SIERRA CLUB
LONE STAR CHAPTER

Legislative Action Team Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2026

SIERRA CLUB
LONE STAR CHAPTER

Policy Platform & In-District Meetings

Setting the state for the 90th Legislative Session

Agenda

- Opening + Icebreaker
- What We're Working On
- Our Legislative Policy Platform
- LAT Policy Priorities Discussion
- Accountability + In-District Mtgs
- Preparing for Next LAT Call
- Wrap Up



Icebreaker (2 mins): Share a one word or one emoji reaction in the chat to Trump endorsing Paxton.



Countdown Continues

You are here ⭐

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

August
Hearings continue, SC continues drafting legislation with legislators

September
State Budget hearings begin

in-district meetings

What we've been up to this May.



The Chapter, including volunteers (thank you!!!!), provided written and oral testimony to:

1) House Committee on State Affairs on May 6th (Distributed Energy Resources) - https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/sc-comments-state-affairs-05-06-26-2.pdf

2) Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs on May 11th (Desalination) - https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/2026-5-11-sierra-club-comments-swara-1.pdf

3) House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism on Fund 9 - https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/sc-comments-crt-05-12-26.pdf

4) Met with staff of Natural Resources committees in House and Senate

Lone Star Chapter 2027 Policy Platform Overview

4 Platform Pillars



Clean, Reliable & Affordable Energy for Texans

Clean Air, Water & Healthy Communities

Protecting Texas Lands, Wildlife & Coasts

Sustainable Water & Climate Resilience

Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter Policy Platform

Clean, Reliable & Affordable Energy for Texans

- Customer cost burden of transmission and energy rates
- Data center regulations on energy use and reporting
- Balcony solar, demand response, distributed energy resources, and payment assistance
- Energy waste reduction
- Defending renewable energy, but with responsible siting
- Transmission reform

Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter Policy Platform

Clean Air, Water & Healthy Communities

- Address air monitoring deficiencies
- Water quality standards for produced water (oil & gas wastewater), salinity (seawater desalination discharge), and pre-production plastics (nurdles)
- PFAS controls
- Methane, Hydrogen Sulfide and Ethylene Oxide pollution
- Orphan wells, financial assurance and enforcement
- Backup generation protections on air quality

Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter Policy Platform

Protecting Texas Lands, Wildlife & Coasts

- TPWD Centennial Fund
- Funding the “Wildlife” of Parks and Wildlife
- Private land conservation efforts
- State-funded land and water conservation fund
- Improvements in protection of mountain lions
- Beach access
- Conservation easements and land protection program

Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter Policy Platform

Sustainable Water & Climate Resilience

- Water use and reporting for data centers
- Grant funding for drinking water and wastewater for economically distressed areas
- Water rights and environmental flows (freeing up water for bays and estuaries)
- Water conservation and reuse
- Flood mitigation and prevention (funding, nature-based solutions, county authority, building codes, insurance discounts for fortified roofs)

What's Missing? Why not cover…

Carbon capture? Concrete Batch Plants? Electric Cooperatives? Geothermal? Nuclear energy? Data Center Bans? Heat pumps?



LAT Policy Priorities



The four LAT Policy Priorities you decide on today will guide your in-district meetings and advocacy! *

1. **Vote** on a specific issue within each policy platform
2. **Discuss** what advocacy on that decided issue looks like
3. **Hear** from Cyrus on a couple of ways we can address the issue at the legislature
4. Jordan will work on a **talking point guide** for these issues and send to everyone next week
5. The LAT will take the guide to **in-district meetings**, we'll use it to do online actions like petitions, social media advocacy, phonebanks, textbanks, etc.
6. We'll win lasting change in Texas, **together!**

***(Note - we will still work on other issues beyond the top 4!)**

Drum Roll Please!



