

2025

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

89th Texas Legislative Session



EQUALITY
TEXAS

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Note From the CEO

When we were preparing for the 2025 legislative session we were already facing extreme pressure from Texas lawmakers. Ken Paxton was harassing doctors with nuisance legal suits and bullying DPS into no longer updating gender markers for trans folks on their Texas IDs. At the time the federal government was generally on our side, even if less enthusiastic than we would have preferred. We were hopeful about the direction of the federal government, hoping that Biden's successor might be more favorable—even willing to show her teeth when Texas lawmakers cause trouble

Election night went a very different direction, and the whole nation has felt the weight of the moment. Federal police roam the streets harassing immigrants and protesters, federal funding for higher education is now tied to compliance with mandates from the executive branch, and the very institutions that had been the last bulwark for queer people have been eroded and functionally eradicated. To say it was a rough year would be an understatement. But that's why everything hinged on this fight at the Texas Legislature.

The election changed the national narrative. Hateful actors were emboldened to carry their rhetoric to new heights, executive orders targeting trans and queer folks have intimidated businesses, states, and even school boards into changing their policies, and the Texas Legislature filed a record-breaking 200+ anti-LGBTQIA+ bills.

Despite pressure from all corners, queer Texans showed up, spoke up, and made a difference. We showed up in force for our All in For Equality Advocacy day, we spoke out at hearings, and cheered on community through bold actions. We didn't win every battle, but we walked onto the battlefield no matter how beaten and bruised we were.

The Texas queer community is resilient and powerful. We've been meeting many of you face-to-face through our Rainbow Rights Roadshow, which has been the silver lining on a very dark cloud. As we shift into election season, it's time to look again to the lawmakers, and hold them accountable for their actions. This scorecard doesn't just look at how lawmakers voted, but how they led, when they spoke up, and most importantly, when they listened. If you care about the lives of queer Texans, hold onto this when you're weighing candidates. Actions speak louder than words.

From the frontlines,



Brad Pritchett
Chief Executive Officer

Session Overview

The 2025 legislative session continues the history of an escalating attack on the trans and queer community. More anti-LGBTQIA+ bills were filed in Texas than at any other state at any other time in history. That shameful record set the tone for a challenging and very busy session.

Facing an overwhelming 205 bills that would have an impact on our community, we worked closely with partner organizations and the All In For Equality coalition to triage and prioritize the bills that would cause the most harm. In addition to consistent education and alerts about what was moving and what it meant, we mobilized the community to show up to 17 committee hearings, generating hundreds of hours of testimony from queer Texans and allies.

At key strategic moments we amplified our message with press conferences, and stepped back when a back-door deal was brewing. Balancing our approach and using every lever at our disposal helped us hold back 94% of the anti-LGBTQIA+ bills. But the bills that did pass, have had a significant impact on the state.

On Sine Die (the last day of the legislative session), we launched our “post-lege resources” landing page on the website. We wanted people to be aware of the most harmful bills and how they’d impact their lives. That resource continues to evolve as we hear from folks on the ground through our Rainbow Rights Roadshow. If you’ve got a story about how new legislation passed last session impacts you, please reach out.

Now that we’ve crunched the numbers to give lawmakers a concrete score for how they performed on queer rights legislation, we’re turning our gaze to 2027. Looking at the bills that failed, bills passed in other states, and working through strategies to mitigate harm and shut down these bills altogether. The 89th Legislative session was a brutal fight, but we’ve rested and we’re back to training. Brace yourself, Texas queers don’t back down.

Methodology

Legislative Scoring Criteria Explained

Texas House and Senate Members were scored based on their records on working either for or against LGBTQIA+ equality this session. As coordinated attacks on the LGBTQIA+ communities swept through the nation, it's more important than ever to hold legislators accountable for their efforts against the community and to celebrate those champions that are holding the line and showing that a better way is possible for Texas. Scoring consisted of following criteria:

Sponsorship

Members received points based on their authorship or sponsorship of legislation that supports full lived equality for LGBTQIA+ Texans. A greater weight is given to primary and joint authors. Members who were primary and joint authors of one or more discriminatory bills received an automatic "F" score. Members lost points for co-authoring discriminatory legislation.

