

# President's Report: Activity Update

## See Texas 2036's legislative priorities for 2025 in new agenda

During the legislative session, Texas has the opportunity to continue its forward momentum with policies that advance our state's economic growth and shared prosperity.

[The Texas 2036 Legislative Agenda](#) highlights five areas of focus for session: water, college and career readiness, health care affordability, the criminal justice department under Sunset review and housing.

## Texas 2036 looks into the state of higher ed in TX prisons

A [new report](#) from Texas 2036 highlights the role that higher education can play in breaking the prison recidivism cycle and what lawmakers can do next year to expand educational opportunities.

**The facts:** Texas prisons house tens of thousands of incarcerated Texans a year, but once they reenter society almost half face rearrest in three years.



We showed TXLege the findings of the higher ed in Texas prisons report: [View the testimony](#)



Texas 2036 Senior Policy Advisor **Luis Soberon** [presented the findings](#) of the report at the Sunset Advisory Commission meeting on Nov. 14.

Also, check out Sunset Advisory [Committee Chairman Keith Bell's remarks](#) on expanding postsecondary opportunities for incarcerated Texans.

## Texas 2036 partners with Rice University in latest water report



A [new report](#) from the Center for Energy Studies at Rice University's Baker Institute and Texas 2036 explores the effects of multi-year dry spells on the state's energy production, economy and points to opportunities created by new investment in water infrastructure.

*"Texas' history shows that **resilience requires foresight.** This report underscores the high stakes behind the decision to invest in water infrastructure, with potential costs reaching billions annually if we delay."*

- **Gabriel Collins, J.D.**, Baker Botts Fellow in Energy and Environmental Regulatory Affairs at Rice University's James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy

## Permanent School Fund announces record distribution

On Nov. 22, the [Permanent School Fund Corp.](#) received authorization for a record distribution to Texas public schools, increasing funding available for public schools by \$512 million over the previous biennial distribution. The final amount, when combined with a \$1.2 billion distribution made by the Texas PSF Corp. in September, [totals a record-high \\$4.8 billion biennial disbursement](#) to help fund Texas public schools. Research spearheaded by Texas 2036 and the Center for Houston's Future in 2021 helped lay the foundation for the achievement.

## High quality reading, math curriculum approved by State Board of Education

The State Board of Education [approved new instructional materials](#) to support Texas students in developing the math skills they need to succeed in the modern economy – an issue that we [wrote about earlier this year](#).

**Education testimony:** On Nov. 11, Texas 2036's **Gabriel Grantham** provided [written testimony](#) on improving K-12 pathways at the Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education.

## Texas 2036 made stops in the RGV

President and CEO **David Leebron**, EVP **A.J. Rodriguez**, SVP of Development **Anne Krause** and SVP of Policy and Advocacy **John Hryhorchuk** met with RGV leaders from Nov. 7-9 in McAllen and Brownsville, stopping by the Texas Lyceum conference in South Padre Island and visiting the SpaceX facility outside of Brownsville.



## Texas 2036 in the Community

**Nov. 9:** Director of Infrastructure and Natural Resources Policy **Jeremy Mazur** spoke to the North Texas Renewable Energy Group.

**Nov. 12:** **Jeremy Mazur** spoke on a water infrastructure funding panel at the Water Environment Association of Texas' 2024 Water Environment Horizon Conference in Austin.

**Nov. 13:** Director of Government Affairs **Jordan Wat** participated on a panel discussion providing insights into the 89th Texas Legislative Session before the United Ways of Texas conference.

**Nov. 14:** Executive Vice President **A.J. Rodriguez** spoke at the Texas YMCA State Conference in San Antonio.

**Nov. 14:** **Jeremy Mazur** provided the keynote presentation at the North Texas Water Conservation Symposium.

**Nov. 14:** Director of Health and Economic Mobility **Charles Miller** and Director of Government Performance and Fiscal Policy **Rahul Sreenivasan** coordinated Employers for Childcare (E4C) coalition activity for the Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development hearing on child care.

**Nov. 15:** Vice President of Data and Analytics **Dr. Holly Heard** spoke at the TXCPA conference in Dallas. Holly spoke about our key policy priorities in education, water and health.

**Nov. 15:** **Rahul Sreenivasan** spoke at the Texas Tech School of Law Class on the Texas Legislative process.

**Nov. 19:** **Jeremy Mazur** spoke on the energy and water infrastructure policy panel at the Texas Legislative Study Group Policy Summit in Austin.

**Nov. 19:** Policy Advisor **Emily Dove** spoke at the Houston Housing Collaborative's Housing Conference on Texas' housing affordability.

**Nov. 20:** **John Hryhorchuk** traveled to Waco to speak at the Waco Leadership Forum on Texas 2036's legislative priorities in 2025.

**Nov. 20:** **Jeremy Mazur** moderated a panel with Rep. Zwiener, Rep. Howard and Sen. Sparks for the Texas Energy Summit.

**Nov. 21:** **Jeremy Mazur** spoke at the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce's Fort Bend Legislative Conference.



## Texas 2036 stops in DFW to talk tech, workforce

Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy **John Hryhorchuk** and Director of Government Affairs **Jordan Wat** attended the Dallas Regional Chamber's Dallas Regional Days on Nov. 18 with dozens of elected officials and partners. While there, John and Jordan toured the Toyota North America Headquarters and an Amazon Air Hub to learn more about innovative solutions in tech and workforce development.



## Bringing Texans together to drive change

**Nov. 15:** **The States for the Future**, the Texas 2036-led national network of data-oriented state public policy organizations, held an All Network Meeting to highlight the continued growth of the network and plans to expand opportunities and support for participating states.

**Nov. 18:** **Texas 2036** hosted our Fall Research Advisory Council in Austin. Members heard from **Jeremy Mazur** about our Legislative Agenda. They also received a report from Member **Carolyn Landel** of UT Austin about the work of the LONESTAR3 Education Network of which Texas 2036 is a Strategy Partner.

**Nov. 19:** **Texas 2036** hosted with the Data Integration Support Center at WestEd and DARO, a group of 50 stakeholders at the "Strengthening Texas' Education to Workforce Efforts" convening in Austin. The event, which brought together state agency staff, practitioners, researchers and philanthropy, featured discussions on how Texas can optimize its data systems across K-12, higher education and the workforce to expand and improve opportunities for all Texans.

## Texas 2036 in the News

In November, Texas 2036 continued to add to our growing list of **470 media stories published in 180 news outlets this year**. This month alone, our work was featured in more than a dozen outlets!

**Texas 2036's 8th Texas Voter Poll is in the field right now. In the coming weeks, we'll roll out the results, offering critical insights into what Texans see as the biggest priorities for the future.**