

From:
To:
Subject: Push for Virtual Testimony. Indivisible TX Lege Actions for the Week
Date: Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:29:44 PM

Hi y'all,

It's time to gear up for 2021 amidst all of your year end holiday plans. I hope each of us can spend a few hours between now and the end of the year to gear up for the 2021 legislative session. It'll be here and gone before you know it!

1. Call the Texas State House Rules Committee

Call members of the Texas State House Rules Committee and ask them to vote to allow remote testimony during the 2021 Legislative Session. COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Texas, and with the Legislative session starting just over a month from now, our state government hasn't nailed down a plan to accommodate testimony from constituents. Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick would prefer to have people continue to provide testimony in person, with a COVID test 24 hours ahead of time. We've figured out how to do just about everything virtually this year. Let's tell our government that we can and should be able to provide virtual testimony.

For more: [Texas Tribune: Dan Patrick Says Covid Test Likely Required Ahead of Testimony](#)

Say: "Hi, I'm a constituent in Texas, and I'm calling to urge the House Rules Committee to provide for virtual input from Texans during the 2021 session to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 and avoid an undue burden of additional testing and travel for Texans. Virtual hearings and testimony will reduce the risk and slow the spread in our state, without limiting access to participation, which is a bedrock of our democracy. I support a spirit of open and transparent government, and we need to ensure that can happen in 2021. My zip code is ____."

OR simply: "Texans want the opportunity to provide input at the lege. Please allow for virtual hearings."

Call: Brooks Landgraf at 512-463-0456; Todd Hunter at 512-463-0672; Ana Hernandez at 512-463-0614; Joe Moody at 512-463-0728

For more: [Find shareable graphics from our friends at Texans Against Gerrymandering](#)

2. Learn about the Lege!

Join us this Saturday 12/12 at 10 AM CST on zoom, and bring a few friends, to learn the nuts and bolts about how our state government works. We'll spend an hour covering TX Lege 101, the budget, redistricting, and how you can make an influence on the direction of our state. Understanding our state government is a MUST for anyone living in Texas.

Register: [Virtual Texas Tour - TX Lege Training Saturday, Dec 12 at 10 AM CST](#)

3. Join an issue huddle

Join an issue huddle that focuses on important issues for you. The speed and breadth of the legislature is just too vast for any person to fully grasp. At Indivisible TX LEge, we organize around issues so you can focus on the bills that are important for you. Fill out the [Join Us](#) form, and let us know which area you want to focus on this session. Don't have a specific area you're focused on? That's OK, [join us!](#) There is plenty of work to do between now and May 31, and every little bit helps.

Read: [Indivisible TX Lege Issue Huddles](#)

- Care about voting rights? redistricting? civil rights? Join the [Democracy Huddle](#)
- Want to see Medicaid expansion happen in Texas? Care about keeping rural hospitals open? Join the [Healthcare Huddle](#)
- Care about education in Texas? How children and teachers are impacted by our state budget? Join the [Education Huddle](#)
- Care about climate change? Cancer clusters? Join the [Environmental Huddle](#)
- Care about reproductive justice and choice? Join the [Reproductive Rights Huddle](#)
- Care about how LGBTQ Texans are helped or hurt by the state? Join the [LGBTQIA Huddle](#)

We also plan to have huddles focused on criminal justice and marijuana reform, immigration, the economy, and gun safety.

We definitely have our work cut out for us in the next 6 months. Let's all do a little work now to make sure we're ready to hit the ground running in 2021 and make a big difference in the state of Texas. We appreciate you!

Much love,
Marieke
Indivisible TX Lege

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