Clean, Reliable & Affordable Energy for Texans

- Data center regulations on energy use and reporting

Clean Air, Water & Healthy Communities

- Water quality standards

Protecting Texas Lands, Wildlife & Coasts

- Beach access

Sustainable Water & Climate Resilience

- Water use and reporting for data centers

Accountability + In-District Meetings



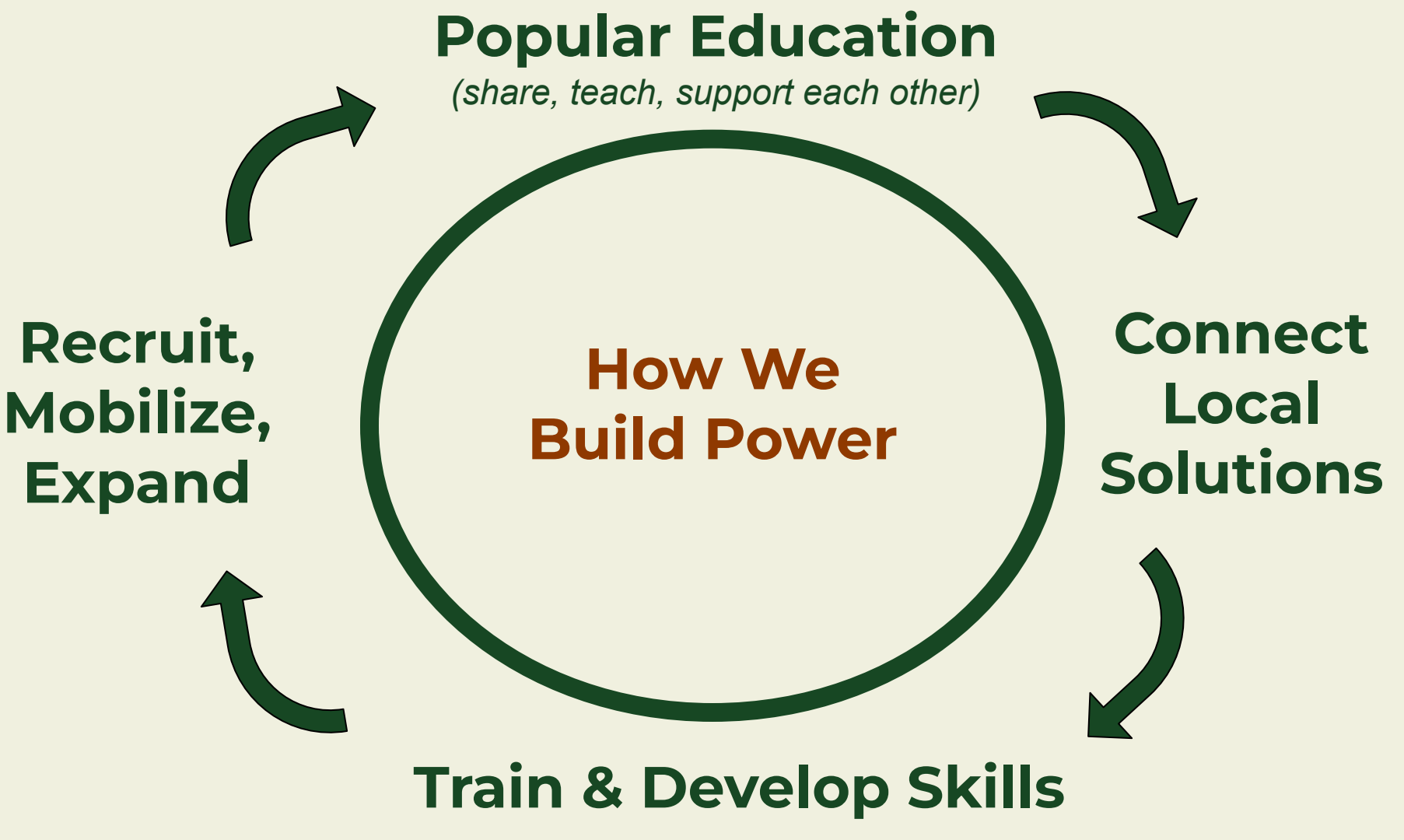
Why meet before session?

