90	100%	A+
Flynn, Dan (R-Canton)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	10	10%	F-
Frank, James (R-Wichita Falls)		✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	50	56%	D
Frullo, John (R-Lubbock)		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	30	33%	F
Geren, Charlie (R-Fort Worth)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	40%	F
Gervin-Hawkins, Barbara (D-San Antonio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Giddings, Helen (D-DeSoto)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	100%	A
Goldman, Craig (R-Fort Worth)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	10%	F-
Gonzales, Larry (R-Round Rock)		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓		✓	✗	30	38%	F
González, Mary (D-Clint)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Gooden, Lance (R-Terrell)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	60	60%	D
Guerra, Bobby (D-Mission)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	70%	C
Guillen, Ryan (D- Rio Grande Valley)	✓	✓	✗	✗	*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	78%	C
Gutierrez, Roland (D-San Antonio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Hefner, Cole (R-Mt. Pleasant)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	10%	F-
Hernandez, Ana (D-Houston)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗		✓	✓	✓	80	89%	B
Herrero, Abel (D-Robstown)	✓			✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	88%	B
Hinojosa, Gina (D-Austin)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Holland, Justin (R-Rockwall)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	30	30%	F
Howard, Donna (D-Austin)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100%	A+
Huberty, Dan (R-Houston)	✓	✗	✗			✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	50%	D
Hunter, Todd (R-Corpus Christi)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	30	30%	F
Isaac, Jason (R-Dripping Springs)	✗	✓*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	40%	F
Israel, Celia (D-Austin)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗		✓	✓	✓	80	89%	B
Johnson, Eric (D-Dallas)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100%	A+
Johnson, Jarvis (D-Houston)	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	70%	C
Kacal, Kyle (R-College Station)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	60	60%	D
Keough, Mark (R-The Woodlands)	✗	✗	✗			✓	✗	✓		✗	20	25%	F
King, Ken (R-Canadian)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	50	50%	D
King, Phil (R-Weatherford)		✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓		✗	40	50%	D
King, Tracy (D-Batesville)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	60	60%	D
Klick, Stephanie (R-Fort Worth)	✗	✗	✗			✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	10	13%	F-
Koop, Linda (R-Dallas)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	40%	F
Krause, Matt (R-Fort Worth)	✗	✗	✗	*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0%	F-
Kuempel, John (R-Seguin)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓*		✓	✗	30	33%	F
Lambert, Stan (R-Abilene)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	30	30%	F
Landgraf, Brooks (R-Odessa)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	40	40%	F
Lang, Mike (R-Granbury)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗*	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0%	F-
Larson, Lyle (R-San Antonio)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	60	60%	D
Laubenberg, Jodie (R-Parker)	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓		✗	✗	30	33%	F
Leach, Jeff (R-Plano)	✗*	✓	✓*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	30	30%	F
Longoria, Oscar (D-Mission)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓		✓	✓	50	56%	D
Lozano, JM (R-Kingsville)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	60	60%	D

Lucio III, Eddie (D-Brownsville)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	80%	B
Martinez, "Mando" (D-Weslaco)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100%	A+
Metcalf, Will (R-Conroe)	✗			✗	✗	✗*	✗	✓	✗	✗	10	13%	F-
Meyer, Morgan (R-Dallas)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	30	30%	F
Miller, Rick (R-Sugar Land)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	50	50%	D
Minjarez, Ina (D-San Antonio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100%	A+
Moody, Joe (D-El Paso)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Morrison, Geanie (R-Victoria)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	*	✗	50	56%	D
Muñoz, Sergio (D-Palmview)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	89%	B
Murphy, Jim (R-Houston)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	40%	F
Murr, Andrew (R-Junction)	✓*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	20	20%	F
Neave, Victoria (D-Dallas)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Nevárez, Poncho (D-Eagle Pass)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Oliveira, René (D-Brownsville)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	100%	A
Oliverson, Tom (R-Cypress)		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	20	22%	F
Ortega, Evelina (D-El Paso)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100%	A+
Paddie, Chris (R-Marshall)		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	50	56%	D
Parker, Tan (R-Flower Mound)	✓*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	30	30%	F
Paul, Dennis (R-Houston)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	40	40%	F
Perez, Mary Ann (D-Houston)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Phelan, Dade (R-Beaumont)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	50	50%	D
Phillips, Larry (R-Sherman)	✗	✗*	✗*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	20	20%	F
Pickett, Joe (D-El Paso)	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	70%	C
Price, Four (R-Amarillo)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	40%	F
Raney, John (R-College Station)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	50	50%	D
Raymond, Richard (D-Laredo)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	60	60%	D
Reynolds, Ron (D-Missouri City)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	100%	A+
Rinaldi, Matt (R-Irving)	✓*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	10%	F-
Roberts, Kevin (R-Houston)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	40%	F
Rodriguez, Eddie (D-Austin)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	89%	B
Rodriguez, Justin (D-San Antonio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Romero Jr., Ramon (D-Fort Worth)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	78%	C
Rose, Toni (D-Dallas)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	89%	B
Sanford, Scott (R-McKinney)	✗	✗	✗	*	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗		10	13%	F-
Schaefer, Matt (R-Tyler)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	10%	F-
Schofield, Mike (R-Katy)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	30	30%	F
Schubert, Leighton (R-Caldwell)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	20	20%	F
Shaheen, Matt (R-Plano)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓*	✗	✗	✗	✗	20	20%	F
Sheffield, J.D. (R-Gatesville)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	50	50%	D
Shine, Hugh (R-Temple)		✗	✗	✗	✗	*	✗	✓	✓	✗	20	25%	F
Simmons, Ron (R-Carrollton)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	30	30%	F
Smith, John (R-Amarillo)		✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓		✗	✓	30	38%	F
Springer, Drew (R-Muenster)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	20	20%	F

