

# CLIMATE JUSTICE & THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE:

## ACTIVIST TRAINING SERIES

**Mar 30, 2021**

Organized with support from Sierra Club, Public Citizen Texas, Environment Texas, Jolt, Clean Energy Now Texas, and other allies.



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Today we speak with you from Somi Se'k, the homeland of the Carrizo-Comecrudo tribal nation, as well as the occupied territory of Tonkawa and Comanche around Austin. No matter where in Texas you're joining from today, the land we meet is the traditional territory of a number of Indigenous peoples. Texas is and has been home to the Caddo, Comanche, Kiowa, Wichita, Chickasaw, Waco, Tonkawa, Lipan Apache, Texas Band of Yaqui, Coahuiltecan, Borrado and Carrizo Comecrudo. Throughout colonization, different native peoples were relocated to Texas, including the Alabama Coushatta, Kickapoo, and Tiguas of the Ysleta del sur Pueblo.

We acknowledge the violent and continuing legacy of colonization in Texas and call on all participants today to reach out to the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter for more information on how to learn more about the history of native peoples in Texas, of systemic racism, and how your activism can help undo the impacts of white supremacy on the environmental movement.

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# NORMS

One mic

Patience

Build relationships

Respect

Power & privilege

This is an anti-racist, anti-oppression space

# #TXLEGE MID-SESSION REPORT



Progress Texas

@ProgressTX

[#txlege](#) session summary (so far):

- 48,000+ Texans die in a pandemic & over 100 more in a winter storm
- Instead of prioritizing these crises, the Texas GOP attacks our voting rights, abortion access, and trans kids

Texans deserve so much better, y'all. [#TXDeservesBetter](#)

5:13 PM · 3/29/21 · [Twitter Web App](#)

20 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 31 Likes

1. add 5 total highlights/lowlights so far
2. add
3. add
4. add
5. add

**Governor**



**Texas Legislature**

**We must  
organize to  
challenge  
power here  
NOW**

## **Legislative Themes**

**We must  
organize to  
challenge  
power here  
NOW**

Change the narrative: We can't afford a fossil fuel future

Invest in people, not just private energy corporations

Watch out for Gov appointments to ERCOT, TERC, PUC

Railroad Commission and gas industry failed Texans

No taxpayer funded bailouts to pay for power plants  
and gas infrastructure winterization

Reduce demand w/ equitable & local clean energy - not new fossil fuel plants

# HOW'S IT GOIN'?

## WHO'VE YOU SPOKEN WITH, WHAT ACTIONS DONE?



# INVEST IN PEOPLE, NOT JUST PRIVATE ENERGY CORPORATIONS

POWER  
to the  
PEOPLE!



SUPPORT THE  
**POWER ACT**  
TO PROVIDE UP TO \$2,500 TO TEXAS FAMILIES.

[ADD YOUR NAME IN SUPPORT](#)

 Workers Defense  
Action Fund

# WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?

~~Step 1. Find a good Senate sponsor -- CHECK~~

~~Step 2. Find a House Sponsor -- CHECK.~~

**Step 3.** Build public support outside the Legislature and build support among unlikely allies. Anticipate enemies of bill.

