

# Advancing Our Community's Issues in the 2024 Elections

Joshua Houston  
Advocacy Director  
January 28, 2024

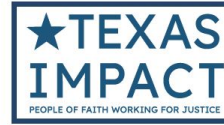


★ **TEXAS IMPACT**  
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

# Member Institutions

Baptist: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Texas Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Trinity-Brazos Area • Bluebonnet Area • Southwest Region Episcopal Church: Diocese of West Texas • Diocese of Texas Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA): Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod • Southwestern Texas Synod • Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Jewish: Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas • National Council of Jewish Women • Religious Action Center-Texas Muslim: Islamic Circle of North America • Emgage • Texas Muslim Women's Foundation • Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): Mission Presbytery • Palo Duro Presbytery • Tres Rios Presbytery • Presbytery of the New Covenant • Society of Friends: South Central Yearly Meeting • United Methodist Church: Central Texas Conference • North Texas Conference • Northwest Texas Conference • Rio Texas Conference • Texas Conference • Methodist Federation for Social Action: Rio Texas and Central Texas Chapters • United Church of Christ: South Central Conference • Unitarian Universalist: Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry • Ecumenical and Interfaith Groups: United Women in Faith • Church Women United • Interfaith Action of Central Texas • Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston • CitySquare • Faith Commons • Faith Forward Dallas • Tarrant Churches Together

# Legislative Agenda



## 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

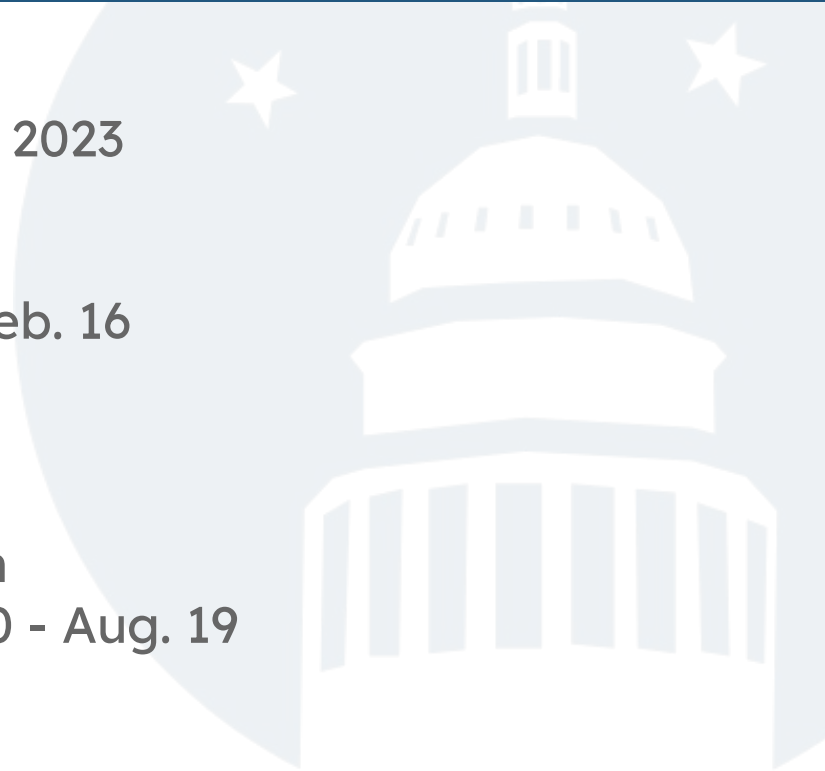


### TEXAS IMPACT'S ISSUE FRAMEWORK

**Economic Justice**  
**Civic Engagement**  
**Human Rights**  
**Climate Justice**

# 2024 Election Dates

- **March 5, 2024 = Party Primaries**
  - Candidate Filing Deadline: Dec. 11, 2023
  - Early Voting Begins: Feb. 20th
- **May 4, 2024 = Local Elections**
  - Candidate Filing Period: Jan 17 - Feb. 16
  - Early Voting Begins: April 22
- **May 28, 2024 = Primary Runoffs**
  - Early Voting Begins: May 20
- **November 5, 2024 = General Election**
  - Local Election Filing Period: July 20 - Aug. 19
  - Early Voting Begins: Oct. 21



