

From:
To:
Subject: Weekly Actions to help Texas from Indivisible TX Lege
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 5:47:51 PM

Hi y'all,

Now that the primary [runoffs are behind us](#), it's time to get focused on getting out the vote, supporting strong candidates this November and getting organized for the upcoming legislative session in 2021.

1. Find out who's running to be the State Representative and/or State Senator in your district

Election Day 2020 is on November 3. That's less than 100 days away! Find out who your candidates are for State Representative, and support the candidate who best aligns with your policy views and values.

Step 1: [Who Represents me?](#)

Step 2: Google search "state representative candidate Texas HD ##" (## represents your district) or "state senate candidate Texas SD ##"

Step 3: If you can't find the candidates on your ballot, let us know and we will help!

Step 4: Reach out to the candidate you support by finding their website or facebook page

If this is very frustrating, and you think a compiled list of candidates would be helpful, let us know and we will make it happen!

2. Call Governor Greg Abbott at 512-463-2000 to push back against President Trump's call to exclude non-citizens from the census count

Last week the President made a statement that he wanted to exclude non-citizens from the census count. While he doesn't have the legal authority to do so, we've seen time and time again that he and his words seem to be above the law. Let's push Governor Abbott to publicly push back against the President, as Texas will have a lot to lose if non-citizens are excluded from the count.

For more: [NPR: With no Final Say, Trump Wants to Change Who Counts for Dividing up Congress](#)

Read: [Pew Research: How Removing Non-Citizens from Census Statistics Could Affect House Reapportionment](#)

Listen: [Texas Public Radio: Tragedy on the Rio Grande Valley - How a low census count has negatively impacted a community's ability to respond to COVID-19](#)

Say: "Hi, I'm a constituent of Governor Abbott's and I'm calling to ask him to stand up for Texans and push back against President Trump's recent call to only

count citizens for the upcoming Census count. The Census has always included everyone who lives in the country, and Texas stands to lose a lot if non-citizens get left out. I trust that the Governor understands what is at stake, and understands that this issue should not be a partisan one. Please encourage him to do the right thing, and have EVERY Texan be counted. My zip code is _____."

3. Call AG Ken Paxton's office at 512-463-2100 to reverse his guidance that local public health officials do not have the power to preemptively close schools

COVID cases are still going up in our state. After Attorney General Ken Paxton released an opinion saying that local authorities don't have the power to preemptively close schools, the Texas Education Agency reversed previous guidance by saying that it won't fund schools if they don't open in-person, on time. These actions put our teachers, our students, and their families at risk for contracting COVID-19. If we want to flatten the curve, we need to have local authorities evaluating risk in their communities.

Read: [Texas Tribune: Texas Schools are Being Compelled to Reopen, Like it or Not](#)

Attend: [Jolt Town Hall: Reopening Schools in a Pandemic - Tuesday 8/4 6-7:30 pm CST](#)

Say: "Hi, I'm a constituent of Mr. Paxton's, and I'm calling today in regard to his opinion regarding school reopenings. COVID cases and transmissions are still on the rise in many parts of the state, and some areas are seeing hospital systems that cannot keep up. While I believe that education is of critical importance, we should be protecting the health and safety of our students and teachers first. It's hard to learn if you or your parents are dead or in the hospital. My zip code is _____."

4. Get ready for the 2021 Legislative Session!

The Texas Legislature meets every other year from January to May, so there is A LOT to cover in those 5 months. Get prepped and ready to keep up with the fast moving action and influence what bills become laws and what laws get funded by the budget board. Here are some steps you can take today!

Join: [Join](#) an [issue huddle](#) to focus on a specific issue that's important to you. We're also looking for issue huddle leaders for some huddle groups!

Join our [Facebook group](#).

Not sure how you can get involved? [Join Indivisible TX Lege](#) and we can help you figure that out!

Share: Encourage friends and family to [sign up for our newsletter](#)

Read: [Texas Monthly: The Next Legislative Session Will Meet Amidst an Economic Nightmare](#)

Meet: Did you know that your US rep represents, on average, 700,000 constituents while your Texas State Rep represents as few as 3,291

constituents? That means that your voice can have an outsized impact at the state level. Reach out to your State Rep and State Senator to have a virtual meeting ahead of the 2021 session. They'll have a lot more time for constituent meetings now than they will during the session! Please reach out to us if you have any questions on how to do that.

Here are two opportunities to meet State Rep Candidates this week, from our friends at [All On the Line](#):

- Democracy Talk w/ Ann Johnson - Candidate for HD 134. Tuesday, August 4, 5:30pm - 6:30 pm. [RSVP HERE](#)
- Democracy Talk w/ Sharon Hirsch - Candidate for HD 66 Thursday, August 6th, 7pm - 7:45pm [RSVP HERE](#)

That's it for this week, folks. Keep up the good work, stay safe, and keep sending us your feedback, good ideas, and great questions!

Much love,
Marieke
Indivisible TX Lege

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