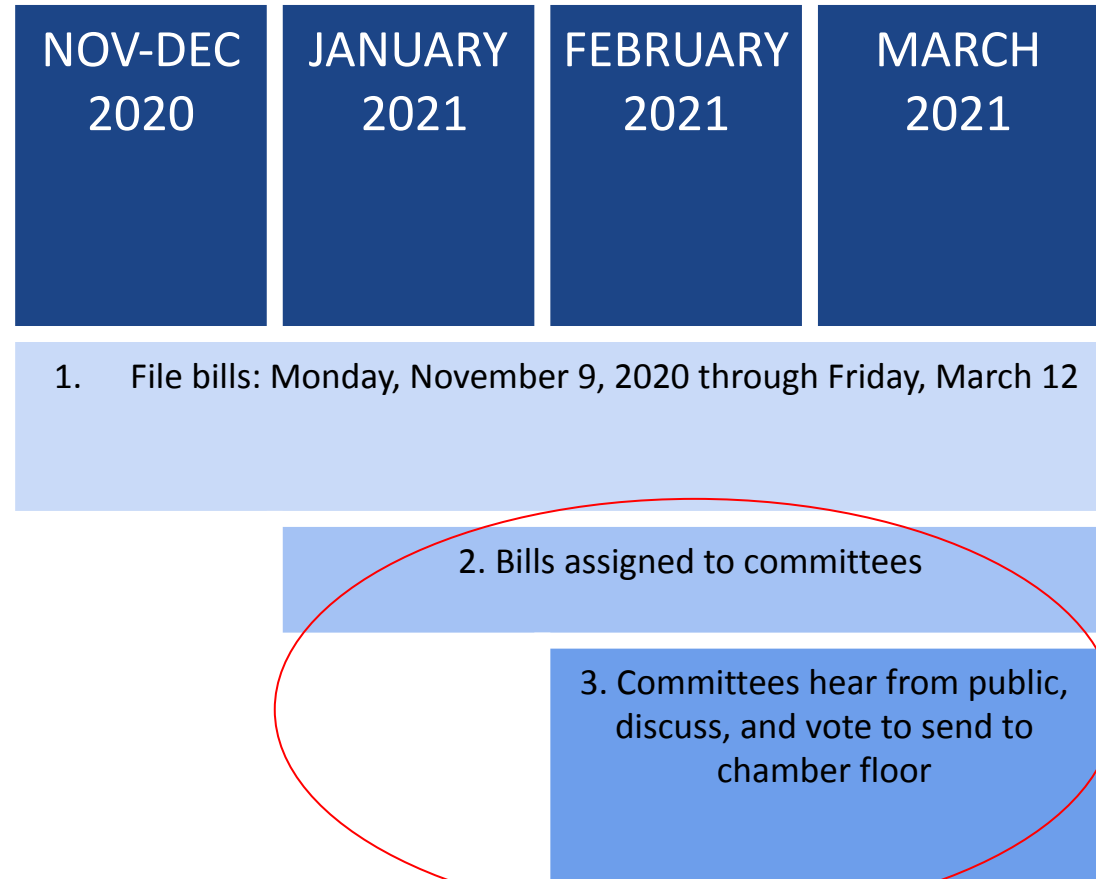
**Step 4.** Convince the 3 most important people that this is important.

Person 1. Kelly Hancock (Must happen soon)

Person 2. Chris Paddie (House State Affairs Chair)

Person 3. Dan Patrick (Need support later)

**Step 5.** Prepare like heck so that you can get a committee hearing with lots of support and limited opposition





# WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?

**Step 6.** Get it out of committee—ensure you have support of Chair of Committee + at least four others

**Step 7.** In Senate, begin to build support among all Senate Members—you need 18 YES votes!

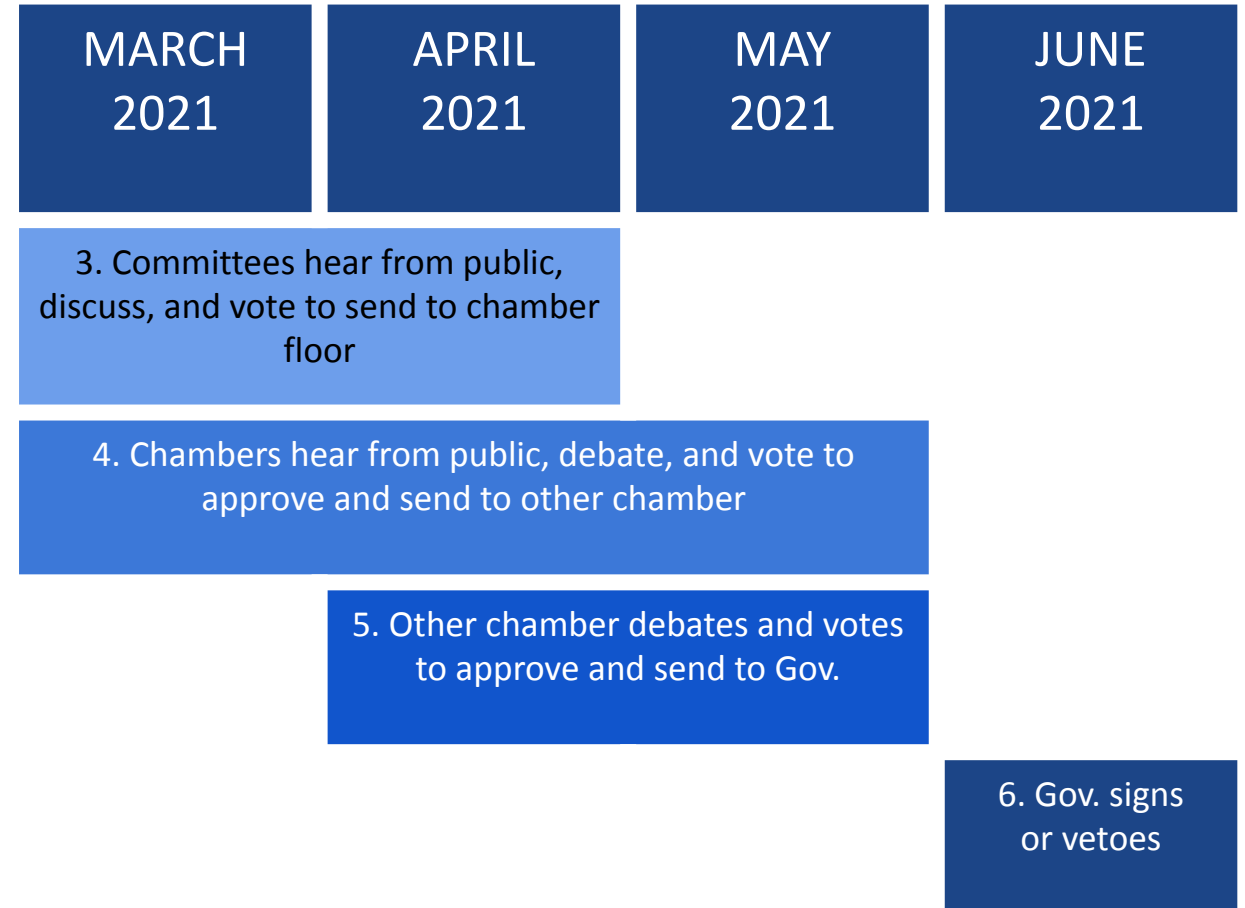
**Step 8.** Make sure that Lt Governor will recognize Sponsor to bring it up on the Floor

