



2019 EQUALITY TEXAS

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

Dear Friends,

We envision a Texas where every person is treated equally under the law. We believe LGBTQ Equality is a Republican, Democratic, and non-partisan issue of paramount importance to our state. We believe all elected officials should strongly embrace and boldly support equality for all because it is the right thing to do and because the future of our state depends on it.

The Equality Texas team and our members are fighting for the very heart of our mission and guiding principles of full equality for every Texan. And this year, more pro-equality bills than ever received committee hearings in the Texas Legislature and we celebrated the formation of the first House LGBTQ Caucus.

As a non-partisan organization, we push for progress with members of both parties. This session, more than 20 bills targeting LGBTQ people for discrimination were filed, many of them focused on our most vulnerable and marginalized communities. But we saw real bipartisan progress, too. In May, the Republican Chair of the House State Affairs Committee said, "I'm done talking about bashing on the gay community." And in the Texas Senate, a Republican Senator took a first-ever vote against an anti-LGBTQ bill that would have empowered discrimination against LGBTQ people.

We will work for further advancement of our goals in the interim and in the 2021 session. Many Texans are not aware that LGBTQ people can legally be fired, refused housing, or denied services simply because of who we are. This is unacceptable. The only way to achieve the freedom for LGBTQ people to live, work, earn a living, raise our families, and contribute fully to our communities is to pass a comprehensive, statewide nondiscrimination law. Next session, we will ask all legislators to support full equality for our community.

Our 2019 Equality Texas scorecard reflects the actions of our State Representatives and State Senators on bills, good and bad, impacting the LGBTQ community. No matter what score a legislator received this year, our door is always open to conversation and change. We will continue to meet with and work with all members of the legislature to share the stories of LGBTQ Texans and to build bridges toward meaningful progress.

If your lawmakers received a failing grade, call them, share your story, and tell them your concerns and priorities. And if your elected officials showed up for our community, please call them to thank them. You can find who represents you at equalitytexas.org/lawmakers.

*Angela Hale
Acting CEO, Equality Texas*

State Senator	Party	District	Grade
Hinojosa, Chuy	D	20	A+
Menéndez, José	D	26	A+
Rodríguez, José	D	29	A+
Whitmire, John	D	15	A+
Alvarado, Carol	D	6	A
Johnson, Nathan	D	16	A
Miles, Borris	D	13	A
Powell, Beverly	D	10	A
Watson, Kirk	D	14	A
West, Royce	D	23	A
Zaffirini, Judith	D	21	A
Seliger, Kel	R	31	B+
Bettencourt, Paul	R	7	F
Birdwell, Brian	R	22	F
Buckingham, Dawn	R	24	F
Campbell, Donna	R	25	F

State Senator	Party	District	Grade
Creighton, Brandon	R	4	F
Fallon, Pat	R	30	F
Flores, Pete	R	19	F
Hall, Bob	R	2	F
Hancock, Kelly	R	9	F
Huffman, Joan	R	17	F
Hughes, Bryan	R	1	F
Kolkhorst, Lois	R	18	F
Lucio Jr, Eddie	D	27	F
Nelson, Jane	R	12	F
Nichols, Robert	R	3	F
Paxton, Angela	R	8	F
Perry, Charles	R	28	F
Schwertner, Charles	R	5	F
Taylor, Larry	R	11	F

Snapshot of Grades – State House of Representatives

Representative	Party	District	Grade
Allen, Alma	D	131	A+
Anchia, Rafael	D	103	A+
Beckley, Michelle	D	65	A+
Bernal, Diego	D	123	A+
Bucy, John	D	136	A+
Calanni, Gina	D	132	A+
Cole, Sheryl	D	46	A+
Coleman, Garnet	D	147	A+
Collier, Nicole	D	95	A+
Davis, Sarah	R	134	A+
Farrar, Jessica	D	148	A+
González, Jessica	D	104	A+
González, Mary	D	75	A+
Hinojosa, Gina	D	49	A+
Howard, Donna	D	48	A+
Israel, Celia	D	50	A+
Johnson, Julie	D	115	A+
Moody, Joe	D	78	A+
Ramos, Ana Maria	D	102	A+
Raymond, Richard Peña	D	42	A+
Reynolds, Ron	D	27	A+
Rodriguez, Eddie	D	51	A+
Rosenthal, Jon	D	135	A+
Talarico, James	D	52	A+
Thompson, Senfronia	D	141	A+

