



**TEXAS LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS  
2013 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD**



# THE TEXAS LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

## WHO WE ARE...AND WHAT WE DO

**T**he Texas League of Conservation Voters works to preserve and enhance the quality of life of Texans by making conservation a top priority with Texas elected officials, political candidates and voters. When we succeed, all conservation groups and issues benefit.

**We elect champions.** With money and other resources, we help elect candidates to the Texas Legislature who will fight for clean air, clean water and access to public lands, water, fish and wildlife. TLCV conducts rigorous candidate research and we concentrate on the races we can impact. We educate candidates on how to use pro-conservation positions to win votes. We put money into hard-hitting, independent media campaigns contrasting the candidates' positions on the issues—making sure that an effective message reaches voters.

**We fight at the Legislature.** We aggressively lobby the Texas Legislature on the most important conservation bills and work to make sure your voice is heard. Through our endorsements, active grassroots network and campaign work, TLCV creates deep, long-term relationships on behalf of the conservation community. Relationships like these are key to getting our issues addressed and legislation passed.

**We hold politicians accountable.** At the end of each legislative session we publish and distribute our Legislative Scorecard. We rate the performance of each individual legislator on key environmental legislation and describe the key conservation issues. We then distribute our Scorecard to TLCV supporters, friends, partner organizations and the media.

## ABOUT THE SCORECARD

Our Scorecard provides objective, factual information about conservation voting records. It's just one way TLCV works to hold the Texas Legislature accountable.

The TLCV Scorecard covers a range of votes and issues. Each vote scored represents a clear choice for our elected officials to uphold the conservation values that millions of Texans share. Scored bills are determined by TLCV staff and board members working in consultation with other environmental groups and stakeholders. Generally speaking, scored bills are those with statewide policy implications. Unless otherwise noted, all votes are the final vote cast by the House or Senate on a particular bill or amendment.

The scorecard does not include some votes that passed with unanimous or near-unanimous consent, so as to highlight differences in legislators' voting records on important conservation issues that also would have an immediate impact on the state. In this year's scorecard, both the Texas Senate and Texas House were scored on 14 votes, 12 of which are on the same bills.

The bills scored are a representative sample of positive and negative legislation on a range of issues including water, global warming, environmental regulation, clean energy, clean air, good government, oil and gas regulation, and energy efficiency.

The pro-conservation votes are marked as positive and anti-conservation votes are marked as negative. Absences are marked with an (A) and are counted negatively because it has the same effect as a “no” vote. Excused Absences (EA), Present Not Voting (PNV) and members not voting while serving as Chair are not counted as negative votes.

## THE 2013 SESSION IN REVIEW

**T**he 83rd Session of the Texas Legislature was generally a success for the environment and conservation. This success is measured by the passage of positive legislation dealing with clean energy development and water conservation; a state budget which provided significant increases in funding to state parks and clean air programs; and the failure of numerous bad bills designed to roll back environmental regulations and curtail citizen participation in environmental decision-making.

Of the good legislation passed, some of the most notable bills include bringing the successful PACE clean energy financing program to Texas; allowing residents of Home Owners Associa-



tions to pursue drought-resistant landscaping; a requirement in a water-funding measure that at least 20% of projects be for water conservation; the expansion of Texas’s successful Emission Reduction Program (TERP); and the renewal of the state’s Chapter 313 economic development program, which will allow Texas to continue being the nation’s leader in wind power.

In terms of the state budget, significant gains were made in funding essential environmental programs, including using dedicated environmental funds for their intended purpose. Prior to the legislative session, elected officials of all branches of government and political stripes were bemoaning the use of “fund diversions,” where dedicated funds were not being used for their stated purpose but instead being allowed to build up fund balances to help balance the state budget. In terms of environmental programs, various state park and clean air accounts were accruing tens of millions in unspent funds. While the legislature ultimately little to address this problem across the board, some improvement was made in using parks and clean air funds for their intended purpose.

In other legislative areas, there was mixed success in the arena of oil and gas regulation. Positive measures passed included improvements to gathering line safety in rural areas; increased fines for pipeline violations; increased funding for the Railroad Commission; and the setting of regulations for saltwater pipelines. Unfortunately, a good “resign to run” provision in the Ethics Commission Sunset bill, which would have prohibited Railroad Commissioners seeking state-wide office from collecting campaign contributions from the energy companies they regulate,

was vetoed by the governor. Also, a good Senate bill dealing with water permitting for hydraulic fracturing failed to advance in the House.

Unfortunately, two bad bills dealing with uranium mining and radioactive waste storage were passed into law. One measure ends the ability of citizens to bring meaningful challenges on production area authorization permits for uranium mining. The other significantly increases the concentration of radioactive waste allowed to enter an Andrews County radioactive waste dump without taking adequate precautions to protect public health and safety around the site and on Texas's roadways.

Beyond those measures there were a slew of bills filed that did not pass, all designed to roll back environmental regulations and reduce or remove the ability of Texas citizens, municipalities and counties to take part in environmental decision-making processes. Chief among this legislation was a bill championed by the Texas Chemical Council to gut the Contested Case Hearing process in Texas, an administrative process whereby permit applications to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) can be challenged on their merits. A 40-page bill was filed early in the session that would have radically re-worked the process in favor of polluters. These and other bills to restrict citizen participation did not have an easy time advancing in the legislative process, and the tragic event of the fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas on April 17th further contributed to an atmosphere where their advancement or passage was not politically tenable.



The 83rd Session will also be remembered by the sheer volume of bills filed related to environmental issues. Driven largely, but not exclusively, by water issues, scores of bills were filed on a range of subjects. We highlight a number of these bills in our section on legislation. While a flood of bills were filed, a low percentage made it across the finish line. This included the legislature punting again on Sunset review of the Texas Railroad Commission until the 2017 session and being unable to pass any measure clarifying a process for the use of eminent domain in pipeline siting. The legislature also failed to pass good measures related to the use of residential solar, recycling and waste prevention, and ethics reforms.

As with past sessions, the generally favorable outcome of the legislative session did not happen in a vacuum or by accident. The persistent and passionate work of citizens across Texas to have their voices heard at the legislature on environmental issues cannot be undervalued. Once again this session, a broad coalition of environmental, civic, public health, and faith-based groups worked together under the umbrella of the Alliance for a Clean Texas (ACT) to have a greater impact at the Capitol. The Texas League of Conservation Voters plays a lead role in facilitating the work of this group. The success of good environmental and conservation policy at the Legislature is also strongly linked to having legislators who champion those issues. We highlight the work of some of those elected officials in this scorecard.