Floor Votes

Members were scored on floor votes for good and bad bills and amendments. Votes on bills were more heavily weighted than votes on amendments. Because not all committees handle LGBTQIA-related legislation, committee votes were not considered in the calculations.

Leadership

Additional points were given to members who showed exceptional leadership under the dome to protect LGBTQIA+ rights, including in committee, on the floor, and (for House members) being a part of the LGBTQ Caucus.

Public Statements

Public officials by nature must spend much of their time in the public eye. Statements given to the press, in town halls or other public settings were factored into their score, depending on whether those statements helped or harmed the LGBTQIA+ community.

Texas Senate

The Senate is the upper chamber of the Texas Legislature. The senate has many roles, including enacting and amending laws, passing state budget, raising or lowering taxes, endorsing proposed constitutional amendments, redistricting, and much more. The Senate also acts as the jury in an impeachment process.

During the 89th session, the Senate had 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats.

Senate Honor Roll

The Honor Roll celebrates the legislators who have received an Equality Texas Scorecard grade of A+ for three sessions in a row. This designation is a way for us to recognize which members of the Senate have stood beside us in the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights in Texas consistently.



Sarah Eckhardt

A+

(2025, 2023, 2021)



Jose Menendez

A+

(2025, 2023, 2021, 2019)

Senate Scores

Senate scores organized alphabetically by last name

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Alvarado, Carol	D	6	A+
Bettencourt, Paul	R	7	F
Birdwell, Brian	R	22	F
Blanco, César	D	29	A
Campbell, Donna	R	25	F
Cook, Molly	D	15	A+
Creighton, Brandon	R	4	F
Eckhardt, Sarah	D	14	A+
Flores, Pete	R	24	F
Gutierrez, Roland	D	19	A+
Hagenbuch, Brent	R	30	F
Hall, Bob	R	2	F
Hancock, Kelly	R	9	F

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Hinojosa, Adam	R	27	F
Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"	D	20	A
Huffman, Joan	R	17	F
Hughes, Bryan	R	1	F
Johnson, Nathan	D	16	A+
King, Phil	R	10	F
Kolkhorst, Lois	R	18	F
Menéndez, José	D	26	A+
Middleton, Mayes	R	11	F
Miles, Borris	D	13	A+
Nichols, Robert	R	3	F
Parker, Tan	R	12	F
Paxton, Angela	R	8	F

Senate Scores

Senate scores organized alphabetically by last name

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Perry, Charles	R	28	F
Schwertner, Charles	R	5	F
Sparks, Kevin	R	31	F
West, Royce	D	23	A+
Zaffirini, Judith	D	21	A+

Senate Progress Report

Comparison of Senate LGBTQIA+ Scorecard grades over the past four regular sessions

Carol Alvarado	A	A	B	A+
Paul Bettencourt	F	F	F	F
Brian Birdwell	F	F	F	F
César Blanco		A+	B	A
Donna Campbell	F	F	F	F
Molly Cook				A+
Brandon Creighton	F	F	F	F
Sarah Eckhardt		A+	A+	A+
Pete Flores	F		F	F
Roland Gutierrez		A	A	A+
Brent Hagenbuch				F
Bob Hall	F	F	F	F
	'19	'21	'23	'25

Kelly Hancock	F	F	F	F
Adam Hinojosa				F
Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa	A+	A+	D	A
Joan Huffman	F	F	F	F
Bryan Hughes	F	F	F	F
Nathan Johnson	A	A+	B+	A+
Phil King			F	F
Lois Kolkhorst	F	F	F	F
José Menéndez	A+	A+	A+	A+
Mayes Middleton			F	F
Borris Miles	A	A	C	A+
Robert Nichols	F	F	F	F
	'19	'21	'23	'25

Senate Progress Report

Comparison of Senate LGBTQIA+ Scorecard grades over the past four regular sessions

Tan Parker			F	F
Angela Paxton	F	F	F	F
Charles Perry	F	F	F	F
Charles Schwertner	F	F	F	F
Kevin Sparks			F	F
Royce West	A	A+	C	A+
Judith Zaffirini	A	A+	A	A+
	'19	'21	'23	'25



House of Representatives

The House of Representatives is the lower chamber of the Texas Legislature. The duties of the legislature include consideration of proposed laws and resolutions, consideration of proposed constitutional amendments for submission to the voters, and appropriation of all funds for the operation of state government. The house alone can instigate an impeachment. The House has 150 members.

