

From:
To:
Subject: Weekly Indivisible TX Lege Actions
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 7:39:17 PM

Hi y'all,

It's hard to believe that we had the Texas primary less than two weeks ago. With COVID-19, our first priority should be the health of our families and communities. That means good hygiene, social distancing, and calling your doctor if you're showing symptoms of the virus. And, if you have time to get some actions done at home, bonus!

1. Call your State Rep, State Senator, and Governor Greg Abbott at 512-463-2000 to push for increased testing availability for COVID-19

One of the most important things we can be doing in Texas is making COVID-19 testing readily available, so people can find out if they're carrying the disease and need to self quarantine to avoid spreading it. Right now, access to the test is prohibitively restrictive. Our state government needs to step up and get Texans access to healthcare in this time of crisis.

Read: [Texas Monthly: Getting Tested for Coronavirus in Texas is Still Hard](#)

Retweet: [Texas Tribune Twitter Thread](#)

For more: [The Atlantic: America Isn't Testing for the Most Alarming Cases](#)

Say: "Hi, my name is _____ and I'm a constituent of the [Representative/Senator/Governor]. I'm calling to urge the Texas state government to make more tests available for the novel coronavirus. Testing and detection are vital to slow the spread of this very dangerous disease. I urge you to do everything in your power to increase the availability of testing to help prevent a public health crisis in our state. My zip code is _____. Thank you."

2. Call TEA Commissioner Mike Morath at 512-463-8985 and Governor Greg Abbott at 512-463-2000 to cancel the STAAR test due to COVID-19 related campus closures

As of now, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is planning to proceed with STAAR testing, which is scheduled to start on April 7. Because of preventative measures to protect students and teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers will be unable to adequately prepare students for the test, and schools will unfairly be held accountable.

For more: [Dallas News: Texas Schools Cancel Classes and Scramble Amid COVID-19 Concerns/](#)

Say: "Hi, I'm a concerned Texan, and I'm calling today to urge you to cancel administration of the upcoming STAAR tests. Due to campus closures related to COVID-19, students will not be prepared for the test. Recent letters from state legislators to Commissioner Morath indicate bipartisan concern that the spring STAAR test is not in the best interest of students, teachers, or parents. My zip code is _____. Thank you."

Call before Thursday, March 19: [Fox 26 Houston: TEA Finalizing Changes to State Testing](#)

3. Call your State Rep, State Senator, and Governor Greg Abbott to increase vote by mail options for the May runoff elections in light of COVID-19

The primary runoff elections will take place Tuesday, May 26, and public health concerns around COVID-19 will likely still be looming large. To prevent Texans from deciding between voting and protecting their health, our state government should increase the availability of voting by mail.

For more: [Austin American Statesman: Texas Runoff Amid Coronavirus Concerns](#)

Say: "Hi, my name is _____ and I'm a constituent of the [Representative/Senator/Governor]. I'm calling to encourage them to find solutions for our May runoff election that would allow all voters to vote by mail, or otherwise ensure access to the polls in a way that accounts for the current public health crisis. My zip code is _____. Thank you."

4. Check to see if you have a runoff election

In races where no candidate won greater than 50% of the vote, a runoff will take place on May 26. Check to see if you have any runoffs to vote in!

[Texas Tribune: Primary Election Results](#)

5. Respond to the Census!

If you're like me, you may have gotten your census information in the mail this week. Be sure to be on the look out for something in the mail if you haven't seen it yet, and make sure you respond by the deadline on your form!

That's it for this week. Please keep yourselves and your families safe!

Much love,

Marieke

Indivisible TX Lege

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