

THE TORCH

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM

October 2023

Summing Up the 88th Legislative Session

By **Cindi Castilla**, President of Texas Eagle Forum



Delivering a worthy scorecard is a mighty chore. Thank you for your patience as we worked to create a balanced picture of how your elected officials supported the values we share during the 88th Legislative Session.

This year we witnessed many of our lawmakers were finding it easy to spend your money, pick winners and losers, indoctrinate your children, ignore our border and national security, promote immorality and addictive behaviors...and at the end of the regular session, watching House members break the law themselves by failing to follow the rule of law in the Paxton impeachment trial. Some scores are lower than we wished to see - but it is important to take an honest look at how people vote after are elected to office.

Thankfully, lawmakers did pass good bills protecting childhood innocence by banning graphic sexual books from school libraries, protecting children from trans-related mutualization, and allowing college women to compete only against other biological women.

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Texas lawmakers also removed hundreds of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) employees in our universities from positions that existed only to push racism and victimhood. And children will be banned from using hard-core porn sites – a bill that almost every legislator voted for on both sides of the aisle. It is refreshing to see them unify to help kids have a happier and healthier future. While Governor Abbott signed these bills to become effective September 1, several are still tied up in court battles. We expect all our new laws to be upheld by good judges who allow sanity to prevail.

Sadly, children in most schools will continue to be subjected to egregious daily mental health assessments, quizzes on sexual habits, and surveys on their personal values without a parent’s approval. The celebrated sex-ed opt-in that passed last session will expire next year. House committees killed these bills and others that would have protected parental rights in education. We would like our laws to require our schools to focus on providing students the intellectual tools they need to learn to reach conclusions based on logic and evidence rather than focus children on emotions and feelings.

Four bills enabling government-sanction gambling raced through a committee hearing with profiteers touting the goodness of “helping gamblers,” while family supportive groups and religious organizations spoke the truth about the addictive and destructive nature of gambling on a society.

Marijuana was nearly decriminalized for under 2 ounces (200 small joints with THC content 10-48 times higher than marijuana in the 80’s and 90’s). The Senate thankfully stopped these bills in their tracks. The five months of the session were a whirlwind – late nights, early mornings, long hearings and crazy demonstrations. After a late hearing on SB 14, banning minors from medical procedures to “transition,” we had to climb over played bodies of trans-activists “playing dead” in every passageway out of the extension. Drag Queens paraded through the Capitol, and men flagrantly used women’s restrooms, while school groups toured the Capitol.

We had wonderful conversations with many Senators, Representatives and/or their staff. TEF continued to build relationships that encourage ongoing and respectful discourse on issues that matter. We hope to have more of our elected officials on our side – the side of families – without which we will cease to have a free and amazing nation.

Thank you for standing with us this session. The calls you made or emails you sent are the reason many good bills were passed. When you share our alerts and the Torch Newsletter with your friends you multiply your own efforts to keep Texas the best place to live. Your financial support is invaluable. If you appreciate our efforts during the session and this scorecard, we hope you will continue to support our endeavors.

*For the LORD is our judge,
the LORD is our lawgiver,
the LORD is our King;
He will save us.
Isaiah 33:22*

GREAT AMERICAN QUOTE

“The great essential to our happiness and prosperity is that we adhere to the principles upon which the Government was established and insist upon their faithful observance.”

- William McKinley

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“The government you elect, is the government you deserve.”

- Thomas Jefferson

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM

Cindi Castilla
President
tef@texaseagleforum.com

Editor
editor@texaseagleforum.com

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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Dallas, TX 75379

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Texas State Senators

Carol Alvarado (D)	14%	Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D)	32%	Tan Parker (R)	86%
Paul Bettencourt (R)	85%	Joan Huffman (R)	79%	Angela Paxton (R)	83%
Brian Birdwell (R)	77%	Bryan Hughes (R)	89%	Charles Perry (R)	75%
César Blanco (D)	32%	Nathan Johnson (D)	14%	Charles Schwertner (R)	82%
Donna Campbell (R)	87%	Phil S. King (R)	85%	Kevin Sparks (R)	82%
Brandon Creighton (R)	85%	Lois W. Kolkhorst (R)	91%	Drew Springer (R)	80%
Sarah Eckhardt (D)	11%	Morgan LaMantia (D)	25%	Royce West (D)	22%
Pete Flores (R)	79%	José Menéndez (D)	18%	John Whitmire (D)	21%
Roland Gutierrez (D)	25%	Mayes Middleton (R)	97%	Judith Zaffirini (D)	18%
Bob Hall (R)	101%	Borris L. Miles (D)	18%		
Kelly G. Hancock (R)	86%	Robert Nichols (R)	79%		