It is composed of 88 Republicans and 62 Democrats. During the 89th Legislative Session, Dustin Burrows presided as Speaker of the House.

House Honor Roll

The Honor Roll celebrates the legislators who have received an Equality Texas Scorecard grade of A+ for three sessions in a row. This designation is a way for us to recognize which members of the House have stood beside us in the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights in Texas consistently.



John Bucy

A+ ('19, '21, '23, '25)



Jessica González

A+ ('19, '21, '23, '25)



Mary González

A+ ('19, '21, '23, '25)



Gina Hinojosa

A+ ('19, '21, '23, '25)



Donna Howard

A+ ('19, '21, '23, '25)



Joe Moody

A+ ('19, '21, '23, '25)



Ron Reynolds

A+ ('19, '21, '23, '25)



Toni Rose

A+ ('21, '23, '25)



Jon E. Rosenthal

A+ ('19, '21, '23, '25)



Gene Wu

A+ ('19, '21, '23, '25)



Erin Zwiener

A+ ('19, '21, '23, '25)

House Scores

House scores organized alphabetically by last name

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Alders, Daniel	R	6	F
Allen, Alma A.	D	131	A
Anchía, Rafael	D	103	A
Ashby, Trent	R	9	F
Barry, Jeff	R	29	F
Bell Jr., Cecil	R	3	F
Bell, Keith	R	4	F
Bernal, Diego M.	D	123	A
Bhojani, Salman	D	92	A
Bonnen, Greg	R	24	F
Bowers, Rhetta Andrews	D	113	A
Bryant, John	D	114	A+
Buckley, Brad	R	54	F

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Bucy III, John H.	D	136	A+
Bumgarner, Benjamin	R	63	F
Burrows, Dustin	R	83	F
Button, Angie Chen	R	112	F
Cain, Briscoe	R	128	F
Campos, Elizabeth "Liz"	D	119	A
Canales, Terry	D	40	A
Capriglione, Giovanni	R	98	F
Cole, Sheryl	D	46	A+
Collier, Nicole	D	95	A+
Cook, David	R	96	F
Cortez, Philip	D	117	A
Craddick, Tom	R	82	F

House Scores

House scores organized alphabetically by last name

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Cunningham, Charles	R	127	F
Curry, Pat	R	56	F
Darby, Drew	R	72	F
Davis, Aicha	D	109	A
Davis, Yvonne	D	111	A
Dean, Jay	R	7	F
DeAyala, Mano	R	133	F
Dorazio, Mark	R	122	F
Dutton Jr., Harold V	D	142	A
Dyson, Paul	R	14	F
Fairly, Caroline	R	87	F
Flores, Lulu	D	51	A+
Frank, James	R	69	F

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Gómez, Erin	D	38	A
Garcia, Josey	D	124	A
Garcia, Linda	D	107	A+
Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra	D	115	A
Gates, Gary	R	28	F
Gerdes, Stan	R	17	F
Geren, Charlie	R	99	F
Gervin-Hawkins, Barbara	D	120	A
González, Jessica	D	104	A+
González, Mary E.	D	75	A+
Goodwin, Vikki	D	47	A+
Guerra, R.D. "Bobby"	D	41	B
Guillen, Ryan	R	31	F

House Scores

House scores organized alphabetically by last name

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Harless, Sam	R	126	F
Harris, Cody	R	8	F
Harris Davila, Caroline	R	52	F
Hefner, Cole	R	5	F
Harrison, Brian	R	10	F
Hayes, Richard	R	57	F
Hernandez, Ana	D	143	A
Hickland, Hillary	R	55	F
Hinojosa, Gina	D	49	A+
Holt, Janis	R	18	F
Hopper, Andy	R	64	F
Howard, Donna	D	48	A+
Hull, Lacey	R	138	F

