



# Legislative Advocacy 101

87th Legislature





# TEXAS VALUES TEAM



**JONATHAN SAENZ**  
President



**DAVID WALLS**  
Vice President



**Bryan English**  
Church and Pastor  
Outreach Director



**JONATHAN COVEY**  
Policy Director



**PASTOR JORGE TOVAR**  
Church Outreach  
Coordinator, South TX



**MARY ELIZABETH CASTLE**  
Policy Advisor



**Greg McCarthy**  
Policy Associate



**JUDA ATTKISSON**  
Church Outreach  
Coordinator, North TX



**JOSEPH WALTER**  
Development  
Associate



**NANCY CARTER**  
Administrative  
Assistant



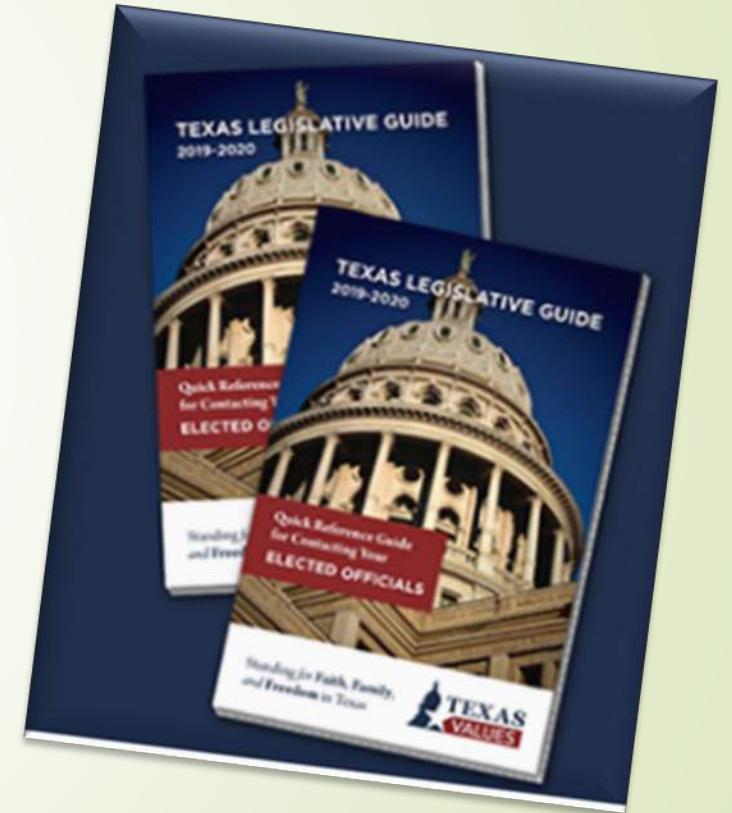
**ROSEMARY PRADIA**  
Social Media  
Designer



**NAOMI NARVAIZ**  
Community  
Outreach Coordinator

# Successes & Resources

- Pastor Protection Act
- Save Chick-Fil-A Law
- Defunding Planned Parenthood
- “Merry Christmas” Law
- Sonogram Law
- Choose-Life License Plate





