SIERRA CLUB
LONE STAR CHAPTER

Legislative Action Team Meeting

November 12, 2026

SIERRA CLUB
LONE STAR CHAPTER

November Election Debrief

What results mean for the environment, and the 90th Legislative Session

Agenda

- Welcome + Overview
- Federal Wins
- State + Local Wins
- Lege Session Strategy
- Policy Platform Review
- What's Next + Upcoming Events



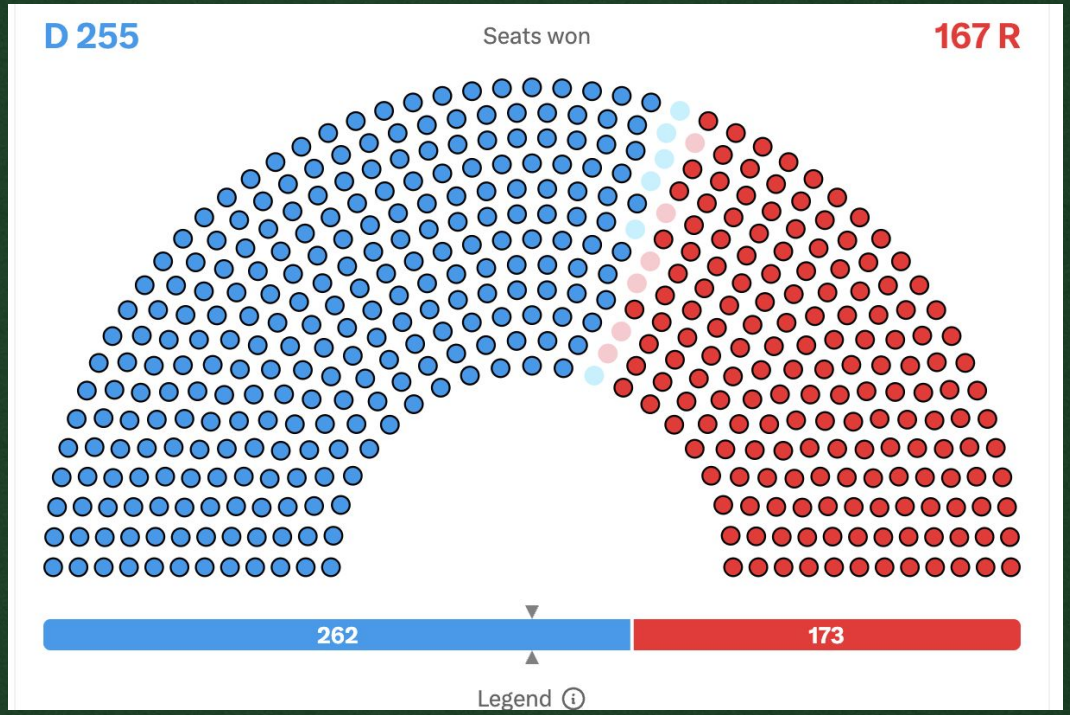
Sierra Club Political Work

- Texans deserve elected leaders who will defend public lands and wildlife, fight for clean air and water, and hold polluters accountable.
- The Sierra Club Political Committee of Texas is the Lone Star Chapter's Political Action Committee. It is made up of volunteers from all across Texas who work hard to help elect pro-environment candidates.
- The Sierra Club Political Committee of Texas supports state and local level candidates for elected office in Texas on a non-partisan basis who share the environmental goals of the Sierra Club through their voting records and position statements.



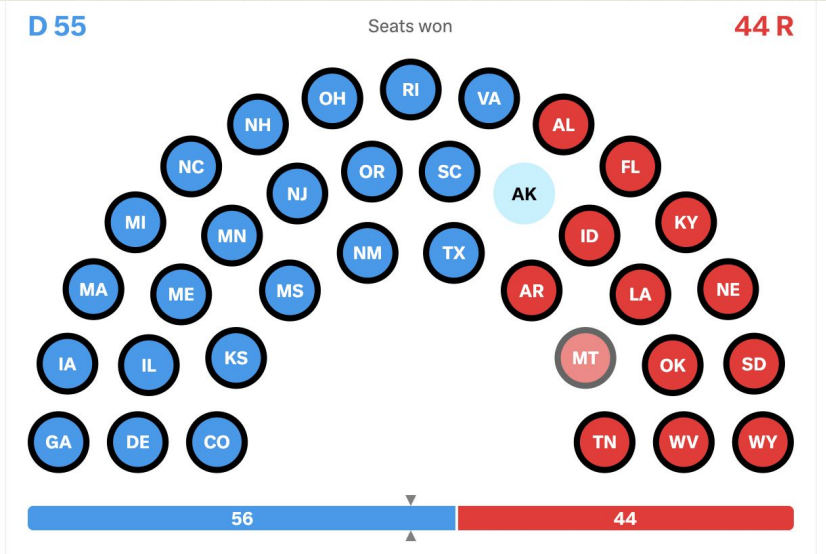
Federal

- **U.S. Senate**
  - 55 Democrats*
  - 44 Republicans
- **U.S. House of Representatives**
  - 255 Democrats
  - 169 Republicans
  - 11 to be called