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Hunter, Todd	R	32	F
Isaac, Carrie	R	73	F
Johnson, Ann	D	134	A
Jones, Jolanda "Jo"	D	147	A
Jones, Venton	D	100	A+
Kerwin, Helen	R	58	F
King, Ken	R	88	D
Kitzman, Stan	R	85	F
LaHood, Marc	R	121	F
Lalani, Suleman	D	76	A
Lambert, Stan	R	71	F
Landgraf, Brooks	R	81	F
Leach, Jeff	R	67	F

House Scores

House scores organized alphabetically by last name

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Leo Wilson, Terri	R	23	F
Little, Mitch	R	65	F
Longoria, Oscar	D	35	B
Lopez, Janie	R	37	F
Lopez, Ray	D	125	A
Louderback, AJ	R	30	F
Lowe, David	R	91	F
Lozano, J. M.	R	43	F
Lujan, John	R	118	F
Luther, Shelley	R	62	F
Manuel, Christian	D	22	A+
Martinez, Armando "Mando"	D	39	A
Martinez Fischer, Trey	D	116	B

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
McLaughlin, Don	R	80	F
McQueeney, John	R	97	F
Metcalfe, Will	R	16	F
Meyer, Morgan	R	108	F
Meza, Terry	D	105	A
Money, Brent	R	2	F
Moody, Joe	D	78	A+
Morales, Christina	D	145	A
Morales, Eddie	D	74	A
Morales Shaw, Penny	D	148	A+
Morgan, Matt	R	26	F
Muñoz Jr., Sergio	D	36	C
Noble, Candy	R	89	F

House Scores

House scores organized alphabetically by last name

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Olcott, Mike	R	60	F
Oliverson, Tom	R	130	F
Ordaz, Claudia	D	79	B
Orr, Angelia	R	13	F
Patterson, Jared	R	106	F
Paul, Dennis	R	129	F
Perez, Mary Ann	D	144	B
Perez, Vincent	D	77	A
Phelan, Dade	R	21	F
Pierson, Katrina	R	33	F
Plesa, Mihaela	D	70	A+
Raymond, Richard Peña	D	42	C
Reynolds, Ron	D	27	A+

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Richardson, Keresa	R	61	F
Rodriguez Ramos, Ana-Maria	D	102	A
Romero Jr., Ramon	D	90	A
Rose, Toni	D	110	A+
Rosenthal, Jon E.	D	135	A+
Schatzline, Nate	R	93	F
Schofield, Mike	R	132	F
Schoolcraft, Alan	R	44	F
Shaheen, Matt	R	66	F
Shofner, Joanne	R	11	F
Simmons, Lauren Ashley	D	146	A
Slawson, Shelby	R	59	F
Smithee, John T.	R	86	F

House Scores

House scores organized alphabetically by last name

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Spiller, David	R	68	F
Swanson, Valoree	R	150	F
Talarico, James	D	50	A
Tepper, Carl H.	R	84	F
Thompson, Senfronia	D	141	A
Tinderholt, Tony	R	94	F
Toth, Steve	R	15	F
Troxclair, Ellen	R	19	F
Turner, Chris	D	101	A
VanDeaver, Gary	R	1	F
Vasut, Cody	R	25	F
Villalobos, Denise	R	34	F
Virdell, Wes	R	53	F

STATE SENATOR	PARTY	DISTRICT	GRADE
Vo, Hubert	D	149	B
Walle, Armando	D	140	B
Ward Johnson, Charlene	D	139	A
Wharton, Trey	R	12	F
Wilson, Terry M.	R	20	F
Wu, Gene	D	137	A+
Zwiener, Erin	D	45	A+

House Progress Report

Comparison of House LGBTQIA+ Scorecard grades over the past four regular sessions

