SIERRA CLUB
LONE STAR CHAPTER

Legislative Action Team Meeting

April 16, 2026

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Interim Charges & Lege Committees

Preparing for the 90th Legislative Session; staying informed, engaged, and active!

Contents

1) Welcome

2) Interim charge overview / poll

3) Interim charge activity

4) Legislative committee intros

5) Current legislators/committees

5) Connecting charges to priorities



Interim Charges

- Interim charges are directives from the Speaker of the House and Lieutenant Governor to legislative committees
- Every “standing” or “special” committee is expected to have at least one hearing on each charge and report back by December of 2026 on their findings and recommendations
- Who writes them? A combination of directives from speaker and Lt. Gov but also influenced by lobbyists and Committee Chairs
- Invited Testimony vs Written Testimony vs Public Testimony?





Poll: Most Surprising Interim Charge



Interim Charges Related to Our Work: Energy (and more!)

- Data Center costs and investments
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Fund 9 (wildlife funding)
- Managing the impacts of 765-kV transmission lines on private property rights
- Modernizing transmission and enhancing affordability
- Housing Affordability
- Texas' hydrogen industry development
- Carbon capture, utilization, and storage
- Severed and orphaned well remediation
- Battery storage
- Wildfires
- Microgrids and distributed energy resources (DERs)
- Data Centers

Interim Charges Related to Our Work: Water

- Seawater desalination
- Reuse of oil & gas wastewater (produced water)
- Large water users (AI data centers!)
- Water infrastructure & funding
- Flood infrastructure & funding
- Groundwater management
- Regional water planning process
- Some monitoring charges (e.g., SB 7, SB 1145, HB 49)



Discussion

What's missing?

What interim charge would you call for?

Do you think that the current interim charges reflect the needs and wants of Texas communities?

https://forms.gle/cfLXeWhagXN6WwMd9

Committees

What's a committee?

- A group of legislators focused on particular issues with a Chair and Vice-Chair named by the Lt Gov or Speaker

How do committees operate?

- Budget, Committee Staff and Rules by which they operate
- Committee have lots of power! And chairs have most of it!
- During session all bills must go through at least 2 committees



Key Committees: House

State Affairs

Electric Grid, ERCOT and PUCT

Renewable Energy & Batteries

Lots of other Business and Social Issues

Data Centers

Energy Efficiency

Natural Resources

Water Supply

Uranium Mining

Groundwater Management

Flooding

Water Conservation

Water Use and Planning

Energy Resources

Oil and Gas

Geothermal Energy

Railroad Commission

Abandoned Wells

Carbon Capture

Environmental Regulation

Air Pollution

Water Pollution

Texas Commission on Envrionmental Commission

Recylcing

Key Committees: House

Appropriations

STATE BUDGET

Intergov. Affairs

Cities and Counties

Building Codes

Permitting

Housing Issues

Land & Resource Mgt

Eminent Domain

Some Parks issues

Land Conservation

Culture, Rec, Tourism

Coastal Issues

Parks and Wildlife

General Land Office issues

Key Committees: Senate

Business and Commerce

- Electric Grid and ERCOT
- Renewble Energy and Batteries
- Building Codes
- Texas Energy Fund
- Energy Efficiency
- Business Development
- Data Centers

Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

- Water Supply
- Groundwater Management
- Flooding
- Water Conservation
- Water Use and Planning
- Produced Water

Natural Resources and Economic Development

- Oil and Gas
- Abandoned Wells
- TPWD Issues
- TCEQ Issues
- Air Pollution
- Water Pollution
- Carbon Capture

Finance

- State Budget
- Taxes & Incentives

Key Legislators by Committee



Senator Joan Huffman - 17
Chair - Finance Committee



Sen. Charles Schwertner - 5
Chair - Business & Commerce



Senator Charles Perry - 28
Chair - Water, Ag, Rural Affairs



Representative Ken King - 88
Chair - House State Affairs

Senator Perry



Legislator Research: HW

- Let’s get strategic!
- Is your State Senator or State Representative on a committee?
- What issues do they care about?
- How did they vote in 2025? Hint: Use the Scorecard!
- What issues could you bring to them ahead of the 90th Session?

INTERIM HEARINGS ARE ALREADY HAPPENING

Senate - Show up, register and testify - generally allows public testimony at the end, even if there is also “invited” testimony

House - Sometimes Invited only, sometimes public but always Allows written testimony through a portal

Capitol free public website allows you to see when and where the hearings are. All hearings are live streamed.

Upcoming Committee Hearings

- Be a part of the process!
- Upcoming House Hearings- Check here - https://capitol.texas.gov/Committees/MeetingsUpcoming.aspx?Chamber=H
    a. April 21st, 10 AM Energy Resources
- Upcoming Senate Hearings, Check here https://capitol.texas.gov/Committees/MeetingsUpcoming.aspx?Chamber=S
    a. May 11th, 9 Am - Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs
        i. **Evaluating Desalination Viability and Regulatory Efficiency**

Interim Charges to Lege Priorities Process



Time to Set Priorities!

- Be a part of the process
- Staff will present some draft categories for consideration based on our visits and assessment of what will be:
    a. Timely
    b. Effective
    c. Build Power
    d. Achievable in the short-term, or in the medium-term
- We believe in uplifting real needs but also we are in this for the long-term and can highlight issues even if they can not be approved in 2027!

Countdown Continues

March
Interim Charges Named

April
Interim Hearings Begin

May
SC sets our draft priorities; hearings continue

June
SC releases our priorities publicly, hearings continue

July
Hearings continue, SC begins working to draft legislation with Legislators, in-district meetings

August
Hearings continue, SC continues drafting legislation with legislators

September
State Budget hearings begin



NEXT MEETING: 2027 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MAY 21 @ 7PM

Thank you!

For further questions, please reach out to:

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