Texas State Representatives

Alma A. Allen (D)	20%	Nicole Collier (D)	12%	Vikki Goodwin (D)	12%
Steve Allison (R)	58%	David Cook (R)	62%	R. D. "Bobby" Guerra (D)	27%
Rafael Anchia (D)	8%	Philip Cortez (D)	15%	Ryan Guillen (R)	54%
Charles "Doc" Anderson (R)	82%	Tom Craddick (R)	79%	Sam Harless (R)	62%
Trent Ashby (R)	76%	Victoria Neave Criado (D)	8%	Caroline Harris (R)	79%
Ernest Bailes (R)	62%	Charles Cunningham (R)	63%	Cody Harris (R)	72%
Cecil Bell (R)	79%	Drew Darby (R)	54%	Brian E. Harrison (R)	83%
Keith Bell (R)	62%	Yvonne Davis (D)	12%	Richard Hayes (R)	89%
Diego Bernal (D)	8%	Jay Dean (R)	54%	Cole Hefner (R)	96%
Salman Bhojani (D)	19%	Mano DeAyala (R)	87%	Ana Hernandez (D)	8%
Greg Bonnen (R)	76%	Mark Dorazio (R)	101%	Abel Herrero (D)	26%
Rhett A. Bowers (D)	12%	Harold V. Dutton (D)	27%	Gina Hinojosa (D)	29%
John Bryant (D)	28%	Trey Martinez Fischer (D)	32%	Justin Holland (R)	58%
Brad Buckley (R)	50%	LuLu Flores (D)	13%	Donna Howard (D)	12%
John H. Bucy (D)	12%	James Frank (R)	72%	Lacey Hull (R)	62%
Benjamin Bumgarner (R)	67%	Frederick Frazier (R)	46%	Todd Hunter (R)	50%
DeWayne Burns (R)	70%	Erin E. Gamez (D)	8%	Carrie Isaac (R)	90%
Dustin Burrows (R)	70%	Josey Garcia (D)	23%	Jacey Jetton (R)	55%
Angie Chen Button (R)	50%	Gary Gates (R)	82%	Ann Johnson (D)	12%
Briscoe Cain (R)	90%	Stan Gerdes (R)	70%	Jarvis D. Johnson (D)	15%
Elizabeth "Liz" Campos (D)	22%	Charlie L. Geren (R)	52%	Julie Johnson (D)	8%
Terry Canales (D)	23%	Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D)	15%	Jolanda "Jo" Jones (D)	4%
Giovanni Capriglione (R)	73%	Craig Goldman (R)	58%	Venton Jones (D)	8%
Travis Clardy (R)	58%	Jessica Gonzalez (D)	8%	Kyle J. Kacal (R)	50%
Sheryl Cole (D)	8%	Mary E. Gonzalez (D)	12%	Ken King (R)	50%

Texas 88th Legislative Session Scorecard



SCORECARD BREAKDOWN

For a detailed breakdown of the numbers, visit the TEF Texas 88th Legislative Session Scorecard online at TexasEagleForum.com/scorecard



Texas State Representatives

Tracy O. King (D)	42%	Candy Noble (R)	92%	Bryan Slaton (R)	88%
Stan Kitzman (R)	60%	Tom Oliverson (R)	84%	Shelby Slawson (R)	100%
Stephanie Klick (R)	78%	Claudia Ordaz (D)	20%	Reggie Smith (R)	82%
John Kuempel (R)	50%	Angelia Orr (R)	50%	John T. Smithee (R)	82%
Suleman Lalani (D)	12%	Evelina Ortega (D)	8%	David Spiller (R)	82%
Stan Lambert (R)	62%	Jared Patterson (R)	69%	Lynn Stucky (R)	87%
Brooks Landgraf (R)	58%	Dennis Paul (R)	90%	Valoree Swanson (R)	91%
Jeff Leach (R)	65%	Mary Ann Perez (D)	8%	James Talarico (D)	4%
Oscar Longoria (D)	29%	Dade Phelan (R)	17%	Carl Tepper (R)	86%
Janie Lopez (R)	50%	Mihaela E. Plesa (D)	12%	Shawn Thierry (D)	24%
Ray Lopez (D)	15%	Four Price (R)	78%	Kronda Thimesch (R)	62%
J.M. Lozano (R)	50%	Ana-Maria Ramos (D)	28%	Ed Thompson (R)	83%
John Lujan (R)	66%	John Raney (R)	50%	Senfronia Thompson (D)	12%
Christian Manuel (D)	12%	Richard Pena Raymond (D)	35%	Tony Tinderholt (R)	87%
Armando Martinez (D)	35%	Ron Reynolds (D)	12%	Steve Toth (R)	96%
Will Metcalf (R)	88%	Glenn Rogers (R)	69%	Ellen Troxclair (R)	81%
Morgan Meyer (R)	55%	Ramon Romero (D)	12%	Chris Turner (D)	8%
Thresa "Terry" Meza (D)	4%	Toni Rose (D)	8%	Gary VanDeaver (R)	69%
Joe Moody (D)	15%	Jon E. Rosenthal (D)	15%	Cody T. Vasut (R)	90%
Christina Morales (D)	28%	Matt Schaefer (R)	106%	Hubert Vo (D)	16%
Eddie Morales (D)	47%	Nate Schatzline (R)	91%	Armando L. Walle (D)	4%
Penny Morales Shaw (D)	12%	Mike Schofield (R)	69%	Terri Leo-Wilson (R)	97%
Geanie W. Morrison (R)	62%	Matt Shaheen (R)	90%	Terry Wilson (R)	82%
Sergio Munoz (D)	35%	Carl O. Sherman (D)	13%	Gene Wu (D)	12%
Andrew Murr (R)	56%	Hugh D. Shine (R)	62%	Erin Zwiener (D)	12%

Image (above): TEF President Cindi Castilla celebrates with SB14 authors Sen. Donna Campbell (l) and Rep. Tom Oliverson, M.D. (r).