

Building Power To Win Campaign



Texas Legislative Campaign Kickoff 2023

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Sierra Club Lone Star
Chapter

Overview

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Facing the Facts

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Our agenda / your agenda

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How can we succeed this session?

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What do we need to do next?

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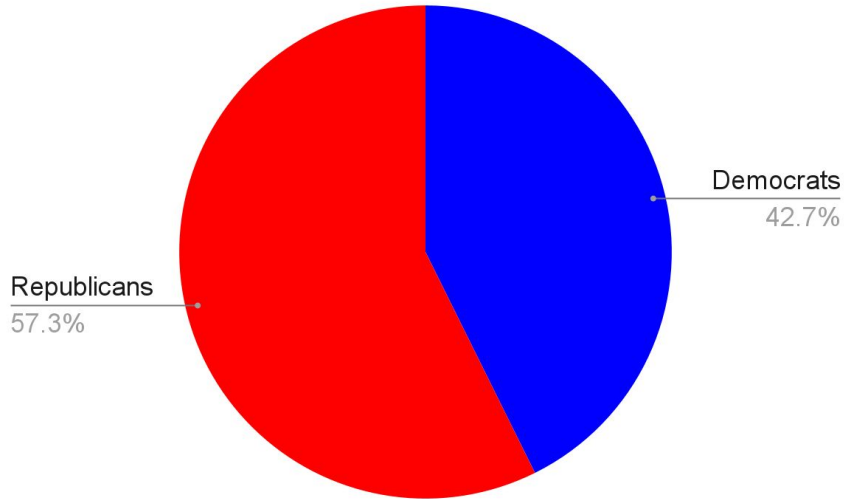
Resources & opportunities

Let's go back to 2021 for a minute...

Texas House

Republicans - 86

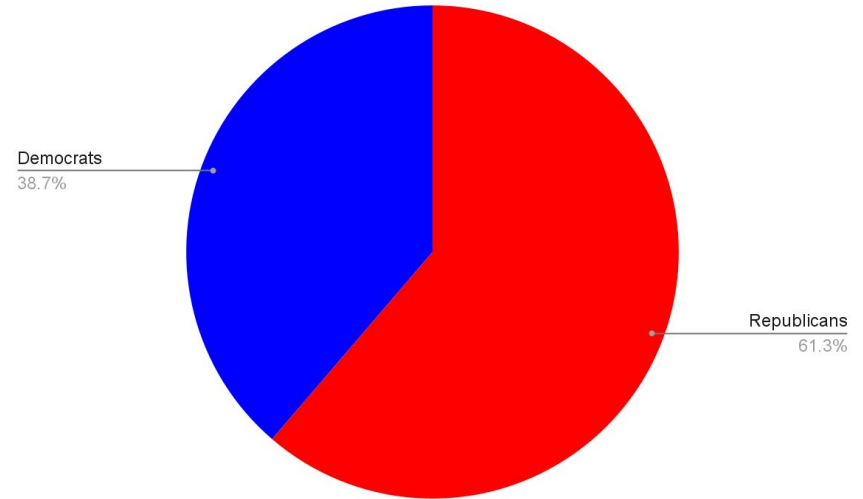
Democrats - 64



Texas Senate

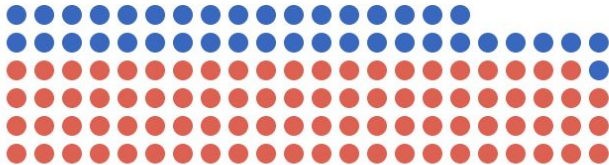
Republicans - 19

Democrats - 12



Republican leadership is not supportive of climate action.

Women and men in both 2023 Texas legislative chambers



Men
127

87 **Republicans** and 40 **Democrats**

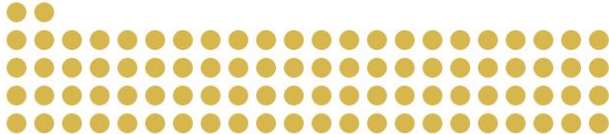


Women
54

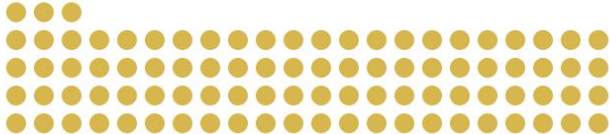
18 **Republicans** and 36 **Democrats**

The Texas Legislature is still mostly male.

If the Legislature accurately reflected Texas, it would look like this ...