## THE STATE BUDGET

**T**he 2011 Texas Budget was a disaster for environmental programs in Texas. Parks and clean air programs were slashed deeply. At the outset of the 2013 session, the Legislative Budget Board estimated that at current funding levels, some state parks could close. Buoyed by a strong statewide grassroots effort to improve parks and clean air funding, and an emphasis on ending fund diversions, these programs fared much better in the FY 2014-2015 budget.

### State Parks

In the 2013 budget, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) received approximately \$590 million in total funding, of which \$105 million came from the Sporting Goods Sales Tax (SGST), a tax on sporting goods and other exercise-related equipment intended to fund state parks operations. This represents a 7.3% increase in total funding, and a 29.5% increase in use of the Sporting Goods Sales Tax. These SGST funding increases facilitated noticeable improvements in funds available for state parks.

The legislature approved almost all of TPWD's exceptional item requests for additional funding in Article VI of the state budget. This included increases in funding for state park operations; the park capitol budget; repairs and construction; fish and wildlife; restoring funding for local park grants to cities and counties across Texas and the Community Outdoor Outreach Program; and for state data center cost increases and information technology needs. In addition, HB 1025 provided supplemental appropriations of \$4.9 million for Bastrop State Park fire recovery, \$5 million in additional capital construction repairs in state parks, and \$3 million in funding for the re-opening of the Cedar Bayou Fish Pass.

### Clean Air Programs

The state of Texas collects fees from drivers and certain businesses under the Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP). Currently, these fees total approximately \$190 million dollars per year.



At the beginning of the session, House and Senate budget contained only \$65 million per year in expenditures on the TERP program, and these fees were only designated to address emissions from multiple mobile sources. The advocacy and lobbying efforts of environmental, business and municipal groups to increase TERP expenditures was a success as funding was eventually set at \$77.6 million per year. The Legislature also passed Senate Bill 1727 by Bob Deuell which

extended the program through 2019 and provided new incentives for alternate fuel vehicles and renewable energy storage. House Bill 2859 by Patricia Harless raised the ceiling on the amount of funds that can be expended on the clean vehicle programs in ozone non-attainment counties to \$7 million dollars, up from \$5 million.

## MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

### Energy

Favorable bills for renewable energy, peak energy demand response programs and net-metering for residential solar installations were introduced, but all stalled during the legislative process. Senator Jose Rodriguez of El Paso in particular deserves thanks and credit for his sponsorship of and efforts to advance this legislation.

### Recycling

A handful of good bills dealing with beverage container recycling, paint take-back and diverting electronic waste from landfills all were derailed by industry groups.

### Ethics

The originally proposed Railroad Commission (RRC) Sunset Bill had a number of common-sense ethics reforms, including not allowing commissioners to accept contributions from parties with contested cases before the commission and only allowing re-election campaign contributions during the 17 months before an election. These reforms perished when the Legislature punted on addressing RRC Sunset until 2017.

## Scorecard Overview

### Texas House

Average Score: 74%

Average House Democratic Score: 91%

Average House Republican Score: 65%

Highest House Democratic Scores: Eight with 100% – Burnam, Canales, Farias, N. Gonzalez, M. Gonzalez, Marquez, Oliveria, J. Rodriguez

Lowest House Democratic Scores: Giddings and Longoria, 77%;  
Three tied with 79% – Cortez, T. King, Rose

Highest House Republican Scores: Kacal, 92%;  
Six tied with 86%: Workman, Price, Paddie, Larson, Harless, J. Davis

Lowest House Republican Scores: Fallon, 25%; Schaefer, 36%; Stickland, 38%;  
Four tied with 43%: Goldman, Klick, Springer, Taylor

### Texas Senate

Average Score: 85%

Average Democratic Score: 91%

Average Republican Score: 81%

Highest Democratic Score: Three with 100%: Rodriguez, Ellis, Garcia

Lowest Democratic Score: Van De Putte, 85%

Highest Republican Score: Birdwell, 92%; nine tied with 86%

Lowest Republican Score: Hancock, 64%

## THE VOTES

**W**e've numbered the key votes used in our scoring; to find out how your senator or representative voted on a particular measure, look for this number at the top of the columns on our scorecards. You'll notice that numbers 12 and 16 are missing from the House scorecard; they were voted on only in the Senate. Likewise, numbers 1 and 9 were scored only in the House and aren't addressed in the Senate Scorecard.

## POSITIVE LEGISLATION

### Water Conservation

**1 HB 4: 20% Set Aside (Ritter, R-Nederland)** Contains extensive provisions for establishing a new fund to implement the state water plan and restructure the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). HB 4 also ensures that not less than 20% of the funding will support projects designed to conserve water or reuse it. The bill also requires that 10% of the funding support rural political subdivisions or agricultural water conservation projects.

**SCORED VOTE** House floor amendment #3 brought by Rep. Phil King to remove the 20% conservation requirement is a scored vote on the TLCV scorecard. **NO** is a "correct" vote. (No vote in the Senate.)

**2 SB 198: Drought Resistant Landscaping (Watson, D-Austin)** Prevents a Home Owners Association (HOA) from prohibiting or restricting property owners from using drought-tolerant landscaping or natural turf, but allows an HOA to require that the property owner submit a landscape plan to the HOA for review and approval. HOAs may not unreasonably deny approval of plans.

**SCORED VOTE** SB 198 is a scored Senate and House 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. **YES** is a "correct" vote.

**HB 857: Water Audits (Lucio III, D-Brownsville)** Requires each retail public

water utility with more than 3300 connections to conduct a water audit annually to determine its water loss, and to submit that audit to the Texas Water Development Board. This will help ensure that utilities track this information about their systems to pinpoint infrastructure needs.

**HB 2781: Rainwater Harvesting (Fletcher, R-Tomball)** Amends the government code by requiring that on-site reclaimed system technologies including rainwater harvesting for potable and non-potable indoor and outdoor water use be put into the design and construction of certain buildings. These buildings include each new state building with a roof area measuring at least 10,000 square feet in drought-prone areas and new state building with a roof area measuring at least 50,000 square feet that is located in an area of this state where the average annual rainfall is at least 20 inches.

