



SIERRA CLUB
LONE STAR CHAPTER

2023

TEXAS

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD



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Photo: Al Braden



Introduction

The Texas legislative session that concluded in May might seem like a distant memory already. Over the summer, there were special sessions as well as the impeachment trial of State Attorney General Ken Paxton.

Legislators who are beholden to polluting special interests are counting on you to forget what happened during the regular session. Sierra Club and its allies challenged some of the worst legislation championed by big polluters while making tremendous progress on issues like pollution reduction, making electricity bills more affordable for everyday Texans, and addressing worsening water quality on our coastline, rivers, and streams.

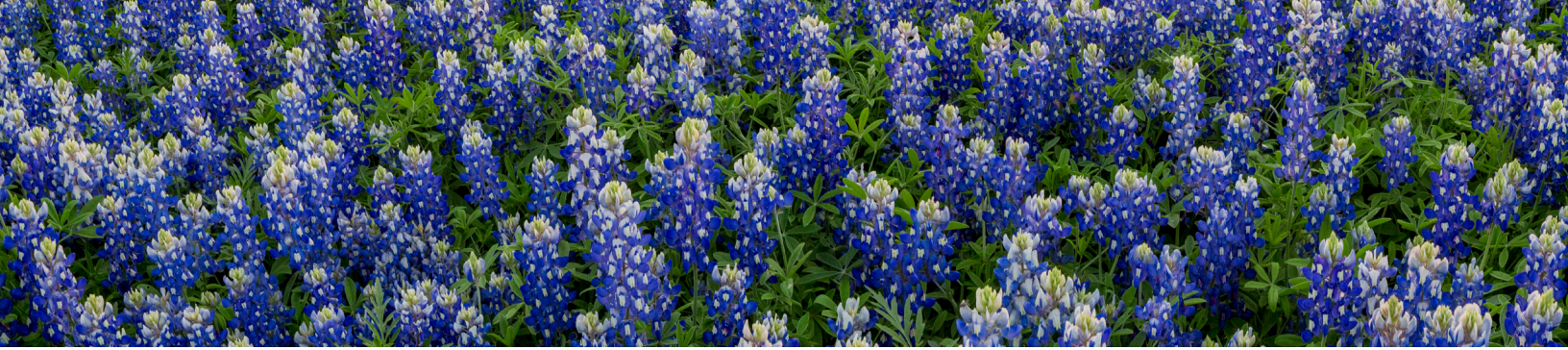
If we strive for a clean and equitable future in Texas, we must not lose sight of how we got to this place where corporate interests carry more influence than Texans. That's why we are proud to announce the 2023 Texas Legislative Scorecard.

Since relaunching our scorecard in 2017, our objective has been to give Texans a clear picture of the environmental justice and conservation values of elected officials working in the Texas Legislature. Showing that picture accurately is very hard to do. There are thousands of bills filed every session, including several hundred bills related to energy, water, and the environment. Some are good, some are bad. Some have immense consequences, some relatively minor. In selecting 15 votes per chamber to represent an environmental scorecard, we have to justify why they matter more than the hundreds of other votes we could include in our assessment.

We made the choice to focus on bills and actions that correspond most closely with our legislative priorities that were laid out at the beginning of the year. Those priorities can be found [here](#). We also chose to focus only on bills and actions that we worked on. Therefore, if you're wondering why a certain bill wasn't included, it's because we had to make a choice, given limited resources. Another important factor when choosing what to track was to try to select a representative sample of our legislative priorities. We could have easily selected bills and action that just related to energy, but we also worked on water, parks and wildlife, air quality, etc. So what you hopefully see is a cross section of Sierra Club issues that give you a good assessment of your State Representative and State Senator's values and priorities when it comes to environmental protection and justice.

We don't rely just on floor votes though. We also painstakingly comb through actions off the floor, in committees and behind the scenes, to help illuminate more of what's really going on. Why do that? Because the hard work of environmental champions doesn't always show up on the House or Senate floor, and the influence of polluter special interests is often best seen in the decisions of committee chairs, for example. Our scorecard, therefore, is centered on one simple guiding question: **Did your state legislator have the courage to stand up to special interests and vote in your best interests?** We think that our scorecard helps answer this question.





While our methodology remains largely the same, there are a few changes to the way we did the scorecard this year. First, we are treating absences a little differently. Before we used to count an absence as if it were a vote against the Sierra Club's position. After all, they weren't there to vote the right way. However, this can often overlook some important circumstances. For example, two lawmakers had to miss several votes because they were dealing with family emergencies. Instead of knocking them for it, we took those votes out of their total and adjusted their score accordingly. Second, if a legislator was marked "absent, excused" in the record, we looked to see if they voted for the same bill on second reading. If they did, we used that vote to score them. If they were not excused, we still counted that as a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Like last year, we made adjustments to some legislators' scores based on additional actions (both positive and negative), but we focused much more on those who were in relative positions of power. For example, members who sat on committees that our top bills went through were in a much more influential position to do something than those who weren't in these committees. We strove to show how committee chairs especially hold much more power over energy and environmental bills than anyone else besides the Speaker, Lt. Governor, and Governor.

You will also notice we included short individualized assessments for many of the legislators with more influence on energy and environmental bills, rather than creating a separate list of adjustments. We hope this makes the information quicker to access, as well as leaves a trail of crumbs for anyone who wants to dig deeper into a legislator's voting record.

Finally, as we say with every scorecard, this is an imperfect tool. There are certainly some actions that were overlooked. If there is a mistake in vote tallies, we are open to making corrections. Accuracy matters, so please reach out to us if you think something looks wrong.

We are honored that you are using this scorecard, and are curious about legislative accountability. Without people like you, legislators would only have corporate special interests to please.

Enjoy!

The Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter Legislative Team





Photo: Al Braden

How this scorecard was built

In considering what to score, our analysis included:

- **Votes on bad bills** that would harm Texans.
- **Votes on good bills** that would help Texans.
- **Votes on amendments.** Lawmakers sometimes try to revive good and bad bills that died in committee by offering them as amendments to related bills that come up for a vote on the floor. Legislators can attempt to add amendments that would improve bad bills too.
- **Individual efforts** of legislators to pass or prevent bills outside of the vote that they cast on the floor. For example, Rep. John Bryant persistently used points of order to try to kill bad environmental bills as they came up on the House floor, expending precious political capital in the process. That deserves credit.

What is missing?

- **Big omnibus bills** that have both good and bad aspects to them. Scoring on Sunset bill votes or the big water infrastructure bill (SB 28), for example, can be tricky because there are good and bad components to them, so we didn't include many of them.
- Good bills that were filed with no chance of advancing, or good bills that were not pushed for, were, in general, not included because our analysis seeks to assess each lawmaker's willingness to use their positional power or political capital to advance environmental justice. Simply filing a bill for good PR isn't necessarily going to earn you points, especially if that member did not use political capital to try and get a hearing.
- We also have limited capacity to advocate for every good bill, and fight every bad bill, moving through the legislature. That reality makes this exercise somewhat subjective and not at all comprehensive. So we tried as much as we could to limit the analysis and assessment to bills that we focused on, which mostly aligned with our legislative agenda.



Methodology

We start, as always, with a list of floor votes that reflect the consequential moments of key priorities as much as possible. That includes bills we fought for and against, in addition to amendments to bills both good and bad. Most of the time, the votes were on third (and final) reading. Though some were on adoption of an amendment, and one was for a vote on a motion to table a good amendment.

Then, we assign weights to each vote based on two fundamental questions:

- On a scale of 1-10, how high were the stakes on this vote? How consequential would this bill be to the lives of Texans?
- On a scale of 1-10, how difficult was it to persuade legislators to vote the right way?

Based on answers provided by our lobby team, a unique weight was given to each vote. For example, Sen. Eckhardt’s bill to increase the state’s energy efficiency goal (SB 258) scored 7/10 for each question, giving it a weight of 14/20. Whereas Sen. Kolkhorst’s oyster bill (SB 1032) scored 6/10 and 1/10 respectively, for a total of 7/20. Assigning the weight to each of these votes, then, produced a value of 8.38% of the total raw score to the SB 258 vote, and 4.19% of the total raw score for the oyster bill vote. Put simply, SB 258 was weighted twice what SB 1032 was.

For the Senate votes, the weights and values were:

Bill	High Stakes + Difficulty	Sierra Club Position	Weight
SB 114	13	Y	7.78%
SB 258	14	Y	8.38%
SB 1032	7	Y	4.19%
SB 1648	6	Y	3.59%
SB 2453	12	Y	7.19%
HB 4885	5	Y	2.99%
SB 6	14	N	8.38%
SB 471	12	N	7.19%
SB 624	13	N	7.78%
SB 1750	11	N	6.59%
SB 2015	11	N	6.59%
HB 5	12	N	7.19%
HB 33	10	N	5.99%
HB 1500 Amdt 9	11	N	6.59%
HB 2127	16	N	9.58%
Total	167		100%



For the House votes, the weights and values were:

Bill	High Stakes + Difficulty	Sierra Club Position	Weight
HB 3522	6	Y	4.00%
HB 4811	11	Y	7.33%
HB 4885	7	Y	4.67%
SB 7	14	Y	9.33%
SB 1648	9	Y	6.00%
SB 2011	9	Y	6.00%
SB 2453	13	Y	8.67%
SB 2627 Am 2	4	Y	2.67%
HB 5	14	N	9.33%
HB 33	6	N	4.00%
HB 2127	14	N	9.33%
HB 2239	11	N	7.33%
HB 2827	12	N	8.00%
HB 1500 Am 2	9	N	6.00%
SB 471	11	N	7.33%
Total	150		100%

After we calculated each legislator’s raw score, we made adjustments to reflect whether an individual legislator made extra effort beyond each of these votes either to advance or stop key legislation. Did they fight for a good bill that did not get to the floor? Did they work behind the scenes to slow down a bad bill? We did our best to capture these moments and make adjustments to their overall scores, usually in the 1-5% range for each action.