Representative	Party	District	Grade
Turner, Chris	D	101	A+
Wu, Gene	D	137	A+
Zwiener, Erin	D	45	A+
Blanco, Cesar	D	76	A
Gervin-Hawkins, Barbara	D	120	A
Goodwin, Vikki	D	47	A
Hernandez, Ana	D	143	A
Martinez, Mando	D	39	A
Meza, Terry	D	105	A
Morales, Christina	D	145	A
Nevárez, Poncho	D	74	A
Walle, Armando	D	140	A
Bowers, Rhetta	D	113	B+
Cortez, Philip	D	117	B+
Davis, Yvonne	D	111	B+
Deshotel, Joe	D	22	B+
Dominguez, Alex	D	37	B+
Fierro, Art	D	79	B+
Guerra, Bobby	D	41	B+
Herrero, Abel	D	34	B+
Johnson, Jarvis	D	139	B+
King, Tracy	D	80	B+
Longoria, Oscar	D	35	B+
Lopez, Ray	D	125	B+
Lucio III, Eddie	D	38	B+

Representative	Party	District	Grade
Martinez Fischer, Trey	D	116	B+
Muñoz, Jr., Sergio	D	36	B+
Neave, Victoria	D	107	B+
Ortega, Lina	D	77	B+
Pacheco, Leo	D	118	B+
Perez, Mary Ann	D	144	B+
Romero, Jr., Ramón	D	90	B+
Rose, Toni	D	110	B+
Sherman, Carl	D	109	B+
Thierry, Shawn	D	146	B+
Turner, John	D	114	B+
Vo, Hubert	D	149	B+
Canales, Terry	D	40	B
Guillen, Ryan	D	31	B
Gutierrez, Roland	D	119	B
Hunter, Todd	R	32	B-
Minjarez, Ina	D	124	B-
Phelan, Dade	R	21	C
Bailes, Ernest	R	18	D
Bell, Cecil	R	3	D
Button, Angie Chen	R	112	D
Geren, Charlie	R	99	D
Goldman, Craig	R	97	D
Harless, Sam	R	126	D
King, Ken	R	88	D

Representative	Party	District	Grade
Larson, Lyle	R	122	D
Meyer, Morgan	R	108	D
Morrison, Geanie	R	30	D
Price, Four	R	87	D
Sheffield, JD	R	59	D
Zerwas, John	R	28	D
Allison, Steve	R	121	F
Anderson, Doc	R	56	F
Ashby, Trent	R	57	F
Bell, Keith	R	4	F
Biedermann, Kyle	R	73	F
Bohac, Dwayne	R	138	F
Bonnen, Greg	R	24	F
Buckley, Brad	R	54	F
Burns, DeWayne	R	58	F
Burrows, Dustin	R	83	F
Cain, Briscoe	R	128	F
Capriglione, Giovanni	R	98	F
Clardy, Travis	R	11	F
Craddick, Tom	R	82	F
Cyrier, John	R	17	F
Darby, Drew	R	72	F
Dean, Jay	R	7	F
Dutton, Harold	D	142	F
Flynn, Dan	R	2	F

Snapshot of Grades – State House of Representatives

Representative	Party	District	Grade
Frank, James	R	69	F
Frullo, John	R	84	F
Harris, Cody	R	8	F
Hefner, Cole	R	5	F
Holland, Justin	R	33	F
Huberty, Dan	R	127	F
Kacal, Kyle	R	12	F
King, Phil	R	61	F
Klick, Stephanic	R	91	F
Krause, Matt	R	93	F
Kuempel, John	R	44	F
Lambert, Stan	R	71	F
Landgraf, Brooks	R	81	F
Lang, Mike	R	60	F
Leach, Jeff	R	67	F
Leman, Ben	R	13	F
Lozano, JM	R	43	F
Metcalf, Will	R	16	F
Middleton, Mayes	R	23	F
Miller, Rick	R	26	F
Murphy, Jim	R	133	F
Murr, Andrew	R	53	F
Noble, Candy	R	89	F
Oliverson, Tom	R	130	F
Paddie, Chris	R	9	F