Senate

James Talarico





SIERRA CLUB S C ENDORSED

House



US House, District 20: Joaquin Castro



US House, District 7: Lizzie Fletcher

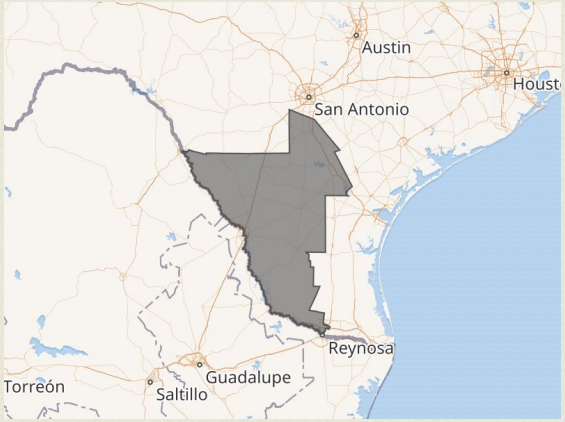
House Cont.

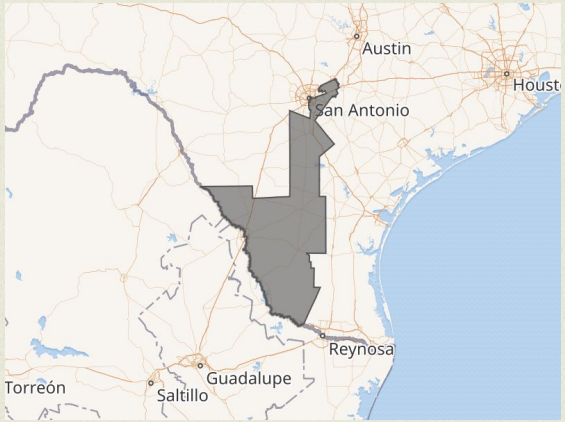
D “Holds”

- Leticia Gutierrez (TX 09)
- Henry Cuellar (TX 28, incumbent)
- Vicente Gonzalez (TX 34, incumbent)
- Johnny Garcia (TX 35)

D Flips

- Bobby Pulido (TX 15)
- Katy Padilla Stout (TX 23)





Statewide

- Set environmental policy priorities
- Appoint leaders of key agencies
- Help decide where public funding goes (along with legislature)
- Enforcement of environmental laws
- Help pause or hasten rulemaking at agencies



Governor

Gina Hinojosa



- Ran on data centers, affordability, schools, public lands protection, corruption, also BEACH ACCESS!
- Longtime ally, “one of us”
- Pay attention to post-election statements:
    a. Bipartisan, end divisiveness
    b. Common ground, common sense
    c. Named bipartisan transition team
- Our job:
    a. Be loud and visible in support to move a pro-people, pro-environment agenda forward

Presumptive Speaker

Senfronia Thompson

- Deliver for the people
- Longtime bridge builder, respected, bipartisan, civil rights icon
- Named 6 former speakers to her transition team
- Votes with SC on most issues, not likely to lead on environment, water, energy, pollution but will name committee chairs



Land Commissioner

Ben Flores

- Protect public lands
- Funding for public schools
- Study and expand clean energy on state-owned lands



Lt. Governor

- Ran on affordability, healthcare, education and reasonable regulations (data centers, THC)
- Has a 100% voting record on latest scorecard
- Has set a bipartisan tone, naming Chris Turner as chair of transition team which includes two former R senators (Seliger, Williams) and two former D senators (Van De Putte, Watson)
- Could have some power stripped by R-leaning Senate, TBD



Attorney General

- Ran on bringing integrity and independence back to AG
- Has indicated he wants to bring back non-political, professional lawyers to help him lead the agency
- Says he will take on Trump when it is interests of all Texans, but not for purely partisan reasons
- Has indicated he wants strong enforcement of environmental laws and transparency, not backroom deals



Comptroller

- Ran on bringing an independent auditor/shepherdess of state finances
- Open to independent look at voucher program and data center tax breaks
- As Comptroller will help hire the new head of State Energy Conservation Office, which will oversee the $690 million in HOMES and HEAR funding and others
- SECO also in charge of raising minimum building energy codes!
- Named a great bipartisan team already.