We must organize now to have a real shot at influencing decisions at the legislature because…

- Offices are already soliciting ideas for legislation
- Committees are already meeting and getting input
- Lobby interests are already there and even inviting legislators and their staff on site visits
- Sierra Club must interact and educate legislators and their staff now while they are less “busy”



Dems and Rep staff visiting Data Center in Abilene this week


Popular Education
(share, teach, support each other)
Connect Local Solutions
Train & Develop Skills
Recruit, Mobilize, Expand
How We Build Power

Why accountability matters.

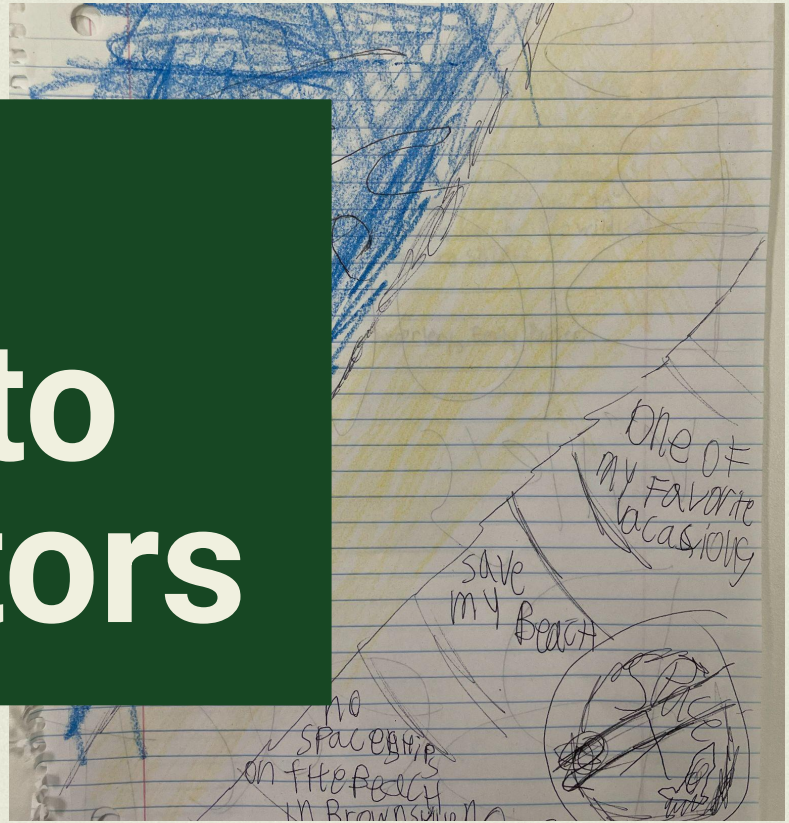
- We need people power to make a difference - and we need a lot of people!
- We should callout bad actors who profit off of harmful decisions, and call in our allies to do even more for Texas communities.
- We have to be involved year-round.

Who’s with us?

- Let’s get organized!
    a. **Team / Regional Captains -** Have you met with your legislator before? Share what you know with others! Let us know if you’re ready to lead.
    b. We’re setting in-district meetings for July. **Who wants to meet with their legislators** to push for the LAT Policy Priorities and get good bills filed? We’ll make sure you have everything you need! (Note - in some cases legislators may not be available but you can still meet with their staffs!)
- **Use the Chat to comment “Captain” if you want to be a Captain, or type “I’m in!” if you’re ready to get on the calendar for July.**


Kansas
Amarillo
Oklahoma
Arkansas
New Mexico
Wichita Falls
Lubbock
Plano
Dallas
Longview
Fort Worth
Big Spring
Abilene
El Paso
Tyler
Midland
Odessa
Louisiana
San Angelo
Waco
Texas
Bryan
Cedar Park
Austin
Conroe
Houston
Beaumont
San Antonio
Victoria
Mexico
Corpus Christi
Laredo

Next month: How to talk to your legislators



What should we cover?