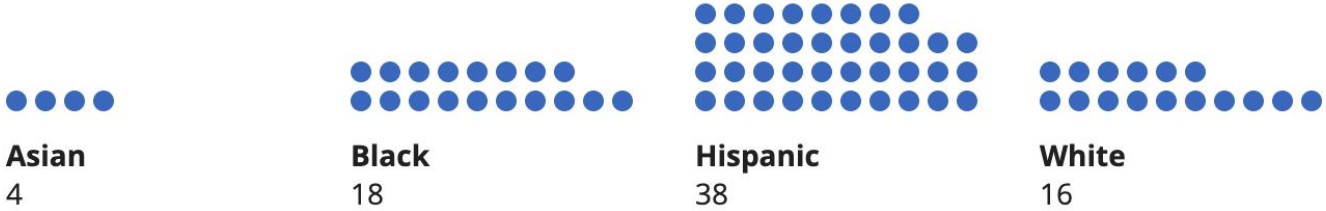
Men
90



Women
91

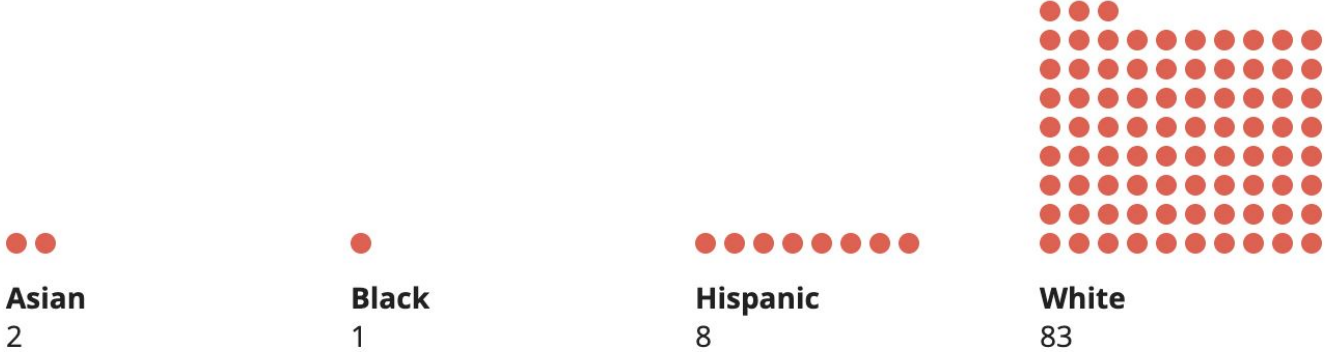
Source: Texas Tribune survey of the Legislature, U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2021 estimates
Credit: Carla Astudillo

Democrats in 2023 Legislature

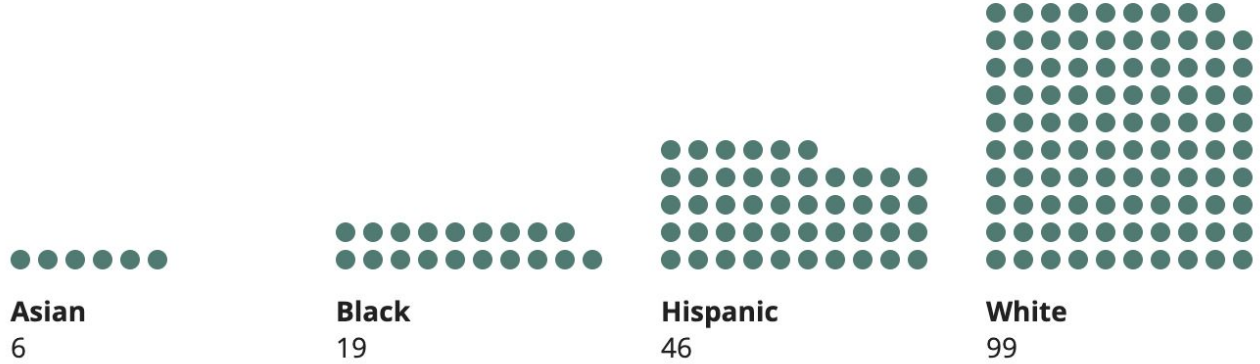


The Texas Legislature is still mostly white.