Railroad Commissioner

- Ran on bringing professional oil and gas expert back to the agency
- Strong environmental record as representative
- Takes office January 4th
- Will be 1 of 3 commissioners, but will help bring attention to flaring, old oil and gas infrastructure, and the role of produced water and proper management
- RRC already improved their public input policy after his election



Agriculture Commissioner

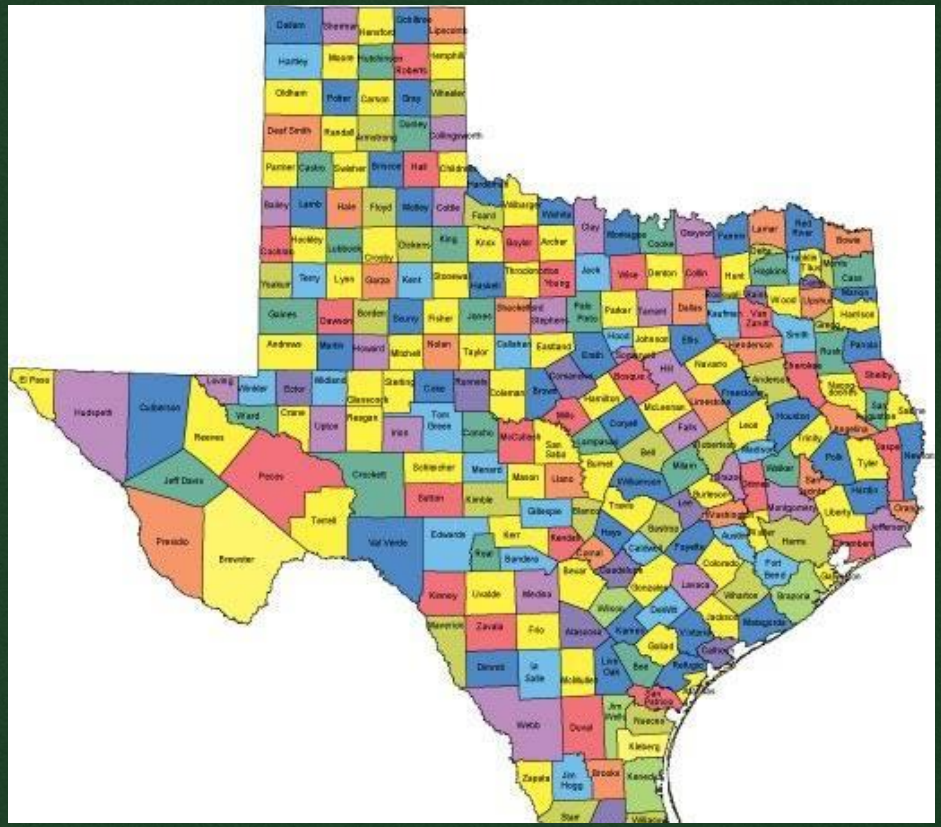
- Ran on a populist platform against data centers and massive infrastructure impacting farmland
- Also strong support for family farmers
- Has already reached out wanting to work with the Sierra Club!
- We will need to be in conversation about the balance between development - including clean energy - and reasonable protections for communities



State & Local

How local elections impact our work

The Texas Legislature meets every two years to create policies and produce laws that impact all Texans. From energy reform to protecting natural resources, every session offers opportunities for citizens to advocate for meaningful change. The Texas Legislative session lasts 140 days, beginning in mid-January and ending in early June.



Dallas Breakdown

- Of the **14** candidates for the Texas House of Representatives from Dallas County endorsed by SC, **13** won their elections.
- All **3** of the candidates for Dallas County Commissioners Court endorsed by SC won their elections.
- Of the **3** candidates for the Texas House of Representatives from Collin County endorsed by SC, **2** won their elections.

Fort Worth Breakdown

Fort Worth/Tarrant County midterm election results

- All the candidates we officially endorsed won.

  Aside from the state races, they are:

- State Senate district 9: Taylor Rehmet
- State House district 92: Salman Bhojani (incumbent)

  94: Katie O'Brien Duzan

  95: Nicole Collier (incumbent)

  101: Junior Ezeonu (incumbent)

  County Judge: Alisa Simmons

County Commissioners Court

- Alisa Simmons will be the first Democrat to be County Judge in 40 years.
- Several County Commissioner seats were overturned as well. Jared Williams, who holds a PhD in Environmental Science, took precinct 2. The Court went from a 3-2 Republican majority to a 4-1 Democratic majority.