# Public Education & The 2024 Primary



DEFCON (US)	UK VERSION	READINESS	WHEN ACTIVATED
<b>1</b>	CRITICAL	Nuclear war imminent	Never
<b>2</b>	SEVERE	Army ready in six hours	Cuban missile crisis, 1962
<b>3</b>	SUBSTANTIAL	Air force ready in 15 minutes	Post 9/11, 2001. Yom Kippur, 1973
<b>4</b>	MODERATE	Increased security	Sporadic in Cold War and "war on terror"
<b>5</b>	LOW	Normal peacetime	Peacetime readiness

# Vouchers & HB 1

- What is a voucher?
  - Any diversion of public money for private education
  - Vouchers disproportionately redistribute money from rural and low-income school districts to wealthy, suburban parents.
- HB 1
  - Entitled a parent to \$10,500 per child for private education
  - Texas currently spends \$6,160 per pupil in public education
- 84-63
  - The vote by which the voucher provision was removed from HB 1

# The Primary & Public Education

2024 TEXAS ELECTIONS

## School voucher supporter gave Gov. Greg Abbott \$6 million in December

The contribution is the largest single campaign donation in Texas history, according to Abbott's campaign.

BY [PATRICK SVITEK](#) JAN. 16, 2024 UPDATED: 2 PM CENTRAL

[SHARE](#) [REPUBLISH](#) ↗



Gov. Greg Abbott at a press conference at the Governor's Mansion in March 2023. © Leila Saidane/The Texas Tribune

# Remember 2011!

EDUCATION

## Texas Schools Grapple With Big Budget Cuts

DECEMBER 22, 2011 · 12:01 AM ET

HEARD ON MORNING EDITION

By Claudio Sanchez



7-Minute Listen

+ PLAYLIST



What's known as Middle School No. 8 in Leander, Texas, was supposed to help relieve overcrowding in the rapidly growing community. But after significant statewide cuts to education, the district can't afford to open the school.

*Marisa Penafoza/NPR*

School funding in Texas is in turmoil. State lawmakers slashed more than \$4 billion from education this school year — one of the largest cuts in state history — and more than 12,000 teachers and support staff have been laid off.

Academic programs and transportation have been cut to the bone. Promising reforms are on hold or on the chopping block. Next year, the cuts could go even deeper.



# Vouchers: Separate & Unequal

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE TEXAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SEGREGATION  
IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER 1, 1956



# Constituents Killed Vouchers, But Will They Vote?

When it came to the politics of vouchers, the holdouts also had a lot to think about. Many of them previously campaigned against vouchers — proudly so in some cases — and it was hard to consider reversing themselves.

Abbott's campaign commissioned polling in 21 Republican districts and presented it to members, trying to emphasize how popular the policy was back home. Abbott himself constantly cited how nearly 90% of primary voters statewide approved a pro-voucher ballot proposition in 2022.

Holdouts were skeptical of the polling language and found their personal experience with constituents more convincing.

Abbott got at least one House Republican to square his past opposition with the new political landscape. Harris, the Palestine Republican,