**HB 3605: Water Loss (Burnam, D-Fort Worth)** Requires a public water utility receiving financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to use a portion of that funding to repair their systems to reduce water loss if their system loss meets or exceeds a threshold established by TWDB. HB 3605 also requires the TWDB to evaluate a utility's water conservation plan for compliance with TWDB's Best Management Practices for water conservation when evaluating an application for financial assistance.



## Clean Energy

**3 SB 385: Clean Energy Financing (Carona, R-Dallas)** Allows municipalities and other local political subdivisions to create local Property Assessed Clean Energy Districts in order to make low-interest loans for energy efficiency, clean energy and water conservation projects in commercial and industrial buildings. Introduced as a pilot program in 2008, PACE has quickly gained a foothold across the country as a means to expand the use of clean energy and energy efficiency. Today, 31 states and the District of Columbia have adopted legislation that enables local governments to offer PACE benefits to building owners.

**SCORED VOTE** SB 385 is a scored Senate and House 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. **YES** is a “correct” vote.

**4 SB 1727: Emission Reduction (Deuell, R-Greenville)** Assures the Texas Emission Reduction Program (TERP) will continue through 2019, and provides new incentives for electric cars and renewable energy storage. Additionally, TERP funds can now be used to help reduce emissions by oil and gas operations and associated vehicles that are impacting air quality in urban areas near the Port of Houston.

**SCORED VOTE** SB 1727 is a scored Senate and House 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. Yes is a “correct” vote.

**5 HB 2859: Clean Vehicles (Hartless, R-Spring)** Texas’s Drive A Clean Machine Program provides funding for the replacement or repair of old, dirty vehicles. HB 2859 raises the ceiling on expenditures for the program to \$7 million statewide, up from \$5 million, in Texas counties that are in non-attainment with federal ozone standards.

**SCORED VOTE** HB 2859 is a scored Senate and House 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. **YES** is a “correct” vote.

**6 HB 2500: Solar Financing (Bohac, R-Houston)** Sets some limits on property tax valuation for large solar plants. HB 2500 also clarifies the methodology used to assess ad valorem taxes on solar energy property. Investors have lacked certainty with respect to the tax liability associated with solar projects in Texas, and this uncertainty has prevented investment in solar energy projects in the state, despite the fact that Texas is well suited for solar energy generation. HB 2500 removes ambiguity as to the assessment of ad valorem taxes on solar energy property.

**SCORED VOTE** HB 2500 is a scored Senate and House 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. **YES** is a “correct” vote.

**HB 2712: Energy Storage (Perez, D-Houston)** Energy storage is an emerging technology that can be utilized in ozone non-attainment areas as a means of reducing the emissions from large utility-scale generators. Because energy storage is emission free where it discharges, the storage facility can provide energy, while avoiding pollution issues generally associated with generation facilities. HB 2712 provides an economic incentive in the form of a property tax exemption for electric energy storage systems, including Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES), Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), or any other technology type including chemical, mechanical or thermal, when the energy storage system meets certain requirements.

**HB 3390: Clean Energy Development (Hilderbran, R-Kerrville)** Chapter 313, which allows local school districts to enter “limitation on appraised value” agreements with developers of certain types of projects, had been one of the most successful tools for

economic development ever adopted by the state. It had proven to be especially effective in support of wind generation projects. HB 3390 extends the provisions of Chapter 313 to Dec. 31, 2024, while simultaneously implementing provisions to increase state oversight of the program.

## Energy Efficiency

**7 SB 533: Cost Savings (Zaffirini, D-Laredo)** Amends the Education and Government Code to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to review any reports submitted to them that measure and verify cost savings to an institution of higher education under an energy savings performance contract. The Board must also periodically provide an analysis based on the reports that show the cost savings under the energy savings performance contract to the governing board of the institution of higher education and the Legislative Budget Board. This must be done until the governing board decides that the analysis is no longer needed to accurately measure cost savings. The bill also requires that the State Energy Conservation Office must do the same except that the analysis based on the reports will be submitted to and reviewed by the state agency and the Legislative Budget Board.

**SCORED VOTE** SB 533 is a scored Senate and House 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. Yes is a “correct” vote.

**8 SB 700: Efficiency Goals (Hegar, R-Katy)** All state entities are required to prepare reports related to utility conservation and management. Not all utility reporting requirements for state entities include water use and conservation as required elements. SB 700 requires that state agencies and universities set annual goals to conserve water, electricity and natural gas and report on their efforts, and seeks to create consistent energy savings reporting. SB 700 also requires the

State Energy Conservation Office to submit a biennial report to the legislature on the status and effectiveness of utility management and conservation efforts.

**SCORED VOTE** SB 700 is a scored Senate and House 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. **YES** is a “correct” vote.

**HB 1864: Cogeneration Evaluation (Wu, D-Houston)** A combined heating and power system is an energy efficient on-site energy system that will keep power on during and after a disaster or power outage. The Texas Legislature recently passed certain disaster preparedness and emergency management bills that included a requirement that a combined heating and power system evaluation be performed when constructing or extensively renovating certain critical governmental buildings and facilities. HB 1864 simplifies existing requirements and clarifies compliance in regard to a combined heating and power system evaluation.

**HB 2049: Cogeneration Use (Huberty, R-Houston)** Amends the Texas utilities code to be beneficial for the installation of cogeneration power equipment by defining that a qualifying co-generator that sells electricity to a purchaser of its thermal output is not considered a retail electric provider or a power generating company. HB 2049 also states that a qualifying co-generator has the ability to sell electrical energy at retail price to multiple buyers of thermal output, and that the capability to sell electrical energy at retail price does not subject them to the titles of a retail electric provider, power generation company or a retail electric utility.

## Global Warming and Climate

**9 HB-788, House Amendment #2: Global Warming (C. Turner, D-Arlington)** This bill by Rep. Wayne Smith was a mixed-bag in terms of environmental policy. The signature accomplishment of the legisla-

tion is to transfer the issuance of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) permits from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Proponents of the bill argued that the TCEQ is much better positioned to process applications for and issue these permits as they are significantly better staffed to do this than EPA Region 6. A negative aspect of the legislation is that it prohibits bringing Contested Case Hearings on GHG permits issued by TCEQ. A committee substitute also saddled the bill with a bad amendment, which removed 20-year-old language in statute granting TCEQ the authority to regulate emissions in relation to global warming. This language was restored in the Senate, and adopted in the final version of the bill.

**SCORED VOTE** The TLCV Scorecard scores a vote on an amendment by Rep. Chris Turner to preserve the global warming statute language in the House. **YES** is the “correct” vote. (No vote in the Senate.)