Representative	Party	District	Grade
Parker, Tan	R	63	F
Patterson, Jared	R	106	F
Paul, Dennis	R	129	F
Raney, John	R	14	F
Sanford, Scott	R	70	F
Schaefer, Matt	R	6	F
Shaheen, Matt	R	66	F
Shine, Hugh	R	55	F
Smith, Reggie	R	62	F
Smithee, John	R	86	F
Springer, Drew	R	68	F
Stephenson, Phil	R	85	F
Stickland, Jonathan	R	92	F
Stucky, Lynn	R	64	F
Swanson, Valoree	R	150	F
Thompson, Ed	R	29	F
Tinderholt, Tony	R	94	F
Toth, Steve	R	15	F
VanDeaver, Gary	R	1	F
White, James	R	19	F
Wilson, Terry	R	20	F
Wray, John	R	10	F
Zedler, Bill	R	96	F
Bonnen, Dennis	R	25	N/A
Johnson, Eric	D	100	**

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The 86th session of the Texas legislature saw renewed attempts to legalize discrimination against the LGBTQ community, as well as advances in making the case for legislation to promote full lived equality for LGBTQ Texans. We also saw some bipartisan growth in fighting discriminatory efforts.

This session, we celebrated the historic formation of the Texas House's first-ever LGBTQ Caucus, whose five out, founding members represented LGBTQ Texans on the floor of the Texas House, fought discriminatory legislation, and advanced pro-LGBTQ legislation further than ever before. These members were joined in the coalition by 20 ally House members.

In all, more than 20 anti-LGBTQ bills were filed and only one passed. That bill, in its heavily amended form, created virtually no change to Texas law, but is widely seen as an anti-LGBTQ dog-whistle. More than 30 proactive bills in support of the LGBTQ community were filed, and nine had committee hearings – an important step in allowing lawmakers and community members to share their stories. Comparatively, in the 2017 session, only five proactive bills tracked by Equality Texas received a hearing.



The 2019 Legislative Session started with a "first": For the first time in history, the five openly LGBTQ women in the Texas House formed the Texas House LGBTQ Caucus. The Caucus created an opportunity for other Texas House members to show their support for achieving equality and justice for LGBTQ Texans and to openly discuss issues that affect our community.

The founding members are pictured here from left to right: Rep. Jessica González, Rep. Mary González, Rep. Julie Johnson, Rep. Erin Zwiener, and Rep. Celia Israel. These founders were joined by 20 additional members of the House during the Caucus' inaugural year.



Photo Credit: Miguel Gutierrez Jr./The Texas Tribune

Texas House and Senate members were scored based on their records on working for LGBTQ equality and against LGBTQ equality this session. As more bipartisanship on LGBTQ rights emerges in the Texas legislature, we want to ensure that our scorecard captures actions members took on both fronts. Scoring consisted of four basic elements:

- 1. Authorship of bills:** Members received points based on their authorship or co-authorship of legislation that supports full lived equality for LGBTQ Texans, with greater weight given to primary and joint authors. Members who were primary and joint authors of one or more discriminatory bills received an automatic “F” score. Members lost points for co-authoring discriminatory legislation.
- 2. Votes:** Members were scored on floor votes on good and bad bills and amendments. Votes on bills were more heavily weighted than votes on amendments.
- 3. LGBTQ Caucus membership:** On the House side, points were given to members who joined the LGBTQ Caucus; the five founders of the Caucus received additional points for their leadership in forming this group. A 🏳️‍🌈 on the scorecard denotes a Caucus founder. A 🌈 denotes Caucus membership.
- 4. Leadership:** Additional points were given to members who showed exceptional leadership in committee work to protect LGBTQ rights and/or in breaking with their party to support nondiscrimination or speak publicly on behalf of the LGBTQ community.

Note: Grades in the A range typically denote legislators who proactively led on equality issues by authoring good legislation, coauthoring multiple good bills, taking extraordinary leadership roles, and/or by joining the LGBTQ Caucus.

A grade of B or B+ represents good votes on all issues where member was present, and in some cases, co-authorship of one good bill. We are grateful to these legislators for their work.














A grade in the C range represents a mixed record - some positive actions for equality and some negative actions against equality.









For the purposes of this scorecard, we consider D and F to be failing grades, with F grades denoting significant effort put into advancing discriminatory legislation, through authorship, co-authorship, and floor votes.

