
How to Submit Written Testimony for A Texas State Senate Committee Meeting

Submit written testimony to a Texas Senate committee by using the online House Witness Registration portal while on Capitol Wi-Fi, or at one of the Capitol Extension kiosks. You can also drop off physical copies to the committee clerk at the hearing room or email it directly to the committee staff.

Submitting written testimony to a Texas Senate committee is a powerful way to influence legislation. Unfortunately, ***there is no way to submit written testimony online for Senate committees.***

Why Submit Written Testimony to A State Senate Committee?

1. It's official - your testimony becomes part of the public record.
2. It's informative - your testimony helps legislators understand real impacts, data, and community perspectives.
3. It's accessible - anyone across Texas can participate, regardless of schedule or location.
4. It has influence - staff and members review submissions when making decisions.
5. It builds momentum - multiple submissions show widespread public support or opposition.
6. You control your message - no time limits, share your story clearly and thoughtfully.

What Is A Texas State Senate Committee?

A House committee is a small group of state senators assigned to review specific bills on a particular topic, like energy or education. Committees hold public hearings, take testimony, and decide whether a bill moves forward in the legislative process.

What Is Written Testimony?

Written testimony is a statement you submit to committee members sharing your support, opposition, or concerns about a bill. It becomes part of the official public record and helps inform committee decisions.

Who Can Submit Written Testimony?

Anyone can submit written testimony - Texas residents, advocates, subject matter experts, and organizations. You do not need to be a lobbyist or testify in person to participate.

When Can You Submit Written Testimony?

During the interim period, written testimony can be submitted when a committee schedules a hearing related to an interim charge.

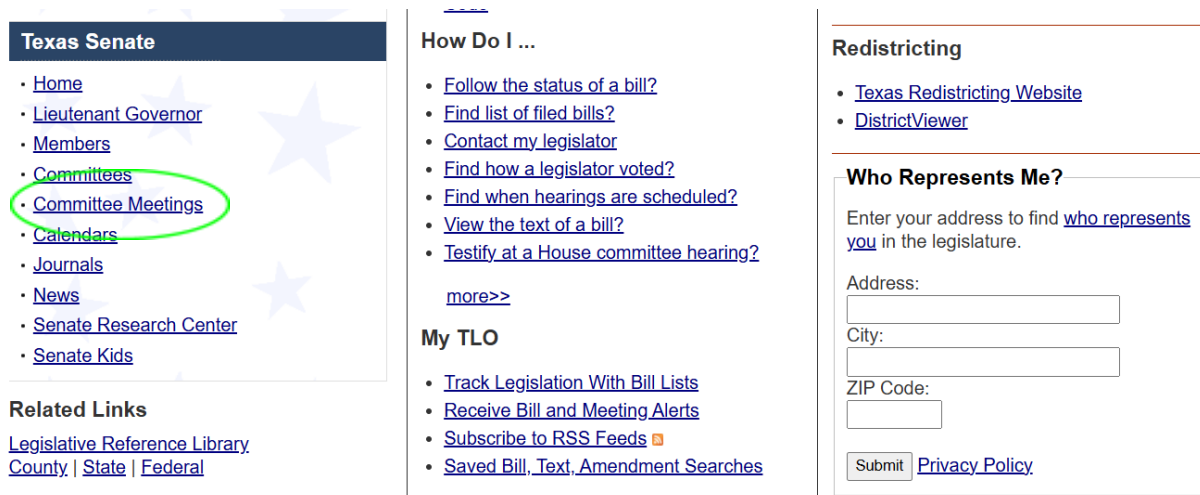
During the legislative session, written testimony can be submitted when a bill is scheduled for a committee hearing. Each committee sets its own deadlines, but submissions are typically accepted up until the bill is brought up in the hearing.

Step-by-Step: How to Submit Written Testimony

1. Locate the Hearing

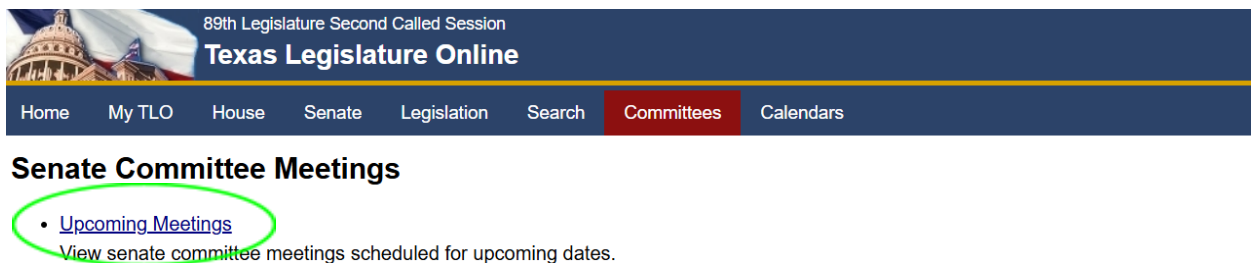
Identify the House Committee holding the hearing via the Texas Legislature Online (TLO) website:
<https://capitol.texas.gov/>

Select “Committee Meetings” on the Texas Senate menu.