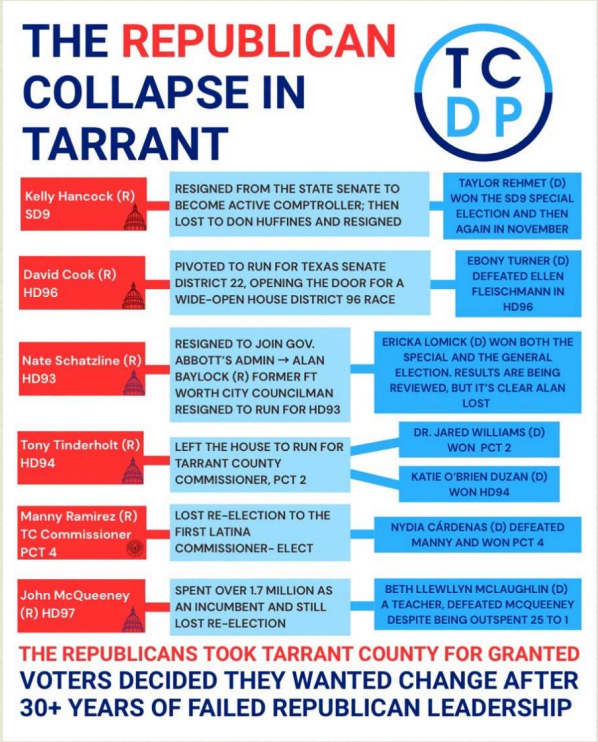
State Senate

- Out of the 9 Tarrant area state senate seats, 5 are now held by Democrats. In one case Democrat Llewellen beat out the Republican incumbent.

Fort Worth Breakdown

U.S. Congress

- Most U.S. Representatives in the area were won or maintained by Republicans, including my district, where incumbent Craig Goldman beat out “Heli” Rodriguez. Incumbent Republican Roger Williams defeated Dione Sims, who is the granddaughter of Opal Lee. However, in Jasmine Crockett’s vacated seat, Frederick Haynes III, the Democrat, beat Everett Jackson (R) with 86% of the vote!
- While I was doing voter greeting outside a Fort Worth polling place I met a reporter from Reuters, up from Washington, DC, taking exit interviews.