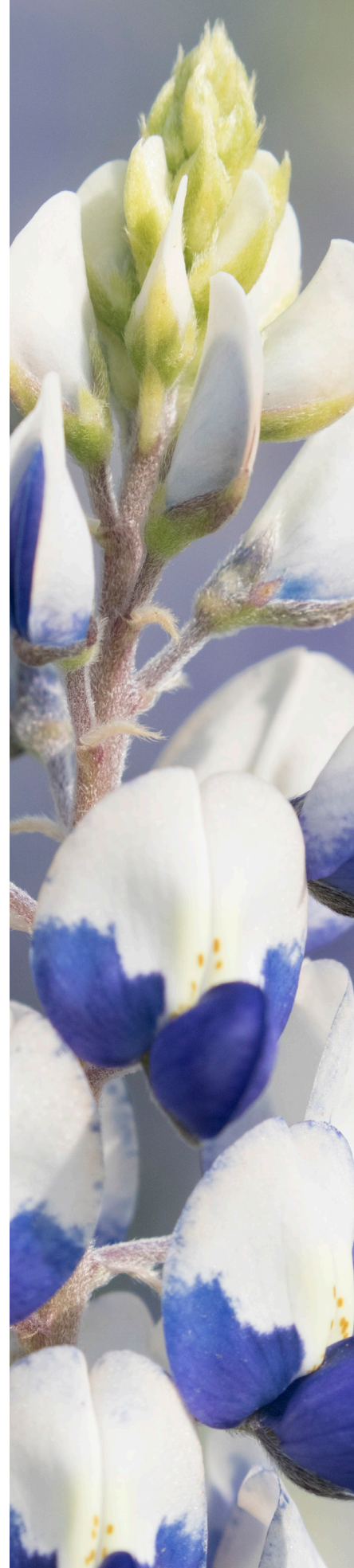


Acknowledgments

We could not have produced this scorecard without the help of the following individuals: Matt Johnson, Cyrus Reed, Alex Ortiz, Emma Pabst, Eric Krueger, Dave Cortez, Al Braden, and Casey Moser. We wouldn't have anything to report without the passion and commitment of our volunteers either. Thank you to all the Sierra Club members and supporters who stepped up and called, emailed, wrote, and met with their legislators face to face this year. We appreciate you and your drive to make Texas a better place to live.

Finally, Sierra Club is a part of a larger movement to make Texas a more equitable, inclusive, democratic, and anti-racist place. We still have a long way to go, but to that end, we want to acknowledge that this scorecard is missing several votes that would give an even clearer and representative view of each lawmaker's values. There were terrible bills filed attacking trans Texans for example, as well as bills to re-establish white supremacy in higher education. There was even action to have the state take over the largest school district in Texas - the Houston Independent School District, in the process disenfranchising local voters who had elected local school boards. While our staff and volunteers dropped cards, testified, shared on social media, made calls, wrote emails, and rallied against many of these bad bills, we decided to leave most of the scoring up to our allies and partners.

However, we want to work more closely with allied organizations in the future to collaborate on how to fill out the picture of each elected official through a more comprehensive equity and social justice lens. For a more complete picture of how our scores compare to lawmakers' positions on other issues such as LGBTQ rights, criminal justice, reproductive health-care, and more, check out the accountability work of Texas Freedom Network, Equality Texas, AVOW, Planned Parenthood Texas Votes, SEIU, ACLU of Texas, Progress Texas, Mi Familia Vota, and Texas Civil Rights Project.



Insights & Analysis

All Democrats are not the same

There have been too many bad bills that too many Democrats voted for to support the perception that all Democrats are pro environment, clean air, local control, and clean water. It was truly disheartening to see so many of them vote for such an obvious polluter giveaway bill as HB 5. While some voted against and should be applauded, 47 Democrats voted in favor of it... and for what? A promise to get their bill heard in committee? If that was the case for some of them, as has been rumored, this is precisely how special interest divide and conquer tactics work - pitting one progressive effort against another. A similar example was HB 2127, sometimes referred to as the "Death Star Bill," which stripped away the rights of local government to pass ordinances and policies on a number of issues, including worker safety and certain natural resource protections, where many Democrats ended up supporting it "to create a level playing field" for business interests. It would be interesting to see any of these politicians - Republicans or Democrats - work construction or landscaping without getting a water break in extreme heat.



Richard Peña Raymond (D)

All Republicans are not the same

What the GOP is doing to our democracy and our state is historically heinous. Let's not equivocate here. They were pretty unified on some oppressive bills (attacking trans youth, suffocating local democracies, censorship, taking over the Houston ISD, etc.). But they are not unified on every issue. HB 5, for example, which resuscitates the school property tax abatement subsidy for corporate polluters (Chapter 313) and makes it even more of a giveaway with our money, had a sliver of Republicans opposing it based on their opposition to government subsidies.

Another example: Rep. Todd Hunter. While he sponsored several bills we actively opposed (see HB 5 above), we do credit him for his position on energy efficiency, demand response, and renewable energy, as solutions to mitigating rising costs and reliability. He used his power to amend the demand response bill SB 114 onto another bill, which should not be overlooked, while also keeping the worst anti-renewable bills and measures from moving forward in the House. He also did not allow SB 6, which would have been an \$18 billion ratepayer subsidy to Berkshire Hathaway types, out of the House State Affairs Committee he chairs.



Rep. Todd Hunter (R)





Insights & Analysis

Let's talk about SB 7

It was awkward, to say the least, to be listed next to corporate polluting special interests in favor of SB 7, so let's set the record straight. The Sierra Club has been critical of the so-called performance credit mechanism (PCM for short) - a policy approved by the Public Utility Commission in January - all along because it is a risky and expensive idea that puts more of your hard-earned money into the coffers of polluting power generation companies in exchange for an untested promise that fossil fuels won't fail us again (as they have almost every time the grid is in danger). The main reason why we supported SB 7 was because it put some "guardrails" on the concept to protect Texas families from paying through the nose, and also made sure that the PCM would only be implemented if some other more cost-effective ideas were implemented first.

Still, despite our support for SB 7 (and other bills that included the PCM concept like the PUC Sunset bill, HB 1500), the better way to protect our pocket books and de-stress the electric grid is to invest in energy efficiency, but the House State Affairs Committee failed to vote on SB 258. We believe Sen. Eckhardt's SB 258 would have been supported by most, if not all, Democrats, and a sizable number of Republicans (see below). Nevertheless, while SB 7 got through the House, some Democrats (Turner, Anchia, Morales Shaw, and others) pushed to raise or eliminate the cost cap that we were supporting. Why would they do that? Look at the energy special interests in their districts (eg., Vistra). We have a long way to go before the environmental justice movement achieves a solid and unwavering voting bloc.





Insights & Analysis

Historic progress on moving an energy efficiency bill, but utilities still opposed

Three sessions ago, the bill that would increase our state’s goal for energy efficiency did not get a committee hearing. In 2021, the bill was heard but did not make it out of committee. This session, it was not only voted out of committee, it passed the conservative Senate on a bipartisan 18-13 vote. That’s progress.

However, unlike last session when they successfully avoided most public scrutiny, electric utilities (specifically transmission and distribution utilities like Oncor, CenterPoint, and AEP Texas), testified in opposition to SB 258, which would have raised the energy efficiency goal for Texas for the first time in 12 years. They’re excuse for opposing the bill was ironic but not surprising. Claiming it would be too costly and aggressive was, frankly, laughable in the midst of bills that will cost the same Texans billions of dollars every year and not guarantee reliability and their support for other measures that cost Texans far more. Energy efficiency would lower bills for electric customers and bolster reliability by lowering demand, but no matter how loud we said it, the special interest power of these utilities was still too great to overcome.

For now, they win another round but we are committed to pushing for solutions that help Texas families take control of their rising electric bills. See you at the PUC!





Insights & Analysis

A long way to go for water

When thinking about water this session it would be impossible to avoid SB 28 and SJR 75. This bill and resolution will create the Texas Water Fund and New Water Supply for Texas Fund, to be funded with a combined \$1 billion, pending voter approval on the constitutional amendment in November 2023. The final version of SB 28 contains a great deal of good: from addressing municipal water loss in a meaningful way to ensuring that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) can effectively use its dollars to help utilities that are struggling with aging infrastructure. Unfortunately, the bill also contains potential funding for risky and unproven projects like widespread marine desalination or fracking wastewater (produced water) treatment. And when an opportunity to expand the bill's priority areas to include Texas's most vulnerable communities came up as an amendment, it was swiftly removed by Sen. Charles Perry.

Organizations that work on Texas water issues were overwhelmingly supportive of SB 28 as it aims to solve water supply concerns, but the larger moment also reveals a concerning issue of equity in our state. Bills that aimed to increase support to Texas's economically distressed areas, predominantly communities of color, hit a roadblock in the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs, where Sen. Perry is the Chair.

And for all of the discussion of water supply and potential conservation measures, protecting our communities and wildlife from water quality concerns seems to be at the very back of the legislature's mind. At some point, our state will have to deal with water quality concerns from the increasing frequency of climate change-induced drought and flooding. But there's also a clear need to address the pollutants and industries that are causing harm now. In a year when both the Texas Water Development Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality were going through a sunset process — including legislation to continue those agencies through 2036 — the legislature on the whole chose to ignore water quality issues as part of that review process and legislation. Whether it's addressing concerns of excess brine pollution to our bays and estuaries, or addressing pre-production plastic pollution like nurdles that wreak environmental havoc and carry human health risks, the legislature as a whole seems to take an "ignorance is bliss" approach. This comes despite the fact that there's clear evidence of changes to our communities and ecosystems stemming from this pollution.



HB 3522

Author: Rep. Mary Gonzalez

Summary: HB 3522 would have expanded the amount of funding from the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP) that the Texas Water Development Board is allowed to spend without repayment. By expanding the proportion of grants to loans, this would have enabled Texas's most vulnerable communities to apply for funding with a greater chance of grant funding rather than dealing with the pressure of loan repayment. By expanding the amount of loan funding available, EDAP-eligible communities would be more able to take advantage of funding for needed water and wastewater system connection and maintenance. There was no clear opposition to the bill, though all water bills relating to economically distressed areas or the EDAP program did not receive a hearing in the Senate.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The House passed the bill on a vote of 118-26-2, then was referred to the Senate Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee but did not receive a hearing.

HB 4811

Author: Rep. Rafael Anchia

Summary: If passed, HB 4811 would have created the Texas Energy Efficiency Council. The council's charge would be to convene state agencies, utilities, and other stakeholders to share and collaborate on ideas to improve energy efficiency programs and services throughout the state. The bill was actually a recommendation of the PUCT itself. With billions of dollars in new federal funding coming to Texas over the next several years, the Council would have been a great venue to coordinate effective use of those funds. You might have assumed something like this already exists given how clear the benefits would be for utilities and their customers, but good ideas rarely get past the Texas Legislature these days. There was no specific opposition to the bill, although utilities like Oncor did want the bill changed to make it clear the council would have no rulemaking authority.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote in favor of

the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The bill passed the House 93-50-1, and was referred to the Senate Business & Commerce Committee but did not receive a hearing, even though the bill's Senate sponsor was Chair Charles Schwertner.