## Oil and Gas Regulation

**10 SB 219, House Amendment #2: Resign to Run (D. Bonnen, R-Angleton)** This amendment would have provided that if a sitting railroad commissioner announces his or her candidacy, or in fact becomes a candidate, in any general, special or primary election for any elective office other than the office of railroad commissioner, that announcement or that candidacy constitutes an automatic resignation of the office of railroad commissioner. This is a commonsense measure that prevents conflicts of interest in Railroad Commissioners soliciting campaign contributions from the oil and gas companies they are elected to regulate.

**SCORED VOTE** The adoption of the resign-to-run Bonnen amendment is scored on the TLCV Scorecard as an amendment vote in the House and a concurrence vote in the Senate. **YES** is the “correct” vote.

**11 SB 514: Saltwater Pipelines (W. Davis, D-Fort Worth)** Gives a saltwater pipeline operator the right to install, maintain and operate a saltwater pipeline facility through, under, along, across or over a public road under certain conditions. The saltwater pipeline must adhere to rules put in place by the Texas Transportation Commission and applicable county and municipal regulations regarding the accommodation of utility facilities on a public road or right-of-way, including regulations relating to the horizontal or vertical placement of the pipeline facility. The operator must make sure that public road and associated facilities are quickly restored to their former condition after the installation or maintenance of the pipeline facility is complete.

**SCORED VOTE** SB 514 is a scored Senate and House 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. **YES** is a “correct” vote.

**12 SB 873: Fracking Water Permits (Hegar, R-Katy)** Chapter 36 of the Texas Constitution authorizes the creation of groundwater conservation districts to manage and conserve groundwater. Chapter 36 does not speak to the permitting requirement for an oil and gas well engaged in hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking”, and this water intensive practice was never contemplated when Chapter 36 was created. The large amount of water required for fracking, roughly four million to six million gallons of water per well, has drawn scrutiny, especially as drilling proliferates in arid parts of West and South Texas. As proposed, SB 873 would have allowed groundwater conservation districts to require a permit for the drilling or operation of a water well used to supply water for the performance of a hydraulic fracturing treatment on an oil or gas well. SB 873 passed the Senate and was left pending in the House Natural Resources Committee.

**SCORED VOTE** SB 873 is a scored 3rd Reading

vote in the Senate. **YES** is the “correct” vote. (No vote in the House.)

**13 SB 900: Pipeline Penalties (Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay)** The administrative, civil and criminal penalty amounts for violations of the state’s pipeline safety statutes and rules have not changed since 1983. Annual federal audits of the Railroad Commission’s pipeline safety program take into account whether the state’s penalty amounts match those imposed under federal law. Due to the enactment of the federal Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty and Job Creation Act of 2011, the federal penalty amounts are now \$200,000 per violation; with each day a violation continues being a separate violation, whereas the current Texas penalty amounts are \$10,000 per violation per day. SB 900 brings statutory penalties for pipelines in Texas into line with federal law.

**SCORED VOTE** SB 900 is a scored Senate and House 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. **YES** is a “correct” vote.

**14 HB 2982: Gathering Lines (Kefffer, R-Eastland)** Deals with the transport of hazardous liquids, carbon dioxide and natural gas in rural areas through pipelines. HB 2982 places the Railroad Commission in charge of the safety standards for intrastate transportation of these materials and pipeline facilities. These safety standards will include the prevention of damage to a facility from the movement of earth by a person in the vicinity of the facility. The commission will also require the operators or designated representatives of the operators of these facilities to communicate and meet with all appropriate public emergency response officials.

**SCORED VOTE** HB 2982 is a scored Senate and House 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. **YES** is a “correct” vote.

**SB 901 (Fraser)** provides general safety standards for oil and gas pipelines.

**HB 2767 (Phil King)** encourages water recycling in fracking.

**HB 3309 (Crownover)** provides additional funding for the oil and gas regulation fund.

## **Parks and Wildlife**

**HB 1241: Non-Native Invasive Species (Guillen, D-Rio Grande City)** Texas faces an increasing problem of rapidly proliferating harmful aquatic species spreading through the transport of water in livewells, cooling systems or other intake systems of boats that are operated on infested waters and subsequently operated on unaffected waters. This bill allows the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to adopt statewide rules regarding the inspection of water contained in a boat that could be carrying non-native invasive species.

**HB 3279: Coastal Seagrass (Morrison, R-Victoria)** Seagrass meadows play an important ecological role in a coastal environment. Resource managers, coastal scientists and environmentalists have expressed concerns about detrimental impacts of certain boating activities to this important shallow-water habitat. HB 3279 prohibits the uprooting of coastal seagrass plants.

## **Farm to Table**

**HB 970: Cottage Foods (E. Rodriguez, D-Austin)** Cottage foods are limited by the scope of where vendors are allowed to sell their products, and what products they may sell. Additionally, such operations can be shut down by zoning regulations. HB 970 expands the Cottage Foods law to include a wider range of safe foods. For example, among the items that will be added are: popcorn, nut butters and roasted coffee. This bill also removes the restriction that the sale occur at the person’s home, allowing the seller and

buyer to connect at farmers' market or other locations. Last, the bill recognizes that cottage food operations are home-based businesses, and are properly classified as "ancillary uses" under zoning ordinances.

**HB 1382: Farmers Markets (Simpson, R-Longview)** Current regulations for food sampling are based on commercial brick-and-mortar facilities. These regulations, meant for commercial enterprises, pose unnecessary challenges for farmers and food producers at local farmers' markets. HB 1382 simplifies provisions in the Health and Safety Code, making them more appropriate for farmers' market venues and applies them to all farmers' markets and farm stands. The language sets up clear, uniform standards for sampling that are achievable in an outdoor setting, and which help close the possibility for the misinterpretation of and/or implementation of unnecessary or irrelevant rules and regulations.

## **BAD LEGISLATION**

### **Public Participation and Notice**

**SB 957: Contested Case Hearings (Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay)** Would have dramatically altered the way the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) handles certain permits and the judicial and administrative review process for those permits. The bill would have shifted the burden of proof on permits to the public, limited public input and restricted evidentiary hearings. An early version of the bill even went so far as to bypass the Travis County District Courts and send lawsuits following Contested Case Hearings directly to the Texas Third Court of Appeals. This highly controversial bill eventually passed out of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, but never came up for a vote on the Senate floor.

