

— TEXAS EAGLE FORUM —

December 2025

Dear Texas Eagles,

The Christmas season is a time of expectancy. We await the celebration of birth of our Savior and the return of our King. It is easy to let this season become cluttered with social obligations and material distractions, but I hope we can all find moments throughout this precious and sacred time to reconnect with what is truly most important: faith and family.

On the home front, I look forward to Christmas with a growing family and the blessings of another Christmas with my parents. It has been a pleasure to serve you through TEF again this year, and to see you all at the various events and gatherings we've enjoyed together. But before we officially wind down for the year and turn our hearts toward home, let's take some time together to reflect on this past year and everything we accomplished together.

The 89th Texas State Legislative Session has adjourned for now, and as always, TEF was there fighting for traditional family values. We helped shape and pass bills to protect children in our public schools, finally got the transactional gold bill passed, and our electric grid will become more secure. We were successful in stopping some terrible bills that would have furthered Islam. The Ten Commandments are being posted in classrooms across Texas, and students can attend a period of Bible reading and prayer with parent permission. We tried to ban dangerous hemp THC products in Texas, but Governor Abbott vetoed the bill. Thankfully, Congress stepped up to take care of the issue for us.

Naturally, there were some disappointments. Most of our legislators still continue to spend too much money without looking for waste or whether the spending is within the scope of government. The House "DOGE" committee spent new money. Our legislators sent important spending to our Constitution so that they could do more non-critical spending in their constitutionally capped budget. They also spent plenty more of your money in HB 500 – the bill that "fixes" budgeting issues from the last session. But we were there promoting good laws, fighting bad ideas, educating, testifying, and alerting you to make calls to support our efforts. We fought hard. We lost on some issues and won on others. But we look forward to getting more true conservatives to Austin for the 90th session in 2027.

This month, we are proud to bring you TEF's 89th Legislative Session Scorecard. It is hard to capture in words just how much time and effort goes into producing a scorecard that is accurate, relevant, and impactful. Every representative and senator receives a score on a scale of zero to four for their vote on over twenty priority bills. Maximum points are awarded to votes that agree with TEF's position. Zero points are awarded to votes in opposition to TEF's position. Two points are awarded for 'absent' or 'present.' Excused votes are not counted into a representative's or senator's score. We encourage you to see the entire scorecard spreadsheet online at TexasEagleForum.com/scorecard or by using the secure QR-code in *The Torch*.

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In the spreadsheet, you will find the list of bills scored, detailed scores for every representative and senator, and comments where we felt additional information or context was needed for the sake of transparency. We did make notes of any voting statements; these are usually offered when a rep has made a mistake, but we score the vote on record because mistakes cannot be corrected after the fact. These “mistakes” impact their scores, sometimes making them appear better or worse than they might really be. To read these comments, look for the small yellow triangle in the upper right-hand corner of a score, and click on the score to reveal the comment.

For the coming New Year, we hope and pray that you will continue to engage with us as we work to steward the traditional values that have worked so well for our nation. I pray Joshua 1:9 over our Texas Eagles, that you will continue to have continued courage to speak up in challenging times. We have some great people in office across Texas and our nation but they need your voice as we face things like the rise of dangerous Islam in our own state.

As we turn the page on 2025 and look towards 2026, TEF is facing increased financial pressure. The expenses of Session are behind us, but operating costs have been steadily on the rise for some time. The costs associated with *The Torch* have increased the most. We recently had to change one of our service providers after he retired. This has resulted in an increased production cost. The cost of postage increased in July. And our subscription management software, which dates back to the 1990's, is in desperate need of updating so we can better manage our mailing list and track subscription renewals. We would prefer to fund the rising costs and new expenses associated with *The Torch* through gifts rather than raising the minimum donation for a subscription at this time.

We know you have many organizations asking for donations. As you prayerfully weigh your options, we boldly ask that you would consider increasing your support of Texas Eagle Forum. Every dollar we receive is carefully spent on the services, supplies and professional support we need to make a positive difference for the people of Texas. There are a few items on our ‘wish list’ - such as an educational publication for children, local speaker events, perhaps even an Executive Director (!) - that simply cannot be brought to fruition without additional funds. Won't you consider being a part of expanding the influence and impact of Texas Eagle Forum with a generous end-of-year gift?

As always, thank you for being a part of Texas Eagle Forum. And as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Son of the only God, we wish you and your family a Christmas filled with awe and wonder at the gift that brings us eternal life.

Faithfully,



Cindi Castilla
President
Texas Eagle Forum

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