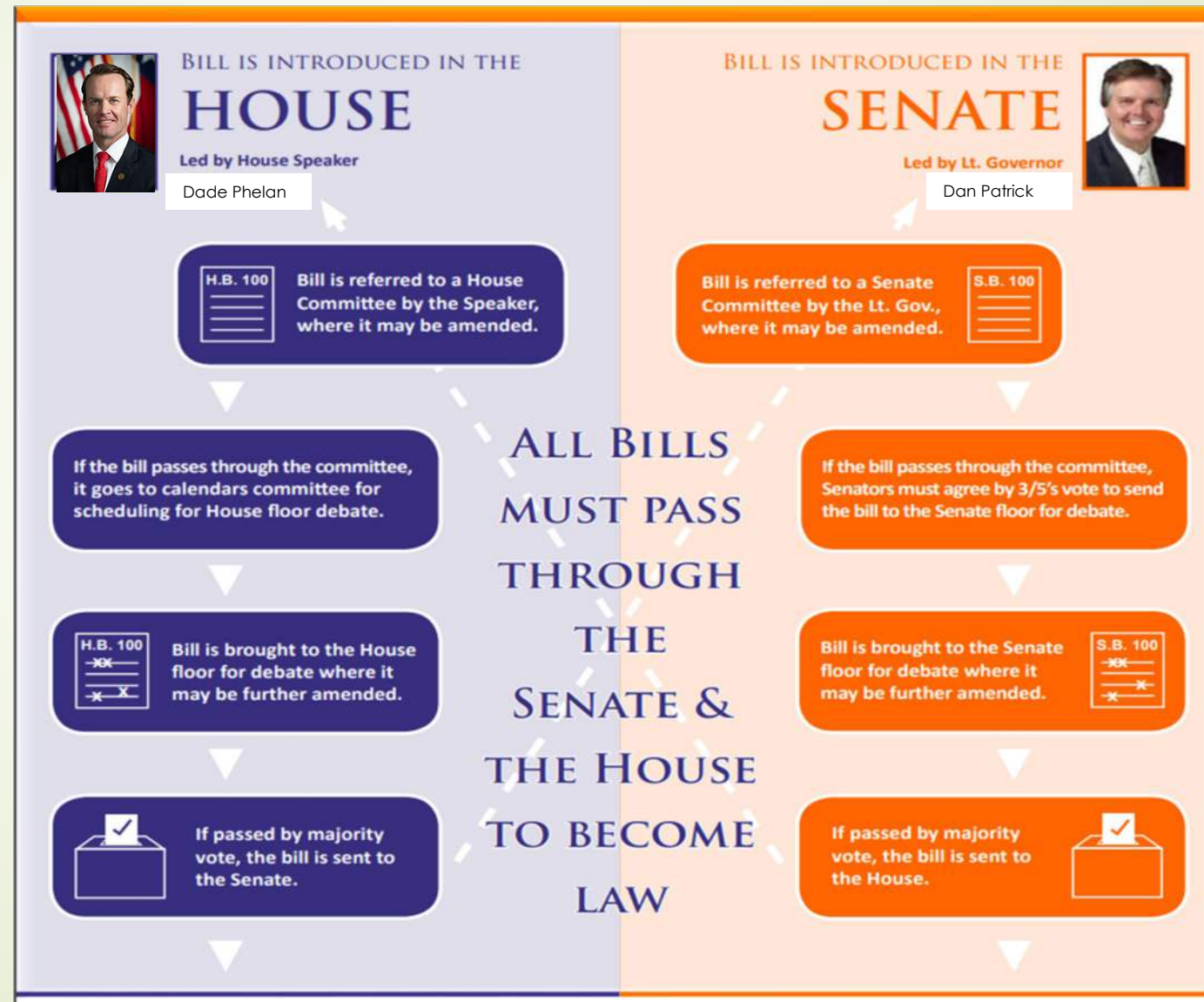
View From Texas Values Office



# Government Belongs To Those Who Show Up



# Legislative Process: How It Works



# Covid-19 Protocols

- Main Capitol Building open, testing provided for free.
- Public enters via North entrance
- Mask required at all times

## House

- Face masks required at all times
- Individual members' offices set guidelines at their discretion.

## Senate

- Negative Covid-19 tests required to enter a committee hearing or gallery
- Gallery seating limited



### Texas State Capitol Building Covid-19 Protocols

#### Main Capitol (including rotunda, extension, and hallways)

- Main Capitol Building will be open to the public, however, negative Covid-19 tests are required for entry. Testing results take approximately 15 minutes and tests are free to the public.
- The public can only enter via the north door of the Capitol.
- A mask is required to be worn at all times.

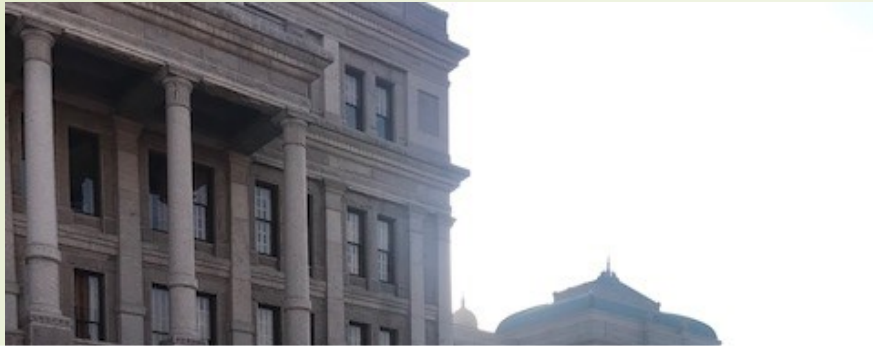
#### House

- Face masks will be required for all persons on the House floor, gallery, and in committee hearings. Speakers may remove masks to talk at front and back mics.
- Individual members' offices will have the discretion to set their own guidelines for their offices. Some will only require a mask, some will be by invitation-only, and some will require a negative Covid-19 test for admission.