**HB 1714: Compliance History (W. Smith, R-Houston)** Would have ended a

program at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to inform the public as to which companies doing business in Texas do not have good environmental compliance records. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has for the last decade provided "compliance history" regulations that generate a score for each regulated facility in the state based generally on the number and severity of violations the facilities have faced through environmental enforcement actions. TCEQ uses these scores as a public "report card" for regulated entities, as well as in decisions regarding the issuance, renewal, amendment, modification, denial, suspension or revocation of permits, enforcement, the use of announced inspections and participation in innovative or voluntary programs. The bill died on the House Calendar.

**Ending Public Notice:** an abundance of bills were filed during the session which would have taken published public notice out of newspapers and given control over the notice publication to local governments. These changes to the public notice laws would have resulted in reduced transparency, fewer open government protections, and less oversight. Thanks to the effort of a well-organized coalition, Keep Texas Notified, none of these bills made it far in the legislative process.

### **Local Control**

**HB 3117 and HB 3119: Environmental Lawsuits (Burkett, R-Mesquite)** Would have severely restricted the ability of Texas cities to participate in environmental decision-making by granting sweeping new powers to the Texas Attorney General to settle environmental lawsuits and prohibiting cities from entering into contingency fee contracts with attorneys on environmental cases. These measures were left pending in the House Environmental Regulation Committee where, after a spirited debate, Chairwoman Patricia Harless announced that even her Sunday

School teacher had contacted her to express concerns about one of the bills.

**HB 1496: Hydraulic Fracturing Siting (Taylor, R- Plano)** Would restrict a municipality's ability to impose restrictions on hydraulic fracturing to protect public safety by adding any interest in an oil or natural gas well to the definition of private real property. There are bad public policy ideas, and then there are really bad ones such as HB 1496. The bill was left pending in the House Land and Resource Management Committee.

**HB 2828: Pipeline Safety (Dale, R-Cedar Park)** Would have taken away the very limited powers Texas cities currently have to regulate pipelines within their city limits for the purposes of health, safety and aesthetics. The bill was heard in the House Environmental Regulation Committee but never came up for a vote.

**HB 1377: Anti-Tree Bill (Kolkorst, R-Brenham)** Restricts the ability of municipal governments from exercising common sense controls over the clearing of trees in land development. Some version of this bill has surfaced in past sessions. A main intent of the bill is to nullify San Antonio's extraterritorial-jurisdiction ordinances, which protect canopy cover over the sensitive Edwards Aquifer. The bill passed out of the House Land and Resource Committee but failed to make it to the House floor.

**SB 1919 and SB 1918: Conservation Easements and Development (Campbell, R-New Braunfels)** SB 1919 would have watered-down of conservation easement requirements by requiring that only 55% of surface land be set aside for protection. SB 1918 would have allowed the state to override local ordinances allowing for the expiration of development permits, which raised concerns from environmental groups about aquifer

protection. The bills were filed extremely late into the session and never had a hearing.

**HB 2416: Plastic Bags (Springer, R-Muenster)** The so-called "Shopping Bag Freedom Act" would have banned any municipal single-use bag bans. The bill generated some ink and broadcast airtime for Rep. Springer, but little more. The legislation passed out of committee but didn't make it to the House floor.

## **Uranium Mining and Radioactive Waste**

**SB 347: West Texas Waste Dump (Seligler, R-Amarillo)** Greatly expanded the capacity of the West Texas Radioactive Waste Dump to take highly radioactive class B and C waste. The bill represents bad public policy because it abandons the original intent of the facility to take class A waste from Texas generators, encouraging them instead to ship Class-A waste to out-of-state facilities at higher cost. The bill also did not contain adequate safety provisions for shipping this waste to and storing it at the facility. And in what has become something of an every-session pageant and what Rep. Lon Burnam has called "the biggest vendor bill of the session" the bill calls for a study on further increasing the total amount of waste that can be stored at the site. Look for this issue to be back again and again so long as Waste Control Specialists's Harold Simmons remains a top political contributor in the state.

**15 HB 1079: Production Area Authorizations (W. Smith, R-Baytown)** Ended meaningful Contested Case Hearings on production area authorization permits for Uranium Mining. Production area authorizations are specific uranium mining sites within a larger area permit granted by the Texas Commission Environmental Quality. The bill also eliminates the issue of the proper location and depth of monitoring wells around a production from the hearing process. This bill

undid a bi-partisan compromise reached in 2007 on this type of mining, which can have significant impacts on water quality. While a similar bill, SB 434 by Hancock, was stalled in the Senate, HB 1079 made it to the Governor's desk and was signed into law.

**SCORED VOTE** HB 1079 is a scored Senate and House 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. **NO** is a "correct" vote.

## Clean Energy

**HB 2026: RPS Repeal (Sanford, R-McKinney)** This bill was an outright attack on clean energy that would have terminated the renewable energy credits trading program and repealed the State's highly successful Renewable Portfolio Standard. The bill had a very rocky hearing in House State Affairs, where it was even opposed by the Association of Electric Companies of Texas. HB 2026 was an American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) style bill, a type introduced in state legislatures across the country in 2013. Like those other bills, HB 2026 did not pass.

**HB 2338: Solar Panel Ban (Parker, R-Flower Mound)** Would have empowered Home Owners Associations to impose numerous restrictions on the installation of solar panels. As Texas faces a growing water and energy crisis, this was one of the most counter-productive bills for climate and clean energy filed during the session. It was left pending in committee.

**HB 605: Wind Turbine Siting (Lozano, R-Kingsville)** Was a "solution in search of a problem" bill that would have granted counties authority to place restrictions on wind farms that could pose a hazard to air traffic. The existing Federal Aviation Administration process on siting is strenuous, and is done in consultation with the Department of Defense. Counties imposing such restrictions arbitrarily is unnecessary, and assumes that local

governments have expertise that they do not. It also takes away the development opportunities that landowners in wind-rich gulf cost counties have. The bill failed to make it to the House floor.

## Environmental Regulation

**16 SB 467: Rule Analysis (Hegar, R-Katy)** Aptly named the "paralysis by analysis" bill, would have burdened the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality with unnecessary and cumbersome environmental analysis whenever considering a new rule. A particularly troubling outcome of this bill would have been discouraging the TCEQ from



implementing new common-sense regulations for oil and gas development in Texas's busy shale plays. The bill passed the Senate, but failed on a vote of the House Environmental Regulation Committee.

**SCORED VOTE** SB 467 is a scored Senate 3rd Reading vote on the TLCV Scorecard. **NO** is a "correct" vote. (No vote in the House.)