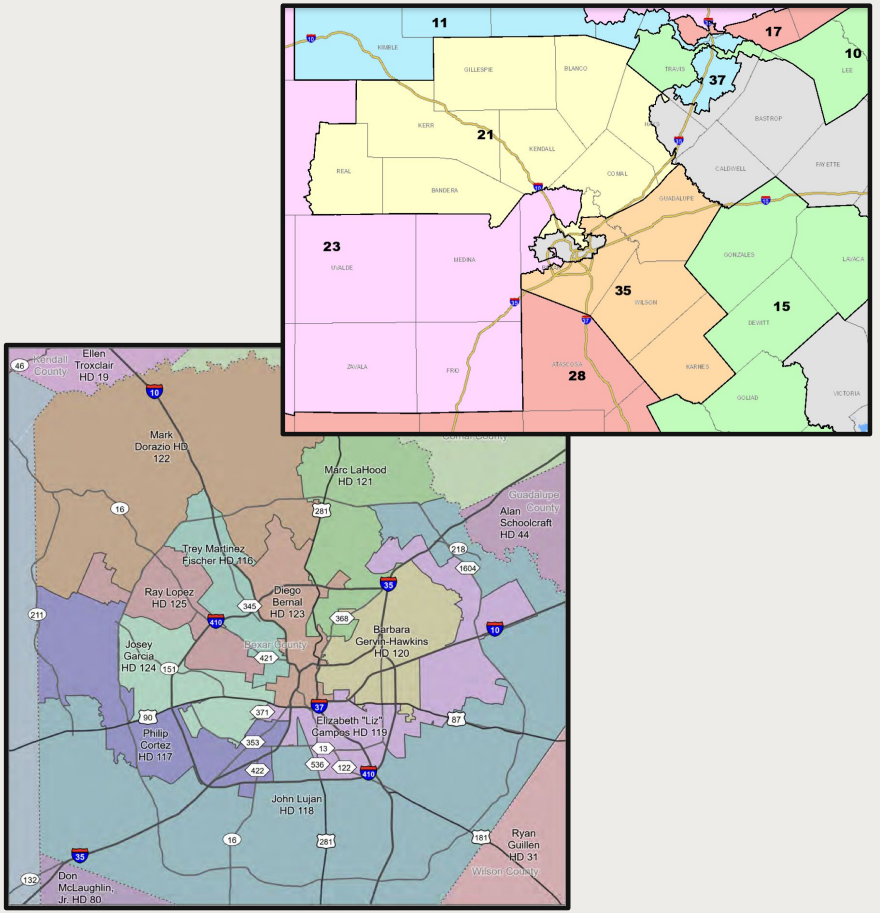
SAN ANTONIO BREAKDOWN

<u>FEDERAL & STATE GAINS</u>

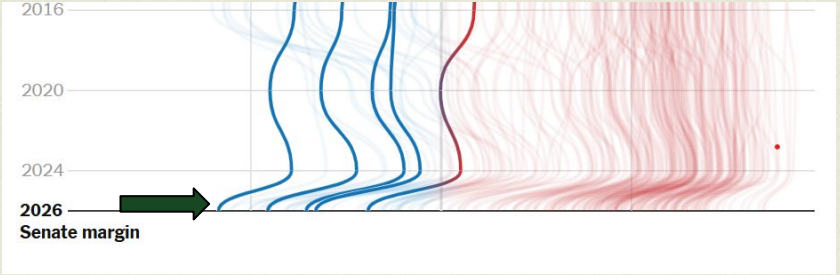
- U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro retains the 20th Congressional District – **Endorsed by Sierra Club Independent Action**
- Jose Menendez holds Senate District 26 – **Endorsed by Sierra Club PAC of Texas**
- Trey Martinez Fischer holds House District 116 – **Endorsed by Sierra Club PAC of Texas**
- Kristian Carranza flips House District 118 Blue – **Endorsed by Sierra Club PAC of Texas**
- Diego Bernal holds House District 123 – **Endorsed by Sierra Club PAC of Texas**
- Adrian Reyna holds House District 125 – **Endorsed by Sierra Club PAC of Texas**

Paths Forward:

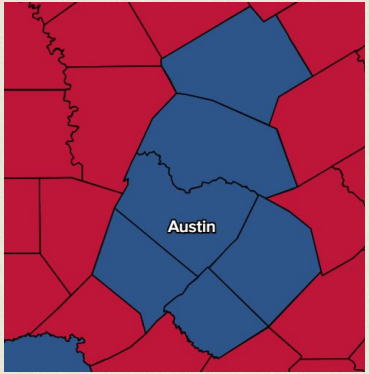
- Continue engagement with Sierra Club endorsed state candidates in San Antonio-Bexar area (Carranza, Reyna, Fischer, Bernal)
- Open lines of dialogue with newly elected State Reps (Zach Dunn for HD121)
- Examine bills, proposals, and pieces of legislation which are coming down the pipeline and find ways in which to improve or expand their development



Austin



- **Statewide:** Huge win for the Austin!
    - James Talarico, Gina Hinojosa, Vikki Goodwin, Sarah Eckhardt....
- **TX House Holds**: HD 45: Erin Zwiener, HD 47: Pooja Sethi, HD 48: Donna Howard, HD 49: Montserrat Garibay, HD 50: Samantha Lopez-Resendez, HD 51 Lulu Flores
- **HD 52: Chris Jimenez - Flip!** Swung 20 pts.... Won by 8 pts
- **Congress**: Austin lost Doggett in the failed TX redistricting
- **County**: Williamson Co. Judge seat flipped, Hays Co. Precinct flipped, Bastrop, Caldwell, Bell Counties flipped too
- **Austin city council**.... campaign rhetoric rhyming with national themes - affordability, data center pushback, ICE issues



Governor
Gina Hinojosa

Lt. Governor
Vikki Goodwin

Attorney General
Nathan Johnson

Railroad Commissioner
Jon Rosenthal

Comptroller
Sarah Eckhardt

Agriculture Commissioner
Clayton Tucker

Texas Senate
SD 9: Taylor Rehmet
SD 19: Roland Gutierrez
SD 21: Judith Zaffirini

Sierra Club Texas

Endorsed candidates in Houston region

WINNERS!

Harris County

Harris County Judge
Dr. Letitia Plummer
Precinct 2 Commissioner
Adrian Garcia
Precinct 4 Commissioner
Lesley Briones