HB 4885



Author: Rep. Brooks Landgraf

Summary: HB 4885 was a bill to update the Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) and programs managed by TCEQ. The bill made a number of changes to programs and funding, including adding a new hydrogen truck and infrastructure grant program, expanding funding and programs to reduce oil and gas emissions, and providing expanded funding to the Energy Systems Laboratory for a contract to assess the benefits of energy efficiency and advanced building code implementation on air emissions. The bill also reduced some funding for natural gas vehicles. A variety of different special interests attempted to increase funding for certain programs through the legislative process, but the final version of the bill was supported by a wide variety of stakeholders.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: HB 4885 passed the House on a 108-37-2 vote. The Senate passed it on a 27-4 vote. It was signed by the Governor on June 13, 2023.

SB 7

Author: Sen. Charles Schwertner

Summary: SB 7 was another grid reform as part of Lt. Gov Dan Patrick's Repowering Texas package. As originally filed, it contained some good and bad provisions. As an example, we very much opposed a proposed change to the cost allocation of ancillary services from all loads, to a complex formula consisting of loads, dispatchable generation, and renewable energy generation. However, we did support the creation of a new ancillary service for times of uncertainty and improved reporting requirements. The bill was amended in the House and some of the most concerning language was removed or changed substantially, while additional guardrails were put on a provision we were opposed



Key House Votes

to - the creation of a PCM (performance credit mechanism). Because of these changes in the House, we ended up supporting the bill.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: After passing the Senate 31-0, SB 7 was significantly changed through a very different House version, and it passed the House easily 134-11-1. However, rather than resolving the different Senate and House versions in SB 7 itself, many of the provisions of SB 7 were incorporated into the PUCT Sunset bill (HB 1500). Importantly, this included the cost caps on the famous “PCM” (Performance Credit Mechanism) to ensure that the scheme favored by fossil fuel interests would not be too costly.

ment regime. Some of the large generation companies - notably NRG and Vistra - were opposed to the bill as it passed the Senate, and they continued to try to get the bill on the House floor weakened. While a slight compromise was made, Vistra in particular continued to push for other changes and were working against passage of the bill.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: After passing the Senate 31-0, the House approved SB 2011 on a much narrower 73-67-2 vote. The Governor signed the bill on June 18, and it became effective on September 1, 2023.

SB 1648

Author: Sen. Tan Parker

Summary: If the companion SJR 74 is adopted by voters in November, SB 1648 would create the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, to buy land for more state parks. The program would be established in the Texas constitution, subject to approval by voters in November. HB 1, the budget for the 2024-2025 biennium, appropriates \$1 billion for state park land acquisition, contingent on the passage of the constitutional amendment.

Our Position: A vote for the bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: SB 1648 passed the Senate 26-3-2, and passed the House 120-19-1. It was signed by the Governor on May 29, 2023. A constitutional amendment to authorize the use of the \$1 billion dollars is on the ballot in November.

SB 2011

Author: Sen. Charles Schwertner

Summary: As originally filed, SB 2011 (also part of Patrick’s Repowering Texas package) would increase maximum penalties from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000 on abuses in the ERCOT market. It would also update Voluntary Mitigation Plan requirements to ensure that such plans provide meaningful protections against market power abuse. The bill also sets up the procedure for enacting a Voluntary Mitigation Plan, modernizing our enforce-

SB 2453

Author: Sen. José Menéndez

Summary: This bill would have fixed a conflict in state law and enabled the State Energy Conservation Office to update state energy building codes as long as they met certain cost effectiveness criteria. It would have also allowed state-owned buildings to adopt high performance building standards, leading to a reduction in operating costs. In past sessions, there were attempts made to update statewide building codes standards through legislation. This bill would have allowed SECO to do it without legislation, thus allowing Texas to move forward without having to wait years for the legislature to meet and agree on a no brainer. The Sierra Club worked collaboratively on this bill with the Texas Association of Builders and the Texas Chemical Council. To get support from the builders and overcome some opposition, the original bill was amended to add a cost-benefit analysis requirement before adoption.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: After the Senate passed it 17-14, SB 2453 was voted out of the House 84-59, then vetoed by Gov. Abbott. In vetoing the bill, Gov Abbottt made it clear the veto was not based on the bill, but on the failure of the legislature to address property tax relief. It is possible the issue could be brought back in a future special session.



SB 2627 Amendment 2

Author: Rep. Vikki Goodwin

Summary: SB 2627 was a problematic bill that was filed only after SB 6 (See Senate Votes) failed to move in the House. The bill, and constitutional amendment (if approved by voters), would create low-interest loans for new so-called “dispatchable” power plants (likely to be new gas plants) as well as early completion bonuses, paid for through the Rainy Day Fund. While there are also some parts of the bill that Sierra Club was not opposed to (such as a separate fund for backup power for vulnerable communities and other resiliency projects) the guts of the bill remain a subsidy for future fossil fuel plants. Recognizing that thousands of megawatts of new fossil fuel power plants could exacerbate air quality problems across Texas, Rep. Goodwin’s amendment sought to include new projects’ ability to obtain federal air permits to maintain air quality standards as a condition of getting access to state funds. Many developers of gas power plants supported the bill, as did large industrial interests like the Texas Chemical Council and Texas Association of Manufacturers - who saw it as the lesser of two evils compared to SB 6.

Our Position: A vote for this amendment was a vote for the Sierra Club position since it would have improved the bill.

Outcome: The amendment failed on a vote of 52-93-2. SB 2627 passed the House on third reading on a 118-23 vote and was signed by the Governor. A related measure - a constitutional amendment to allow taxpayer funds to be used for loans and grants for dispatchable power plants - most likely gas plants - was also approved, but is subject to a vote in November.

HB 5

Author: Rep. Todd Hunter

Summary: When big corporate polluters want something from Texas state government, they get it. HB 5 was a resuscitation of a program (Chapter 313) that provided school property tax abatements worth millions of dollars to big corporations that claim they would not build here if it weren’t for the abatement. According to Every Texan, wind and solar projects accounted for two-thirds of all Chapter 313 projects, although only one-quarter of the cost in forgone school property tax

revenue. The rest went to oil and gas, plastics, chemical manufacturing, cement, and semiconductor companies, for example. In HB 5, renewables were explicitly excluded from eligibility, but even if they were, we were still against the bill because it is an unneeded corporate subsidy that pits communities against each other. HB 5 was improved substantially in the Senate. Lots of big corporate interests wanted in on this gravy again, from Energy Transfer to ConocoPhillips and a whole lot more. Chambers of Commerce were the most visible proponents of the bill, pressing lawmakers not only to support but co-author the bill.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: HB 5 passed the House by a depressingly wide margin, 120-24-1, then the Senate passed it on a 27-4 vote. Importantly, the Senate did improve the bill significantly, increasing transparency and public input requirements, and decreasing the total amount of the abatement. Gov. Abbott signed the bill on June 9, 2023.

HB 33

Author: Rep. Brooks Landgraf

Summary: HB 33 was a foolish waste of time. As badly needed federal regulations on oil and gas pollution take shape, oil and gas legislators sought to prevent our state officials from collaborating with federal enforcement officials on enforcement of rules or laws where there is no specific state law. Specifically, the bill prohibits a state agency or person employed by a state agency from contracting with or in any other manner assisting a federal agency or official regarding the enforcement of a federal statute, order, rule, or regulation purporting to regulate oil and gas operations if the decree, order, rule, or regulation imposed a prohibition, restriction, or other regulation that did not exist under state law. However, the bill as introduced could have violated federal law for programs that have been delegated to the state since we have existing memoranda of understanding with federal authorities on joint enforcement. While the final version of the bill was muted somewhat, at the very least the bill creates confusion on enforcement of federal laws in Texas, and could impact our ability to access federal funding or have delegated federal programs. Texas needs to coordinate enforcement of rules and laws not put up roadblocks to protecting public health from oil and gas interests. Special interests included oil and gas interests, including TIPRO,



Key House Votes

 Signed by Governor Abbott

the Texas Pipeline Association, the Panhandle Producers and Royalty Owners Association, and the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The House passed it 99-44-1, then the Senate passed it on a 19-12 vote. The Senate did weaken the original bill somewhat. Gov. Abbott signed it on June 14, and it is due to become effective on Sept. 1, 2023, although the actual impact of the bill is unknown.

HB 2127



Author: Rep. Dustin Burrows

Summary: This was the infamously named “super preemption” or the “death-star” bill that stripped local governments of existing and future powers, like requiring construction companies to give workers water breaks, protecting consumers from payday lenders, and adopting tree ordinances. The bill essentially took whole sections of state statutes and declared that local governments could not adopt new policies unless they were given specific authority by the legislature to do so. In doing so, the bill reverses 100 years of home rule powers for municipalities. Every major business interest was lined up to support the draconian, anti-democratic legislation, from the Texas Association of Business to Texas Association of Manufacturing to the homebuilding and construction industry to airlines to the Texas Oil and Gas Association to the Texas Chemical Council, and right-wing groups like the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: After passing the House 92-55-1, the Senate passed the bill 18-13. It was signed by Gov. Abbott on June 14, and became law on Sept 1, 2023. Interestingly, the City of Houston and the City of San Antonio are suing the state over the law, saying that it is unconstitutional. Several other cities have filed amicus briefs opposing the state law.

HB 2239

Author: Rep. Ellen Troxclair

Summary: This bill would have prevented municipalities

from regulating the removal of ashe juniper trees - or establishing mitigation fees for the removal of ash juniper trees - in residential developments, thus destroying critical habitat for bird species. It is another example of preemption of local control, where the bill was seeking to prevent cities like Austin and San Antonio from protecting trees that can provide important shade, habitat, and water quality benefits.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: HB 2239 was approved by the House on a 109-35-1, but after clearing the Senate Committee of Local Government it died before being voted on in the Senate floor.