**HB 824: Sewage Spills (Callegari, R-Katy)** Earned the nickname the "potty bill" because it would have granted wastewater treatment facilities an exemption from reporting spills of less than 1,500 gallons to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and, consequently, the public. The bill passed in the House but thankfully did not advance past a committee hearing in the Senate.

## BEST AND WORST LEGISLATORS

### BEST

#### Rep. Jim Keffer (R-Eastland)

Once again, the veteran Chairman of the House Energy Resources Committee showed strong leadership and a steady hand on critical environmental issues of the session including Sunset Review of the Public Utility Commission and Railroad Commission. Rep. Keffer also passed two important pieces of legislation – a bill to bring the PACE clean energy program to Texas, and a bill to improve safety standards for gathering lines in rural areas.



#### Sen. Robert Duncan (R-Lubbock)

While most of Sen. Duncan's efforts took place without fanfare, he none the less played a critical role during session in making sure legislation didn't trample the rights of Texans to protect their property and challenge the permits of polluters. In particular, Sen. Duncan significantly improved a bill dealing with the West Texas Radioactive Waste Dump, and opposed a piece of legislation to gut the Contested Case Hearing process in Texas.



#### Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen)

Sen. Hinojosa played many different important roles throughout the session for the cause of conservation. This ranged from being a leader in the budget conference committee in restoring critical funding for state park programs; adding back language to HB 788 giving Texas the authority to regulate carbon pollution as a response to global warming; and attempting to improve Gulf of Mexico habitat through a measure on shark-finning which fell short in the Senate.



#### Sen. Kirk Watson (D-Austin)

Once again, Sen. Kirk Watson reprised his role as environmental champion, earning an A on the TCLV scorecard and passing an important piece of legislation on Home Owners Associations and drought-resistant landscaping. Sen. Watson also played a vital role behind the scenes and on the Senate floor, where he worked to ensure the best possible outcomes for environmental legislation that came to the Senate floor.



#### Rep. Lon Burnam (D-Fort Worth)

Rep. Lon Burnam reprised his role as Environmental Advocate-in-Chief in the Texas House. Rep. Burnam worked to improve legislation or call out polluter-backed bills in the House Energy Resources Committee and on the House Floor. Rep. Burnam also passed an important piece of legislation, HB 3605, regarding water loss at water utilities.



### HONORABLE MENTION

#### Sen. Tommy Williams (R-Woodlands) & Rep. Jim Pitts (R-Waxahachie)

For leading a budget process which resulted in dramatically improved outcomes for state parks, clean air programs and science education in the classroom over the 2011 budget.

#### Rep. Dawnna Dukes (D-Austin)

For navigating the Home Owners Association drought-resistant landscaping bill through a challenging vote in the House and introducing other common-sense legislation including making permanent the position of the Texas State Climatologist.

#### Rep. Mary Gonzalez (D-Clint)

May have held the session record for good-



environmental bills filed that were derailed by industry, including a retail electronic collection bill and a neighbor-notification law on hydraulic fracturing.

### **Sen. Wendy Davis (D-Fort Worth)**

Sen. Davis was an important leader on the Senate floor on environmental issues relating to public health and safety, as well as passing an important bill to allow access for the installation, maintenance and operation of saltwater pipelines placed along public roadways.

## **WORST**

### **Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-No. Richland Hills)**

Sen. Hancock lived up to his reputation as an anti-environment crusader once again in the 2013 Legislative Session. He received the lowest score of any Senator on the TLCV scorecard; sponsored a bad bill limiting citizen challenges to uranium mining; carried another bill sticking cities with the tab for highway billboard relocation, which was opposed by Scenic Texas; and allowed an amendment to be added to an otherwise innocuous bill dealing with TCEQ that would have granted sweeping immunity in cases involving leaking underground storage tanks and pipelines. This year, we are only giving out one “worst legislator” award, as Senator Hancock stood head and shoulders above the field.

## **DISHONORABLE MENTION**

### **Rep. Wayne Smith (R-Baytown)**

No longer chair of the House Environmental Regulation Committee, Rep. Smith had a mixed session with a decent voting record, a good bill on expanding the use of drayage trucks at Texas ports, and a decent bill to turn over issuance of Greenhouse Gas Permits to Texas regulators. But he earns the dishonorable mention for his sponsorship of a bad uranium mining bill that passed into law and his attempt, even after the tragic events of West, Texas, to end a Compliance History

program at TCEQ, which provides the public with information on companies with poor safety records. Smith’s Compliance History bill failed to pass the House for the first time in years after it died on the House calendar.

### **Reps Scott Sanford (R-McKinney) and Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound)**

For failing the TLCV Scorecard and pushing legislation to take Texas backward on clean energy and climate.

### **Reps Tony Dale (R-Cedar Park) and Van Taylor (R-Plano)**

For failing the TLCV scorecard and filing misguided pieces of legislation to hamstring Texas cities on implementing common-sense regulations on oil and gas production.

## **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER**

### **Rep. Dennis Bonnen (R-Angleton)**

The new House Speaker Pro Tem has in past sessions clashed with conservation groups and introduced dangerous bills or amendments on environmental regulation. This session, Rep. Bonnen avoided similar drama but more importantly worked to improve ethics regulations at the Railroad Commission and how Texas handles endangered species protection. We hope to have similarly constructive and engaging sessions with the Speaker Pro Tem in future years.

## **A SAD FAREWELL...**

...to former **Rep. Mark Strama (D-Austin)**. Rep Strama was a trustworthy fighter at the Capitol for clean energy, working hard session after session to move the ball forward on solar schools, netmetering and expanding the state’s renewable portfolio standard. He departs the Texas Legislature to return to his high-tech roots and take over Google Fiber in Austin. His environmental leadership and determination in the Texas House will be missed.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SCORECARD

+ indicates **good** vote

- indicates **bad** vote

For more detailed vote explanations, see pages 6-13.