State Senator	Party	District	SB 17	SB 1978	SB 2485-7	to SB 17	to SB 1978	to SB 2485-7	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Grade
			Floor votes on bad bills			Floor votes on good amendments			Bills Authored		Bills Co-Authored		
			Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Support	Support	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	
Hinojosa, Chuy	D	20	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	✓	✓	✓	2				A+
Menéndez, José	D	26	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	✓	✓	✓	6				A+
Rodríguez, José	D	29	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	✓	✓	✓	5				A+
Whitmire, John	D	15	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	✓	✓	✓	4				A+
Alvarado, Carol	D	6	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	✓	✓	✓					A
Johnson, Nathan	D	16	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	✓	✓	✓			1		A
Miles, Borris	D	13	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	✓	✓	✓					A
Powell, Beverly	D	10	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	✓	✓	✓			1		A
Watson, Kirk	D	14	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	✓	✓	✓					A
West, Royce	D	23	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Mixed ●	✓	✓	✓					A
Zaffirini, Judith	D	21	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	✓	✓	✓					A
Seliger, Kel	R	31	Nay ✓	Nay ✓	Yea ✗	Mixed ●	✗	Mixed ●					B+
Bettencourt, Paul	R	7	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗				6	F
Birdwell, Brian	R	22	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗		1		1	F
Buckingham, Dawn	R	24	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗		1		1	F

Methodology Note: Floor votes on bills are weighted more heavily than votes on amendments.

State Senator	Party	District	SB 17	SB 1978	SB 2485-7	to SB 17	to SB 1978	to SB 2485-7	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Grade
			Floor votes on bad bills			Floor votes on good amendments			Bills Authored		Bills Co-Authored		
			Oppose	Oppose	Oppose	Support	Support	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	
Campbell, Donna	R	25	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗		1		5	F
Creighton, Brandon	R	4	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗		5		2	F
Fallon, Pat	R	30	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗		2		5	F
Flores, Pete	R	19	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗					F
Hall, Bob	R	2	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗		1		4	F
Hancock, Kelly	R	9	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗					F
Huffman, Joan	R	17	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗					F
Hughes, Bryan	R	1	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗		3			F
Kolkhorst, Lois	R	18	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗		1		1	F
Lucio Jr, Eddie	D	27	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Nay ✓	✓	✓	✓				1	F
Nelson, Jane	R	12	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗				1	F
Nichols, Robert	R	3	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗					F
Paxton, Angela	R	8	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗					F
Perry, Charles	R	28	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗		1		2	F
Schwertner, Charles	R	5	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗					F
Taylor, Larry	R	11	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	Yea ✗	✗	✗	✗					F

Representative	Party	District	LGBTQ Caucus	Floor votes on SB 1978		Bills Authored		Bills Co-Authored		Grade
				Oppose	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	
				Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills			
Allen, Alma	D	131		Nay ✓	Yea ✓			1		A+
Anchia, Rafael	D	103		Nay ✓	Absent Yea ✓	2				A+
Beckley, Michelle	D	65		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	4		1		A+
Bernal, Diego	D	123		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	3				A+
Bucy, John	D	136		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	1		1		A+
Calanni, Gina	D	132		Nay ✓	Yea ✓			1		A+
Cole, Sheryl	D	46		Nay ✓	Yea ✓			3		A+
Coleman, Garnet	D	147		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	4				A+
Collier, Nicole	D	95		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					A+
Davis, Sarah	R	134		Nay ✓	Yea ✓			1		A+
Farrar, Jessica	D	148		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	1				A+
González, Jessica	D	104		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	3		1		A+
González, Mary	D	75		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	4				A+
Hinojosa, Gina	D	49		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	1		2		A+
Howard, Donna	D	48		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	2		1		A+
Israel, Celia	D	50		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	5				A+
Johnson, Julie	D	115		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	5				A+

Representative	Party	District	LGBTQ Caucus	Floor votes on SB 1978		Bills Authored		Bills Co-Authored		Grade
				Oppose	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	
				Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills			
Moody, Joe	D	78		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	2				A+
Ramos, Ana Maria	D	102		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	3		1		A+
Raymond, Richard Peña	D	42		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					A+
Reynolds, Ron	D	27		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	5		1		A+
Rodriguez, Eddie	D	51		Nay ✓	Yea ✓			1		A+
Rosenthal, Jon	D	135		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	1				A+
Talarico, James	D	52		Nay ✓	Yea ✓			1		A+
Thompson, Senfronia	D	141		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					A+
Turner, Chris	D	101		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					A+
Wu, Gene	D	137		Absent Nay ✓	Yea ✓			1		A+
Zwiener, Erin	D	45		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	1		1		A+
Blanco, Cesar	D	76		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					A
Gervin-Hawkins, Barbara	D	120		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					A
Goodwin, Vikki	D	47		Nay ✓	Yea ✓			1		A
Hernandez, Ana	D	143		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	1				A
Martinez, Mando	D	39		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					A
Meza, Terry	D	105		Nay ✓	Yea ✓	1				A

