Celebrating 189 years of Texas Spirit on Independence Day



We kicked off this month with <u>Texas' birthday</u>, celebrating 189 years of Texas Spirit and taking a look at how Texas earned a booming population.

Dive into the data: <u>U.S. Census Data: How Texas</u> <u>earned a booming population</u>

Water still remains a top priority for Texas 2036, TXLege

Texas 2036 continues to monitor the legislative efforts surrounding water during the 89th legislative session.

Why? Reliable, consistent state investment in water infrastructure protects Texas' Economic Miracle while establishing a strong foundation for continued growth, development and prosperity.

Learn more: <u>3 Data Points Show Why Texas Lege</u> <u>2025 is Investing in Water</u>

Fire prevention is also on the radar

On March 12, Director of Infrastructure and Natural Resources Policy **Jeremy Mazur** testified before the House Committee on State Affairs in support of House Bill 13, which aims to enhance first responders' communications amid extreme weather events.

Early education and childcare

Last year, only 40% of Texas voters told us that future generations of Texans would have the same or better opportunities than previous generations. This month, Texas 2036 took a look at the education and childcare opportunities this session.

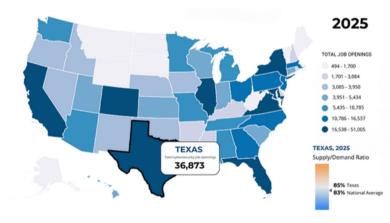


Public school accountability and student outcomes

Texas has gone two years without publishing A-F academic accountability ratings, which are vital for fostering student progress, transparency and continuous improvement in public schools. **Read more.**

Student Outcomes: On March 4, Director of Education and Workforce Policy **Mary Lynn Pruneda** testified before the House Committee on Public Education in support of House Bill 2, which aims to improve Texas' student outcomes with targeted funding increases.

Texas 2036 reviews cybersecurity data, future TXLege opportunities



There are nearly 40,000 unfilled cybersecurity jobs in Texas in 2025. At this time, Texas has 103,752 total employed cybersecurity workers. (Source: www.cyberseek.org/heatmap)

This month, Texas 2036 <u>reviewed the data</u> on cyberattacks and cybercrimes, the Texas Dept. of Information Resources and the steps Gov. Abbott and state legislators are taking this session with talks of a new cyber command.

Texas 2036 at the Capitol

This month, the policy team actively engaged on at least 75 bills covering a broad spectrum of critical issues.

What we're seeing: Data and long-term thinking are shaping this session in real time.

Learn more: <u>The Session's First 60 Days: Constitutional</u> <u>limits and bill filing</u>

Texas 2036 in the Community

March 3: Jeremy Mazur was a panelist at the the Texas Water Foundation's "Texas Water Day."

March 3: Mary Lynn Pruneda spoke about our education priorities this session at the Longview Chamber of Commerce's "East Texas Chamber Delegation."

March 4: Jeremy Mazur was a panelist at the "Texas Desal Legislative Workshow" for Texas Desalination Association and a speaker at the Longview Chamber of Commerce's East Texas Chamber Delegation.

March 6: Mary Lynn Pruneda talked K-12 education and accountability at SXSW EDU's "Education and the Texas Legislature" in downtown Austin.

March 10: Charles Miller was a panelist at Capitol Factory House 2025 with the Data Foundation to talk about health care and the Texas Legislature.

March 11: Charles Miller spoke on a panel on health care innovation at the Riley House.

March 11: Executive Vice President A.J. Rodriguez was a panelist at University of Texas San Antonio and the Council on Competitiveness' "Texas Competitiveness Conversation Conference."

March 13: Jeremy Mazur spoke on water at the "NTCC Legislative Series," which was hosted by the North Texas Chamber of Commerce.

March 18: Vice President of Communications Merrill Davis was honored to be included in "The Top 50 Women Leaders of Austin for 2025," which was sponsored by Women We Admire.

March 19: President and CEO **David Leebron** spoke at the "2025 Waco Day in Austin," which was hosted by the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce.

March 19: Senior Vice President of Development Anne Krause was celebrated and served as a panelist at "Dream Big: Women Shaping San Antonio," which was sponsored by San Antonio Magazine.

March 26: A.J. Rodriguez appeared as a panelist at the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Austin Chapter's "Legislative Action Day" to discuss Texas 2036's legislative priorities.

March 26: Director of Government Affairs **Jordan Wat** was a panelist for Charter 100's "Unpacking the Legislative Session" to discuss general ed on legislative process.

March 26: Vice President of Data and Analytics Holly Heard presented Texas 2036 data at the Texas Demographic Center Affiliates Meeting.

Texas 2036 at Texas Legislative Conference 2025

A.J. Rodriguez served as Chairman of the 59th Annual Texas Legislative Conference hosted by the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce on March 27-28.

Jeremy Mazur also facilitated a panel discussion on water and energy.

For nearly 60 years, the Texas Legislative Conference has over the years proved a draw for policymakers, business leaders and community advocates.



Texas 2036 in the News

Since the start of the year, Texas 2036 has been featured in **more than 385** print and broadcast news stories.

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

- ABC 13 "<u>Texas lawmakers push</u> for solutions as soaring housing costs fuel statewide crisis"
- Dallas Morning News <u>"Texas</u> <u>Legislature must dive into water</u> future"
- Houston Chronicle "Houston ISD's dual enrollment participation, passage rates increase sharply after state takeover"
- KVUE "<u>Texas Water Day 2025</u> sees progress on water issues at the Capitol"
- KXAN "State lawmakers aim to fund water projects for years to come"
- San Antonio Mag <u>"Soaring Even</u> <u>Higher"</u>

Top March testimonies

- March 5: Jordan Wat testified before the Senate Committee on K-16 Education in support of Senate Bill 569, which aims to increase virtual education opportunities in Texas classrooms.
- March 19: Director of Government Performance and Fiscal Policy Rahul Sreenivasan testified before the House Committee on Delivery of Government Efficiency in support of HB 150, which establishes the Texas Cyber Command.
- March 25: Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy John Hryhorchuk testified before the House Committee on Higher Education in support of HB 2110, which expands upon HB 8's outcomes-based funding model for community colleges.

See more testimonies at @texas2036 on X.