Alders, Daniel				F
Allen, Alma A.	A+	A+	B	A
Anchía, Rafael	A+	A+	A+	A
Ashby, Trent	D	F	F	F
Barry, Jeff				F
Bell Jr., Cecil	D	F	F	F
Bell, Keith	F	F	F	F
Bernal, Diego M.	A+	A+	A	A
Bhojani, Salman			B	A
Bonnen, Greg	F	F	F	F
Bowers, Rhett Andrews	B+	B+	A	A
Bryant, John			A+	A+
	'19	'21	'23	'25

Buckley, Brad	F	F	F	F
Bucy III, John H.	A+	A+	A+	A+
Bumgarner, Benjamin			F	F
Burrows, Dustin	F	F	F	F
Button, Angie Chen	D	F	D	F
Cain, Briscoe	F	F	F	F
Campos, Elizabeth "Liz"		A+	B	A
Canales, Terry	B	A+	C	A
Capriglione, Giovanni	F	F	F	F
Cole, Sheryl	A+	A	A	A+
Collier, Nicole	A+	A+	B	A+
Cook, David		F	F	F
	'19	'21	'23	'25

House Progress Report

Comparison of House LGBTQIA+ Scorecard grades over the past four regular sessions

Cortez, Philip	B+	A	C	A
Craddick, Tom	F	F	F	F
Cunningham, Charles			F	F
Curry, Pat				F
Darby, Drew	F	F	F	F
Davis, Aicha				A
Davis, Yvonne	B+	B+	B	A
Dean, Jay	F	F	F	F
DeAyala, Mano			F	F
Dorazio, Mark			F	F
Dutton Jr., Harold V	F	C	D	A
Dyson, Paul				F
	'19	'21	'23	'25

Fairly, Caroline				F
Flores, Lulu			A+	A+
Frank, James	F	F	F	F
Gámez, Erin			A	A
Garcia, Josey			A+	A
Garcia, Linda				A+
Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra				A
Gates, Gary		F	F	F
Gerdes, Stan			F	F
Geren, Charlie	D	D	F	F
Gervin-Hawkins, Barbara	A	A+	B	A
González, Jessica	A+	A+	A+	A+
	'19	'21	'23	'25

House Progress Report

Comparison of House LGBTQIA+ Scorecard grades over the past four regular sessions

González, Mary E.	A+	A+	A+	A+
Goodwin, Vikki	A	A	A+	A+
Guerra, R.D. "Bobby"	B+	B	C	B
Guillen, Ryan	B	F	F	F
Harless, Sam	D	F	B	F
Harris, Cody	F	F	F	F
Harris Davila, Caroline			F	F
Hefner, Cole	F	F	F	F
Harrison, Brian		F	F	F
Hayes, Richard			F	F
Hernandez, Ana	A	A	A	A
Hickland, Hillary				F
	'19	'21	'23	'25

Hinojosa, Gina	A+	A+	A+	A+
Holt, Janis				F
Hopper, Andy				F
Howard, Donna	A+	A+	A+	A+
Hull, Lacey			F	F
Hunter, Todd	C+	C+	F	F
Isaac, Carrie			F	F
Johnson, Ann		A+	A+	A
Jones, Jolanda "Jo"			A+	A
Jones, Venton			A+	A+
Kerwin, Helen				F
King, Ken	D	F	F	D
	'19	'21	'23	'25

House Progress Report

Comparison of House LGBTQIA+ Scorecard grades over the past four regular sessions

Kitzman, Stan			F	F
LaHood, Marc				F
Lalani, Suleman			A	A
Lambert, Stan	F	F	F	F
Landgraf, Brooks	F	F	F	F
Leach, Jeff	F	F	F	F
Leo Wilson, Terri			F	F
Little, Mitch				F
Longoria, Oscar	B+	C+	D	B
Lopez, Janie			F	F
Lopez, Ray	B+	A+	A	A
Louderback, AJ				F
	'19	'21	'23	'25

Lowe, David				F
Lozano, J. M.	F	F	F	F
Lujan, John			F	F
Luther, Shelley				F
Manuel, Christian			A	A+
Martinez, Armando "Mando"	A	B	C	A
Martinez Fischer, Trey	B+	A+	A+	B
McLaughlin, Don				F
McQueeney, John				F
Metcalf, Will	F	F	F	F
Meyer, Morgan	D	D	F	F
Meza, Terry	A	A+	A	A
	'19	'21	'23	'25

