

From:
To:
Subject: Indivisible TX Lege Actions for the week!
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2019 6:40:24 PM

Hi y'all!

Starting off this week with a correction from our actions last week. The runoff election for HD 28 and HD 148 will be on **Tuesday, January 28**, not the date stated in last week's email. The candidates still need your support!

1. Pushback against the state takeover of Houston Independent School District by a state appointed board

Thanks to a very bad law that the Texas state legislature passed in 2015, the Governor can takeover school districts if even a single school in the district underperforms for more than four consecutive years. Now the TEA (Texas Education Agency) has taken over Houston ISD and will replace the democratically elected school board with whomever Commissioner Mike Morath chooses. Public education activists fear that several schools will be closed or converted to charter schools, allowing people to profit off of Texas children and families.

Call Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath and Governor Greg Abbott and say: "Hi, I'm a resident of Texas and I'm very concerned with the TEA takeover of Houston ISD. This power play undermines our democratically elected school board, and puts poor minority communities at risk. I urge the [governor/commissioner] to prevent charter schools from taking over our community schools. My zip code is _____."

Sign: [change.org: Protect our Democracy - Fight the TEA Takeover of HISD](https://change.org/campaign/protect-our-democracy-fight-the-tea-takeover-of-hisd)

For more: [Houston Chronicle: TEA Notifies Houston ISD of Intent to Replace Board](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-chronicle/education/TEA-Notifies-Houston-ISD-of-Intent-to-Replace-School-Board/article/2019-11-17)

Read the results of a Beaumont ISD Takeover: [Houston Chronicle: Mixed Results Follow Texas' Moves to Replace School Board](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-chronicle/education/Beaumont-ISD-Takeover-Mixed-Results-Follow-Texas-Moves-to-Replace-School-Board/article/2019-11-17)

Learn about Charters: [Forbes: Charter Schools are not Public Schools](https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbes/2019/11/17/charter-schools-are-not-public-schools/)

2. Get familiar with Rodney Reed's case and Governor Abbott's inaction

Texas native Rodney Reed was sent to Death Row over 20 years ago, but recent evidence has brought doubt to his sentencing. Despite bipartisan calls for a stay and new trial, Governor Abbott did nothing to stop this man from being put to death by the state of Texas. Luckily last week, the Texas Court of Appeals issued an indefinite stay. Governor Abbott's inaction is unacceptable. Please share this story with your communities so we can all remember that the Governor does not work for justice or to protect innocent human lives.

Read: [The Intercept: Texas Court Halts Rodney Reed Execution](https://www.theintercept.com/2019/11/17/texas-court-halts-rodney-reed-execution/)

For more: [Dallas News: Texas Parole Board Recommends Gov Abbott Stop Rodney Reed Execution](https://www.dallasnews.com/news/crime/2019/11/17/dallas-parole-board-recommends-gov-abbott-stop-rodney-reed-execution/)

3. Run for Office - the Deadline to File is December 9!

There are still plenty of uncontested state representative races in Texas and the deadline to file for the 2020 election is just weeks away. We can't flip the state legislature if we don't get people to run.

Districts that need candidates: demprecincts.org: 2020 Texas House Races

Get the word out: Share this map and information with your groups!

4. Sign up for Teach Me How to Texas

The Texas Tribune launched a new initiative to help educate people about Texas: its history and culture, how different areas of the state vote, how candidates raise money, and more.

Education is power, so sign up to increase your TQ (Texas quotient)!

Sign up: teachmehowtotexas.org

Join: [This is Your Texas Facebook Group](#)

Donate: [Support the Texas Tribune's Nonprofit Newsroom](#)

5. Forward this email to a friend and encourage them to sign up for our weekly action email

If we want to make a difference at the 2021 legislative session, we've got to build our momentum and grow our impact. Please share this weekly action email with your friends, family, colleague, and fellow activists. Then encourage them to sign up themselves and pass it on to their own network!

Share: [Indivisible TX Lege Action Network Email Sign Up](#)

Join: [Indivisible TX Lege Facebook Group](#)

Check out: IndivisibleTXLege.org

That's it for this week. Keep up the great work!

Much love,

Marieke

Indivisible TX Lege

Action Network



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