Republicans in 2023 Legislature

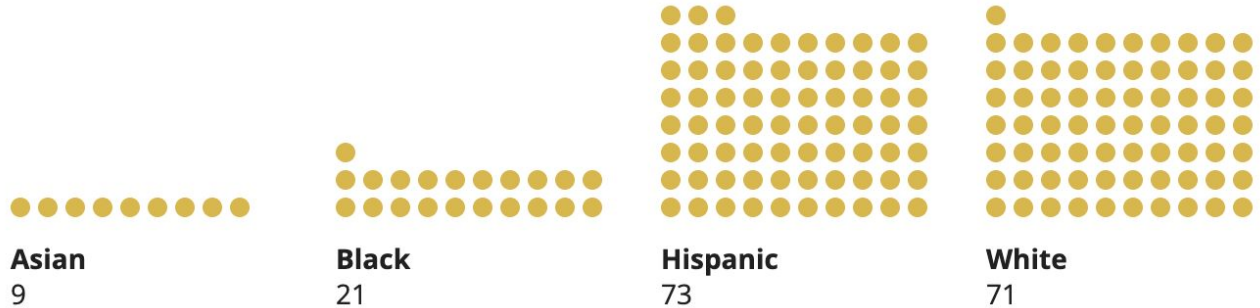


Entire 2023 Legislature



The Texas Legislature is still mostly white.

If the Legislature accurately reflected Texas, it would look like this ...



Let's Face It

Chances of passing landmark
climate justice bill in 2023 = 0%

That doesn't mean we're
powerless or we can't get anything
done.

Sierra Club Agenda (Water)

- TCEQ and TWDB Sunset
- Protecting Water Quality from nutrient pollution, plastic pollution, and salinity gradient degradation.
- Restoring TPWD's authority to contest permits when they harm state land, water resources, or wildlife.
- Responsible produced water pilot projects
- Requiring analysis of climate change impacts in state planning processes.

Sierra Club Agenda (Energy, Air, Land)

- Spend federal monies to clean up our grid, pollution, water, grid
- Fix the Grid: Public Utility Commission sunset bill, Raise Energy Efficiency Goals, Create Demand Response Programs, Raise Building Code Standards, Allow distributed generation to participate in market, Create low-income payment assistance.
- Protect the Community from Pollution: TCEQ Sunset Bill, Cumulative Impacts, Air Monitoring, Oil and Gas Well Plugging and Methane Clean-up
- Land Conservation: Support Parks Acquisition and Land/Habitat Conservation
- Support voting rights and oppose efforts to remove local control

The Abbott/Patrick/GOP Leadership Agenda

- Lots more gas plants (paid for by you)
- Restrict/ban sustainable investment policies (aka, anti-ESG)
- Fines for people who repeatedly report permit violations
- Making it harder to ditch gas and go electric
- In addition to continued attacks on LGBTQ community, voting, access to reproductive healthcare, border militarization, public schools, and more.

Your Agenda! Let's discuss...

- What do you wish the Texas Legislature would do?
- What are the issues or bills you'd like to see addressed and/or stopped?

How can we build
more power in Austin
and across Texas?

For this session and
for the next one?

The 88th: Focus on stopping the bad, making progress on the good.

- Volunteer teams for lit drops at the Capitol and district offices, committee hearings/rallies, help bring in new volunteers
- Constituents meeting legislators in their districts
- Letters to the editor in key newspapers throughout the session
- Constituent bird-dogging on social media

Immediate Volunteer Opportunities

- Jan 30 or TBD: Outreach to Sierra Club members and supporters
- Feb 2: Lit drop at the Capitol and district offices.
- Legislative office visits in district offices
- Coming Soon:
 - TRAINING: How to show your elected official you're here and not going away.
 - EDUCATION: Dive deeper on issues at the Capitol and their relevance to everyday Texans.
 - NETWORK: Join with Texans across the state that share your values, villians, and vision for a better Texas.

What do we need to build more power long term?

The Path to More Influence at the Capitol

Grassroots Power

Demonstrate growth of influence

Expanded Base

Educate, communicate, relate

Sustained Pressure

Continue efforts during the interim

Coalitions

Build ties with orgs that share values, villains, vision

Decentralize Organizing

More tools & resources to organize/act locally

Funding

This can't be done for free.

How could the long-term campaign look moving forward?

- Multiple modes of contact with lawmaker
- Growing number of constituents contacting Reps multiple times
- Sustained outreach to new people via Groups, events, social media ads, etc.
- Interconnected, supportive, and supported local teams
- Equitable, inclusive, and trust-centered coalitions

Before we wrap up...

Resources (the Legislature section of our website)

- Sign up for email updates!
- TX Lege 101 videos
- How to write a letter to the editor
- Bill tracker, key dates, timelines, written testimony
- Factsheets! Factsheets! Factsheets!
- Shout out to allied orgs

Thank you!



**SIERRA
CLUB**

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