

President's Report: Activity Update

Organizations join up to make data-driven impact nationwide

Through [States for the Future](#), Texas 2036 and similar organizations in other states are coming together to share knowledge, solutions and ideas to strengthen each organization's efficacy and impact.

What is States for the Future? A network of nonpartisan, nonprofit policy organizations working to advance state-level policies using data and research — not ideology. [Learn more.](#)

Texas 2036 was Top Resource on State Budget Analysis

In early January, the Texas Comptroller announced the [new revenue estimate for the fiscal 2026-27 biennium](#). Texas 2036 was the [top resource](#) for media looking for state budget breakdowns and was [featured in 141 stories](#) on the topic.

Some stories include:

- [What to expect during the 89th Texas Legislature \(KVUE-TV\)](#)
- [Texas Legislature has \\$194.6 billion to spend in budget cycle \(KXAN-TV\)](#)
- [Texas Senate, House unveil budget proposals, each just over \\$330 billion \(Houston Public Media\)](#)



Govt. Performance and Fiscal Policy Director **Rahul Sreenivasan** talks with KXAN's Will Dupree on the Texas budget revenue estimate.

Your policy guide to TXLege 2025

The 89th Texas Legislature is underway, and Texas 2036 is here to keep you informed. We broke down the top things to know on how to navigate the 2025 session.

- [Understanding the TXLege: How laws are made in the state](#)
- [TXLege: Your 2025 insider guide](#)

Texas 2036 on Ed & Workforce

This month, Texas 2036 released an [education newsletter along with six issue papers](#) diving in on what education and workforce issues we will be focusing on this session.

NAEP Results: Released in late January, the Nation's Report Card revealed troubling declines in student performances across Texas and the country. [We took a look at the top takeaways.](#)

Blogs you should read:

- [Early math in Texas: How it can shape our future workforce](#)
- [How Texas Lege 2025 can invest in rural students](#)

Texas Lege on Water Funding

Texas legislators have allocated in their base budgets \$2.5B for water supply, infrastructure and flood mitigation for the 2026-27 biennium.

With that announcement, media outlets turned to Texas 2036 data this month on what the [future of water](#) could look like this session.

Blogs you should read:

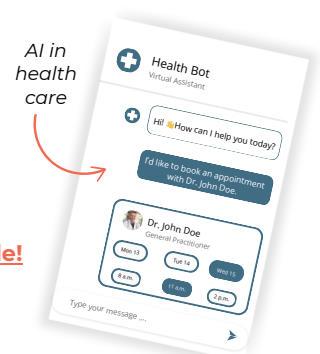
- [Texas' water infrastructure needs](#)
- [Other keys to water policy success](#)

We're water-focused: Texas 2036 is rallying business and civic leaders across the state on water funding. Learn more at www.texas2036.org/txwater-funding.

Texas 2036 Provided Data for Texas Lyceum's AI Conference

Texas 2036 is honored to be the official data partner of the [Texas Lyceum](#), which held its [public conference in Austin](#) in late January on the future of artificial intelligence in Texas.

[Check out the one-pager we made!](#)



Texas 2036 in the Community

Our team made several stops across the state this month to speak about our work. Here's where we've been:

Jan. 22: Executive Vice President **A.J. Rodriguez** spoke at the Federal Bank of Dallas' RAISE Texas Financial Inclusion Summit on a panel about Shaping the Future of Texas with Texas Tribune CEO Sonal Shah in Dallas.

Jan. 22: Policy Advisor **Gabe Grantham** spoke at the Texas Public Charter Schools Association event TexED Lege Talks: What's Going Well in Public Education.

Jan 22-23: Infrastructure and Natural Resources Policy Director **Jeremy Mazur** spoke about water infrastructure needs at the Dallas Regional Chamber Infrastructure Committee and the Dallas Regional Chamber Policy Advisory Council.

Jan 23: Health and Economic Mobility Policy Director **Charles Miller** spoke at the National Association of Brokers & Insurance Professionals Capitol Day in Austin.

Jan. 23: Government Performance and Fiscal Policy Director **Rahul Sreenivasan** attended the LONESTARTRP3 Data Council meeting as an Advocacy Advisor.

Jan. 24: Senior Policy Advisor **Luis Soberon** spoke at the UT Law Nonprofit Organizations Institute.

Jan. 27: President and CEO **David Leebron** and **A.J. Rodriguez** were hosted in Midland and Odessa by Board member Tracee Bentley.

Texas 2036 at the Capitol



Jan. 27: **Luis** provided testimony on Article IV: The Judiciary, specifically addressing the role of the Office of Court Administration.

Jan. 28: **Luis** returned to testify on Article V: Public Safety & Criminal Justice, focusing on the Department of Criminal Justice and the Commission on Law Enforcement.

Jan. 29: **Rahul** testified on Article I: General Government, covering topics related to the Employees Retirement System.

Jan. 30: Policy Advisor **Mitrah Avini** testified on Article I: General Government – Office of the Governor, specifically on the Texas Space Commission. **Rahul** continued his testimony on Article I addressing the Department of Information Resources.



This month, **A.J. Rodriguez** sat with US Lege's Laura Carr on the **New Bills & Business Podcast** to talk about Texas 2036's 2025 TXLege priorities.



Jeremy Mazur sat with Texas Tribune Editor-in-Chief Matthew Watkins and reporter James Barragan on **TribCast on Jan. 28** to talk about the future of water in Texas.

Texas 2036 in the News

In January, Texas 2036 broke records in terms of garnering earned media, with **more than 230 articles, TV and radio broadcast stories** featuring our people or mentioning our work.

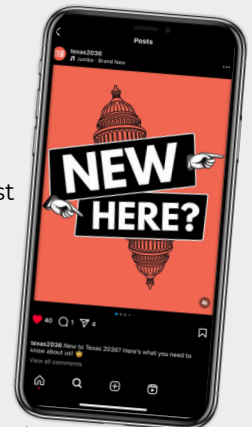
Here's a sampling of the news stories:

- Austin American-Statesman – **"Texas lawmakers have their priorities for this session. But what do Texans want?"**
- Dallas Morning News – **"Texas Legislature returns Tuesday. Leadership battles, divisive issues await lawmakers"**
- Houston Chronicle – **"This lawmaker wants to fix Texas' water shortage with desalination and billion-dollar pipelines"**
- KUT-FM – **"Texas' economy stands to lose billions of dollars without investments into its water infrastructure"**
- Texas Standard – **"Policy experts want dedicated funding for water projects in 2025"**
- Texas Tribune – **"National test scores show Texas students still lag in math and reading"**

Texas 2036 on Social

Out of the **15,000+ engagements** our social posts have received this month alone, we wanted to flag a few that caught our attention:

- Rep. Tom Oliverson calling out our team
- Sen. Paul Bettencourt **highlighting us on X**
- Rep. Donna Howard flagging our NAEP post
- Sen. Charles Perry **calling out our poll results** in Jason Whitely's Inside Texas Politics interview on WFAA-TV in Dallas.



Also, our new **Instagram post** has been turning some heads.