

From:
To:
Subject: Indivisible TX Lege Weekly Actions
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 7:46:08 AM

Hi y'all,

As we mentioned last week, bill filing is underway for the 2021 legislative session. In other news:

- [Our Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick is strangely sticking his neck out for Donald Trump.](#)
- [Our Attorney General Ken Paxton is under investigation by the FBI.](#)
- [Our Governor Greg Abbott refuses to take action to slow the alarming increase in COVID-19 cases in our state.](#)
- Oh! And don't forget that [Allen West, the new Texas GOP Chair \(from Florida?\) has been bullying the likely next Texas Speaker of the House...a fellow Republican.](#)

It really is a shame that Molly Ivins isn't around to give us her take on these shenanigans, some with devastating consequences. Texas State government sure is special.

Here are you actions for this week:

1. Push for COVID-19 Protection Measures

Call Governor Abbott at 512-463-2000 to Enact Common Sense COVID-19 Precautions to Save Lives. COVID-19 rates in Texas continue to climb. In El Paso County, the local government was sued by the State over a shutdown order, and unfortunately the state won. [Now El Paso is at crisis levels.](#) Not only is our State Government fundamentally overreaching, they're doing it in a way that puts thousands of lives at risk and overwhelms an already stretched healthcare system. Keep calling until we see action from the Governor.

For more: [nytimes.com: Compare Covid Rates to Restrictions by State](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/18/us/politics/covid-19-rates-restrictions-texas)

Say: *"Hi, I'm a constituent of Governor Abbott's. I'm calling to urge him to do the right thing and enact common sense precautions against COVID-19 in our state. The data is clear - indoor dining and bars are a huge contributor to the spread. If we want to avoid unnecessary loss of life and minimize long-term economic devastation to Texas, we MUST contain the spread of this disease. Our healthcare system is beyond the brink in many communities. How many Texans will die under Governor Abbott's watch before he steps up and does his job? We deserve better. My zip code is _____."*

2. Organize around Marijuana Decriminalization TODAY

Join us at 3 pm this Monday, November 23 to discuss legislation to legalize marijuana in Texas. 25 States have now decriminalized marijuana, either for recreational or medicinal use. Why does that matter? [Despite similar usage rates, Black Americans are 3 times as likely](#)

[to be arrested for marijuana possession rates as White Americans, and 10 times more likely to be incarcerated](#). Essentially - marijuana is already legal if you're white. If Texas can decriminalize and legalize marijuana, we can add revenue to adequately fund education, healthcare, infrastructure, and so much more.

Zoom: <https://indivisible.zoom.us/j/96551126477>

3. Cancel the STAAR Test

Call your State Rep to push the TEA to cancel the STAAR exam this year. Despite uncertainty, stress, frustration, and economic disparities faced across school districts in Texas this year that were amplified due to COVID, the Texas Education Agency still plans to progress with the STAAR exam this year. They state that they want to measure the setbacks that students faced this year, but some educators would rather see those resources diverted from the test and toward teaching.

For more: [Texas Tribune: 68 Members of the House Call for the STAAR Test to be Canceled](#)

Read: [Star-Telegram Opinion: STAAR Tests During Coronavirus Don't Make Sense. Here's What Texas Should Do Instead](#)

Say: "Hi, I'm a constituent of Representative _____. I'm calling today to urge them to push the TEA and Governor Abbott to cancel the STAAR exam this year. [insert your personal story here] Our kids and their families have gone through enough this year, and we'll need teachers and students alike to focus their remaining energy on learning, not high-stress testing. My zip code is _____."

4. Learn

Join us for a Virtual Texas Tour on Saturday, December 12 at 10 am. Ever wonder what our state government does? Or how they impact your life? Or maybe you know some fellow activists who are looking to learn more about the lege (or could be nudged into getting more involved)? Join us for an hour where we'll cover the basics and help you understand how you can impact what happens at the Capitol.

Sign up: [Virtual Texas Tour Facebook Event](#) - if that link doesn't work, join our [Facebook Group](#) for access.

Let us know what you want to learn about (and share this link with friends!): [Virtual Texas Tour Interest Survey](#)

Next week we should have a zoom link available. We'll keep [the Calendar](#) updated

Hope you and your families have a safe, restful, and fun Thanksgiving holiday this week!

Much love,
Marieke
Indivisible TX Lege

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