House Progress Report

Comparison of House LGBTQIA+ Scorecard grades over the past four regular sessions

Money, Brent				F
Moody, Joe	A+	A+	A+	A+
Morales, Christina	A	A	A	A
Morales, Eddie		A+	D	A
Morales Shaw, Penny		A+	A+	A+
Morgan, Matt				F
Muñoz Jr., Sergio	B+	F	D	C
Noble, Candy	F	F	F	F
Olcott, Mike				F
Oliverson, Tom	F	F	F	F
Ordaz, Claudia		A	B	B
Orr, Angelia			F	F
	'19	'21	'23	'25

Patterson, Jared	F	F	F	F
Paul, Dennis	F	F	F	F
Perez, Mary Ann	B+	A	B	B
Perez, Vincent				A
Phelan, Dade	C			F
Pierson, Katrina				F
Plesa, Mihaela			A+	A+
Raymond, Richard Peña	A+	C	D	C
Reynolds, Ron	A+	A+	A+	A+
Richardson, Keresa				F
Rodríguez Ramos, Ana-María	A+	A+	A+	A
Romero Jr., Ramon	B+	B+	C	A
	'19	'21	'23	'25

House Progress Report

Comparison of House LGBTQIA+ Scorecard grades over the past four regular sessions

Rose, Toni	B+	A+	A+	A+
Rosenthal, Jon E.	A+	A+	A+	A+
Schatzline, Nate			F	F
Schofield, Mike		F	F	F
Schoolcraft, Alan				F
Shaheen, Matt	F	F	F	F
Shofner, Joanne				F
Simmons, Lauren Ashley				A
Slawson, Shelby		F	F	F
Smithee, John T.	F	F	F	F
Spiller, David		F	F	F
Swanson, Valoree	F	F	F	F
	'19	'21	'23	'25

Talarico, James	A+	A+	A+	A
Tepper, Carl H.	F	F	F	F
Thompson, Senfronia	A+	A+	A	A
Tinderholt, Tony	F	F	F	F
Toth, Steve	F	F	F	F
Troxclair, Ellen			F	F
Turner, Chris	A+	A+	A	A
VanDeaver, Gary	F	F	F	F
Vasut, Cody		F	F	F
Villalobos, Denise				F
Virdell, Wes				F
Vo, Hubert	B+	B+	B	B
	'19	'21	'23	'25

House Progress Report

Comparison of House LGBTQIA+ Scorecard grades over the past four regular sessions

Walle, Armando	A	A	B	B
Ward Johnson, Charlene				A
Wharton, Trey				F
Wilson, Terry M.	F	F	F	F
Wu, Gene	A+	A+	A+	A+
Zwiener, Erin	A+	A+	A+	A+
	'19	'21	'23	'25



Memorable Moments

The 89th Legislative Session extended far past a typical session and disproportionately targeted the rights of LGBTQIA+ Texans, particularly trans Texans. Despite this coordinated effort by anti-LGBTQIA+ actors, there were plenty of moments of genuine allyship and resistance under the dome.

Venton's Bill Passes the House

Allies in the House and Senate filed over 100 bills that would benefit our community, but only one got traction. Venton Jones launched a bill that would repeal Texas' so-called sodomy ban. Private intimate relationships should be just that—private. Even the Supreme Court agrees, and in 2003 the ban was struck down by the Supreme Court of the United States. However, the law remains on the books. Venton Jones has been pushing to correct that, and his bill to correct the anti-queer language passed the House. Bills like this have been filed every session since *Lawrence v. Texas* came down as the law of the land. This is the farthest the bill has ever gotten. Even though our fight is an uphill battle, lawmakers like Venton make it look like a breeze.



Lauren Ashley Simmons has a viral moment

Freshman representative Lauren Ashley Simmons went viral on social media while speaking up for the community when she pointedly asked a lawmaker whether or not he knew about intersex people. He did not. Education is the first step toward building a more accepting culture. Fierce advocates like Lauren are doing the hard work to challenge bills that would harm our community, and educating lawmakers about the beauty and diversity of our community.