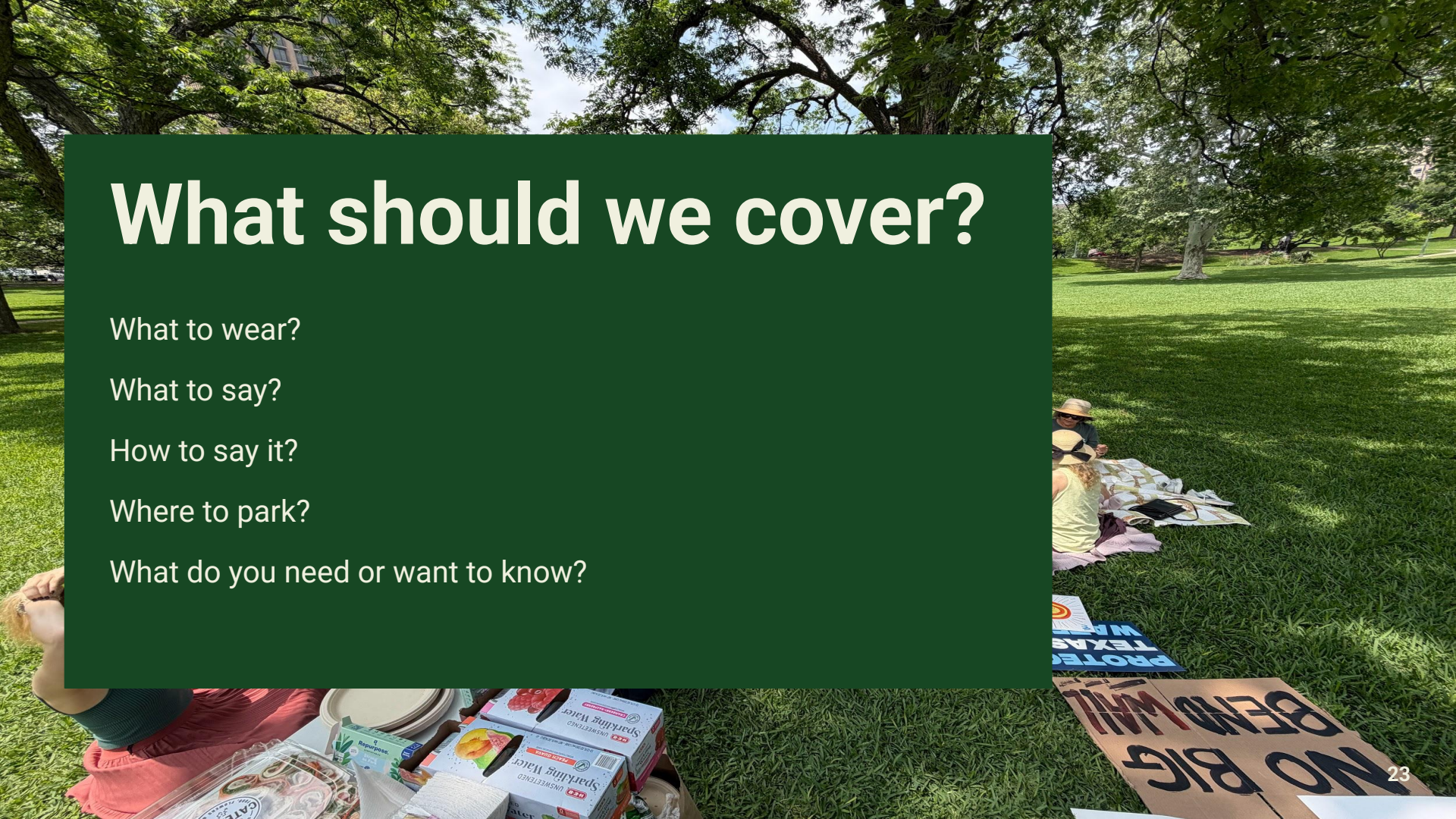
What to wear?

What to say?

How to say it?

Where to park?

What do you need or want to know?



Let’s build our team, together.

Scan the QR code and text the link to 3 friends!

Forward the invitation to 3 people.



Share our next social media post.



Talk to your neighbors about this work.



Thank you!

For further questions, please reach out to:

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