

From:
To:
Subject: Protect the Rules of the Texas Senate - Indivisible TX Lege Weekly Actions
Date: Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:13:20 PM

Hi y'all,

This time next month, the 87th Legislative Session will have gavelled in! Let's make the most of our next few weeks heading into session to get prepared and ready to hit the ground running.

1. Uphold the Three-Fifths Rule in the Texas Senate

Call Dan Patrick (512-463-0001) and your State Senator and push them to keep the current Senate 3/5 rule. Right now, it takes 19 of 31 Senators to call a bill to the floor for a vote. In November, the State Senate Republicans lost their super majority, only holding 18 seats. So, to maintain total power, Dan Patrick would like to change the rules to only require a simple majority, 16 votes, to call a bill to the floor.

Read: [Texas Tribune: Dan Patrick Seeks to Change Senate Rules](#)

Say: *"Hi, I'm a constituent of Senator/Lt Governor _____. I'm calling today to urge them to vote no on any changes to the number of senators needed to bring a bill to the floor. The threshold has already been reduced from two-thirds to three-fifths. Dropping it down to a simple majority will push our state to a more partisan and divided government. I want a state government that works for all Texans, not just some and I trust that y'all agree. My zip code is _____. Thank you."*

2. Push back on frivolous lawsuits

Call Attorney General Ken Paxton's office (512-463-2100) and urge him to work for the people of Texas and stop wasting our tax dollars on frivolous lawsuits. I'm sure you've seen the lawsuit that Ken Paxton, acting on behalf of the state of Texas, issued to several states that went for Joe Biden in the general election. Not only did the case have no legal standing and was summarily dismissed by the Supreme Court, it used ridiculous language, like saying the odds of four states in the suit voting for Biden was 1 in quadrillion. You can't make that stuff up. What a waste of Texas resources.

For more: [Texas Tribune: SCOTUS Throws Out Texas Lawsuit](#)

Say: *"Hi, I'm a constituent of Attorney General Paxton, and I'm calling to urge him to stop wasting Texans' tax dollars on frivolous lawsuits like the one he issued last week to several other states in our nation. Not only do his suits tear at the very fabric of our nation, they waste our tax dollars in a year where there is already a budget shortfall. That money should be used to help Texans who need it most, not to throw political darts over the fence. I expect my elected officials to work for their constituents. Period. My zip code is _____. Thank you."*

3. Catch up on what to expect this session

Watch the Texas Tribune's five one-hour-long sessions on how our state government works, and what to expect this session. Last week, the Texas Tribune held a week-long symposium to prep Texans on the upcoming legislative session. If you weren't able to make the sessions, we've linked them here. Highly recommended!

[All sessions can be found at TexasTribune.com/events](https://www.texastribune.org/events)

4. Help us find huddle leaders

Help Indivisible TX Lege find huddle leaders to lead our Democracy, Reproductive Rights, and LGBTQ Rights Huddles. We organize around the issues that matter most to you. Our issue huddles coordinate with advocacy partners who are the experts in their areas; e.g., Planned Parenthood, Common Cause, etc., so you don't have to be a legal expert, subject matter expert, or state legislative expert to help out. In order to get our huddles thriving, we need folks to step up and take the lead. If you have questions about what that means, you can [read more here](#) or send us an email. If you're not already part of our organizing team, you still have time to [join us](#) before the session starts in January. And don't forget to invite a friend or two!

5. Start familiarizing yourself with key 2021 bills

Read Progress Texas' summary of good, bad, and ugly bills that have been filed for the 87th Legislative Session. Texas legislators started filing bills on the Monday after the election. They have until March 12 to keep filing bills, and many have already been filed. Read up on some of the filed bills that Progress Texas is tracking. If you feel strongly about any, don't hesitate to reach out to your State Rep and Senators and let them know how these bills could directly impact you.

Bills to watch: [Progress Texas Legislative List](#)

Don't hesitate to reply back to this email with any questions, comments, feedback, or topics to include in future newsletters. And apologies if there are several typos this week. Both of my proofreaders fell asleep, and in the true grassroots spirit, I figure good enough is better than perfect!

Take care of yourselves and please keep up your good social distancing and mask-wearing habits. I appreciate you!

Much love,
Marieke
Indivisible TX Lege

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