



CAPITOL Action Report

*Empowering all Texans to engage
in a more responsible and responsive democracy*

Texas Actions for the Week!

Today, Monday, May 8 is the last day for a house committee to send a house bill or house joint resolution to get on the house calendar! May 29, 2017 is the last day of the session!

Bills live & die during this desperate time at the Texas Capitol! Take Action Now!

Women's Health

[CLICK HERE TO STOP THESE 3 BAD WOMEN'S HEALTH BILLS!](#)

SB 25 has already passed in the Senate has been reported favorably from the House State Affairs Committee and sent to the House Calendars Committee. SB 25 is the companion bill to HB 434 has also passed out of House State Affairs and been sent to Calendars. These "liar's bills" eliminate the "wrongful birth" cause of action and allow health professionals to withhold information from patients about the health of the fetus.

HB 35 requires burial or cremation of fetal tissue is still pending in the Calendars Committee.

[CLICK HERE TO MOVE A GOOD WOMEN'S HEALTH BILL FORWARD!](#)

HB 1373 enables teenage mothers 15 years or older to consent to examination and treatment relating to contraception.

Payday Lending

Call today! **[CLICK HERE TO PREVENT ABUSIVE PAYDAY LENDING!](#)**

We MUST stop HB 3081 from being placed on the House Calendar

HB 3081 would expand abusive payday lending and erase the hard-fought local protections in more than 40 Texas cities.

Land Use

CLICK HERE TO **[SUPPORT YOUR TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE!!](#)**

State parks are vital to our state's economy, to preserving Texas history and culture, and to providing experiences with Texas natural areas for children and families. Tell State Budget Conference Committee to increase TPWD funding to \$313.5 million, which is 94% of the Sports Goods Sales Tax, as legislated in

2015.

Also, Ask your Representative to vote YES on HB 3036 (up for vote on Tuesday!) This bill will stop the direct discharge of treated domestic wastewater into creeks and streams over the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone. [**CLICK HERE to KEEP TEXAS HILL COUNTRY WATER CLEAN!**](#)

If you haven't already, it takes only a moment to make a difference on previous actions!

Gun Safety

[**CLICK HERE TO SAY NO TO UNLICENSED CARRYING OF GUNS IN TEXAS!**](#)

HB 1911 would allow handguns to be carried in public in Texas without a background check, license, or training. This bill puts public safety at risk.

Immigration

[**CLICK HERE TO OPPOSE IMMIGRATION CENTERS BEING LICENSED AS DAY CARE CENTERS!**](#)

Oppose licensing immigration "family detention" centers as licensed day care centers! This move allows the state to hold women and children indefinitely. Send an email to your Texas Senator today.

[**Support the Capitol Action Report!**](#)

News from The Capitol

By Grace Chimene, Vice President

Bad News!

Why the legislature can renege on promised funding of Texas State Parks? [**Read here**](#) then take action to [**SUPPORT YOUR TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE!**](#)

More Bad News!

Will police officers ask you for your citizenship papers if you are detained for jaywalking? [**Read Texas Tribune article "Sanctuary cities" bill**](#)

Make the Bad News Stop!

Why the League does not agree with the legislature on the passage of the constitutional convention bill? [**Texas Tribune Article on passage & our testimony in opposition.**](#)

Bad News for Texas' Disabled Children!

Why is the legislature cutting therapies for disabled children? [**Excellent article from the Houston Chronicle**](#)

Bad news from DC! Still Work to Do!

The US House of Representatives narrowly passed the American Health Care Act on Thursday, May 4. [**Read the League Statement here.**](#)

Thank you to everyone across the State of Texas who responded to Action Alerts on this bill. Your efforts matter, even though we were not successful in stopping this bill. The League of Women Voters is dedicated to ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans, so we will be working hard in the coming weeks as the Senate considers healthcare legislation. This isn't over, so stay tuned.

League at the Lege

This week we provided testimony on 5 bills and took action on 14 bills. Tuesday we had four Capitol Corps volunteers at the Capitol providing testimony in on one day!

[Read the testimony!](#)

League News!

Why does the LWV-TX believe redistricting deserves a hearing? [Op ED by Elaine Wiant](#)

Social Media Actions!