TCLV favored NO votes on votes 9 and 15, YES on all others

Member (District)	Score	Grade	Water Conservation	Drought-Resistant L'scaping	Clean Energy Financing	Clean Air	Clean Vehicles	Solar Valuation	Energy-Saving Contracts	Water Planning	Global Warming	Resign to Run	Salt Water Pipelines	Pipeline Fines	Gathering Lines	Uranium Mining
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15
Allen, Alma (D-131)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Alonzo, Roberto (D-104)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Alvarado, Carol (D-145)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
Anchia, Rafael (D-103)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Anderson, Charles "Doc" (R-56)	69%	D+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	AB	+	+	-
Ashby, Trent (R-57)	79%	C+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Aycock, Jimmie Don (R-54)	64%	D	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Bell Jr., Cecil (R-3)	62%	D-	PNV	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Bohac, Dwayne (R-138)	71%	C-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Bonnen, Dennis (R-25)	63%	D-	+	-	Chair	-	+	Chair	Chair	Chair	-	+	Chair	+	+	Chair
Bonnen, Greg (R-24)	50%	F	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Branch, Dan (R-108)	62%	D-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	EA	+	-
Burkett, Cindy (R-113)	64%	D	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Burnam, Lon (D-90)	100%	A+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Button, Angie Chen (R-112)	57%	F	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Callegari, William "Bill" (R-132)	71%	C-	+	+	+	+	+	AB	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Canales, Terry (D-40)	100%	A+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Capriglione, Giovanni (R-98)	50%	F	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Carter, Stefani (R-102)	69%	D+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	EA	+	-
Clardy, Travis (R-11)	77%	C+	+	+	+	+	-	EA	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Coleman, Garnet (D-147)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
Collier, Nicole (D-95)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Cook, Byron (R-8)	71%	C-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Cortez, Philip (D-117)	79%	C+	AB	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	AB	+	-
Craddick, Tom (R-82)	64%	D	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Creighton, Brandon (R-16)	57%	F	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Crownover, Myra (R-64)	62%	D-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	EA	+	+	-
Dale, Tony (R-136)	57%	F	+	-	+	+	+	AB	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Darby, Drew (R-72)	62%	D-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	EA	+	+	-
Davis, John (R-129)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Davis, Sarah (R-134)	71%	C-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Davis, Yvonne (D-111)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
Deshotel, Joseph (D-22)	86%	B	AB	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Dukes, Dawna (D-46)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	AB
Dutton Jr., Harold (D-142)	86%	B	+	+	+	AB	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Eiland, Craig (D-23)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
Elkins, Gary (R-135)	64%	D	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	AB	+	-
Fallon, Pat (R-106)	25%	F	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	AB	EA	EA	+	-
Farias, Joe (D-118)	100%	A+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

**AB:** Absent **EA:** Excused absence **PNV:** Present, not voting **Chair:** Presiding, not voting

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SCORECARD

+ indicates **good** vote

- indicates **bad** vote

For more detailed vote explanations, see pages 6-13.

TCLV favored NO votes on votes 9 and 15, YES on all others

Member (District)	Score	Grade	Water Conservation	Drought-Resistant Lscaping	Clean Energy Financing	Clean Air	Clean Vehicles	Solar Valuation	Energy-Saving Contracts	Water Planning	Global Warming	Resign to Run	Salt Water Pipelines	Pipeline Fines	Gathering Lines	Uranium Mining
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15
Farney, Marsha (R-20)	79%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Farrar, Jessica (D-148)	92%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	+	+	+	-
Fletcher, Allen (R-130)	71%	C-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Flynn, Dan (R-2)	64%	D	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Frank, James (R-69)	50%	F	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Fruzzo, John (R-84)	71%	C-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Geren, Charlie (R-99)	83%	B-	+	+	+	Chair	Chair	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Giddings, Helen (D-109)	78%	C+	+	+	EA	+	EA	EA	+	PNV	+	-	EA	+	+	-
Goldman, Craig (R-97)	43%	F	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	AB	+	+	-
Gonzales, Larry (R-52)	57%	F	-	+	+	+	+	AB	+	-	-	+	+	AB	+	-
Gonzalez, Mary (D-75)	100%	A+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Gonzalez, Naomi (D-76)	100%	A+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Gooden, Lance (R-4)	64%	D	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	AB
Guerra, Robert (D-41)	92%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Guillen, Ryan (D-31)	92%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	+	+	+	-
Gutierrez, Roland (D-119)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	AB
Harless, Patricia (R-126)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Harper-Brown, Linda (R-105)	64%	D	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	AB	+	+	+	-
Hernandez Luna, Ana (D-143)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Herrero, Abel (D-34)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Hilderbran, Harvey (R-53)	75%	C	+	-	+	+	EA	+	+	+	-	PNV	+	+	+	-
Howard, Donna (48)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Huberty, Dan (R-127)	79%	C+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Hughes, Bryan (R-5)	50%	F	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Hunter, Todd (R-32)	79%	C+	+	+	+	AB	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Isaac, Jason (R-45)	64%	D	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Johnson, Eric (D-100)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	AB	+	-
Kacal, Kyle (R-12)	92%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	+	+	+	-
Keffer, James "Jim" (R-60)	79%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	AB	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
King, Ken (R-88)	79%	C+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
King, Phil (R-61)	69%	D+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	EA	+	-
King, Susan (R-71)	64%	D	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	AB	-	AB	+	+	AB
King, Tracy (D-80)	79%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Kleinschmidt, Tim (R-17)	64%	D	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Klick, Stephanie (R-91)	43%	F	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Kolkhorst, Lois (R-13)	71%	C-	+	AB	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Krause, Matt (R-91)	50%	F	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Kuempel, John (R-44)	64%	D	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Larson, Lyle (R-122)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SCORECARD

+ indicates **good** vote

- indicates **bad** vote

For more detailed vote explanations, see pages 6-13.

TCLV favored NO votes on votes 9 and 15, YES on all others

Water Conservation  
Drought-Resistant Escaping  
Clean Energy Financing  
Clean Air  
Clean Vehicles  
Solar Valuation  
Energy-Saving Contracts  
Water Planning  
Global Warming  
Resign to Run  
Salt Water Pipelines  
Pipeline Fines  
Gathering Lines  
Uranium Mining

