

What's Next: 2036 and Beyond

Texas 2036 remains committed to supporting the state's decision makers in implementing their ongoing efforts to ensure a prosperous Texas. As we look toward our state's bicentennial, we have already begun strategizing our next steps.

Workforce of the Future



Better aligning middle school, high school and postsecondary to meet students' future needs.

Healthy Markets & Coverage



Ensuring that Texans can get the health care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford.

Energy Expansion



Fostering growth in emerging energy technologies to maintain the state's energy leadership.

Water Infrastructure & Supply



Ensuring the state addresses current needs and plans for its future growth.

Housing



Maintaining middle-class housing affordability as a competitive advantage.

Justice & Safety



Focusing on research that will improve workforce and education outcomes for veterans, foster children and formerly incarcerated individuals.

TEXAS²⁰₃₆

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Texas 2036 is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy organization building long-term, data-driven strategies to secure Texas' continued prosperity through the state's bicentennial and beyond.

TEXAS²⁰₃₆

INVESTING IN TEXAS



2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

A data-driven roadmap to addressing the issues that matter most to Texans and our state's future.

The Texas 2036 Difference

Strategic
Framework

Data

Legislative
Agenda

Civic
Demand

Results

OUR APPROACH

Following our first legislative session in 2021, our leadership, data and policy teams embarked on two years of research, dialogues and stakeholder events to support legislators as they took vital strides in laying a robust foundation for the future of our state.

Seventy-seven Texas 2036-endorsed bills and constitutional amendments passed during the 2023 legislative session, helping to optimize Texas' historic budget surplus and address many of the state's biggest challenges.

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Community College Finance Reform

Texas will be at the forefront of higher education reform with the passage of a comprehensive community college finance overhaul that — paired with a **\$691 million investment** — will help Texans earn the credentials needed for good-paying, in-demand jobs.

High-Quality Curriculum Expansion

A **\$500 million investment** will bring high-quality materials to schools and teachers, assisting new educators with lesson planning while ensuring more rigorous, grade-level instruction in classrooms.



70%

of jobs in Texas will require a postsecondary credential by 2036

19%

of elementary reading curriculum taught in Texas classrooms is on or above grade level



Did you know?



Texas 2036 supported efforts to remediate COVID learning loss with data-informed policies that improve tutoring and access to rigorous math courses, as well as initiatives to improve workforce data and access to work-based learning, including the passage of multiple bills and budget actions that will help increase access to apprenticeships.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Water Infrastructure Blueprint



Aimed towards repairing aging, deteriorating water systems and creating new water supplies, two new dedicated water funds will be established with a **\$1 billion investment**.



Broadband Expansion

A **\$1.5 billion investment** will support expansion of broadband internet service to unserved and underserved areas of the state through a dedicated fund.

Energy Expansion



The legislature established a new critical framework that will focus on the growth and development of the hydrogen energy sector, and embraced geothermal and carbon capture technologies to grow our energy portfolio.

New and Improved State Parks

A **\$1.1 billion investment** for state parkland acquisition and development and the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund holds the potential that will preserve and expand our natural landscapes for future generations.



Housing Development

New efforts to reduce administrative barriers to housing construction will help the state address its housing shortage for middle-class Texans.

Legislators also proactively planned for our future of transportation with flying vehicles and embraced long-term funding solutions for Texas highways as more electric vehicles impact motor fuels tax collections.



HEALTH CARE

59%

of Texans have skipped needed health care due to cost, including 56% of Texans with insurance



18%

of Texans are uninsured, representing nearly 5 million people



Healthy Markets Revitalization

To address rising health care prices, new legislation will prohibit contracts that restrict choice and will foster price transparency, demonstrating bipartisan support for lowering prices, improving market competition, and protecting both employer and patient rights.



Postpartum Medicaid Extension

Medicaid eligibility will be extended for new moms to 12 months postpartum.



A dozen Texas 2036-supported bills, including expanded access to youth mental health services and hospital bill transparency, will help address health care affordability and access across the state.

JUSTICE & SAFETY

Law Enforcement Reform



Comprehensive reforms will fundamentally re-shape the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, including increased transparency through a new officer misconduct reporting system and a new data infrastructure for officer personnel records and licensing actions.

1,400

dishonorably discharged peace officers have been re-hired since 2012

154K

pending cases have been added in state district courts since March 1, 2020



Court Backlogs Improvement



The requirement of systematic collection of case-level court data will provide a better understanding of what's behind persistent and costly court backlogs.

Budget support includes: More than \$10 million to fund IT services for state courts' day-to-day functions and to update legacy IT court data collection systems, as well as \$4.6 million for law enforcement reforms.



GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

\$39B+

savings from recent pension reform laws

2.46B

cyberattack attempts on state agencies every two months



Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability

During the regular session, lawmakers built on historic 2021 pension reforms that will completely pay off the unfunded liabilities of law enforcement and judicial pensions and speed up the retirement of the state's legacy pension debt.

Government Efficiency & Innovation

Millions in smart investments in state data and IT capacity will improve the efficiency of government operations and upgrade agency technology to address cybersecurity risks. There's also a directive for a timeline and funding needed to modernize the state's child welfare system.



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Lawmakers embraced critical funding and economic opportunities, including the creation of the Texas Space Commission, as well as working groups to study the impact of artificial intelligence on government operations.