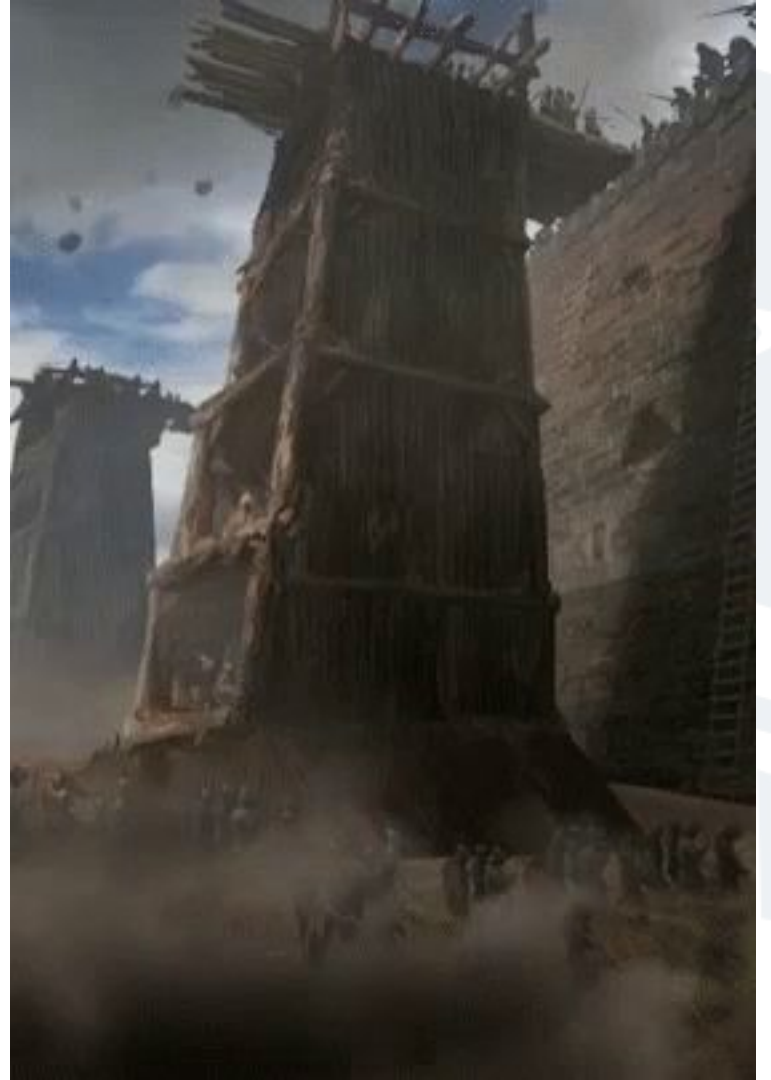
periodically. Either idea would just mean more high-stakes wrangling with lawmakers in the coming years.

As talks continued, Abbott kept up his statewide tour, telling parents in San Antonio that "too many" House Republicans were claiming they were not hearing from their voters about the issue.

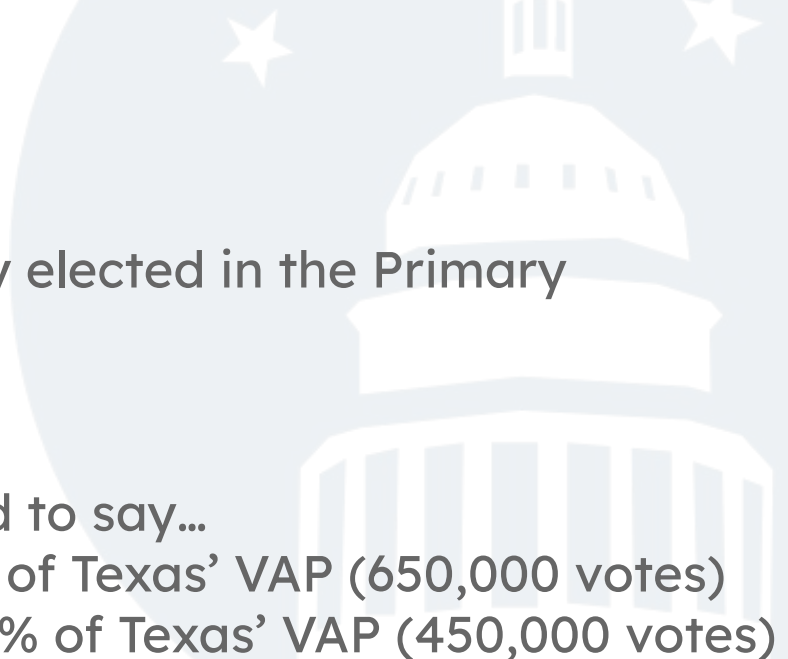
Rep. [Glenn Rogers](#), R-Graford, was firmly opposed throughout the year but nonetheless asked his staff to analyze constituent correspondence during the third and fourth special sessions. Eighty-eight percent were against vouchers, he said.