Member (District)	Score	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15
Laubenberg, Jodie (R-89)	62%	D-	-	-	+	+	-	AB	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	EA
Lavender, George (R-1)	50%	F	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Leach, Jeff (R-67)	64%	D	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Lewis, Tyron (R-81)	64%	D	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Longoria, Oscar (D-35)	77%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	AB	-	+	+	+	+	-
Lozano, J.M. (R-43)	79%	C+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Lucio III, Eddie (D-38)	92%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	+	EA	+	+	+	+	-
Márquez, Marisa (D-77)	100%	A+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	+	+	+	+	Chair	+	+
Martinez, Armando (D-39)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Martinez Fischer, Trey (D-116)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
McClendon, Ruth Jones (D-120)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Menendez, Jose (D-124)	92%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	+	+	-
Miles, Borris (D-146)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Miller, Doug (R-73)	57%	F	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	AB	-	AB	+	+	+	-
Miller, Rick (R-26)	71%	C-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Moody, Joe (D-78)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Morrison, Geanie (R-30)	79%	C+	AB	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+
Munoz Jr., Sergio (D-36)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Murphy, Jim (R-133)	79%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Naishtat, Elliott (D-49)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Nevarez, Poncho (D-74)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	AB
Oliveira, Rene (D-37)	100%	A+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	+	+	+	+
Orr, Rob (R-58)	83%	B-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	-	+	EA	+	+	-
Otto, John (R-18)	77%	C-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	EA	+	+	-
Paddie, Chris (R-9)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Parker, Tan (R-63)	50%	F	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Patrick, Diane (R-94)	64%	D	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	AB	-	-	+	+	+	-
Perez, May Ann (D-144)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Perry, Charles (R-83)	50%	F	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Phillips, Larry (R-62)	50%	F	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Pickett, Joseph "Joe" (D-79)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	AB	+	+	+	-
Pitts, Jim (R-10)	73%	C-	+	+	+	+	EA	+	+	EA	-	AB	EA	+	+	-
Price, Four (R-87)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Raney, John (R-14)	71%	C-	+	+	+	+	+	AB	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Ratliff, Bennett (R-115)	71%	C-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Raymond, Richard Pena (D-42)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Reynolds, Ron (D-27)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
Riddle, Debbie (R-150)	71%	C-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Ritter, Allen (R-21)	79%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	AB	+	-

**AB:** Absent **EA:** Excused absence **PNV:** Present, not voting **Chair:** Presiding, not voting

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SCORECARD

+ indicates **good** vote

- indicates **bad** vote

For more detailed vote explanations, see pages 6-13.

TCLV favored NO votes on votes 9 and 15, YES on all others

Water Conservation  
Drought-Resistant Lscaping  
Clean Energy Financing  
Clean Air  
Clean Vehicles  
Solar Valuation  
Energy-Saving Contracts  
Water Planning  
Global Warming  
Resign to Run  
Salt Water Pipelines  
Pipeline Fines  
Gathering Lines  
Uranium Mining

Member (District)	Score	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15
Rodriguez, Eddie (D-51)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Rodriguez, Justin (D-125)	100%	A+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Rose, Toni (D-110)	79%	C+	+	AB	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
Sanford, Scott (R-70)	46%	F	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	PNV	+	+	+	-
Schaefer, Matt (R-6)	36%	F	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-
Sheets, Kenneth (R-107)	79%	C+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Sheffield, J.D. (R-59)	79%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	AB	+	-
Sheffield, Ralph (R-55)	57%	F	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Simmons, Ron (R-65)	50%	F	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Simpson, David (R-7)	57%	F	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Smith, Wayne (R-128)	79%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Smithee, John (R-86)	64%	D	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
Springer Jr., Drew (R-68)	43%	F	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-
Stephenson, Phil (R-85)	71%	C-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Stickland, Jonathan (R-92)	38%	F	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	EA	-	+	-	+	-
Strama, Mark (D-Austin)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
Straus, Joe (R-121) (Speaker)	n/a	n/a	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair
Taylor, Van (R-66)	43%	F	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Thompson, Ed (R-29)	71%	C-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Thompson, Senfronia (D-141)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
Toth, Steve (R-15)	57%	F	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Turner Chris (D-101)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Turner, Scott (R-33)	58%	F	-	EA	+	-	-	+	EA	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Turner, Sylvester (D-139)	85%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	EA	+	+	-
Villalba, Jason (R-114)	57%	F	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Villarreal, Mike (D-123)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Vo, Hubert (D-149)	92%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	EA	+	+	EA	+	+	-
Walle, Armando (D-140)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
White, James (R-12)	50%	F	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	AB	+	+	-
Workman, Paul (R-47)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
Wu, Gene (D-137)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Zedler, William "Bill" (R-96)	50%	F	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Zerwas, John (R-28)	77%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	EA	+	+	-

# SENATE SCORECARD

⊕ indicates **good** vote

⊖ indicates **bad** vote

For more detailed vote explanations, see pages 6-13.

TCLV favored NO votes on votes 15 and 16, YES on all others

Senator (District)	Score	Grade	Drought-Resistant Escaping	Clean Energy Financing	Clean Air	Clean Vehicles	Solar Valuation	Energy-Saving Contracts	Water Planning	Resign to Run	Salt Water Pipelines	Frack Water Permits	Pipeline Fines	Gathering Lines	Uranium Mining	Rule Analysis
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Birdwell, Brian (R-22)	92%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	EA
Campbell, Donna (R-25)	71%	C-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-
Carona, John (R-16)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Davis, Wendy (D-10)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Deuell, Robert "Bob" (R-2)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Duncan, Robert (R-28)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Ellis, Rodney (D-13)	100%	A+	+	EA	+	+	+	EA	EA	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Eltife, Kevin (R-1)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Estes, Craig (R-30)	79%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-
Fraser, Troy (R-24)	83%	B-	+	+	PNV	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-
Garcia, Sylvia (D-6)	100%	A+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hancock, Kelly (R-9)	64%	D	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Hegar Jr., Glenn (R-18)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" (D-20)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Huffman, Joan (R-17)	79%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-
Lucio Jr., Eddie (D-27)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Nelson, Jane (R-12)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Nichols, Robert (R-3)	79%	C+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-
Patrick, Dan (R-7)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Paxton, Ken (R-8)	79%	C+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Rodriguez, Jose (D-29)	100%	A+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Schwertner, Charles (R-5)	71%	C-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Seliger, Kel (R-31)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+
Taylor, Larry (R-11)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Uresti, Carlos (D-19)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
Van de Putte, Leticia (D-26)	85%	B	EA	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Watson, Kirk (D-14)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
West, Royce (D-23)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Whitmire, John (D-15)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Williams, Tommy (R-4)	86%	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Zaffirini, Judith (D-21)	93%	A-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+

**EA:** Excused absence **PNV:** Present, not voting



Texas League of Conservation Voters  
815 Brazos Street, Suite 710  
Austin, TX 78701


Phone (512) 477-4424 / Fax (512) 477-6555

David Weinberg, Executive Director

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

 Follow @TLCV

 Like TLCV on Facebook

 Printed on recycled paper.