HB 2827

Author: Rep. DeWayne Burns

Summary: HB 2827 was an agricultural wastewater bill that would have eliminated individual permits for confined animal feeding operations (aka, CAFOs), instead relying on more general standard permits. Because general permits are not individually evaluated, this bill would increase pollution in Texas rivers. Special interests supporting the bill included the Texas Farm Bureau and Texas Association of Dairymen.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The bill passed the House 80-53-2, but did not get out of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development.

HB 1500 Amendment 2 Motion to Table

Author: Rep. John Bryant

Summary: Rep. Bryant had a good amendment to the PUC Sunset bill that would have established an independent market monitor for the gas supply. Currently, the PUCT has one for the electricity market, but after Winter Storm Uri, it became apparent that certain gas suppliers could potentially withhold gas supplies, causing price spikes, which ultimately lead to spikes in electric prices. Bryant’s amendment would have given Texas another tool to look at the gas supply market and practices which could illegally jack up prices on consumers. Special interests included the oil and gas



Key House Votes

 Signed by Governor Abbott

industry, TXOGA, TIPRO, gas supply companies like E. The Railroad Commission itself has been opposed to the idea of giving additional powers to the PUCT to monitor or regulate the gas supply market.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: After the amendment was laid out, there was a motion to table it, which was approved on a vote of 88-59-2.

SB 471



Author: Sen. Drew Springer

Summary: SB 471 as originally filed would have created penalties for individuals who reported permit violation concerns to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality if they did not end up being verified by the agency after three complaints. Any Texan who has tried to seek redress through the TCEQ probably winced when they first heard about this bill, playing a scene in their head like this, “Caller: Hello, I smell something very bad coming from the factory down the road. TCEQ: We’ll check it out. [LOTS OF TIME ELAPSES] Caller: Did you find anything out? TCEQ: Nope. But now we’re concerned about these bogus calls of yours.” Okay, a dramatization to be sure but you get the point. Thankfully, the bill was watered down but still allows TCEQ to do nothing about complaints if previous complaints didn’t go anywhere.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The bill passed the House 85-59-2, then the Senate 22-9, and was signed by Gov. Abbott on June 18, and takes effect on Sept. 1, 2023.



House Scores

District	Representative	Party Affiliation	Raw Score (%)	Final Score (%)	Notes/Adjustments
1	Gary VanDeaver	R	30%	30%	
2	Bryan Slaton	R	9%	9%	Slaton was expelled on a unanimous vote during the regular session for inappropriate sexual conduct with an aide. Whether he was here for these votes or not didn't matter much for his score. Good riddance.
3	Cecil Bell, Jr.	R	30%	30%	
4	Keith Bell	R	21%	19%	Bell is generally bad on most energy/water/environment bills, but we can't let it be forgotten that he switched his vote on SB 471, which was all but dead until it was sent back to committee where he switched his deciding vote from no to yes, allowing the bill to eventually pass (-5%). He does deserve credit (+3%), however, because he worked collaboratively with us on several aspects of TCEQ Sunset bill, adding some language and conducting some legislative intent language. Net: -2%
5	Cole Hefner	R	21%	21%	
6	Matt Schaefer	R	25%	25%	
7	Jay Dean	R	39%	39%	
8	Cody Harris	R	21%	21%	
9	Trent Ashby	R	40%	40%	
10	Brian Harrison	R	23%	23%	
11	Travis Clardy	R	23%	23%	
12	Kyle Kacal	R	31%	31%	
13	Angelia Orr	R	24%	24%	
14	John Raney	R	48%	48%	
15	Steve Toth	R	29%	29%	
16	Will Metcalf	R	33%	33%	
17	Stan Gerdes	R	24%	24%	
18	Ernest Bailes	R	40%	40%	
19	Ellen Troxclair	R	41%	39%	Troxclair, a former Austin city council member, filed six bills that undermined Austin Energy and pushed for hearings. She was able to get two bills out of committee but ultimately they were not placed on the calendar in time to be considered. She also authored and pushed HB 2239, the notorious anti-tree bill. (-2%)
20	Terry Wilson	R	15%	15%	
22	Christian Manuel	D	78%	78%	
23	Teresa Leo-Wilson	R	25%	25%	
24	Greg Bonnen	R	26%	26%	
25	Cody Vasut	R	19%	19%	
26	Jacey Jetton	R	46%	46%	

House Scores

District	Representative	Party Affiliation	Raw Score (%)	Final Score (%)	Notes/Adjustments
27	Ron Reynolds	D	87%	90%	While he was on the wrong side of SB 2011 and HB 2239, Reynolds has usually been not only a consistent pro-environment, pro-ratepayer legislator, he has consistently pushed to advance bills that would create more opportunities for low-income Texans to access low-cost loans to weatherize their homes. Reynolds deserves credit for filing and working hard to advance HB 2502 (SECO revolving loans), HB 2408/HB 2409 (building codes), and working with us to get good language added to Landgraf's TERP bill. (+3%)
28	Gary Gates	R	33%	33%	
29	Ed Thompson	R	25%	43%	Generally speaking, Thompson has not been a good vote for many energy/environmental issues. However, he had several excused absences as a result of a family tragedy. Without a record of how he would have voted, we adjust his score to reflect the weights of the votes he did cast. In this case, nine votes instead of 15 votes.
30	Geanie Morrison	R	48%	48%	
31	Ryan Guillen	R	46%	46%	
32	Todd Hunter	R	46%	53%	Where to begin? As Chair of State Affairs, Hunter had considerable positional power over a great many energy bills. While we must call out he carried HB 5 (-1%), he also stood by his pro-taxpayer principles and blocked SB 6 (+5%), fought for cost caps and worked to keep the worst anti-renewables stuff out of bills (SB 7, HB 1500) (+1%). Hunter also deserves credit for moving a good oyster bill (SB 1032) through the House, and accepting a good demand response amendment on SB 1699 (+2%). Net +7%
33	Justin Holland	R	33%	35%	Holland deserves some credit for working collaboratively with Sierra Club on the PUC Sunset bill (HB 1500) to keep worst anti-renewable stuff off it. He also filed good land conservation bill (HB 3165). (+2%)
34	Abel Herrero	D	61%	61%	
35	Oscar Longoria	D	47%	47%	
36	Sergio Muñoz, Jr.	D	49%	49%	
37	Janie Lopez	R	54%	54%	
38	Erin Gamez	D	71%	71%	
39	Armando "Mando" Martinez	D	63%	63%	
40	Terry Canales	D	43%	43%	
41	Bobby Guerra	D	55%	55%	
42	Richard Peña Raymond	D	46%	46%	
43	J.M. Lozano	R	39%	39%	
44	John Kuempel	R	24%	24%	

House Scores

District	Representative	Party Affiliation	Raw Score (%)	Final Score (%)	Notes/Adjustments
45	Erin Zwiener	D	93%	99%	Despite also going through her first year of law school, Zwiener managed to work hard on several energy/environmental issues. We give her a lot of credit for using her positional power as a founding member of the House Energy & Climate Caucus to work on amendments to HB 5 (+5%), and authoring a bill to address nurdle (primary plastic) pollution on the Gulf Coast (HB 4144) (+1%). We're still not sure why she voted in favor of HB 2239, the only wrong vote in this scorecard. Net +6%
46	Sheryl Cole	D	75%	75%	
47	Vikki Goodwin	D	100%	106%	Goodwin was intentionally excluded from sitting on committees that cover energy/environment because she would do too much good. We can't give her any additional points either because she also had a perfect voting record. However, she deserves credit for offering an amendment to SB 2627 (and not withdrawing it) that would add air quality to considerations for project eligibility.
48	Donna Howard	D	91%	92%	HB 5 was a bad bill and Howard voted for it, but we give her credit for offering an amendment that was accepted to move its Sunset date up three years to 2033. (+1%)
49	Gina Hinojosa	D	100%	100%	Hinojosa's committees didn't involve a lot of the issues Sierra Club worked on, but she did achieve a perfect score on the floor for the votes we tracked. Hats off to you!
50	James Talarico	D	85%	85%	Talarico has normally been a strong and reliable vote, but he did vote the wrong way on SB 2011 and HB 5, as a number of other Democrats did.
51	Lulu Flores	D	94%	94%	Flores missed a few votes, but her absences were excused. When we looked back at second reading votes she was present for, she voted the right way giving her first term a very positive score.
52	Caroline Harris	R	25%	25%	
53	Andrew Murr	R	24%	24%	
54	Brad Buckley	R	30%	30%	
55	Hugh Shine	R	46%	46%	
56	Charles "Doc" Anderson	R	41%	41%	
57	Richard Hayes	R	37%	37%	
58	DeWayne Burns	R	30%	29%	Burns authored and worked a bad bill on wastewater permits and CAFOs (HB 2827). (-1%)
59	Shelby Slawson	R	19%	20%	Slawson is a reliable anti-environment pro-polluter vote, but we give her some credit for keeping some bad generator language off of a PUC enforcement bill SB 2013. (+1%)
60	Glenn Rogers	R	37%	37%	
61	Frederick Frazier	R	54%	54%	
62	Reggie Smith	R	20%	20%	
63	Ben Bumgarner	R	24%	24%	
64	Lynn Stucky	R	24%	24%	
65	Kronda Thiemesch	R	23%	23%	
66	Matt Shaheen	R	19%	19%	
67	Jeff Leach	R	23%	23%	