Abbott, meanwhile, was exuding increasing confidence that a deal was nigh. Three days into

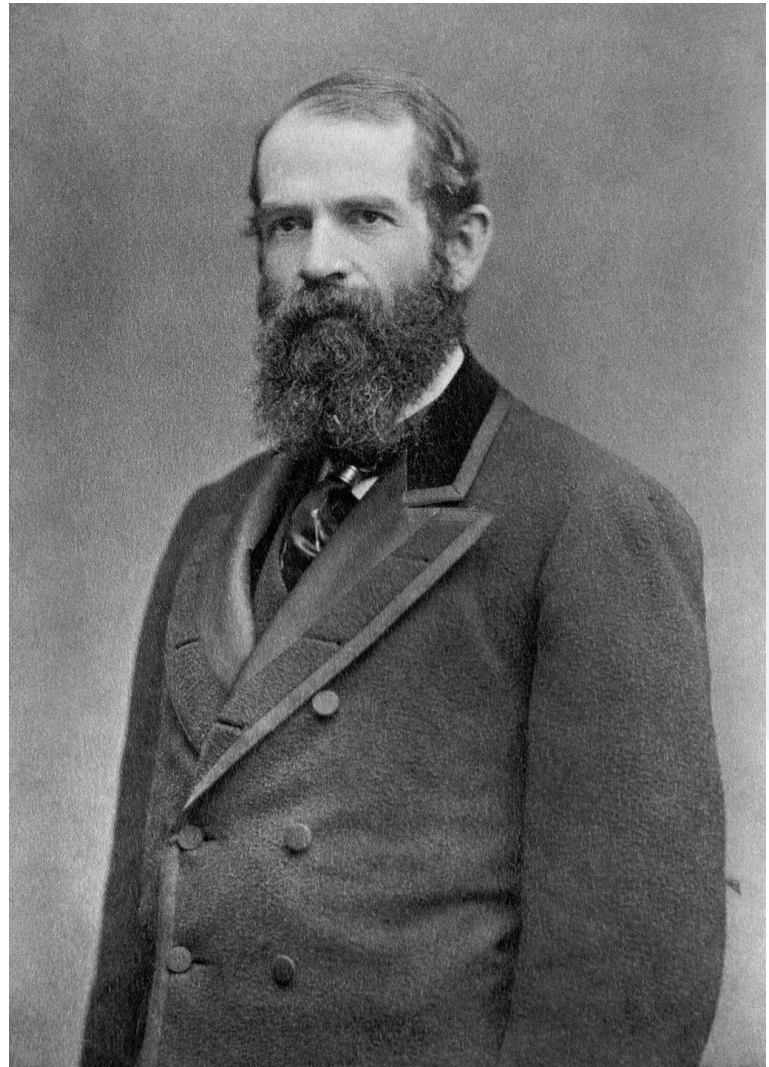
# Texas Senate vs. Texas House



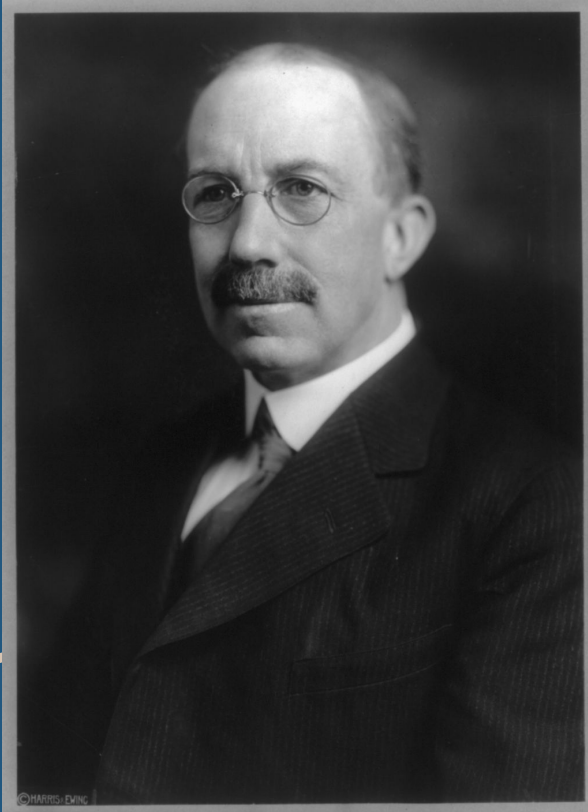
# The Numbers

- 22 million voting age Texans
  - 1 in 5 (19%) are not registered
  - Presidential Election = 52%
  - Gubernatorial Election = 25%-42\*%
  - 95% of the Texas Legislature effectively elected in the Primary
  - Primary Election = 14% (both parties)
    - 5:4:5 ratio of D:R:T
  - Runoffs
    - Turnout drops. By how much is hard to say...
    - 2012 = Senator Cruz wins with 3.5% of Texas' VAP (650,000 votes)
    - 2014 = Lt. Gov Patrick wins with 2.5% of Texas' VAP (450,000 votes)
- 

# Jay Gould



# Wayne Wheeler



# "WET" OR "DRY"

"VOTE WET  
FOR MY  
SAKE!"

"VOTE DRY  
FOR  
MINE!"



Shall the Mothers and Children  
be Sacrificed to the Financial  
Greed of the Liquor Traffic?

IT IS UP TO YOU, VOTER, TO DECIDE

**VOTE DRY**

# Resources: “Road to the 89th Texas House”

2024 Public School Primaries

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A1 HD

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	HD	88th (2023)	Party	Contested R Primary? (2024)	Contested D Primary? (2024)	Contested General? (2024)	Partisan History of the District R/D (2022)	89th (2025)
2	1	VanDeaver	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	74/26	
3	2	Slaton	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	79/21	VACANT
4	3	C. Bell	R	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	78/22	Cecil Bell
5	4	K. Bell	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	70/30	
6	5	Hefner	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	80/20	
7	6	Schaefer	R	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	69/31	OPEN
8	7	Dean	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	70/30	
9	8	Harris	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	78/22	
10	9	Ashby	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	76/24	
11	10	Harrison	R	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	68/32	Brian Harrison
12	11	Clardy	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	75/25	
13	12	Kacal	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	71/29	OPEN
14	13	Orr	R	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	71/29	
15	14	Raney	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	57/43	OPEN
16	15	Toth	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	66/34	
17	16	Metcalf	R	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	78/22	
18	17	Gerdes	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	63/37	
19	18	Bailes	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	82/18	
20	19	Troxclair	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	71/29	
21	20	Wilson	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	58/42	
22	21	Phelan	R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	77/23	

Every Democratic Primary for TX House Key Road to 89th TX H

How partisan politics create “false binaries” that prevent rational deliberation on policy supported by 71% of Texans.



**Greg Abbott** ✓

@GregAbbott\_TX



State Rep. Justin Holland "has grown increasingly unresponsive to voters and the Republican Party." He "has belittled Republican voters, and disregarded Republican principles"

He voted against gun rights and school choice, but voted to put Democrats in leadership positions.