**Step 9.** Repeat the same Process as above in House.

**Step 10.** Make sure Governor won't veto the bill.

Along the way we will need:

- phone calls,
- personal relationships with staffers & members,
- positive expressions of support from press, social media and thought leaders



# WHO WE NEED TO PRESSURE

## HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS - SENATE B & C

**State Affairs Committee**

Committee Members

<b>Chair</b>  Rep. Paddie, Chris	<b>Vice Chair</b>  Rep. Hernandez, Ana	 Rep. Deshotel, Joe	 Rep. Harless, Sam	 Rep. Howard, Donna
 Rep. Hunter, Todd	 Rep. King, Phil	 Rep. Lucio III, Eddie	 Rep. Metcalf, Will	 Rep. Raymond, Richard Peña
 Rep. Shaheen, Matt	 Rep. Slawson, Shelby	 Rep. Smithee, John T.		

**Senate Committee on Business & Commerce**

[Committees](#) · [Hearings and Events](#) · [Committee Archives](#) · [Notice of Assistance](#) · [Legislature Online](#) · [Comm](#)

» [Video/Audio](#) · [Hearing Documents](#) · [Reports](#)

**Committee Information**

<b>CHAIR</b> <a href="#">Kelly Hancock</a>	<b>MEMBERS</b> <a href="#">Donna Campbell</a> <a href="#">Brandon Creighton</a> <a href="#">Nathan Johnson</a> <a href="#">José Menéndez</a> <a href="#">Angela Paxton</a> <a href="#">Charles Schwertner</a> <a href="#">John Whitmire</a>
<b>VICE-CHAIR</b> <a href="#">Robert Nichols</a>	

# INGREDIENTS OF EFFECTIVE MESSAGING

**Tell your blackout story:** what did you live through or have you seen others endure?

**Build rapport & relationship:**

Your power is that you aren't connected, known, nor a high priced suit.

You are you. Make your communication more about you and your identity.

How long have you lived in the community? What schools, churches attend?

**Connect story to the policy change** you want to see:

- Direct call and personal email > online action alert or petition.
- Twitter backed up by numbers = **good way to draw attention**, embolden lege allies.
- Prioritize voices **from legislator's district**. Know anyone? Activate network.

**Don't stress** about policy knowledge and bill details. Express position on specific bill #.

Emphasize how you need help, see a need for help, or have benefitted from programs.

**Take notes and practice** before putting self out there

# HOW DEMAND EQUITY IN BLACKOUT RESPONSE?

## **Prioritize those most impacted and most vulnerable to high cost of utility bills & home repair**

- Easy. Demand it and lean on real people's stories. We don't need sharp specific perfect policy answers at the front.
- Everyone pays bills. Seek out stories from neighbors/friends who have this burden.
- Talk to them about the blackouts and TX Lege response. Note their stories. Offer them an opportunity to send a letter to Rep & Senator.
- They may rather that you share their story for them. This is okay.