House Scores

District	Representative	Party Affiliation	Raw Score (%)	Final Score (%)	Notes/Adjustments
68	David Spiller	R	19%	19%	
69	James Frank	R	46%	46%	
70	Mihaela Plesa	D	77%	79%	In her first term, Plesa voted mostly in favor of votes Sierra Club supported with the exception of SB 2011. However, she voted the wrong way on a few bills we opposed too - HB 5, HB 2827. We give her credit for filing a bill (HB 1175) to get money back to counties from LIRAP and then working with Rep. Hernandez on it (+1%), and for working on a good bill on EV charging (HB 2144).
71	Stan Lambert	R	27%	27%	
72	Drew Darby	R	40%	42%	Darby deserves some credit for filing on a bill (HB 2263) that authorizes gas companies to have gas conservation programs, and working with Sierra Club to improve his bill. He also deserves some credit for working on a couple good geothermal bills (SB 785, SB 786), but overall he tended to vote yes on too many bad bills. (+2%)
73	Carrie Isaac	R	27%	26%	The score speaks for itself, but we don't want it lost that Isaac also filed and promoted HB 2390, a voter suppression bill trying to link school shootings and a ban on voting on campuses. (-1%)
74	Eddie Morales, Jr.	D	59%	59%	
75	Mary González	D	70%	72%	Gonzalez filed two good bills related to strengthening the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP): HB 3522 and HB 3523. Otherwise, more than a few disappointing floor votes.
76	Suleman Lalani	D	77%	77%	
77	Evelina "Lina" Ortega	D	69%	69%	
78	Joe Moody	D	63%	63%	
79	Claudia Ordaz	D	43%	44%	Ordaz may have one of the steepest declines in score of any legislator from last session, when she achieved an 88.44%. As disappointing as her voting record was this session, we give her credit for filing a good bill (HB 1947) that would require medical waste facilities to properly notify elected officials before operating near certain locations such as schools, churches, parks, etc. (+1%)
80	Tracy King	D	65%	66%	While his overall score shows he wasn't great on energy, we acknowledge King's contributions on water issues over the years. This session, he was helpful on SB 28, removing importing water from other states in committee substitute. (1%)
81	Brooks Landgraf	R	30%	25%	As Chair of Environmental Regulation, Landgraf used his positional power to assure that a good bill on nurdle pollution never received a hearing (-5%). He also filed and pushed forward a bad bill (HB 33) prohibiting state agencies from collaborating with the federal government on enforcement of environmental laws (-1%). On the positive side, he voted a good TERP bill out of committee (albeit w/o a hearing), but did agree to three important amendments on House floor and worked with Sierra Club on them (+1%). Net -5%
82	Tom Craddick	R	41%	41%	
83	Dustin Burrows	R	42%	41%	Burrows authored and pushed through the super bad pre-emption bill HB 2127. (-1%)
84	Carl Tepper	R	25%	25%	
85	Stan Kitzman	R	30%	30%	
86	John Smithee	R	19%	19%	
87	Four Price	R	30%	30%	

House Scores

District	Representative	Party Affiliation	Raw Score (%)	Final Score (%)	Notes/Adjustments
88	Ken King	R	24%	26%	King wasn't great with his votes on the floor, but he deserves credit for filing and working HB 821, the latest attempt to enable EV chargers in state parks (1%), and had a good park funding bill (HB 3801) (+2%)
89	Candy Noble	R	21%	21%	
90	Ramon Romero, Jr.	D	64%	64%	
91	Stephanie Klick	R	21%	21%	
92	Salman Bhojani	D	77%	77%	
93	Nate Schatzline	R	25%	25%	
94	Tony Tinderholt	R	25%	25%	
95	Nicole Collier	D	67%	67%	
96	David Cook	R	21%	21%	
97	Craig Goldman	R	33%	28%	As Chair, he used his positional power to never allow any bills related to well plugging or bills that would increase fines on industry (well plugging, methane controls, etc.) to get a hearing. (-5%)
98	Giovanni Capriglione	R	26%	26%	
99	Charlie Geren	R	45%	45%	
100	Venton Jones	D	77%	77%	
101	Chris Turner	D	68%	70%	Turner voted no on two good bills (SB 2011 and SB 7), and yes on two bad bills (HB 5 and HB 2239). He deserves credit for introducing two good bills on gas utilities (HB 4117 and HB 4118) (+2%), and he had a good amendment on demand response for SB 1699, but we deduct a point for fighting against cost caps in SB 7 (-1%). Net +2%
102	Ana-Maria Ramos	D	77%	82%	We applaud Ramos for adding an amendment including economically distressed areas onto SB 28 (which was ultimately stripped off in the Senate by Perry) (+5%), but she voted the wrong way on SB 7, SB 2011, and HB 2239.
103	Rafael Anchía	D	85%	90%	Anchia has worked hard to advance energy efficiency legislation for several sessions, and mostly votes the right way. He deserves extra credit for filing SB 258 as far as it got in the House (+3%), fighting for the energy efficiency council bill HB 4811 (+1%), filed a good bill to get gas suppliers to the table on pricing (HB 4790) (+1%), and working to make the terms of loans and grants in SB 2627 more rational (+1%). However, he spoke against the cost cap in SB 7 on the House floor, and voted wrong on SB 7, SB 2011. Net +5%
104	Jessica González	D	75%	75%	
105	Terry Meza	D	67%	67%	
106	Jared Patterson	R	23%	23%	
107	Victoria Neave	D	85%	85%	
108	Morgan Meyer	R	37%	37%	
109	Carl Sherman	D	57%	70%	Like Ed Thompson, Sherman was absent for a number of key votes due to a family emergency. So without a record of how he would have voted, we adjust his score to reflect the weights of the votes he did cast. In this case, 12 votes instead of 15 votes.
110	Toni Rose	D	77%	77%	
111	Yvonne Davis	D	73%	73%	

House Scores

District	Representative	Party Affiliation	Raw Score (%)	Final Score (%)	Notes/Adjustments
112	Angie Chen Button	R	46%	46%	
113	Rhetta Bowers	D	68%	68%	
114	John Bryant	D	100%	100%	Bryant was brilliant in calling several points of order to stop bad bills, not worrying about political consequences. We also credit him for offering an amendment to establish an independent market monitor for the gas supply in HB 1500 (which was not adopted). [UPDATE: Although the record indicates Bryant voted for HB 33 on third reading, he voted against it on second reading and to concur. After discussing it after publication, we agree that his third reading vote was a mistake and have adjusted his score to reflect that.]
115	Julie Johnson	D	85%	85%	
116	Trey Martinez Fischer	D	77%	77%	
117	Philip Cortez	D	71%	71%	
118	John Lujan	R	37%	37%	
119	Elizabeth Campos	D	57%	57%	
120	Barbara Gervin-Hawkins	D	77%	78%	We give Gervin-Hawkins some credit for filing HB 4950, on energy efficiency property tax breaks. She worked with Sierra Club on a more reasonable bill compromise but never got it out of committee.
121	Steve Allison	R	48%	48%	
122	Mark Dorazio	R	42%	42%	
123	Diego Bernal	D	86%	86%	
124	Josey Garcia	D	62%	62%	
125	Ray Lopez	D	83%	83%	
126	Sam Harless	R	43%	43%	
127	Charles Cunningham	R	45%	44%	Cunningham authored a bad bill (HB 2140) relating to the enforcement by the attorney general of rules adopted by the Railroad Commission. Changed a shall to a may. (-1%)
128	Briscoe Cain	R	19%	19%	
129	Dennis Paul	R	26%	26%	
130	Tom Oliverson	R	30%	29%	Oliverson filed a bad bill on ESG policies (HB 1239) (-1%). Otherwise, the score speaks for itself.
131	Alma Allen	D	87%	87%	
132	Mike Schofield	R	25%	25%	
133	Mano DeAyala	R	19%	19%	
134	Ann Johnson	D	85%	85%	
135	Jon Rosenthal	D	100%	100%	Kudos to Rosenthal for being one of three Representatives to vote the right way on every vote we included in this scorecard! He also authored an important bill to require the phase out of routine flaring in the oil and gas fields, but unfortunately it was never even granted a hearing despite his best efforts.
136	John Bucy III	D	91%	91%	
137	Gene Wu	D	85%	85%	

House Scores

District	Representative	Party Affiliation	Raw Score (%)	Final Score (%)	Notes/Adjustments
138	Lacey Hull	R	15%	15%	
139	Jarvis Johnson	D	85%	86%	We credit Johnson for adding a good amendment on wages/salaires to a bad bill (HB 5), but he still voted for the bad bill. (+1%)
140	Armando Walle	D	94%	100%	Walle headed an important subcommittee in Appropriations and worked with us not only for park funding, but also funding for PUC, and TCEQ (eg., he used his positional power for good) (+5%). We also credit him for sheperding the largest park investment in history through the House (+1%).
141	Senfronia Thompson	D	79%	79%	
142	Harold Dutton	D	57%	57%	
143	Ana Hernandez	D	77%	79%	We credit Hernandez for filing and getting a hearing for HB 3078 to establish utility rate discounts for low-income households (+1%), and for carrying SB 2453 on building codes through the House (+1%).
144	Mary Ann Perez	D	77%	77%	
145	Christina Morales	D	94%	94%	
146	Shawn Thierry	D	83%	83%	
147	Jolanda Jones	D	85%	85%	
148	Penny Morales Shaw	D	85%	86%	Morales Shaw filed HB 1360, a good bill relating to a required online posting of permit applications for water rights permits; and water quality control, injection wells, and solid waste disposal permits. While the bill was not heard, much of the language eventually got into the TCEQ Sunset bill. (+1%), and she used her position on the Committee on Enviornmental Regulation to make sure those provisions made it into the final bill. We also deduct a point her for trying to raise cost cap on PCM in SB 7 to benefit Vistra (same as Anchia and Turner) (-1%). Net +1%
149	Hubert Vo	D	79%	79%	
150	Valoree Swanson	R	31%	31%	

House Table

Notes: Sierra Club's position is indicated by (Y) or (N) after each bill number. "A" indicates "absent", and "PNV" indicates "present not voting." If a member indicated in the journal after the fact they intended to vote differently than what was recorded, we changed their vote according to their intention. In cases where a member was recorded as "Absent, excused" we substituted their vote on second reading if it was recorded.

