



CAPITOL Action Report

Special Session 8/14/17

The real reasons for the special session, the Sunset bills that will keep several state agencies running - such as the Texas Medical Board - are working their way through the legislative process.

Some Special Session issues the League is covering are working their way through the legislative process and others are still up in the air at this time.



Equal Opportunity:

Google Amber Briggie, the LWV-TX Equal Opportunity Issue Chair, to see her fight bathroom bills. There is lots of opposition to the bathroom bills from major businesses. And yet, the Senate has passed a bathroom bill. We hope the House continues to stand strong in opposition.

If you have not e-mailed your Representative, now is the time to do so. Click on the image to the left of **HERE** to send an email to your representative letting them know you do not support discrimination.

Other League Special Session Issues:

Women's Health: We are thrilled that bills we supported concerning a Task Force on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity have passed both the House and the Senate.

We are disappointed that the following bills, which we opposed, have now passed both the House and Senate:

HB 214 /SB 8 that prohibits health plans from covering elective abortions

HB 13/SB10 Abortion reporting requirements bills

Land Use: There is no need for any Action Alerts at this time.

"The week of Aug 7-13 has been a roller-coaster ride for tree ordinances, but bad bills seem to be contained now. We remain vigilant and will send an alert if your voice is needed before the end of the Special Session, midnight Wed, 8/18. Thank you for your persistence!"

Jensie Madden, Land Use Issue Chair

For details about tree ordinance and other Land Use bills click [HERE](#).

Public Education: The Senate is reviewing HB 21, the House' school finance bill as we write this update. We are so proud of our House legislators who stood with Texas public schools against vouchers. No voucher amendments were attached to the school finance bill HB 21 in the House.

Voting Rights & Election Laws: SB 5 is headed to the Governor's Desk. It increases mail-in ballot abuse penalties and broadens the definition of mail-in ballot fraud. Remarkably it takes a 180-degree turn on the handling of mail-in ballots in nursing homes and other residential facilities. Those provisions were to be law Sept. 1, 2017, and now are eliminated on that date. The remainder of SB 5 becomes law Dec. 1, 2017.

[Donate Now!](#)

For more information contact LWV-TX at lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org or 512-472-1100