Ron Reynolds Remains Outspoken Advocate for the Community

Work under the dome is tough—there are a lot of demands pulling lawmakers in every direction. But one lawmaker carved out the time to show up at rallies and press conferences, consistently speaking up for our community. The first speaker in a presser on the South Steps, and the last voice in a rally at the outdoor rotunda—Rep. Reynolds has consistently stepped up to the plate to defend our community, no matter what challenge we are facing.

Molly Cook Speaks Out for Women

When HB229, redefining gender in law, came to the Senate floor, Sen. Molly Cook challenged the bill's sponsor in a lively 20 minute debate. Sen. Cook warned that the bill further marginalized trans Texans and completely erased intersex people from the state code. While the Texas Senate has been notorious for its aggressive anti-trans agenda, the state's first openly LGBTQIA+ Senator has been pushing back.



Special Session(s)

After failing to secure some of his top priorities, Governor Abbott called a special session to address his new found focus: redistricting.

The larger political strategy was aimed at securing a conservative majority in the U.S. House, but the impact will be disenfranchising Black and queer voters across the state who live in districts that are being watered down.

In coalition with a network of progressive groups all across the state—the Texas for All coalition led the charge in the fight against the redistricting. Together we made some noise.

When the pressure was mounting to kill the redistricting plan, Democratic lawmakers left the state to break quorum—the minimum of representatives required to conduct business in the House. That postponed the plan for the moment, but after the first special session ran out the clock, Abbot called another.

Because of the quorum break, the Speaker of the House cracked down on House Representatives. In order to get “permission” to go home, lawmakers would need to agree to specific terms.



Bills that Passed (Direct Impact)

SB 1188

Threatening the health, privacy, and dignity of transgender, nonbinary, and intersex Texans on medical records

HB 1106

Endangering LGBTQ+ youth by legitimizing familial rejection and limiting protections.

SB 1257

Destabilizing transgender healthcare by disincentivizing insurance coverage.

HB 18

Indirectly straining hospital resources and limiting the scope of mental health services available to rural trans children.

SB 12

Requiring parental approval to access mental health resources at school, banning DEI, implementing Don't Say Gay, and prohibiting GSA clubs, and social transition.

SB 8 (2)

Preventing trans, intersex, and nonbinary folks from freely accessing public facilities that align with their gender identity.

HB 229

Undercutting the legal existence of transgender and intersex Texans.

*Bills marked with (#) denotes which Special Session the bill was filed in, the absence of a number means the bill was filed in the regular session

Bills that Passed (Indirect Impact)

SB 2

Spending public money on private schools.

SB 965

Endorsing religious speech/prayer in schools.

SB 10

Posting the Ten Commandments in public classrooms.

SB 37

Censoring college curriculum.

SB 11

Requiring prayer time in school.

HB 4 (2)

Impacting the voting power of LGBTQIA+ Texans by dividing communities through redistricting.

SB 13

Expanding the public library book ban.

*Bills marked with (#) denotes which Special Session the bill was filed in, the absence of a number means the bill was filed in the regular session

WORKING *for* GOOD



Moving Texas Forward, One Small Step at a Time

Texas has made a name for itself in many ways, including headlining the Supreme Court decision *Lawrence v. Texas*, which overturned Texas' ban on same-sex relationships. While that law has been struck down since 2003, the text itself remains on the books. Cleaning up Texas Code is a big project, but this specific amendment can't wait. Out Representative Venton Jones pulled together a bi-partisan coalition to push through a repeal of the sodomy ban. While bills like this have been filed since the SCOTUS ruling, this was the first time such a bill passed the House. While it didn't get over the finish line, building real momentum is no small feat.

Funding the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

Sometimes fewer words pack a stronger punch. In the 89th legislative session, working with partners and allies under the dome, we were able to secure funding for HIV/AIDS care that was redirected to local service providers. In a political climate where pro-active legislation seems impossible, this line item had a real impact on the material conditions for members of our community. Meaningful change starts with small steps.



Pro-LGBTQIA+ Legislation

Comprehensive list of all pro-LGBTQIA+ bill filings from this session organized by issue area.