Representative	Party	District	LGBTQ Caucus	Floor votes on SB 1978		Bills Authored		Bills Co-Authored		Grade
				Oppose	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	
						Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	
Morales, Christina	D	145		Nay ✓	Yea ✓			2		A
Nevárez, Poncho	D	74	🏳️‍🌈	Nay ✓	Yea ✓					A
Walle, Armando	D	140	🏳️‍🌈	Nay ✓	Yea ✓					A
Bowers, Rhetta	D	113		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Cortez, Philip	D	117		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Davis, Yvonne	D	111		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Deshotel, Joe	D	22		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Dominguez, Alex	D	37		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Fierro, Art	D	79		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Guerra, Bobby	D	41		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Herrero, Abel	D	34		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Johnson, Jarvis	D	139		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
King, Tracy	D	80		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Longoria, Oscar	D	35		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Lopez, Ray	D	125		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Lucio III, Eddie	D	38		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Martinez Fischer, Trey	D	116		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+

Representative	Party	District	LGBTQ Caucus	Floor votes on SB 1978		Bills Authored		Bills Co-Authored		Grade
				Oppose	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	
				Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills			
Muñoz, Jr., Sergio	D	36		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Neave, Victoria	D	107		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Ortega, Lina	D	77		Nay ✓	Yea ✓			1		B+
Pacheco, Leo	D	118		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Perez, Mary Ann	D	144		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Romero, Jr., Ramón	D	90		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Rose, Toni	D	110		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Sherman, Carl	D	109		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Thierry, Shawn	D	146		Nay ✓	Yea ✓			1		B+
Turner, John	D	114		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Vo, Hubert	D	149		Nay ✓	Yea ✓					B+
Canales, Terry	D	40		Absent	Yea ✓			1		B
Guillen, Ryan	D	31		Absent	Yea ✓			1		B
Gutierrez, Roland	D	119		Absent	Yea ✓			1		B
Hunter, Todd	R	32		PNV	PNV					B-
Minjarez, Ina	D	124		Absent	Absent			1		B-
Phelan, Dade	R	21		Yea ✗	Nay ✗					C

Representative	Party	District	LGBTQ Caucus	Floor votes on SB 1978		Bills Authored		Bills Co-Authored		Grade
				Oppose	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	
				Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills			
Bailes, Ernest	R	18		Yea ✗	Absent					D
Bell, Cecil	R	3		Yea ✗	Nay ✗	1			2	D
Button, Angie Chen	R	112		Yea ✗	Nay ✗					D
Geren, Charlie	R	99		Yea ✗	Nay ✗					D
Goldman, Craig	R	97		Yea ✗	Nay ✗					D
Harless, Sam	R	126		Yea ✗	Absent Nay ✗					D
King, Ken	R	88		Yea ✗	Nay ✗					D
Larson, Lyle	R	122		Yea ✗	Nay ✗					D
Meyer, Morgan	R	108		Yea ✗	Absent					D
Morrison, Geanie	R	30		Absent	Nay ✗				1	D
Price, Four	R	87		Yea ✗	Nay ✗					D
Sheffield, JD	R	59		Yea ✗	Nay ✗					D
Zerwas, John	R	28		Yea ✗	Nay ✗					D
Allison, Steve	R	121		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				1	F
Anderson, Doc	R	56		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				2	F
Ashby, Trent	R	57		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				1	F
Bell, Keith	R	4		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				2	F