Seat	State Representative	3rd Reading	3rd Reading	3rd Reading	3rd Reading	3rd Reading	3rd Reading	Motion to Adopt	3rd Reading	3rd Reading	3rd Reading	3rd Reading	3rd Reading	Motion to Table	3rd Reading	
		HB 3522 (Y)	HB 4811 (Y)	HB 4885 (Y)	SB 7 (Y)	SB 1648 (Y)	SB 2011 (Y)	SB 2453 (Y)	SB 2627 Am 2 (Y)	HB 5 (N)	HB 33 (N)	HB 2127 (N)	HB 2239 (N)	HB 2827 (N)	HB 1500 Am 2 MTT (N)	SB 471 (N)
1	Gary VanDeaver	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Bryan Slaton	N	N	N	-	-	-	-	-	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
3	Cecil Bell, Jr.	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Keith Bell	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
5	Cole Hefner	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	Matt Schaefer	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	Jay Dean	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
8	Cody Harris	N	N	PNV	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y
9	Trent Ashby	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10	Brian Harrison	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11	Travis Clardy	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12	Kyle Kacal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13	Angelia Orr	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
14	John Raney	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
15	Steve Toth	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
16	Will Metcalf	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
17	Stan Gerdes	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
18	Ernest Bailes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
19	Ellen Troxclair	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
20	Terry Wilson	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
21	Dade Phelan	Y	PNV	PNV	PNV	PNV	PNV	PNV	PNV	Y	PNV	PNV	PNV	PNV	PNV	PNV
22	Christian Manuel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
23	Teresa Leo-Wilson	N	N	A	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y
24	Greg Bonnen	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
25	Cody Vasut	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
26	Jacey Jetton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
27	Ron Reynolds	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
28	Gary Gates	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
29	Ed Thompson	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	N	N	A	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y

House Table

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		HB 3522 (Y)	HB 4811 (Y)	HB 4885 (Y)	SB 7 (Y)	SB 1648 (Y)	SB 2011 (Y)	SB 2453 (Y)	SB 2627 Am 2 (Y)	HB 5 (N)	HB 33 (N)	HB 2127 (N)	HB 2239 (N)	HB 2827 (N)	HB 1500 Am 2 MTT (N)	SB 471 (N)
30	Geanie Morrison	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
31	Ryan Guillen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
32	Todd Hunter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
33	Justin Holland	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
34	Abel Herrero	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	A
35	Oscar Longoria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
36	Sergio Muñoz, Jr.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
37	Janie Lopez	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
38	Erin Gamez	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N
39	Armando "Mando" Martinez	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
40	Terry Canales	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
41	Bobby Guerra	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
42	Richard Peña Raymond	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
43	J.M. Lozano	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
44	John Kuempel	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
45	Erin Zwiener	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
46	Sheryl Cole	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
47	Vikki Goodwin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
48	Donna Howard	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
49	Gina Hinojosa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
50	James Talarico	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
51	Lulu Flores	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
52	Caroline Harris	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
53	Andrew Murr	Y	N	Y	Y	A	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
54	Brad Buckley	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
55	Hugh Shine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

House Table

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56	Charles "Doc" Anderson	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
57	Richard Hayes	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
58	DeWayne Burns	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
59	Shelby Slawson	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
60	Glenn Rogers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
61	Frederick Frazier	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
62	Reggie Smith	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
63	Ben Bumgarner	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	A	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
64	Lynn Stucky	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
65	Kronda Thimesch	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
66	Matt Shaheen	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
67	Jeff Leach	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
68	David Spiller	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
69	James Frank	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
70	Mihaela Plesa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N
71	Stan Lambert	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y
72	Drew Darby	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
73	Carrie Isaac	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
74	Eddie Morales, Jr.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
75	Mary González	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	PNV	N	A	N	N	Y	N	N
76	Suleman Lalani	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	A	N	N	N
77	Evelina "Lina" Ortega	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	PNV	N	N
78	Joe Moody	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
79	Claudia Ordaz	Y	Y	Y	A	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
80	Tracy King	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	N	Y	N
81	Brooks Landgraf	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
82	Tom Craddick	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
83	Dustin Burrows	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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84	Carl Tepper	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
85	Stan Kitzman	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
86	John Smithee	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
87	Four Price	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
88	Ken King	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
89	Candy Noble	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
90	Ramon Romero, Jr.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N
91	Stephanie Klick	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
92	Salman Bhojani	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N
93	Nate Schatzline	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
94	Tony Tinderholt	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
95	Nicole Collier	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N
96	David Cook	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
97	Craig Goldman	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV
98	Giovanni Capriglione	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
99	Charlie Geren	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
100	Venton Jones	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
101	Chris Turner	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
102	Ana-Maria Ramos	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N
103	Rafael Anchía	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
104	Jessica González	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
105	Terry Meza	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N
106	Jared Patterson	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
107	Victoria Neave	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
108	Morgan Meyer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
109	Carl Sherman	Y	Y	Y	N	A	N	Y	Y	Y	A	N	N	A	N
110	Toni Rose	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	A	N

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111	Yvonne Davis	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
112	Angie Chen Button	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y
113	Rhetta Bowers	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
114	John Bryant	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N*	N	N	N	N	N
115	Julie Johnson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
116	Trey Martinez Fischer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
117	Philip Cortez	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y
118	John Lujan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
119	Elizabeth Campos	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
120	Barbara Gervin-Hawkins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
121	Steve Allison	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
122	Mark Dorazio	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	A	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
123	Diego Bernal	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	A	N	N
124	Josey Garcia	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
125	Ray Lopez	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
126	Sam Harless	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
127	Charles Cunningham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
128	Briscoe Cain	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	PNV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
129	Dennis Paul	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y
130	Tom Oliverson	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
131	Alma Allen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
132	Mike Schofield	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y
133	Mano DeAyala	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
134	Ann Johnson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
135	Jon Rosenthal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
136	John Bucy III	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N

House Table

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137	Gene Wu	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
138	Lacey Hull	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
139	Jarvis Johnson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
140	Armando Walle	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
141	Senfronia Thompson	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
142	Harold Dutton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y	N	Y	Y	N	A	Y	Y	N
143	Ana Hernandez	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
144	Mary Ann Perez	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
145	Christina Morales	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
146	Shawn Thierry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
147	Jolanda Jones	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
148	Penny Morales Shaw	Y	Y	Y	PNV	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
149	Hubert Vo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
150	Valoree Swanson	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

SB 114



Author: Sen. José Menéndez

Summary: SB 114 was a bill designed to increase programs to help residential consumers of electricity shift their demand from times of high use to times of lower use, thus putting less stress on the grid. Within ERCOT, our main electric grid, generally, only large power customers (think factories and the like) are paid for curtailing their power use in times when electricity is in short supply. However, thousands of smaller power users (think small businesses and homes) can reduce their power too and that adds up to many megawatts that our electric grid could desperately need when we're approaching blackout conditions. Specifically, the bill would have set a 5% goal for aggregated demand response savings from these smaller users.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The original bill made it through the Senate on a 27-4 vote after it was weakened. It died before reaching the full House for a vote. However, it was amended to a separate bill - SB 1699 which dealt with distributed energy resources. The amendment occurred on the House floor thanks to the efforts of Chair Todd Hunter and Rep. Chris Turner. The amended version of the bill was a weaker version of the original bill with no specific goal, but only a requirement that a goal be set, but it was signed by the Governor and will require some action on residential demand response through rulemaking at the PUCT.

SB 258

Author: Sen. Sarah Eckhardt

Summary: This bill would have raised our state's energy efficiency goal for the first time since 2011. It would have quadrupled the energy savings goals that each utility would need to meet through programs like home weatherization and duct sealing. These programs would save Texans lots of money on their energy bills and reduce stress on the grid (among other benefits).

Our Position: A vote for the bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The Senate passed SB 258 on a bipartisan 18-13 vote. While it was weakened slightly in the

process - the original goal of one percent savings by 2027 was changed to one percent by 2030 - the bill would still have required major increases in programs to help working Texans. However, it did not get out of committee in the House. True to form, the utilities like Oncor, Centerpoint, AEP Texas, and Texas New Mexico Power opposed it. An attempt to amend it onto the PUC Sunset bill failed in the Senate 11-19.

SB 1032



Author: Sen. Lois Kolkhorst

Summary: SB 1032 expanded the availability of certificates of location to be used on natural oyster beds for restoration purposes when an oyster bed is degraded. The bill also sets preliminary criteria to consider in making a determination that the bed is degraded, including relative abundance, sediment overburden, and whether the bed has been exhausted. These certificates of location for restoration purposes close the locations to wild harvest, and permit the locations to undergo restoration without the unsustainable harvest pressure that Texas oyster populations currently face. It also shifted the definition of "natural oyster bed" to more accurately reflect the existence of wild oysters rather than the potential landings from industry. Oyster fishermen and vessel owners were passively opposed to the bill, given that their livelihoods could be affected in the short-term. The work to transition the oyster industry must continue in future legislative sessions to ensure jobs focused on oysters (and other commercial fisheries) and the ecosystem they rely on are healthy and sustainable, and that there are sufficient oysters for both commercial and environmental purposes.

Our Position: A vote for the bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: SB 1032 passed the Senate on a 31-0 vote, passed the House on a 137-3-2 vote, and was signed by the Governor on May 27, 2023.

SB 1648



Author: Sen. Tan Parker

Summary: If the companion SJR 74 is adopted by voters in November, SB 1648 would create the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, to buy land for more state parks. The program would be established in the Texas constitution, subject to approval by voters in Novem-



Key Senate Votes



ber. HB 1, the budget for the 2024-2025 biennium, appropriates \$1 billion for state park land acquisition, contingent on the passage of the constitutional amendment.

Our Position: A vote for the bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: SB 1648 passed the Senate 26-3-2, and passed the House 120-19-1. It was signed by the Governor on May 29, 2023.

SB 2453

Author: Sen. José Menéndez

Summary: This bill would have fixed a conflict between two different codes, and enabled the State Energy Conservation Office to update state energy building codes as long as they met certain cost effectiveness criteria. It would have also allowed state-owned buildings to adopt high performance building standards, leading to a reduction in operating costs. In past sessions, there were attempts made to update statewide building codes standards through legislation. This bill would have allowed SECO to do it without legislation, thus allowing Texas to move forward without having to wait years for the legislature to meet and agree on a no brainer. The Sierra Club worked collaboratively on this bill with the Texas Association of Builders and the Texas Chemical Council. To get support from the builders and overcome some opposition, the original bill was amended to add a cost-benefit analysis requirement before adoption.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The Senate passed it 17-14. It was voted out of the House 84-59, then vetoed by Gov. Abbott. In vetoing the bill, Gov Abbott made it clear the veto was not based on the bill, but on the failure of the legislature to address property tax relief. It is possible the issue could be brought back in a future special session.

HB 4885



Author: Rep. Brooks Landgraf

Summary: HB 4885 was a bill to update the Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) and programs managed by TCEQ. The bill made a number of changes to programs and funding, including adding a new hydrogen truck and

infrastructure grant program, expanding funding and programs to reduce oil and gas emissions, and providing expanded funding to the Energy Systems Laboratory for a contract to assess the benefits of energy efficiency and advanced building code implementation on air emissions. The bill also reduced some funding for natural gas vehicles. A variety of different interests attempted to increase funding for certain programs through the legislative process, but the final version of the bill was supported by a wide variety of stakeholders.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote in favor of the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The Senate passed HB 4885 on a 27-4 vote. It had passed the House earlier on a 108-37-2 vote. It was signed by the Governor on June 13, 2023.