#### Senate

- Members of the public are required to have a wristband demonstrating a negative Covid-19 test to enter a committee hearing.
- Public seating in the gallery will be limited to ensure social distancing
- Members of the public are required to have a wristband demonstrating a negative Covid-19 test to enter the gallery.







# Plan Your Time



- Arrive early if possible.
- Set expectations
- Pay attention to the timing of floor debates
- Staying until the end of a committee can be very fruitful
- Be willing to sit in an office to wait for a legislator to return

# Committee Hearings

## Providing verbal testimony

- ▶ You should try to arrive at the Capitol at least 45-1 hr. before your committee hearing is set to start.

## Signing up to testify

- ▶ House: Sign up at the electronic kiosks in the Extension
- ▶ Senate: Depends on the committee. Some use electronic kiosks, others use witness cards at the back of the committee room.





# Electronic Kiosks





# Structuring Your Testimony

“Mr./Ms. Chair and members of the committee, my name is \_\_\_\_, I’m from \_\_\_\_, Texas and I’m testifying in favor of Senate/House Bill \_\_\_\_.”

[Insert comments]

[In conclusion, “I’d respectfully ask that you vote for/against SB/HB \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you]



# capitol.texas.gov

capitol.texas.gov

87th Legislature Regular Session  
Texas Legislature Online

Home | My TLO | House | Senate | Legislation | Search | Committees | Calendars

### Texas House

- Home
- Speaker of the House
- Members
- Committees
- Committee Meetings
- Committee Witnesses
- Calendars
- Current Amendment
- Journals
- News
- House Research Organization
- Kids' House

### Texas Senate

- Home
- Lieutenant Governor
- Members
- Committees
- Committee Meetings
- Calendars
- Journals
- News
- Senate Research Center
- Senate Kids

### Search Legislation

Legislature:

☒ Word/Phrase ☐ Bill Number

### Additional Searches

<a href="#">Text Search</a>	<a href="#">Statutes</a>
<a href="#">Bill Lookup</a>	<a href="#">Constitution</a>
<a href="#">Bill Search</a>	<a href="#">Reports</a>
<a href="#">Amendments</a>	<a href="#">View Votes</a>
<a href="#">Sections Affected</a>	<a href="#">Administrative Code</a>
<a href="#">Legislative Archive System</a>	

### How Do I ...

- [Find list of filed bills?](#)
- [Follow the status of a bill?](#)
- [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?](#)

[more>>](#)

### My TLO

- [Track Legislation With Bill Lists](#)
- [Receive Bill and Meeting Alerts](#)
- [Subscribe to RSS Feeds](#)
- [View Content on Mobile Device](#)
- [Saved Bill, Text, Amendment Searches](#)


### Access Mobile Version of TLO

Access a [mobile version](#) of TLO, Who Represents Me, and DistrictViewer on an iPhone, iPad, or other mobile device. From the mobile device browser, enter [www.txlegis.com](#). NOTE: Some applications or features within an application may not be accessible on all mobile devices.

### Legislative Activity

Video Broadcasts: [House](#) | [Senate](#)  
Today's Calendars: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)  
Today's Meetings: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)  
Today's Filed Bills: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)  
Today's Votes: [House](#) | [Senate](#)

### Legislative Process

 [How a Bill Becomes Law](#)  
[How to Follow A Bill](#)  
[Dates of Interest](#) | [Glossary](#)  
[End of Session Deadlines](#)

### Redistricting

[Texas Redistricting Website](#)  
[DistrictViewer](#)

### Who Represents Me?


Enter your address to find [who represents you](#) in the legislature.

Address:

City:


ZIP Code:   [Privacy Policy](#)

### Capitol Complex Information

 [Events and Visitor Information](#)  
[Wireless Access](#) | [Images](#) | [State Symbols](#)

Related Links  
[Legislative Reference Library](#)  
[County](#) | [State](#) | [Federal](#) | [Awards](#)

Policies | Accessibility | Texas.gov | Homeland Security | Statewide Search



# Do Your Research, Know Your Issue

[www.txvalues.org](http://www.txvalues.org)

- Have timely, up-to-date research on your issue.
- Know who on the committee already supports your bill
- Watch for “softballs”
- Know who is hostile to your bill.
- Bring others with you, especially those with a personal stake in the outcome





# Babies and Children

- Bring your kids
- Spend the day, before or after your testimony, visiting offices
- Target the fence-sitters
- Children receive a lot of attention

# Respect the Staff & Follow Up

- Staffers are the eyes/ears for the Legislators
- Set up meetings with legislators beforehand
- Try to meet the legislators, but always be willing to meet with a staffer
- Follow up after your meeting with promised information.







Questions?