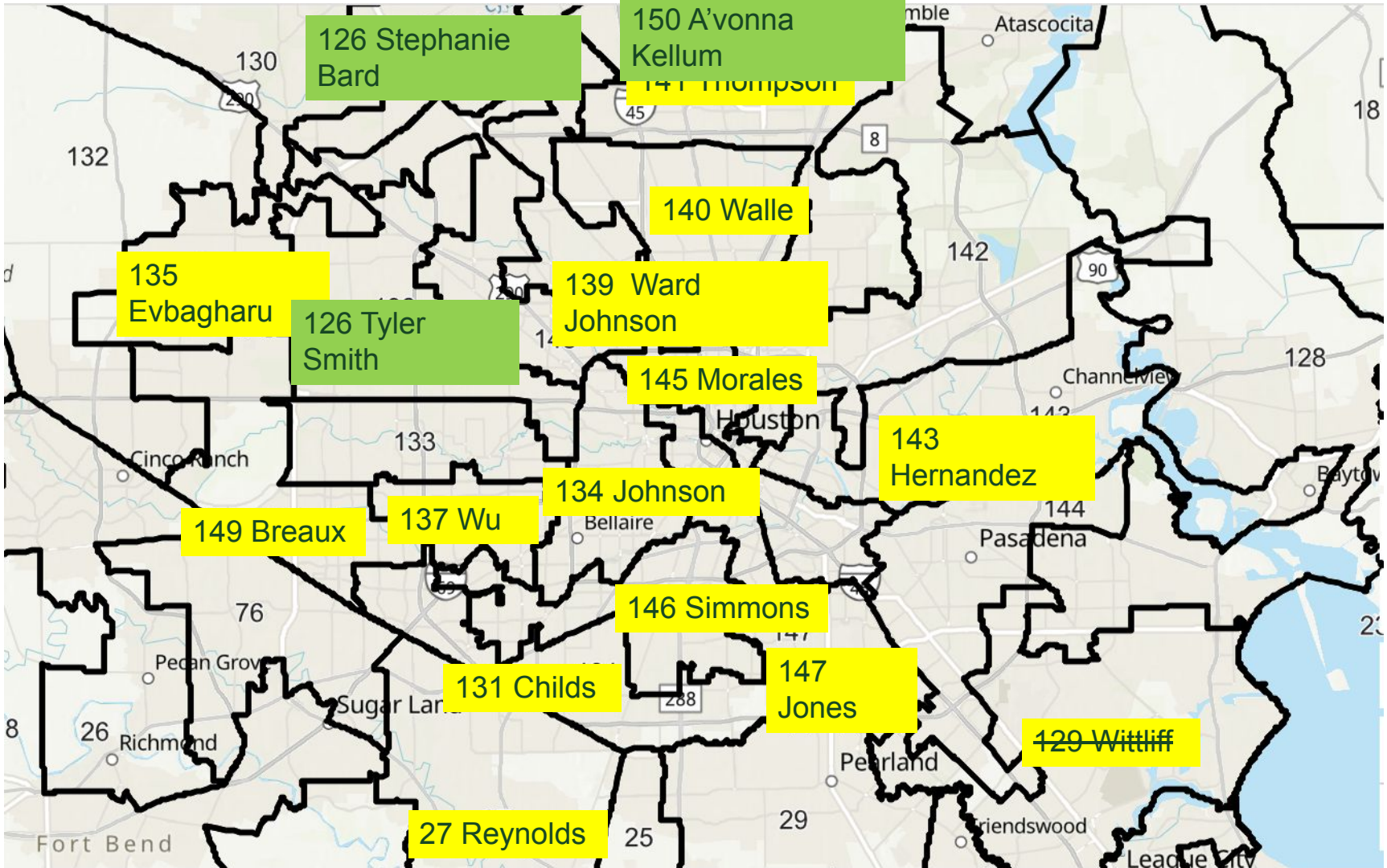
House Endorsements
Houston Region

HD 27: Ron Reynolds
HD 131: Staci Childs open seat
HD 134: Ann Johnson
HD 135: Odus Evbagharu open seat
HD 137: Gene Wu
HD 139: Charlene Ward Johnson
HD 140: Armando Walle
HD 141: Senfronia Thompson
HD 143: Ana Hernandez
HD 144: Mary Ann Perez
HD 145: Christina Morales
HD 146: Lauren Simmons
HD 147: Jolanda Jones
HD 148: Penny Morales Shaw
HD 149: Darlene Breaux open seat

Two endorsed candidates, Shannon Dicely for SD11 and Albert Wittliff HD 129 lost close races.

Houston Region Breakdown

- 16 State House with Sierra Club endorsements; All standards won
  - 3 endorsed new Dem House winners
    - HD 135 Odus Evbagharu vice Jon Rosenthal
    - HD 131 Staci Childs vice Alma Allen
    - HD 149 Darlene Breaux beat Hubert Vo in primary
  - 3 w/ Chron endorsement but not SC; won races very close to 50%
    - HD 126 Stephanie Bord beat former county clerk Stan Stanart
    - HD 138 Tyler Smith beat incumbent Lacey Hull
    - HD 150 A'vonna Kellum beat incumbent Valoree Swanson
    - South HD129 Albert Wittliff lost by 832 votes – Chron: 2% impact
- Local endorsements won – maintaining progressive Commissioners Court
  - Letitia Plummer Judge, Adrian Garcia and Lesley Briones
- National influence
  - Assisted in endorsing James Talarico
  - Worked hard for our newest Congresswoman, Leticia Gutierrez


126 Stephanie Bard
150 A'vonna Kellum
140 Walle
135 Evbagharu
126 Tyler Smith
139 Ward Johnson
145 Morales
143 Hernandez
134 Johnson
137 Wu
149 Breaux
146 Simmons
131 Childs
147 Jones
~~129 Wittliff~~
27 Reynolds
130
132
133
142
128
144
76
26
29
25
Atascocita
Houston
Cinco Ranch
Bellaire
Pasadena
Pecan Grove
Sugar Land
Richmond
Pearland
Friendswood
League City
Fort Bend

Corpus Christi Breakdown

- SC endorsed, Proposition B (Fair Water Amendment) got approved by voters!
    a. Incentivizes industrial conservation during a drought
    b. Additional revenue keeps water rates from going up
- Six total SC endorsed candidates for City Council
    a. Two are in a runoff
        i. District 5 - Merida Forest
        ii. At Large - Michael Miller
- New House Rep for HD34
    a. Likely to be more pro-environment