The screenshot shows the Texas Senate website. On the left, under the 'Texas Senate' header, there is a list of links: Home, Lieutenant Governor, Members, Committees, Committee Meetings (highlighted with a green circle), Calendars, Journals, News, Senate Research Center, and Senate Kids. Below this is a 'Related Links' section with links to the Legislative Reference Library, County, State, and Federal. In the center, under 'How Do I ...', there is a list of links: Follow the status of a bill?, Find list of filed bills?, Contact my legislator, Find how a legislator voted?, Find when hearings are scheduled?, View the text of a bill?, Testify at a House committee hearing?, and a 'more>>' link. Below this is a 'My TLO' section with links: Track Legislation With Bill Lists, Receive Bill and Meeting Alerts, Subscribe to RSS Feeds, and Saved Bill, Text, Amendment Searches. On the right, there is a 'Redistricting' section with links to the Texas Redistricting Website and DistrictViewer, and a 'Who Represents Me?' section with a form to enter an address to find who represents you in the legislature.

Then, click “Upcoming Meetings” to see what meetings are scheduled.



The screenshot shows the Texas Legislature Online website. At the top, it says '89th Legislature Second Called Session' and 'Texas Legislature Online'. Below this is a navigation bar with links: Home, My TLO, House, Senate, Legislation, Search, Committees, and Calendars. Under the 'Senate Committee Meetings' section, there is a list of links: Upcoming Meetings (highlighted with a green circle) and View senate committee meetings scheduled for upcoming dates.

2. Use the Online Portal

Select the “Hearing Notice” for the upcoming committee hearing you’re interested in.

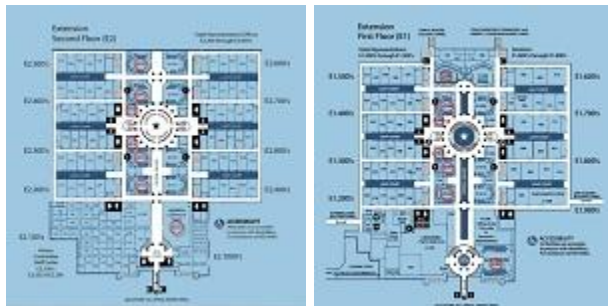
Upcoming Senate Committee Meetings

Meeting Date / Committee Name	Subcommittee	Hearing Notice
Tuesday, May 5, 2026		
9:00 AM		
Criminal Justice Type: Public Hearing Location: E1.016 (Hearing Room)		 
Monday, May 11, 2026		
10:00 AM		
Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Type: Public Hearing Location: E1.012 (Hearing Room)		 

3. Head to the Capitol

In order to share your testimony, you must first register to testify as a witness. You may register as early as one hour before the hearing starts on the day a bill is scheduled to be heard by the assigned committee.

You can register using one of the iPad kiosks, which are usually located in the hallway between the main concourse and legislator offices in the Capitol Extension (the E Floors). You may even register from your laptop if you are connected to the Public-Capitol WiFi network. The witness registration form typically does NOT work on smartphones, so save yourself the frustration and use one of the other options.



Once you are on the registration welcome screen, select your committee of interest. You will then enter your position (For/Against) and whether or not you wish to testify.



On the next few screens, you will enter your name, job title, and address. ***Please make sure you identify as testifying on behalf of yourself.*** You will review all of your information, submit, and then receive a confirmation message.

4. Tips to Submit

During the legislative session: Identify the bill and clearly state the bill number, whether you are FOR, AGAINST, or ON (neutral) it, and your name/organization.

Always: Be clear and concise. If you have long, detailed remarks, focus on summarizing key points for the committee, but you can submit longer written documents. Focus on how the legislation/interim charge will directly impact you, your business, or your community.

Taking the Next Step: Contacting Legislators Directly

Submitting testimony is powerful, and reaching out directly to your own elected officials can have an even greater impact. Legislators prioritize messages from their constituents, and personal outreach helps reinforce your position on an issue before, during, and after a hearing.

How to Contact Your Legislators

1. Identify Your Representatives

Find out who your Texas State Representative and Texas State Senators are by searching your home address on the Texas Legislature website, or <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>.

2. Contact Their Offices

You can reach out by:

- Email (best for documentation)

- Phone call
- Office contact form on their website

Example Message to Your Legislators

Hello,

I am your constituent writing about ____.

I am concerned / I support _____. Personal connection and story.

Thank you for your time and for representing our community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

What Happens After A Public Committee Hearing?

After a hearing, and during the legislative session, the committee can take several actions on a bill:

- Leave it pending: The bill is held for further consideration.
- Vote it out of committee: The bill moves forward to the full House for debate.
- Take no action: The bill may stall and not move forward.

Even after the hearing, and especially during the interim, advocacy matters. Legislators continue reviewing testimony, negotiating changes, and deciding next steps, so following up with their offices can help influence the final outcome.

Get Involved With the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter

If you want to stay in the loop about our work and advocacy efforts across Texas, or if you have any questions about how to submit written testimony, email us at lonestar.chapter@sierraclub.org.