# Making Informed Voters: Who Represents Me?

2024 Public School Primaries ☆ 📄 ☁

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A1 | ✎ Color Code Explainer

	A
1	<b>Color Code Explainer</b>
2	Explicit information the candidate opposes vouchers
3	Explicit information the candidate supports vouchers and is using it in the race
4	Nuanced position on vouchers
5	No color indicates a lack of information that vouchers are affecting the race
6	
7	Note: The color codes do not indicate an endorsement, but are merely informational. The source of the information is in the comments. The color codes indicate bellwether races affecting the future of public education in Texas. Some incumbents voted for vouchers, but are not color coded. In those races, a candidate opposed to vouchers has not been indentified. Therefore, issues other than public education are affecting those particular races. A voucher is defined as any diversion of public money from the public schools to private education. As a 501c4, we cannot and do not coordinate with campaigns. This information is being compiled with the help of Texas Impact's Public School Defenders, which are members of the 501c4.
8	
9	<a href="#">Who Represents Me?</a>
10	
11	Link to this doc: <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nl9mXTffVE6pkoSWHnwdCw5UrTWgK9fbg0W5mc0-o2k/ed?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nl9mXTffVE6pkoSWHnwdCw5UrTWgK9fbg0W5mc0-o2k/ed?usp=sharing</a>
12	
13	

# Resources: “Road to the 89th Texas House”

2024 Public School Primaries

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Every Democratic Primary for TX House Key Road to 89th TX H

# Resources: Every R/D Primary in Texas House

2024 Public School Primaries

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A1 District

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	District	Approx. Location	Incumbent?	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate
2	HD 1	<a href="#">Texarkana</a>	Gary VanDeaver	Dale Huls	Chris Spencer		
3	HD 2	<a href="#">Greenville/Van Zandt</a>	VACANT (Slaton)	Jill Dutton	Brent Money		
4	HD 4	<a href="#">Forney</a>	Keith Bell	Joshua Feuerstein			
5	HD 5	<a href="#">Mineola</a>	Cole Hefner	Dewey Collier	Jeff Fletcher		
6	HD 7	<a href="#">Longview</a>	Jay Dean	Joe McDaniel	Bonnie Walters		
7	HD 8	<a href="#">Palestine</a>	Cody Harris	Jaye Curtis			
8	HD 9	<a href="#">Lufkin</a>	Trent Ashby	Paulette Carson			
9	HD 11	<a href="#">Nacogdoches</a>	Travis Clardy	JoAnne Shofner			
10	HD 12	<a href="#">College Station</a>	OPEN (Kacal)	Trey Wharton	John Harvey Slocum	Ben Bius	
11	HD 14	<a href="#">College Station</a>	OPEN (Raney)	Rick Davis	Paul Dyson		
12	HD 15	Woodlands	Steve Toth	Skeeter Hubert			
13	HD 17	<a href="#">Bastrop</a>	Stan Gerdes	Tom Glass			
14	HD 18	<a href="#">Liberty County</a>	Ernest Bailes	Janis Holt	Stephen Andrew Missick		
15	HD 19	Fredericksberg	Ellen Troxclair	Kyle Biedermann	Manny Campos		
16	HD 20	Williamson County	Terry Wilson	Elva Janine Chapa			
17	HD 21	Beaumont	Dade Phelan	David Covey	Alicia Davis		
18	HD 24	League City	Greg Bonnen	Larissa Ramirez			
19	HD 26	Fort Bend	Jacey Jetton	Jessica Huang	Matthew Morgan		
20	HD 28	Fort Bend	Gary Gates	Daniel Mathews			
21	HD 29	<a href="#">Pearland</a>	OPEN (Ed Thompson)	Jeffrey Barry	Alex Kamkar	Edgar Pacheco	Trent Perez
22	HD 30	<a href="#">Victoria</a>	OPEN (Morrison)	Jeff Bauknight	Vanessa Hicks-Callaway	AJ Louderback	Bret Baldwin
23	HD 33	<a href="#">Rockwall</a>	Justin Holland	Dennis London	Katrina Pierson		
24	HD 44	<a href="#">Sequin</a>	John Keumpel	David Freimarck	Greg Switzer	Alan Schoolcraft	