Representative	Party	District	LGBTQ Caucus	Floor votes on SB 1978		Bills Authored		Bills Co-Authored		Grade
				Oppose	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	
				Yea ✗	Nay ✓	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	
Biedermann, Kyle	R	73		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				3	F
Bohac, Dwayne	R	138		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				2	F
Bonnen, Greg	R	24		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				6	F
Buckley, Brad	R	54		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				1	F
Burns, DeWayne	R	58		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				3	F
Burrows, Dustin	R	83		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				1	F
Cain, Briscoe	R	128		Yea ✗	Nay ✗		1		3	F
Capriglione, Giovanni	R	98		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				2	F
Clardy, Travis	R	11		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				2	F
Craddick, Tom	R	82		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				1	F
Cyrier, John	R	17		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				2	F
Darby, Drew	R	72		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				1	F
Dean, Jay	R	7		Yea ✗	Nay ✗		1		5	F
Dutton, Harold	D	142		Nay ✓	Yea ✓		1			F
Flynn, Dan	R	2		Yea ✗	Nay ✗		2		1	F
Frank, James	R	69		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				1	F
Fruzzo, John	R	84		Yea ✗	Nay ✗				1	F

Representative	Party	District	LGBTQ Caucus	Floor votes on SB 1978		Bills Authored		Bills Co-Authored		Grade
				Oppose	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	
				Yea	Nay	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	
Harris, Cody	R	8		Yea X	Nay X				3	F
Hefner, Cole	R	5		Yea X	Nay X		1		6	F
Holland, Justin	R	33		Yea X	Nay X				2	F
Huberty, Dan	R	127		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Kacal, Kyle	R	12		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
King, Phil	R	61		Yea X	Nay X		1		2	F
Klick, Stephanie	R	91		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Krause, Matt	R	93		Yea X	Nay X		2		1	F
Kuempel, John	R	44		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Lambert, Stan	R	71		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Landgraf, Brooks	R	81		Yea X	Nay X				6	F
Lang, Mike	R	60		Yea X	Nay X				3	F
Leach, Jeff	R	67		Yea X	Nay X		1		1	F
Leman, Ben	R	13		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Lozano, JM	R	43		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Metcalf, Will	R	16		Yea X	Nay X				2	F
Middleton, Mayes	R	23		Yea X	Nay X				3	F

Representative	Party	District	LGBTQ Caucus	Floor votes on SB 1978		Bills Authored		Bills Co-Authored		Grade
				Oppose	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	
				Yea	Nay	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	
Miller, Rick	R	26		Yea X	Nay X		1		3	F
Murphy, Jim	R	133		Yea X	Nay X				2	F
Murr, Andrew	R	53		Yea X	Nay X				2	F
Noble, Candy	R	89		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Oliverson, Tom	R	130		Yea X	Nay X		3		2	F
Paddie, Chris	R	9		Yea X	Nay X				6	F
Parker, Tan	R	63		Yea X	Nay X				2	F
Patterson, Jared	R	106		Yea X	Nay X				3	F
Paul, Dennis	R	129		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Raney, John	R	14		Yea X	Absent Nay X				1	F
Sanford, Scott	R	70		Yea X	Nay X		2		1	F
Schaefer, Matt	R	6		Yea X	Nay X				6	F
Shaheen, Matt	R	66		Yea X	Nay X				2	F
Shine, Hugh	R	55		Yea X	Nay X				2	F
Smith, Reggie	R	62		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Smithee, John	R	86		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Springer, Drew	R	68		Yea X	Nay X		1		4	F

Representative	Party	District	LGBTQ Caucus	Floor votes on SB 1978		Bills Authored		Bills Co-Authored		Grade
				Oppose	Support	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	
				Yea	Nay	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	Pro-Equality Bills	Anti-Equality Bills	
Stephenson, Phil	R	85		Yea X	Nay X				2	F
Stickland, Jonathan	R	92		Yea X	Nay X				3	F
Stucky, Lynn	R	64		Yea X	Nay X				2	F
Swanson, Valoree	R	150		Yea X	Nay X				3	F
Thompson, Ed	R	29		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Tinderholt, Tony	R	94		Yea X	Nay X				3	F
Toth, Steve	R	15		Yea X	Nay X				3	F
VanDeaver, Gary	R	1		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
White, James	R	19		Yea X	Nay X				6	F
Wilson, Terry	R	20		Yea X	Nay X				6	F
Wray, John	R	10		Yea X	Nay X				1	F
Zedler, Bill	R	96		Yea X	Nay X				3	F
Bonnen, Dennis	R	25								N/A
Johnson, Eric	D	100								**

** We did not score Eric Johnson due to his campaign for Dallas mayor, but we would like to recognize him for his primary authorship of HB 850, comprehensive employment nondiscrimination.