Download and share these graphics on social media - encourage your friends to share also!

(Save as you would a photo - right click, "Save as" to your computer. Then upload to Facebook.)



LWVTexas.org

Protect Water Quality in the Texas Hill Country

**SUPPORT HB 3036
EMAIL YOUR
REPRESENTATIVE
TODAY!**

**Oppose
Unlicensed
Carry!**

LWVTexas.ORG



What to Say

STOP HB 3081 & HB 3947

- Law enforcement would not easily be able to separate criminals with guns from licensed gun owners in public.
- For public safety we need people who carry handguns to apply for a license.
- Our state licensure program ensures that individuals who choose to arm themselves have the skill level needed to safely carry their firearms and avoid injuring themselves or others.
- Built into our Second Amendment right to gun ownership is the requirement for reasonable regulation.



LWVTexas.ORG

Stop Three Anti-Abortion bills

CONTACT THE CALENDARS
COMMITTEE

**Oppose
Liar's bills SB 25 & HB 434
Oppose
Fetal Tissue Burial Bill HB 35**

Support Funding for Texas Parks!

LWVTexas.ORG



What to Say

- Money is being generated for the parks by Texans paying the Sporting Goods Sales Tax. Those funds need to be appropriated for the intended use. State parks are vital to our state's economy, to preserving Texas history and culture, and to providing experiences with Texas natural areas for children and families.
- Both the House and Senate budgets are short-changing parks by about \$100 million, disregarding HB 158 passed in 2015.

Tweet: Tell House Calendars Committee to stop all anti-abortion bills!

Facebook: Upload & share all four graphics above.

LEAGUE PRIORITY ISSUES:

Click on the links below to learn more about issues you are interested in.

Voter Rights and Election Laws in Texas: US District Court's Voter ID Ruling Takes Center Stage at Texas Capitol

Women's Health and Reproductive Choice: It is not too late! Take action to support one good bill and to oppose four bad bills.

Public Education: We opposed an anti science bill! **See testimony.**

OTHER UPDATED TEXAS ISSUES:

Air Quality/Climate Change It is not too late to take ACTION! on environmental bills!

Behavioral Health Oh no! Why are the chances for final passage of bills just now being heard in committee is growing much slimmer but still not out of the realm of possibility?

Drug Laws and Policies ACTION! Why you should call your legislator to support HB 2107/medical use of cannabis when recommended by a licensed medical provider?

Early Childhood Check out the bill update!

Financing State Government The House and Senate take turns as to who will have the final General Appropriations Bill. So in 2020, the House will take the lead.

Gun Safety Yes! Continuing to fight it out with testimony & ACTION Opposing Unlicensed carry.

Human Trafficking Yay! Two bills, HB 29 and HB 269, passed the House & the Senate! with bipartisan support!

Immigration On Tuesday, May 3rd the State Senate concurred on the House amendments voted to send SB 4 the "Anti-Sanctuary Bill" to Governor Abbott to sign into law. ACTION! Opposing SB 1018 which would allow the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to license Family Centers, which are little more than detention centers, as day care centers. Call your State Senator today tell they you OPPOSE SB 1018.

Land Use Take action on Texas Parks funding if you haven't done it yet! See above!

Payday & Auto Title Loans in Texas Action! Opposing HB 3081 would expand abusive payday lending and erase the hard-fought local protections in more than 40 Texas cities.



"People sharing their personal testimonies about dire health issues needed to know we support them."

JANE MACFARLAND
CAPITAL CORPS COORDINATOR

League Hero

Jane waited 13 hours at the Capitol to provide testimony in support of medical marijuana.

LwvTexas.org

Transportation Excellent! HB1294 has passed out of committee. It requires TxDOT to coordinate highway construction projects with local officials and reduce the negative economic impacts.

Water Texas has committed substantial funds for loans and grants to localities for building new water facilities.

Hey, Texas Political Nerds!

How does the budget process work? [Texas Tribune Video](#).

What are Texans' attitudes about issues? The [Texas Lyceum Poll](#) asked Texans about immigration, border security, the national economy, elected officials etc.

Capitol Calendar

June 11 - [LGBTQ March](#)

Support the Capitol Action Report!