## **Legislation may not account for equity (It's Texas, after all). So why push?**

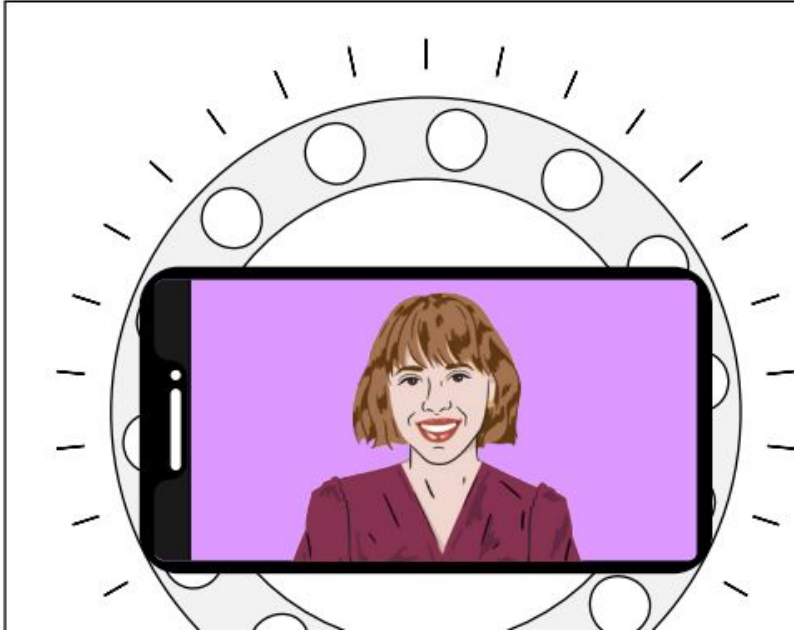
- Honor our values and guiding principles
- Powerful narrative
- Justice lens
- Broadens the tent of advocates
- Opens door for longer-term, local organizing on equitable clean energy, energy efficiency, water.
- Cycle of mutual aid. Solidarity, not charity.

# LET'S REVIEW OUR TOOLS

1. Sign up for Twitter. Drop your twitter handle (name) in chat: @AustinByChuco
2. Opt-in to our legislative activist listserv. When joined, email to introduce yourself & city, your state rep & state senate districts, and your twitter handle/username. (Email [matt.johnson@sierraclub.org](mailto:matt.johnson@sierraclub.org) to join).
3. Follow your reps/senators on Twitter (check out our [social media toolkit](#))
4. Sign & share SB 243 / HB 4556 action alert - (see chat) <https://bit.ly/supportsb243>
5. Use the LTE guide to start drafting your letter to newspapers. Any story about the blackouts, amplify SB 243 and HB 4556. ([Guide and Contacts](#))
6. Expand your network ([follow these guides to build the base!](#))
7. [Follow utilities](#) and share your story with them on social media.

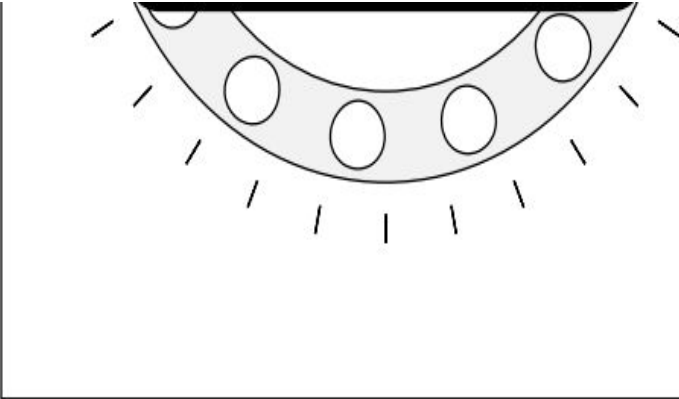
# RECORDING VIDEO TESTIMONIALS

## VIRTUAL TESTIMONY RECORDING GUIDE FOR RECORDING YOUR VIDEO AT HOME



**THE SETUP**

1. If you have a ringlight, definitely use it! If not, use a lamp or set up in front of a window with plenty of bright natural light. Face the window and avoid harsh shadows on your face.
2. Make sure you are in a quiet room with no background noise. Noises from showers, lawnmowers, blenders, and TVs can sometimes sneak into the audio.
3. Keep your background clean. A blank wall is ideal.



3. Keep your background clean. A blank wall is ideal.
4. Orient your camera to record horizontally.
5. Make sure you are centered on the screen.

### WHEN RECORDING

1. Record **ONE** continuous clip. If you need to redo a line, just pause, wait 3 seconds and start again. This makes editing easier for Deeds HQ. If you record many clips, it can be hard to keep them organized. This way, we can keep the correct order while also keeping the video quality consistent.
2. Keep the phone steady as possible. Use a tripod or books to keep your phone from moving.
3. Speak loud and clearly.
4. When you are finished, email your clip to Deeds HQ and we will take care of the rest!

