

President's Report: Activity Update

Building a more resilient Texas



Texans are facing more extreme weather, which makes resilience planning and legislative action critical to future-proof our state. We took a [look at the data](#) and how Texas is taking action.

2023 A-F school ratings were released. Here's what it means.

Earlier this month, the 15th Court of Appeals [cleared the release](#) of Texas' 2023 A-F academic accountability ratings – a key tool for tracking student progress in public schools.

Parents, students and community leaders have not had a full accounting of these important measures of school performance since the 2018-19 school yearcontinuing to withhold these 2024 scores is making a lasting impact on Texas families as they try to prepare the next generation for success.

Mary Lynn Pruneda, Education and Workforce Policy Director

Closing the skills gaps starts in Texas high schools

In nearly six years, 63% of jobs in Texas will require some sort of postsecondary credential or training.

That's why we did a [deeper dive on the data](#) and how the Texas Legislature is acting now to equip high school students with the skills and credentials they need to thrive in a changing economy.



This month, CBS Evening News spotlighted a powerful example of rural collaboration in action: the Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ) in South Texas.

Can Texas reduce recidivism?

Texas state prisons release over 45,000 inmates each year, but **nearly half are rearrested within three years** and up to 20% end up back in prison.

That's why this session, lawmakers have an opportunity to reduce recidivism with cost-saving measures. Here's [what the numbers reveal](#) and where criminal justice actions could go next.

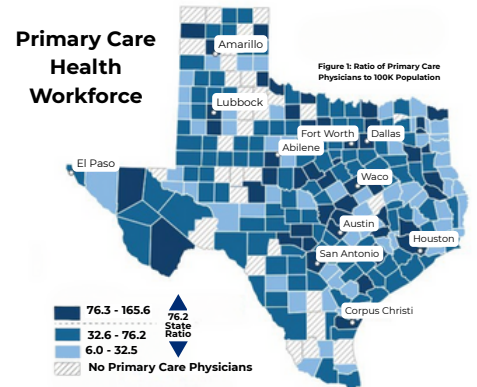


Source: Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice and Windham School District

Fixing health care, the TX way

Health care in Texas isn't just getting more expensive. It's getting less competitive and less transparent.

Texas 2036 [looked at the top issues](#), what the data is saying and how Texas is working to address health care access and affordability.



Source: Texas Demographic Center and Texas Dept. of Health and Human Services

Learn more: [Where are the uninsured located in Texas?](#)

Texas 2036 at the Capitol

This month, our policy team actively **supported 95 bills addressing critical issues** such as water infrastructure, health care, childcare, justice reform, housing, government accountability, education and workforce development.

Top Takeaways: Several of our supported bills have advanced, including some reaching the Governor's desk for final approval. Texas 2036 remains committed to ensuring the successful completion of these critical initiatives.

More on Texas Budget:

In early April, Director of Government Performance and Fiscal Policy **Rahul Sreenivasan** submitted testimony supporting House Bill 500, highlighting [key spending priorities](#) ahead of the bill's consideration on the House floor.

Texas 2036 in the Community

April 1: Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy **John Hryhorchuk** spoke at the Collin County Days Fly-In, hosted by the Plano Chamber of Commerce in Austin.

April 1: Senior Vice President of Development **Anne Krause** spoke about Texas 2036 at the Oakes Club luncheon in San Antonio

April 3: Vice President of Communications **Merrill Davis** and **John Hryhorchuk** led a panel on workforce and economic trends with Texas Economic Development Corporation CEO Aaron Demerson and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Pia Orrenius at the 2025 NASCO Continental Reunion in Fort Worth.

April 3: Executive Vice President **A.J. Rodriguez** talked about Texas 2036's legislative efforts this session at Leadership McKinney Day, hosted by the McKinney Chamber of Commerce in Austin.

April 4: President and CEO **David Leebron** spoke on Texas 2036's legislative efforts this session at the Empower Summit in Sugar Land.

April 9: **A.J. Rodriguez** spoke about Texas 2036's agenda this session at the Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. He also thanked the chamber for its support for the [Texas Water Funding Coalition](#).

April 10: Vice President of Data and Analytics **Holly Heard** spoke at the Texas Undergraduate Research Day at a panel on Applied/Policy Research with David Troutman of THECB and Allyson Cornett of Trellis Strategies.

Tom Luce recognized as a Trailblazer by Bush Center



(Left to Right): President George W. Bush, Tom Luce and former First Lady Laura Bush pose with Tom's Trailblazer Citation Award on April 24, 2025.

On April 24, Texas 2036 Founder **Tom Luce** was honored with the George W. Bush Institute Trailblazer Citation, a prestigious award recognizing leaders who are lighting the way toward a better world.

Watch: Tom's close friends [share their congratulations](#) and reflect on the impact he has made throughout his remarkable career.

Anne Krause on San Antonio's 'Texas Talk'

San Antonio's KLRN "Texas Talk" host Nora Lopez sat with Anne Krause this month to discuss Texas 2036 and what issues and challenges face the growing state of Texas. [Watch here.](#)



(Left to Right): SVP of Development Anne Krause and "Texas Talk" host Nora Lopez. (Source: KLRN)

Texas 2036 continues to surpass previous records in terms of garnering earned media, with **more than 440 articles, TV and Radio broadcast stories** featuring our people or mentioning our work this year.

Here's a sampling of this month's news stories:

- Austin Business Journal - ["Austin could approve another 'missing middle' housing type"](#)
- Community Impact - ["Texas Senate bill would overhaul how agencies prepare for, respond to wildfires"](#)
- Dallas Morning News - ["Cash for tests? Texas homeschoolers weigh requirements under school choice proposal"](#)
- Houston Chronicle - ["Demand for Texas child care subsidies is skyrocketing, often leaving families waiting months for help"](#)
- KVUE - ["Two priority bills to expand student career training given initial approval by Texas House"](#)
- KXAN - ["Texas House preparing for long budget session"](#)
- San Antonio Report - ["Texas Education Agency releases 2023 ratings two years late. How did your school district do?"](#)
- Spectrum News - ["In Focus | Water infrastructure"](#)
- Texas Tribune - ["From desalination to water treatment: Bill that prioritizes creating new water supplies get Texas Senate OK"](#)

Texas 2036 hits 30K Email Subscribers! 🎉

Over 30,000 Texans now subscribe to Texas 2036's weekly newsletter to stay informed on key issues and our data/policy impact.

Know someone who can benefit from our newsletter? [Send them here.](#)