SB 6

Author: Sen. Charles Schwertner

Summary: SB 6 was part of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's "Repowering Texas" suite of bills designed to subsidize the fossil fuel industry and make it harder to expand solar and wind power. The bill would have used Texans' hard earned pay to subsidize the construction of up to 10,000 Megawatts of new gas power plants to be used as emergency backup power if Texas ever faces another grid crisis (what day is it?). As shocking as it was to see Sens. Judith Zaffirini and Nathan Johnson at the press conference announcing the bill package, the two Democrats voted no on SB 6 while working to improve other problematic bills that there was no chance of stopping in the Senate. The bill was not supported by existing generators, large industrial, or consumer representatives. In fact, only Berkshire Hathaway, one of the entities that could have benefited directly from the rate payer-backed contracts, and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), voiced support for the concept.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The Senate passed SB 6 on a 22-9 vote. However, it did not receive a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee and died without reaching the House floor.



SB 471



Author: Sen. Drew Springer

Summary: SB 471 as originally filed would have created penalties for individuals who reported permit violation concerns to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality if they did not end up being verified by the agency after three complaints. Any Texan who has tried to seek redress through the TCEQ probably winced when they first heard about this bill, playing a scene in their head like this, “Caller: Hello, I smell something very bad coming from the factory down the road. TCEQ: We’ll check it out. [LOTS OF TIME ELAPSES] Caller: Did you find anything out? TCEQ: Nope. But now we’re concerned about these bogus calls of yours.” Okay, a dramatization to be sure but you get the point. Thankfully, the bill was watered down but still allows TCEQ to do nothing about complaints if previous complaints didn’t go anywhere.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The bill passed the Senate 22-9, passed the House 85-59-2, signed by Gov. Abbott on June 18, and takes effect on Sept. 1, 2023.

SB 624

Author: Sen. Lois Kolkhorst

Summary: SB 624 would have made all renewable energy power plants – even those already in existence – obtain operating permits from the PUCT (a requirement that would not be required for any other type of power plants), establish minimum distances from certain structures, and also require additional bonding requirements and a special review by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The bill was clearly aimed to slow down the growth of renewables in Texas and impose difficult requirements that would make renewable energy more costly. Local landowners opposed to renewable energy development in their area supported the bill, as well as some conservation organizations, along with some property rights association groups. Much of the support for the bill came from individuals that had bad experiences with individual renewable projects in certain regions of Texas.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the

Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The Senate passed SB 624 21-9, but it was never taken up by the House (and an amendment on the PUC Sunset bill to do the same was stripped out).

SB 1750



Author: Sen. Paul Bettencourt

Summary: This bill was a blatant partisan power move to weaken voting access in Harris County. The bill abolished the position of the County Elections Administrator and split its duties between the County Tax Assessor-Collector (who will serve as the voter registrar) and the County Clerk, who would take over the other duties of the Administrator. All the testimony for the bill was from officials and volunteers associated with the Republican Party.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The bill passed the Senate on a 20-11 vote (Hinojosa was the only Democrat to vote in favor), the House passed it 81-62-2, Gov. Abbott signed it on June 18, and it becomes effective Sept. 1, 2023.

SB 2015

Author: Sen. Phil King

Summary: This bill would have created a huge cost on consumers large and small by creating a specific state-mandated goal for “dispatchable generation.” Beginning on January 1, 2024, 50 percent of any new installations of power plants would have been required to be dispatchable. The bill would also create a dispatchable energy credit trading program that would go into effect if less than 55 percent of new installed generation was not “dispatchable.” It essentially would have bound our state to a future of fracked gas-fueled power plants. SB 2015 was supported by the South Texas Electric Cooperative, and by many fossil fuel interests like Valero, Occidental Petroleum, and the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers who would stand to benefit if more gas plants are required to be built.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The bill passed the Senate 21-10, but died in



House State Affairs. Despite an attempt to add the bill to the PUCT Sunset bill (HB 1500), it ultimately was not included.

HB 5



Author: Rep. Todd Hunter

Summary: When big corporate polluters want something from Texas state government, they get it. HB 5 was a resuscitation of a program (Chapter 313) that provided school property tax abatements worth millions of dollars to big corporations that claim they would not build here if it weren't for the abatement. According to Every Texan, wind and solar projects accounted for two-thirds of all Chapter 313 projects, although only one-quarter of the cost in forgone school property tax revenue. The rest went to oil and gas, plastics, chemical manufacturing, cement, and semiconductor companies, for example. In HB 5, renewables were explicitly excluded from eligibility, but even if they were, we were still against the bill because it is an unneeded corporate subsidy that pits communities against each other. HB 5 was improved substantially in the Senate. Lots of big corporate interests wanted in on this gravy again, from Energy Transfer to ConocoPhillips and a whole lot more. Chambers of Commerce were the most visible proponents of the bill, pressing lawmakers not only to support but co-author the bill.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: Having passed the House by a depressingly wide margin, 120-24-1, the Senate passed HB 5 on a 27-4 vote. Importantly, the Senate did improve the bill significantly, increasing transparency and public input requirements, and decreasing the total amount of the abatement. Several of the Democrats in the Senate who voted for the bill did so because of these improvements, though Sierra Club remained opposed to the bill. Gov. Abbott signed the bill on June 9, 2023.

HB 33



Author: Rep. Brooks Landgraf

Summary: HB 33 was a foolish waste of time. As badly needed federal regulations on oil and gas pollution take shape, oil and gas legislators sought to prevent our state officials from collaborating with federal enforcement

officials on enforcement of rules or laws where there is no specific state law. Specifically, the bill prohibits a state agency or person employed by a state agency from contracting with or in any other manner assisting a federal agency or official regarding the enforcement of a federal statute, order, rule, or regulation purporting to regulate oil and gas operations if the decree, order, rule, or regulation imposed a prohibition, restriction, or other regulation that did not exist under state law. However, the bill as introduced could have violated federal law for programs that have been delegated to the state since we have existing memoranda of understanding with federal authorities on joint enforcement. While the final version of the bill was muted somewhat, at the very least the bill creates confusion on enforcement of federal laws in Texas, and could impact our ability to access federal funding or have delegated federal programs. Texas needs to coordinate enforcement of rules and laws not put up roadblocks to protecting public health from oil and gas interests. Special interests included oil and gas interests, including TIPRO, the Texas Pipeline Association, the Panhandle Producers and Royalty Owners Association, and the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The Senate passed the bill on a 19-12 vote after the House passed it 99-44-1. The Senate did weaken the original bill somewhat. Gov. Abbott signed it on June 14, and it is due to become effective on Sept. 1, 2023, although the actual impact of the bill is unknown.

HB 1500 Amendment 9

Author: Sen. Phil King

Summary: Amendment 9 was originally SB 1287, a part of the Repowering Texas package that failed to move in the House. That bill passed the Senate but was killed on a point of order in the House. The amendment would for the first time require that some generation facilities pay for the cost of interconnections of their facilities, which have previously been paid for by all customers. The bill creates an allowance paid for by loads, with any additional cost borne by the generator. Because renewable energy facilities tend to be located in areas with good wind or solar resources, the bill is most likely to make it more difficult to build renewable energy facilities, or at least make them more expensive to build.



Key Senate Votes

The bill was supported by most large industrial consumers including the Texas Association of Manufacturers, the Texas Oil and Gas Association, and also large fossil fuel generators like the Texas Competitive Power Advocates as well as right wing think tanks like the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Our Position: A vote for this amendment was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: The amendment was adopted on a 21-9 vote, becoming part of the PUC Sunset bill. It was included in the final version of the bill, though importantly, some changes were made to the bill as originally filed due to efforts of those opposed to the bill.

HB 2127



Author: Rep. Dustin Burrows

Summary: This was the infamously named “super preemption” or the “death-star” bill that stripped local governments of existing and future powers, like requiring construction companies to give workers water breaks, protecting consumers from payday lenders, and adopting tree ordinances. The bill essentially took whole sections of state statutes and declared that local governments could not adopt new policies unless they were given specific authority by the legislature to do so. In doing so, the bill reverses 100 years of home rule powers for municipalities. Every major business interest was lined up to support the draconian, anti-democratic legislation, from the Texas Association of Business to Texas Association of Manufacturing to the homebuilding and construction industry to airlines to the Texas Oil and Gas Association to the Texas Chemical Council, and right-wing groups like the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Our Position: A vote for this bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Outcome: After passing the House 92-55-1, the Senate passed the bill 18-13. It was signed by Gov. Abbott on June 14, and becomes law on Sept 1, 2023. Interestingly, the City of Houston and the City of San Antonio are suing the state over the law, saying that it is unconstitutional. Several other cities have filed amicus briefs opposing the state law.



