

Texas Impact's Legislative Priorities 2007-08

- ☆ Get Kids' Health Insurance Back on Track
- ☆ Plan for a Clean Energy Future
- ☆ Fund Alternatives to Incarceration
- ☆ Bring Back the "Current Services" Budget

HUMAN DIGNITY

Health Care Reform

- Maximize enrollment in existing children's health insurance programs
- Increase availability of employer-sponsored insurance
- Create transparency in health insurance costs

Protection and Justice for All Texans

- Strengthen and fully fund probation programs and other alternatives to incarceration
- Strengthen the state's indigent defense system and make funding permanent for the Indigent Defense Act of 2001
- Increase salaries and professional development for corrections officers
- Increase funding and support for the chaplain corps within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
- Tighten prohibitions against hate crimes and bullying
- Strengthen families' ability to be self-sufficient and respect the human dignity and human rights of documented and undocumented migrants

Public Education

- Increase salaries for public school employees
- Maintain and improve equity in public school funding throughout Texas
- Ensure every Texas child access to quality public education

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

Our Shared Financial Resources

- Calculate property values fairly and transparently and assess property taxes impartially according to the standards established in the Peveto Bill
- Establish a progressive state personal income tax

Texas' Natural Resources

- Increase renewable energy as a share of Texas' electric power supply
- Reduce per capita electricity consumption through comprehensive energy efficiency programs
- Increase vehicle emissions standards

Energy Equity

- Ensure that environmental protection, ratepayer protection and energy conservation programs in Texas benefit low-income energy customers
- Include energy efficient appliances in the state's "sales tax holiday"

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Responsible Planning

- Impose a "time out" on permitting of power plants until lawmakers can evaluate comprehensive information about Texas' future energy needs and alternatives to address them
- Require legislative budget committees to compare all proposed budgets to the full cost of maintaining current service levels, taking into account inflation and workload increases

Election Reform

- Limit the amount of money an individual can contribute to a political campaign

Texas Legislative Information

The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all.—John F. Kennedy

Texas Capitol Website

contact information for all elected officials, bill tracking, important dates, links to state agencies and more!

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us>

Find Out Who Represents You

<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us>

Capitol Information

Call this number to find out your representative or senator's phone number and/or find out who represents you

512.463.0063

Mailing Addresses

<i>For Senators:</i>	<i>For Representatives:</i>
Senator John Doe	Representative Jane Doe
PO Box 12068	PO Box 2910
Austin, Texas	Austin, Texas
78711-2068	78768-2910

Leadership Phone Numbers

Governor: 512.463.2000
Lieutenant Governor: 512.463.0001
Comptroller of Public Accounts: 512.463.4000
Attorney General: 512.463.2100



Important Dates

January 9, 2007: 80th Legislature convenes
March 9, 2007: Deadline for bill filing
May 12, 2007: Uniform Election Date
May 28, 2007: Last day of 80th legislative session ("Sine Die")
September 1, 2007: First day of 2007-2008 budget
November 6, 2007: Uniform Election Date
March 4, 2008: Primary Election
November 4, 2008: General Election

Texas Impact is a grassroots network for Texas religious communities. Our members include regional and state-wide religious organizations, local congregations and alliances, and individuals.

Texas religious leaders established Texas Impact in 1973 in the wake of a major scandal that shook state government. Texas Impact's founders wanted people of faith to involve themselves in government, and influence state leaders to direct their attention to the needs of the people of Texas rather than selfish interests. Those religious leaders knew that acts of charity alone are not enough to break the cycles of poverty, injustice and hopelessness.

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Join Texas Impact!

Membership in Texas Impact is one of the most effective ways for people of faith to participate in the state public policy debate. Texas Impact offers valuable resources to individuals and congregations:

- Up-to-date, accurate, accessible information about often-complex policy issues
- Rigorous and balanced theological contexts for evaluating the issues
- "Nuts and bolts" information about how state government works and how citizens can influence lawmakers
- Support for our members' advocacy efforts with email alerts and other timely calls to action

<http://www.texasimpact.org>

Texas Impact Member Organizations

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Southwest Region, Bluebonnet Area, Central Area, Coastal Plains Area, North Texas Area, Trinity-Brazos Area • **Episcopal Church:** Diocese of West Texas • **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:** Northern TX-Northern LA Synod, TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod, Southwestern Texas Synod • **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):** Grace Presbytery, Mission Presbytery, New Covenant Presbytery, Palo Duro Presbytery, Tres Rios Presbytery • **United Methodist Church:** Central Texas Conference, North Texas Conference, Northwest Texas Conference, Southwest Texas Conference, Texas Conference • **United Church of Christ:** South Central Conference • **Society of Friends :** South Central Yearly Meeting • American Jewish Committee • American Jewish Congress • Jewish Federation of Dallas • Arlington Ministerial Association • Austin Area Inter-religious Ministries • San Antonio Community of Churches • Tarrant Area Community of Churches • Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston • Greater Dallas Community of Churches • Interfaith Coalition for Environmental Justice • United Methodist Women • Church Women United in Texas • Freedom and Justice Foundation of Texas • National Council of Jewish Women

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Texas Impact provides concrete strategies for people of faith to work for justice in Texas. Through issues education, advocacy training and grassroots organizing, Texas Impact gives you the information and skills you need to be an effective voice for freedom, justice and economic opportunity for all people.

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Visit us online at
<http://www.texasimpact.org>

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TEXAS IMPACT
people of faith working for justice

Legislative Agenda 2007-2008

Charity is a matter of personal attributes, justice a matter of public policy. Charity seeks to alleviate the effects of injustice, justice seeks to eliminate the causes of it. Charity in no way affects the status quo, while justice leads inevitably to political confrontation.

The Reverend William Sloane Coffin