



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TxSWANA

Annual Conference

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Corpus Christi, Texas

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Texas Legislature

- Texas Legislative Politics
- Texas Legislative Policy Issues

Texas Legislative Politics - Schedule

- March 1 – Party Primary Elections
- May 24 – Party Primary Runoff Elections
- November 8 – General Election

Texas Legislative Politics

- **Texas Senate** – Republican Party Primary Elections
 - **Senate District 1** – Kevin Eltife decided to not run for re-election
 - Run-off Election – Bryan Hughes – Mineola (47%)
David Simpson – Longview (22%)
 - **Senate District 24** – Troy Fraser decided to not run for re-election
 - Run-off Election - Susan King – Abilene ()
Dawn Buckingham – Lakeway ()

Texas Legislative Politics

- **Texas Senate** – Democratic Party Primary Elections
 - **Senate District 26** – Jose Menendez (San Antonio) (60%)
Trey Martinez-Fischer (40%)

Texas Legislative Politics

- **Texas Senate Composition** –
 - Republican Members = 20
 - Democratic Members = 11

Texas Legislative Politics

- **Texas House** –
 - **Contested Party Primaries** – Out of 150 State Representative positions, 59 positions had contested party primary elections (Republican or Democrat), including Speaker Straus
 - Battle within Republican Party in Texas House
 - 19 State Representatives voted against Speaker Straus in 2015

Texas Legislative Politics

- **Texas House** –
 - 3 Democratic Party Run-off Elections
 - 7 Republican Party Run-off Elections
 - 5 elections involve Tea Party Candidates

Overview of Policy Issues Facing Texas Legislature in 2017

- Significant drop in tax revenue**
- Tax Relief**
- Open Carry / Campus Carry**
- Public School Finance**
- Transportation**

House Environmental Regulation Committee – Interim Charges

- Review the varied regulatory schemes for household hazardous waste disposal and recommend if more uniform guidelines could improve legal disposal habits. Determine any opportunities or incentives for consumers and retailers that would promote proper hazardous waste disposal in a cost-effective manner.
- Monitor initiatives at the local level to regulate environmental issues. Consider if legislative changes are needed to resolve ambiguous regulations regarding the priority of state or local authority.

House Environmental Regulation Committee – Interim Charges

- Study the effectiveness of current state programs to address scrap tire management and disposal methods, including the incidence of scrap tires and rubber debris on roadways and in watercourses. Include analysis of disposal fee collection and management as well as local funding allocations. Provide incentive or enforcement recommendations for ongoing clean up efforts, abatement of identified tire dump sites, and means of ensuring accurate record keeping and reporting.
- Zika Virus fears
- SB 1242 (Rodriguez) – Passed Senate. Left pending in House Calendars Committee

House Committee on Agriculture & Livestock Committee – Interim Charges

- Study the impacts of windblown trash on agriculture and ranching.

Senate Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs Committee – Interim Charge

- Study and make recommendations on the effects of windblown and waterborne litter. The study should include an analysis of the economic effects of litter, any necessary methods to prevent and remediate litter, and an assessment of state and local programs to reduce litter.

Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee – Interim Charge

- Evaluate the permitting process in Texas and neighboring states and make recommendations for eliminating unnecessary barriers and expediting the process to ensure that the regulatory process is consistent and predictable.

Senate State Affairs Committee – Interim Charge

- Review current ethics laws governing public officials and employees and recommend changes necessary to inspire the public's confidence in a transparent and ethically principled government. Review public officials' reporting requirements to the Texas Ethics Commission. Examine the categorization of ethics reporting violations and make recommendations to encourage accurate reporting and timely correction to inadvertent clerical errors.