The historic formation of the Texas LGBTQ Caucus marks a new era in Texas state politics. The Caucus founders' very presence in the House is game-changing: together, they bring representation of the LGBTQ community to the floor of the Texas House — a reminder that the government can and should reflect the people it serves.

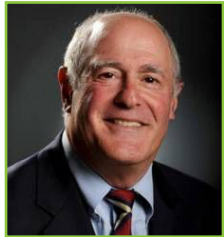
Throughout the session, the five Caucus founders made their commitment to equality and to all Texans clear. They worked hard to bring equality to the forefront, including holding a first-ever hearing on ending the dangerous practice of “conversion therapy,” killing HB 3172 in a point of order on the House floor, and authoring nearly a dozen pro-equality bills. They provided a meaningful platform for transgender Texans, highlighting the need to protect trans people from violence, centering transgender people in their legislative agenda, and for the first time ever, hosting transgender students as “interns for the day” for each of the Caucus founders.

These leaders were also powerful voices throughout the session on issues impacting all Texans, including education, criminal justice reform, housing, transportation, voting rights, water, and healthcare.

As the session closed, the Caucus founders' powerful, moving floor speeches reminded their colleagues that discriminatory laws are not made in a vacuum; they impact real people who deserve respect and the freedom to live, work, raise families, and contribute to their communities. We are certain that these five women will build on this momentum in the interim and in the 87th session, and we are grateful for their principled, committed leadership.



Many members of the Texas Legislature have been working for the cause of equality for years, and we at Equality Texas are so grateful for their dedicated leadership. As we constantly push for progress, we also want to make mention of some notable – and bipartisan – firsts.



Sen. Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) was the first Senate Republican to ever break with his party to speak forcefully against anti-LGBTQ discrimination on the Senate floor, to vote against the highly discriminatory SB 17, and to vote for an amendment to SB 17 that would have ensured it could not be used to discriminate against LGBTQ people.



Chair Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) held a first-ever committee hearing on a conversion therapy ban, continuing her legacy of leadership. In 2001, Chair Thompson authored the historic James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act to increase penalties for crimes motivated by race, color, religion, disability or sexual orientation.



Rep. Sarah Davis (R-West University Place) was the only Republican in the legislature to co-author pro-equality bills – five in all. She also stood in solidarity with the House LGBTQ Caucus on the House floor and at public events.



Chair Nicole Collier (D-Fort Worth) held a first-ever committee hearing on a bill to end “gay panic” defense.

Some significant progress also took place in the House State Affairs Committee: Although Chair Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) moved SB 1978 out of his committee and voted for it on the House floor, he showed bipartisan leadership in amending a set of bills (SB 2485, 2486, and 2487) to ensure they could not be used to preempt municipal nondiscrimination ordinances. Phelan also spoke on the record in opposition to discrimination against the LGBTQ community. Rep. Richard Peña Raymond (D-Laredo) led crucial questioning in a committee hearing to ensure that every testifier was on the record with a position on the value of nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people.

Of the more than 20 anti-LGBTQ bills filed this session, Equality Texas and our partners were able to stop all but one. This session, opponents of equality focused primarily on religious exemptions, which act as a tool to legally sanction discrimination, and on state preemption of local nondiscrimination ordinances, which would eliminate the few legal protections that exist for some LGBTQ Texans. Below are the bills that Equality Texas opposed, and their outcomes:

Companion bills are listed together. If a bill moved past the “referral” stage, the last action is indicated below. If no notes are listed, the bill did not have any movement this session.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS

Several “religious exemption” bills were filed this session. These bills use “sincerely held religious beliefs” or “moral convictions” as legal justification for discrimination.

SB 17 (Perry) / **HB 2827** (P. King): The “license to discriminate” bill

Last Action: SB 17 passed the Senate and was referred to the House State Affairs Committee. It was not granted a hearing in the House.