Nondiscrimination

HB 38(1), HB 170(2), HB 270, HB 302, HB 317, HB 319(2), HB 450, HB 580, HB 607, HB 715, HB 729, HB 822, HB 903, HB 1111, HB 1164, HB 1204, HB 1351, HB 1363, HB 1601, HB 1738, HB 1814, HB 2138, HB 2724, HB 2758, HB 3660, HB 4328, HB 4828, HB 4829, SB 48, SB 361, SB 2265, SJR 35

Healthcare

HB50, HB1207, HB1307, HB1365, HB1559, HB1680, HB1737, HB2141, HB2784, HB3174, HB4147, HB5494, HJR80, SB833

Community

HB230, HB545, HB634, HB894 (ID), HB1044, HB1193, HB1470, HB1882, HB3451, HB4484, HB4507, HB4982, HB5280, HR190, HR1401, SB2723, SB2958, SJR24

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Pro-LGBTQIA+ Legislation

Comprehensive list of all pro-LGBTQIA+ bill filings from this session organized by issue area.

Education

HB393, HB528, HB659, HB687, HB781, HB1253, HB1273, HB1390, HB1405, HB2469, HB2705, HB3283, HB3295, HB4143, HB4345, HB4821, HB5056, SB184, SB237, SB579, SB580, SB581

*Bills marked with (#) denotes which Special Session the bill was filed in, the absence of a number means the bill was filed in the regular session

Anti-LGBTQIA+ Legislation

Comprehensive list of all anti-LGBTQIA+ bill filings from this session organized by issue area.

Identification & Legal Documents

Bans on best-practice affirming healthcare for transgender youth.

HB 229, HB 3817, HB 2549, HB 4001, HB 403, HB 437, HB 477, HB 843, HB 980, SB 1696, SB 1953, SB 406, SB 84, SCR 42

Healthcare

Bans on sports participation

SB 1188, **SB 1257**, **HB 18**, HB 3399, HB1088, HB 1984, HB 3399, HB 4503, HB 778, HB 847, HB 4311, SB 115, SB 116, SB 1393, SB 2447

Education

SB 2, **SB 10**, **SB 11**, **SB 12**, **SB 13**, **SB 37**, **SB 965**, HB 1123, HB 1158, HB 1279, HB 1655, HB 1704, HB 183, HB 1927, HB 2339, HB 2342, HB 2548, HB 2846, HB 3411, HB 344, HB 3548, HB 3616, HB 3742, HB 4002, HB 497, HB 789, HB 973, HB 976, SB 1396, SB 1999, SB 2920, HB 171(1), HB 120(2), SB 1068, SB 1127, SB 1396, SB 1565, SB 1999, SB 2714, SB 2803, SB 2920, SB 371, SB 810, SB 86, SB 87, SB 983

Anti-LGBTQIA+ Legislation

Comprehensive list of all anti-LGBTQIA+ bill filings from this session organized by issue area.

Personal Freedom

SB 8 (2), SB 240, HB 239, HB1014, HB1015, HB 1016, HB 2062, HB 2704, HB 32(1), HB 52(2), HB 214(2), SB 240, SB 762, SB 7(2)

Youth & Family

SB 1106, HB 1012, HB1075, HB1106, HB 1375, HB 2258, HB 3478, HB 4318, HB 938, HB 947, HB 995, SB 18, SB 2749, SB 18

DEI

HB 1280, HB 1521, HB 167, HB 2770, HB 2821, HB 3075, HB 3573, HB 4040, HB 436, HB 4496, SB 689, HB 170 (1), HB 172 (1), HB 127 (2), SB 689

Miscellaneous

HB 370, HB 3842, HB 4425, HB 796, HB 3990, **HB 4 (2)**, SB 80

Post-Lege Resources

On the last day of the legislative session, a handful of bills that would impact the community were heading to the Governor's desk. We launched a tool on our website where folks can read about the bills that passed, understand how they impact the queer community, and understand what we're doing to fight back.

Check out our [post-lege resources](#) online.



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Fund the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights in Texas.

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upcoming 2027 Legislative Session.**

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