# Resources: Patrick Svitek, Texas Tribune's spreadsheet

2024 Texas races (compiled by Patrick Svitek, Texas Tribune) (bold=fil...)

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100% View only

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
1	<b>Office</b>	<b>Incumbent</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Confirmed seeking reelection?</b>	<b>Same-party candidates</b>	<b>Opposite-party and third-party candidates</b>	<b>Potential candidates</b>	<b>Endorsements</b>
2					Armando "Mando" Perez-Serrato Ryan L. Binkley Star Locke Frankie Lozada Marianne Williamson Gabriel A. Cornejo Cenk Uygur <b>Edward-Kimbrough</b> (rejected)	Donald J. Trump Ryan L. Binkley Ron DeSantis Nikki Haley David Stuckenberg Chris Christie Asa Hutchinson Vivek Ramaswamy		
	President	Joe Biden	D	Y				Serve America for Congressional Bla Congressional Bla Foreign Policy for Texas Home Scho End Citizens Unite Marc Veasey for A Lizzie Pannill Fletc Veronica Escobar American Federat Republican Jewish Cesar Blanco for A Chris Turner for A Wendy Davis for A Michelle Vallejo fo Texas Farm Bures Ramon Ayala for C Combined Law En (09/15/2023)

Statewide SBOE Congress Texas Senate Texas House Texas House GOP heat chart

# Resources: Record Votes

2024 Legislator Record Votes .xlsx

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Record Votes Affecting the Primaries

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	Record Votes Affecting the Primaries									
	HD	Representative	Party	Region	1. Vouchers	2. Maternal Health	3. Impeachment	4. Muslim Capitol Day Recognition	5. Local Democracy	6. Healthcare Equality
4	151	Rep. Alma Allen	D	Houston	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	121	Rep. Steve Allison	R	San Antonio	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	103	Rep. Rafael Anchia	D	Dallas		✓			✓	✓
7	56	Rep. Doc Anderson	R	Waco		✓				
8	9	Rep. Trent Ashby	R	Lufkin		✓				
9	18	Rep. Ernest Bailes	R	Huntsville		✓				
10	3	Rep. Cecil Bell, Jr.	R	Magnolia		✓				
11	4	Rep. Keith Bell	R	Forney		✓				
12	123	Rep. Diego Bernal	D	San Antonio	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	92	Rep. Salman Bhajani	D	Ft. Worth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	24	Rep. Greg Bonnen	R	League City	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	113	Rep. Rietta Bowers	D	Rowlett	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	114	Rep. John Bryant	D	Dallas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	54	Rep. Brad Buckley	R	Killeen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	136	Rep. John Bucy	D	Cedar Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	63	Rep. Benjamin Bumgarner	R	Denton Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	58	Rep. DeWayne Burns	R	Cleburne	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	83	Rep. Dustin Burrows	R	Lubbock	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# All Roads Lead To Midland

2024 TEXAS ELECTIONS

## After Fuentes scandal, Texas billionaires fund new PAC to support conservative candidates

In the wake of a scandal tying them to white supremacists, Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks started a new PAC to support far-right candidates

BY [PATRICK SVITEK](#) JAN. 24, 2024 11 AM CENTRAL

[SHARE](#) [REPUBLIC](#)



Tim Dunn, CEO of CrownQuest Operating and chairman of Empower Texans, speaks during The Texas Tribune Festival on Sept. 24, 2016. Brett Buchanan for The Texas Tribune

# Summary: What you can do

[Join Public School Defenders](#)

[Link to Svitek Spreadsheet](#)

[Link to 2024 Public School  
Primaries Spreadsheet](#)

[Link to Record Vote Spreadsheet](#)