Senate Scores

District	State Senator	Party Affiliation	Raw Score (%)	Final Score (%)	Notes/Adjustments
1	Bryan Hughes	R	4%	4%	The score speaks for itself.
2	Bob Hall	R	19%	19%	Hall continues to be a non-factor in most energy, environment, and water discussions, voting predictably against most good legislation and for bad legislation.
3	Robert Nichols	R	44%	47%	We give Nichols credit (5%) for standing up to oil and gas companies who wanted SB 2107 to include liability protection. He did not budge on it, purposefully causing his own legislation to fail. He stood up to them on behalf of landowners. However, he carried SB 505 (-1%), which imposed a high \$200 registration fee on EVs, which is consistent with his position, but he was not open to moving a study of a vehicle mileage fee which was disappointing. Thus, we also deduct -1% for not moving HB 3418 (Canales) which he sponsored and then kept stuck in his own committee. Overall, we adjusted his score by three percent.
4	Brandon Creighton	R	19%	14%	Creighton has been at the center of some awful bills across the issue spectrum, but one we actively fought against was SB 2127, the so called "death star" pre-emption bill.
5	Charles Schwertner	R	34%	27%	Given his positional power as Chair of Senate Business & Commerce, Schwertner had considerable influence on a number of energy issues. We give him credit for supporting (at least initially) SB 258, as well as SB 2453, SB 114, SB 1001, and SB 1002 (+5.5%), but he also facilitated the movement of several anti-renewables bills in Patrick's "Repowering Texas" package, he sat on a good energy efficiency council bill (HB 4811), and he opposed adding SB 258 as an amendment to HB 1500 (-12.5%). Net -7%
6	Carol Alvarado	D	93%	93%	Alvarado voted much more in line with Sierra Club's positions this session, a marked improvement over previous sessions.
7	Paul Bettencourt	R	19%	19%	The score speaks for itself.
8	Angela Paxton	R	19%	19%	The score speaks for itself.
9	Kelly Hancock	R	19%	16%	Hancock played a not insignificant role in the ongoing efforts to centralize power at the state level, attempting to force the city-owned Austin Energy into the regulatory structure of the PUCT (SB 805) (-1%), and tried to move his SB 1114, which would undermine the ability of cities and counties to regulate the use or sale of a product for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions or conserving natural resources (-1%). He also authored and worked SB 2209, a bad police accountability bill, which Sierra Club registered in opposition to (-1%).
10	Phil King	R	19%	17%	King was the author of several anti-renewables bills as part of Dan Patrick's "Repowering Texas" package. including two in our scorecard.
11	Mayes Middleton	R	19%	17%	Middleton is the embodiment of oil special interests. The voting record speaks for itself, but we do call attention to his authoring of a bad off-shore wind bill (SB 1303) as well as a bad bill eroding the Open Beaches Act (SB 434). (-2%)
12	Tan Parker	R	24%	29%	Despite a generally poor energy and environmental voting record, Parker did author and shepherd through a historic bill (SB 1648) that could unlock \$1 billion for state parks (pending voter approval in November 2023). (+5%)
13	Borris Miles	D	85%	85%	While Miles generally had a decent session, he voted the wrong way on SB 624 (additional hurdles for renewables) and HB 5 (revival of Chapter 313). While we recognize that he voted wrong on SB 624 in return for getting an amendment to protect community solar projects in his district, it was still a bad bill even with his amendment.
14	Sarah Eckhardt	D	93%	99%	Eckhardt was one of the top environmental champions in the Senate again, authoring, fighting for, and spending political capital on SB 258. The only blemish on her voting record was a Yes vote on HB 5 (Chapter 313 revival), though it was in return for some changes made by the author.
15	John Whitmire	D	84%	84%	Unsure as we are about the near-term future of the Dean of the Senate, Whitmire has never engaged that much on energy or environmental issues, but can, at times, be a reliable vote.

Senate Scores

District	State Senator	Party Affiliation	Raw Score (%)	Final Score (%)	Notes/Adjustments
16	Nathan Johnson	D	79%	83%	This session we noticed Johnson trying to be a player, seeking out points of leverage to advance good legislation and weaken bad legislation. However, tradeoffs and deals all come with costs. He voted the wrong way three times (SB 471, HB 5, and Amendment 9 to HB 1500), but we give him credit for offering an amendment to SB 2012 that improved the bill slightly, carrying a good distributed energy and demand response bill (SB 1699), working to add an amendment that lessened the bad impacts of SB 2627, and authoring a good EDAP bill (SB 1823). (+4%)
17	Joan Huffman	R	26%	26%	The score speaks for itself.
18	Lois Kolkhorst	R	34%	36%	Like Hughes, Kolkhorst has been in the middle of some pretty heinous legislative efforts. That mostly holds true on the energy and environmental front, voting the wrong way most of the time. She also authored an anti-renewables bill (SB 624) that she pushed through the Senate. We do give her some credit, however, for carrying a good oyster bill (SB 1032), a good ERCOT bill (SB 1751), and a good mitigation bill for Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District (SB 1080) that was vetoed. (Net +2%)
19	Roland Gutierrez	D	86%	86%	Gutierrez had a historic session as he fought with Uvalde families for stronger gun safety measures. We applaud his dedication and focus but he was absent for two key votes that affected his overall score.
20	Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa	D	56%	56%	Hinojosa has not been great on energy and environmental issues for some time. While he voted the right way on the bills Sierra Club supported, he voted the wrong way on many bills we opposed (SB 6, SB 471, SB 624).
21	Judith Zaffirini	D	86%	89%	Serving on Business & Commerce, Zaffirini was in a position to help move a lot of energy bills, both good and bad. For the most part, she helped move good. On the floor, she voted the wrong way on SB 471 and HB 5, however. We do give her credit for adding an amendment on to SB 7 that would make more energy storage eligible in the PCM, proposing an amendment to SB 2012 that would lessen the bad impacts of the bill, and filing a good bill (SB 2293) on TPWD involvement in TCEQ contested case hearings. (+3%)
22	Brian Birdwell	R	32%	27%	As Chair of Natural Resources, Birdwell used his positional power to keep out any bills related to well plugging, better fines or enforcement at RRC, methane controls, and never brought up SB 2293 (TPWD/TCEQ contested case hearing bill for a hearing) (-5%). He also authored a bad bill (SB 784) on greenhouse gas emissions, although he did agree to keep out the word "indirect" (-1%), as well as a bad bill (SB 1017) on local control on engines and fuels but did work collaboratively to make the bill less bad, and worked with us to lessen the negative impacts of the bill (-1%). On the positive side, he authored two good bills on geothermal (SB 785 and SB 786) (+2%). Net -5%.
23	Royce West	D	77%	77%	West does not appear to be in many conversations about energy/environment/water, but he usually votes for good bills when they reach the floor. However, he voted the wrong way on SB 624 and HB 5.
24	Pete Flores	R	34%	34%	Flores appeared to be a reliable vote for Dan Patrick this session, which generally means not good things.
25	Donna Campbell	R	26%	26%	Even though she was on Business & Commerce, Campbell did not play much of a role in many energy conversations this session.
26	Jose Menéndez	D	93%	100%	Though he did vote for HB 5, Menéndez was an amazing and successful champion of pro-clean energy and pro-ratepayer interests this session. He worked extremely hard to pass SB 2453 (+5%), authored and carried a good demand response bill (SB 114) (+1%), proposed an amendment that would lessen the bad impacts of SB 2012 (+1%), and got some important language into SB 7 that will allow ERCOT to do other programs (+1%).
27	Morgan LaMantia	D	71%	71%	In her first term, LaMantia served on committees that did not get many bills that we work on. She voted the right way on bills we supported, and deserves credit for voting against SB 6 (which some of her Democratic colleagues couldn't do), but she voted in favor of a good deal of bad bills.

Senate Overview

District	State Senator	Party Affiliation	Raw Score (%)	Final Score (%)	Notes/Adjustments
28	Charles Perry	R	27%	20%	As Chair of Water, Ag, and Rural Affairs, Perry had considerable power to move water legislation this session, and he consciously and deliberately chose not to support bills related to EDAP, as well as an important amendment that would have added EDAP-eligible communities to funding made available in SB 28 (-5%). He also blocked several good bills (HB 3522, HB 3523, and SB 1823) (-3%). On the plus side, we credit him for filing and passing a good bill (SB 1289) on reclaimed wastewater (+1%). (Net -7%)
29	César Blanco	D	78%	78%	While Blanco has been good on many environmental votes in the past, and he voted the right way on good bills we tracked, he voted wrong on a number of bad bills (SB 6, SB 2015, and HB 5).
30	Drew Springer	R	11%	10%	Not much needs to be said about Springer, but we should acknowledge that he authored SB 471 which, as originally filed, would have created a fee levied against people who make a complaint to the TCEQ if it doesn't end up in a fine after three reports without a resulting enforcement action. (-1%)
31	Kevin Sparks	R	15%	15%	The score speaks for itself.

Senate Table

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Dist.	State Senator	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	Final Passage	
		SB 114 (Y)	SB 258 (Y)	SB 1032 (Y)	SB 1648 (Y)	SB 2453 (Y)	HB 4885 (Y)	SB 6 (N)	SB 471 (N)	SB 624 (N)	SB 1750 (N)	SB 2015 (N)	HB 5 (N)	HB 33 (N)	HB 1500 Amdt 9 (N)	HB 2127 (N)
1	Bryan Hughes	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Bob Hall	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
3	Robert Nichols	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
4	Brandon Creighton	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Charles Schwertner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	Carol Alvarado	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
7	Paul Bettencourt	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8	Angela Paxton	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9	Kelly Hancock	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10	Phil King	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11	Mayes Middleton	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
12	Tan Parker	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13	Borris Miles	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
14	Sarah Eckhardt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
15	John Whitmire	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
16	Nathan Johnson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
17	Joan Huffman	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
18	Lois Kolkhorst	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
19	Roland Gutierrez	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	A	N	N	N	N	A	N
20	Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
21	Judith Zaffirini	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
22	Brian Birdwell	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
23	Royce West	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
24	Pete Flores	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
25	Donna Campbell	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
26	José Menéndez	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N

Senate Table

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		SB 114 (Y)	SB 258 (Y)	SB 1032 (Y)	SB 1648 (Y)	SB 2453 (Y)	HB 4885 (Y)	SB 6 (N)	SB 471 (N)	SB 624 (N)	SB 1750 (N)	SB 2015 (N)	HB 5 (N)	HB 33 (N)	HB 1500 Amdt 9 (N)	HB 2127 (N)
27	Morgan LaMantia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
28	Charles Perry	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
29	César Blanco	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
30	Drew Springer	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
31	Kevin Sparks	Y	N	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

A Call to Action

We hope this scorecard has helped shed some light on your state lawmakers, their values, and how much they put your best interests ahead of polluting special interests. You might be wondering, what do I do now? One person, acting once, alone, may seem fruitless, pointless. To see meaningful change and a real power shift at our state capitol will take sustained pressure and collective action. It won't happen overnight, and it won't happen in one cycle, but it can happen with your help. Here are six things you can do:

- Share this scorecard with other Texans. It's on our website at sc.org/2023TXScorecard and available as a pdf.
- Share what you have learned on social media. Tag your State Rep or State Senator and let them know how they scored and what you think about it (tag us too on [Instagram](#), [X](#), or [Facebook](#)!).
- Vote. It's as simple as that.
- Reach out to your lawmaker and express your gratitude or dissatisfaction on their actions (or inactions) during the 88th Texas Legislature. Find out [who represents you](#), and contact [State Reps](#) and [State Senators](#).
- [Join our legislative team](#)! We are always looking for motivated Texans ready to take action. Huddle up with like-minded folks to organize a face-to-face meeting with your lawmaker, disseminate factsheets at the Capitol or district offices, write a letter to the editor, help out with a postcard writing campaign, and so much more!
- If you're unable to volunteer, consider a [financial gift](#) to the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter. 100% of your contribution will stay right here in Texas to help our growing team build the power we need to win!

If you'd like to stay up to date with our legislative work, please sign up for our [legislative updates](#)!

Thank you for all you do to make Texas a better place!





Photo: Al Braden



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