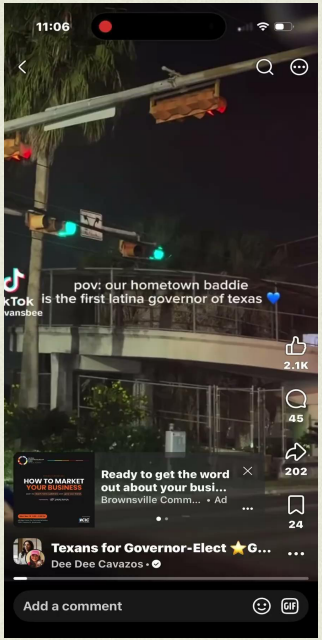
RGV Breakdown

- SC endorsed Oscar Longoria HD 35, Oziel Ochoa Jr HD37, Erin Gamez HD38, Julio Salinas HD41, and Judith Zaffirini SD21
- And of course SC endorsed our Gobernadora de Texas Gina Hinojosa, native of the 956, Rio Grande Valley! Brownsville!
- Flipped Seat: Oziel Ochoa flipped House District (HD) 37, defeating Republican incumbent Janie Lopez.
- Many first time voters in the Rio Grande Valley, key issues, immigration and affordability.
- Thanks to social media and influencers

RGV Breakdown

- Many first time voters in the Rio Grande Valley, key issues, immigration and affordability.
- Thanks to social media and influencers
- Plant the seed

Southmost Pitada!



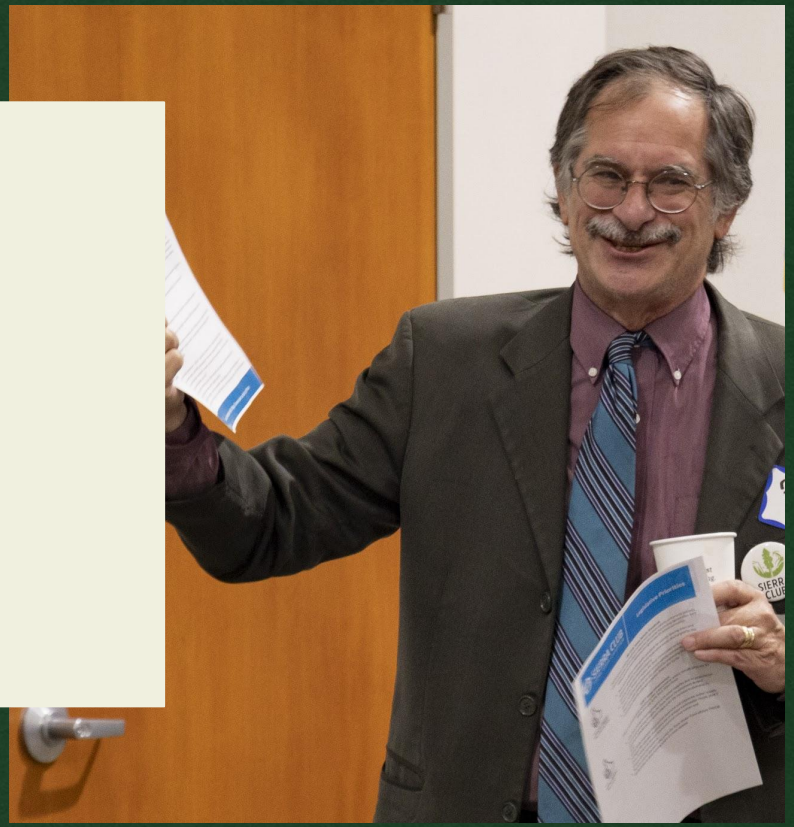
Brownsville, Texas

West Texas Breakdown

- District 74: Represented by Eddie Morales Jr. (D) (covers a large border region including parts of El Paso, Maverick, and surrounding counties)
- District 75: Represented by Mary E. González (D) (eastern El Paso County and parts of Socorro/Clint)
- District 77: Represented by Vincent Perez (D) (central and downtown El Paso)
- District 78: Represented by Joe Moody (D) (northern and central El Paso)
- District 79: Represented by Claudia Ordaz (D) (parts of El Paso County)



90th Lege Session Strategy



Countdown Continues

March
Interim Charges Named

April
Interim Hearings Begin

May
SC sets our draft priorities; hearings continue

June
SC releases our Legislative Policy Platform and delivered to every office

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; interim hearings continue

Now - December
Legislative offices (with public input) submit bill ideas to Lege Council for drafting; bill filing starts; committees release reports

Legislative Strategy



Early Meetings + Education

Sierra Club staff (Cyrus and Evgenia) are meeting with legislators and their staff to discuss potential legislation, provide educational resources on our priority issues, and build relationships.



Constituent Meetings

Your legislators need to hear from you - or they will only be hearing from lobbyists. Your participation provides a key element that staff meetings can't address - YOUR LIVED EXPERIENCE.