Stephenson, Phil (R-Wharton)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓		40	44%	F
Stickland, Jonathan (R-Bedford)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	10%	F-
Straus, Joe (R-San Antonio)											NA	NA	UN
Stucky, Lynn (R-Denton)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	40%	F
Swanson, Valoree (R-Spring)	✗		✓*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	11%	F-
Thierry, Shawn (D-Houston)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	100%	A+
Thompson, Ed (R-Pearland)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗*	✓	✓	✗	✗	30	30%	F
Thompson, Senfronia (D-Houston)	✓	✓	✓		✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	89%	B
Tinderholt, Tony (R-Arlington)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0%	F-
Turner, Chris (D-Grand Prairie)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Uresti, Tomas (D-San Antonio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100%	A+
VanDeaver, Gary (R-New Boston)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓		40	44%	F
Villalba, Jason (R-Dallas)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓		✗	40	44%	F
Vo, Hubert (D-Houston)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	90%	A
Walle, Armando (D-Houston)	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	70%	C
White, James (R-Hillister)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	10	10%	F-
Wilson, Terry (R-Marble Falls)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0%	F-
Workman, Paul (R-Austin)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	40	40%	F
Wray, John (R-Waxahachie)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	50	50%	D
Wu, Gene (D-Houston)	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		70	100%	A
Zedler, Bill (R-Arlington)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	10	10%	F-
Zerwas, John (R-Richmond)	✓			✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	40	50%	D
<b>Final Vote (Yes-No-PNV-Absent)</b>	<b>97-37-2-11</b>	<b>77-63-1-8</b>	<b>87-53-1-8</b>	<b>94-48-2-6</b>	<b>102-39-2-7</b>	<b>97-47-1-5</b>	<b>114-30-1-4</b>	<b>124-14-3-9</b>	<b>97-47-1-5</b>	<b>62-77-2-2</b>			



State Senator	SB 26	SB 1045	HB 1818 Am.	Kelcy Warren	SB 277	SB 570	HB 1571	SB 636	SB 226	HB 1648	CSHB 7	Raw Score	Voted Right %	Grade
Bettencourt, Paul (R-Houston)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	18	18	F-
Birdwell, Brian (R-Granbury)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	45	45	D
Buckingham, Dawn (R-Lakeway)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	27	27	F
Burton, Konni (R-Colleyville)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0	F-
Campbell, Donna (R-New Braunfels)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	27	27	F
Creighton, Brandon (R-Conroe)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	36	36	F
Estes, Craig (R-Wichita Falls)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	36	36	F
Garcia, Sylvia (D-Houston)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	A+
Hall, Bob (R-Hedgewood)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	9	9	F-
Hancock, Kelly (R-North Richland Hills)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	27	27	F
Hinojosa, Chuy (D-McAllen)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	55	55	D
Huffines, Donald (R-Dallas)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	27	27	F
Huffman, Joan (R-Houston)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	45	45	D
Hughes, Bryan (R-Mineola)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	27	27	F
Kolkhorst, Lois (R-Brenham)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗		✗	9	11	F-
Lucio, Eddie (D-Brownsville)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	55	55	D
Menendez, Jose (D-San Antonio)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	100	A+
Miles, Borris (D-Houston)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	100	A+
Nelson, Jane (R-Flower Mound)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	45	45	D
Nichols, Robert (R-Jacksonville)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	36	36	F
Perry, Charles (R-Lubbock)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	45	45	D
Rodriguez, Jose (D-El Paso)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90	91	A
Schwertner, Charles (R-Georgetown)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	36	36	F
Seliger, Kel (R-Amarillo)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	45	45	D
Taylor, Larry (R-Friendswood)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	36	36	F
Taylor, Van (R-Plano)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	9	9	F-
Uresti, Carlos (D-San Antonio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	A+
Watson, Kirk (D-Austin)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	A+
West, Royce (D-Dallas)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	73	72	C
Whitmire, John (D-Houston)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	64	64	C
Zaffarini, Judith (D-Laredo)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	81	82	B
<b>Final Vote</b>	<b>27-4</b>	<b>26-4-1</b>	<b>20-11</b>	<b>22-9</b>	<b>19-11</b>	<b>20-11</b>	<b>27-3-1</b>	<b>22-9</b>	<b>22-6</b>	<b>26-4-1</b>	<b>17-14</b>			

Green check marks indicate a vote with the Sierra Club position. Red x's indicate a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Blank cells indicate the legislator did not vote (i.e. excused/unexcused absences, present-not-voting, etc.).

Asterisks indicate a legislator noted in the record after the fact a change in their intended vote.