



Legislative Priorities 2023-2024

Texas Impact was founded in 1973 on the central religious conviction that religious communities are called to minister to the whole person—to respond with compassion to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all people. The Texas religious leaders who established Texas Impact believed that such a ministry couldn't be performed adequately without a concern for basic social problems at the state government level. Texas Impact exists to advance state public policies that are consistent with the commonly held social principles of our member faith traditions. We give people of faith the information and leadership skills they need to help policymakers improve conditions for families and communities throughout Texas.

Texas Impact's board of directors adopts a set of legislative priorities in the summer before each regular Texas legislative session. The board represents Texas Impact's two-dozen member organizations, which include Christian denominational bodies, regional Jewish and Muslim social justice committees, and local interfaith councils. Texas Impact's legislative priorities are adopted by unanimous consensus of the board.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Protect Maternal Health

- Support increased funding for family planning
- Oppose limits on access to birth control
- Support Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act
- Support 12 months postpartum coverage under Medicaid
- Support establishing prenatal child support and prenatal medical support
- Support limiting civil and criminal penalties for abortion by shielding medical providers' actions from non-medical evaluation or intervention

Support Public Schools

- Oppose vouchers and similar programs that use public education funds to subsidize private education
- Oppose legislative micromanagement of the state board of education's work in curriculum development
- Support accountability for charter schools, including auditing the performance of existing charters and increasing the review and scrutiny of applicants for new charters
- Oppose legislation allowing public education programming that advances or inhibits particular religious beliefs



TEXAS IMPACT'S ISSUE FRAMEWORK

Economic Justice
Civic Engagement
Human Rights
Climate Justice

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Support Voting Rights

- Support measures that increase voter participation, such as online voter registration, longer early voting periods, county-wide polling locations, or modernizing vote by mail
- Oppose legislation that imposes new restrictions or onerous administrative processes on county election administrators
- Oppose any new requirements or restrictions for individual voters

Promote Good Governance

- Support limits on executive authority to declare disasters under the Texas Disaster Act
- Support establishing standards for responsible gun ownership, including licensing requirements
- Support regulation of gun purchasing, including regulations related to age and regulations related to evidence that the purchaser poses a threat to themselves or others
- Support elimination of provisions of SB8 establishing private causes of action that allow individuals to sue Texas individuals and groups for alleged activities related to abortion

HUMAN RIGHTS

Support Migrants

- Support limits on executive actions related to federal immigration law enforcement
- Support defunding Operation Lone Star

Protect Minority Communities

- Support requiring enhanced monitoring and prosecution of hate crimes and domestic terrorism
- Oppose limiting privacy, bodily autonomy, or family autonomy of any Texan, including women seeking reproductive healthcare or abortion; trans people seeking gender-affirming care; and LGBTQ+ people
- Oppose civil or criminal penalties for individuals or groups who provide counseling, facilitate travel, or otherwise provide non-medical assistance to people seeking health care, including people seeking abortions or people seeking gender-affirming care



STAY IN TOUCH

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CLIMATE JUSTICE

Strengthen the Grid

- Support renewable power and consumer-side energy efficiency
- Support grid capacity solutions such as backup generation, battery storage, and increased transmission

Protect Texans' Health from Climate Impacts

- Support establishment of a Resilient Texas program modeled on Resilient Florida, to help the state and its local communities prepare for the impacts of climate change
- Support new administrative structures at the Public Utility Commission that elevate public health and vulnerable consumers