Pressure + Engagement

We're calling legislators out - and in - online, in publications, meetings, through petitions, action alerts, emails, phone calls, and press. If there's one thing we know about every politician - visibility matters! So does Praise and Criticism that is strategic!

What Is LAT

- Our Legislative Action Team is how we build power to win at the Capitol
- The LAT is made up of everyday Texans who want to make a difference
    - Not everyone is a policy expert
    - Not everyone has lobbying experience
    - Most members are Texans who care
- LAT members are informed about our “inside game” - what Cyrus and Evgenia are working on, and lead our “outside game” - engaging community members
- The LAT will be supported by Jordan and our Legislative Committee when it’s formed



December LAT: Countdown to the Legislative Session

The countdown is on! Join the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter's December Legislative Action Team meeting as we gear up for the Texas legislative session. We'll discuss strategy, key issues, bills already filed, and what we're working on and anticipating as lawmakers return to Austin. Plus, get a preview of upcoming advocacy events and opportunities to help shape the future Texas deserves. Whether you're a seasoned advocate or just getting started, there's a role for you!

Policy Platform Review

Four buckets of work:

1. Clean, Reliable & Affordable Energy
2. Clean Air, Water & Healthy Communities
3. Protecting Texas Lands, Wildlife & Coasts
4. Sustainable Water & Climate Resilience





What's Next



Become A Member

Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter builds community power to protect the people, places, and resources of Texas.

We couldn’t do that without our members.

Whether we're working on clean energy, water, conservation, or environmental justice, our goal is the same: helping to create a healthier, more affordable, and more resilient Texas for all.

Join us.

Earth Month Advocacy Day

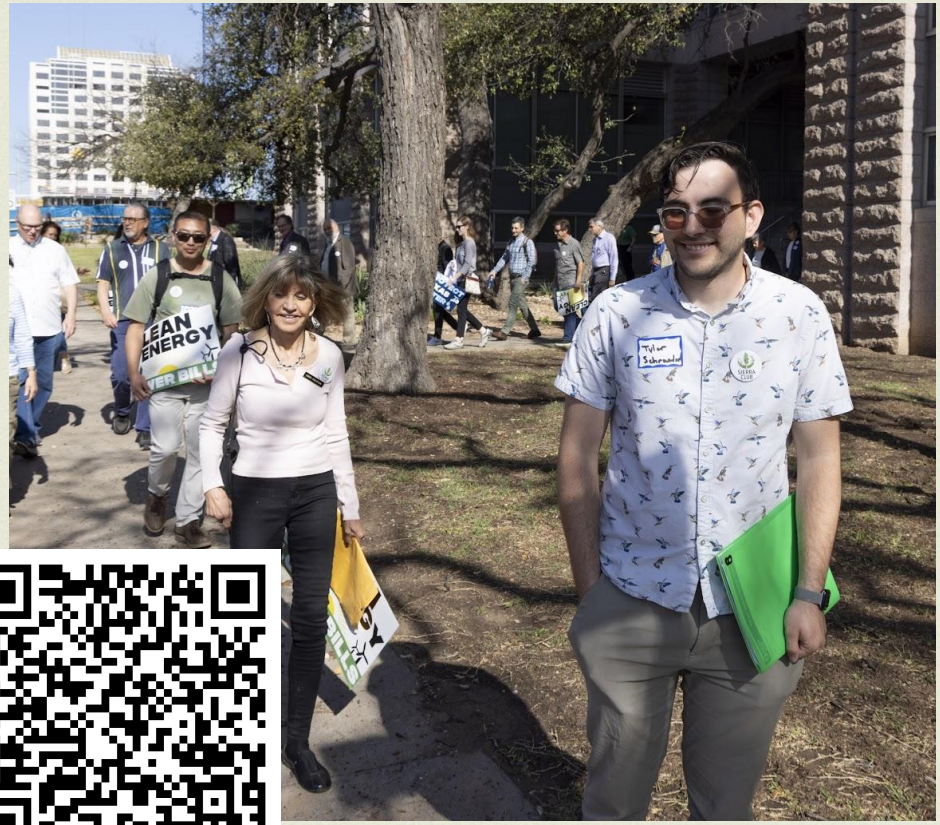
Join the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter and our partners and allies across the state for a day of environmental advocacy. Texas deserves clean air, abundant water, and reliable, affordable, sustainable energy. Let's fight for it, together!

Your ticket makes people-powered advocacy at the Texas Capitol possible and fuels the Lone Star Chapter's legislative work. Every ticket includes dinner the night before, lodging, transportation, breakfast, and lunch during Earth Month Advocacy Day - the state's largest environmental lobby day.

$40 | Grassroots Activist Ticket

$110 | Community Advocate Ticket

$250 | Advocacy Champion Ticket





TIME FOR QUESTIONS

Thank you!

For further questions, please reach out to:

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