SB 85 (Hall)

SB 880 (Hughes)

SB 1009 (Birdwell) / **HB 2109** (Flynn)

Last Action: HB 2109 received a hearing in the House Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee; failed on committee vote

SB 1107 (Kolkhorst) / **HB 2892** (Oliverson)

SB 1978 (Hughes) / **HB 3172** (Krause): The “Chick-fil-A” bill

Last Action: Signed into law by the Governor

SB 2325 (Creighton)

HB 1035 (Zedler)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee; left pending

HB 4497 (Hefner)

HB 4357 (Sanford)

HB 4512 (Cain)

LOCAL CONTROL PREEMPTION

“Preemption” bills threaten cities’ ability to pass and maintain local nondiscrimination ordinances (NDOs) that include protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. In the absence of state and federal protections, local NDOs are the only explicit protections some LGBTQ Texans have against discrimination in employment, housing, and public spaces. Such ordinances are in place in several Texas cities. Legal analysts found that the bills listed here, whose stated goal was to preempt municipal paid sick ordinances, would have put municipal NDOs in jeopardy as well.

CSSB 15 (Creighton)

Last Action: Passed the Senate State Affairs Committee and left on Senate intent calendar

SB 1901 (Fallon)

SB 2013 (Fallon)

SB 2485, 2486, 2487 (Creighton)

Last Action: Passed the Senate, amended favorably in the House State Affairs Committee to protect nondiscrimination ordinances, left pending in the House Calendars Committee

ELIMINATING GENDER IDENTITY FROM CUSTODY CASES

SB 2369 (Hughes) / **HB 1910** (Dean) would have prevented family judges from considering a child’s gender identity in custody cases.

Last Action: HB 1910 received a hearing in the House Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee; left pending

Several bills that would have added real rights and protections for LGBTQ Texans made it to a committee hearing for the first time. Below are the bills Equality Texas supported and their outcomes:

Companion bills are listed together. If a bill moved past the “referral” stage, the last action is indicated below. If no notes are listed, the bill did not have any movement this session.

NONDISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS FOR LGBTQ TEXANS

Several bills were filed to add gender identity and sexual orientation to the list of protected classes in access to employment, housing, and public accommodations.

Comprehensive Protections

SB 151 (Rodríguez)

HB 244 (Farrar)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee; left pending

HB 254 (Bernal)

HB 2692 (Reynolds)

Employment protections

SB 1250 (Menéndez) / **HB 850** (E. Johnson)

Last Action: HB 850 received a hearing in the House Business and Industry Committee; left pending

Housing Protections

SB 886 (Menéndez)

HB 188 (Bernal)

Public Accommodation Protections

SB 888 (Menéndez)

BANNING “CONVERSION THERAPY”

These bills would have categorized the harmful practice of conversion therapy as unprofessional conduct by a mental health provider.

SB 1251 (Menéndez)

HB 517 (Israel)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House Public Health Committee; left pending

HB 1190 (Hernandez)

HB 4466 (Meza)

UPDATING THE JAMES BYRD JR. HATE CRIMES ACT

This bill would have added gender identity as a protected class to statewide hate crimes law.

HB 1513 (Coleman)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

ELIMINATING THE “GAY PANIC” DEFENSE

These bills would have eliminated the “gay panic” as a formal legal defense.

SB 887 (Menéndez)

HB 3281 (Hinojosa)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

TRANSGENDER EQUALITY TASKFORCE

This bill would have created a transgender taskforce to study legal and social barriers to equality.

HB 2687 (Reynolds)

REFLECTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY AND SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS IN STATE LAW

Several bills were filed to update unconstitutional state code to include and recognize LGBTQ families. This category includes bills to eliminate state bans on same-sex relationships and to update family code to include same-sex marriages.

SB 114 (Menéndez)

SB 152 (Rodríguez) / **HB 980** (Beckley)

Last Action: HB 980 received a hearing in the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

SB 153 (Rodríguez) / **HB 978** (Beckley)

Last Action: HB 978 received a hearing in the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

SB 1699 (Whitmire) / **HB 85** (M. González)

Last Action: HB 85 received a hearing in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

SJR 9 (Rodríguez) / **HJR 64** (Beckley)

Last Action: HJR 64 received a hearing in the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

HB 84 (Moody)

HB 1512 (Coleman)

AMENDING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

These bills would have streamlined and simplified the process of changing gender markers on official documents.

SB 154 (Rodríguez) / **HB 1835** (Rosenthal)

HB 2089 (Coleman)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House Public Health Committee; left pending



P O Box 2340
Austin, Texas 78768-2340

Equality Texas

1502 West Avenue, Suite A
Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: (512) 474-5475
Email: Info@EqualityTexas.org

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EqualityTexas.org