

# TEXAS IMPACT

people of faith working for justice

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

May will be a busy month for Texas voters, so mark your calendar, set a timer, and tie a string around your finger so you remember to vote in the May 7 (Saturday!) special constitutional election, and then go back to the polls for the May 24 primary runoff election.

On Weekly Witness, Scott talks to [Quorum Report](#) editor Scott Braddock and [League of Women Voters President](#) Grace Chimene about the upcoming elections—what they portend for future state policy decisions, and how voters can be sure they have all the resources they need to vote safely and be sure their votes count. Josh explains the outsized impact primary runoff votes can have... including an example from the past that many listeners will remember...and our colleague [Usama Malik](#) shares a Weekly Word about how civic engagement is central to the Muslim faith.

In this week's blog, Bobby writes about Texas' latest immigration-related lawsuit against the federal government, and Isa unpacks the IPCC's report on the connection between climate change and internal migration.

Thanks to all who attended this week's Zoom "Starting a Conversation" events with Dr. Julie Boom! Find the recording of Dr. Boom's talk [here](#), along with resources we talked about in the sessions.

One more note about those elections: if you're not sure what the May 7 election is about, go back to the [April 1 episode of Weekly Witness](#), where Every Texan's Dick Lavine explains the property tax amendments on the ballot and what they mean for residential taxpayers.

See you at the polls!

Love,



Bee Moorhead  
Texas Impact Executive Director

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Texas Impact Presents

# WEEKLY WITNESS

faith,  
politics,  
& Texas

with Scott Atnip

AND GUEST  
SCOTT BRADDOCK  
EDITOR IN CHIEF  
QUORUM REPORT

NEW  
EPISODE  
APR 27 2022



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Weekly Witness](#)

It's election time again and this time it's a double header so we called in the pros! We welcome Scott Braddock, Editor-in-Chief of Quorum Report, on the program to discuss the upcoming run-offs and the greater implications of what's on the ballot. Later in the program our favorite "cheerleader for democracy" joins us; Grace Chimene from the League of Women Voters fills us in on the two elections happening in the month of May and the races to watch.

On Josh's Weekly Watchlist we get his take leading up to the run-offs and the Weekly Word is brought to us by Usama Malik, the resident chaplan at Muslim Space and our neighbor at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Search for "Texas Impact Weekly Witness" in your favorite podcast source, on the Weekly Witness [webpage](#), or via [YouTube](#).



### **Values of the Increment**

When the Legislature convenes in 2023, they will face major legislation on public education, LGBTQ rights, and immigration...and how they handle that legislation more than likely will be determined by the outcomes of the May 24 primary runoffs.

In the last decade, primary turnout—including both major parties—has ranged between 10-13 percent of the voting age population. In a Republican primary runoff, six percent of the state's voting age population participating would be the high end of the range. That means that three percent of the state's voting age population is disproportionately driving policy outcomes impacting nearly 30 million Texans.

### **[Read Josh's take](#)**



### **Texas Sues the Feds. Again.**

Texas continues its long time reputation as the federal government's biggest judicial opponent as [Attorney General Ken Paxton sues the Biden administration](#), again, over changes to asylum and parole procedures at the border. Since the Biden administration won the 2020 Presidential election Texas Attorney General (AG) Ken Paxton has sued the administration a total of 27 times, with 11 of those lawsuits over immigration policy. Texas has long been the federal government's most stalwart opponent in the courtroom. Under the Obama administration Texas sued the federal government [at least 48 times](#) with Gov. Greg Abbott as AG and later Ken Paxton.

### **[Read Bobby's analysis](#)**



## Internal Migration Challenges

Over recent years, climate change-focused reports like those from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) have warned that climatic consequences are growing exponentially, and without rapid climate action, the outcomes for vulnerable communities will be disastrous.

However, as the National League of Cities reports, there's also internal climate migration within the U.S. that deserves more attention. The new report "[The Next American Migration](#)" demonstrates how certain communities – elderly, children, low-income households, and individuals with medical disabilities – are more affected by climate change, and therefore will have an increasingly difficult time with migration caused by inhabitable environmental conditions.

[Read Isa's post](#)

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Help Texas Impact represent mainstream faith values in the Texas Legislature and equip Texans of faith to engage in the legislative process. Join Texas Impact or renew your membership today!

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