TEXAS 2036 ACTIVITY UPDATE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2026

Texas 2036 welcomes members of Donor Advisory Committee

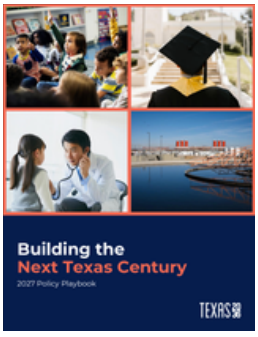


Texas 2036 President & CEO David Leebron addressing attendees at our annual Fall Policy Convening

Texas 2036 welcomed members of our Donor Advisory Committee, co-chaired by **Woody Hunt** and **Maynard Holt**, to our new Austin headquarters for a full-day discussion about Texas' future.

The annual **Fall Policy Convening** brought together key supporters and policy leaders to examine the challenges and opportunities facing our state.

Texas 2036 Board of Directors convenes in Austin



The following day, Texas 2036 welcomed its Board of Directors, chaired by **Marc Watts**, for their first meeting in our new Austin headquarters.

There, they adopted our **2027 Legislative Agenda**, outlining research-driven policy priorities to improve lives and expand opportunity for all Texans.

Preparing for Texas' Infrastructure Needs

Texas 2036's **Jeremy Mazur** and **Alex Rose Montgomery** examined budget requests from five key state agencies ahead of the 2027 legislative session, identifying opportunities to strengthen Texas' water infrastructure, energy reliability and disaster preparedness.

Their analysis recommends targeted investments to implement recent legislation, meet growing infrastructure demands and put available state resources to work on long-term priorities.

Texas 2036 Makes The Case for Action

As Texas approaches its bicentennial in 2036, our data and policy teams examined the forces shaping the state's future and the challenges requiring action today.

This two-part newsletter series draws on Texas 2036 research to highlight key trends in population growth, economic competitiveness, education, healthcare, water and energy, making the case for thoughtful policy decisions to sustain Texas' momentum and expand opportunity for all Texans.

Read the Series:

- **The Forces Shaping Texas' Next Decade**
- **What Texas Needs to Sustain Its Momentum**



The Texas of 2030 Is on Your Ballot

As early voting began, Texas 2036 released a **special election analysis** examining how decisions made by the leaders elected this November will shape Texas through 2030.

Drawing on population projections, infrastructure data and our latest Texas Voter Poll, the analysis highlighted the challenges ahead and the broad agreement among voters on priorities including education, healthcare affordability, electricity and water infrastructure.

John Hryhorchuk wrote about these findings and more in an op-ed for Austin American-Statesman:

- **Election season surprise: Many Texans actually want the same things**

BLOGS OF THE MONTH

01 Poll: Texans Want Healthcare Transparency, Reject Status Quo

Texas voters have noticed the gap between what they can see and what is actually happening to their healthcare, and there is agreement to keep it in check.

02 Texas Voters Agree on Healthcare: Transparency and Competition

The Texas Voter Poll points to a specific role for the state: show people prices, disclose ownership and keep the market competitive as it consolidates.

03 How Health Insurance Premiums Squeeze Teacher Paychecks

The rising price of healthcare itself is driving up premiums for teachers and eroding recent pay raises passed by the Legislature.

04 Texas General Election Is Coming: What to Know Before You Vote

If the primary is where political parties choose their nominees, the general election is where voters make the final choice among the candidates on the November ballot.

05 Texas' ERCOT Grid Passed the Reliability Test This Summer

The grid served every one of those record demand hours without a single statewide conservation appeal or grid-wide outage.

Texas 2036 in the community

Oct. 1: **Mary Lynn Pruneda** spoke on an assessment and accountability panel at the PIE Network Annual Summit in Chicaco, Illinois.

Oct. 2: **Jeremy B. Mazur** spoke on a virtual panel on water hosted by the Dallas Bar Assocation.

Oct. 7: **John Hryhorchuk** spoke at the Dallas Fed Workforce Development Roundtable, held at Austin Community College.

Oct. 8: **Mary Lynn Pruneda** presented on assessment and accountability at an event hosted by the Pacific Research Institute in Houston.

Oct. 8: **Renzo Soto** spoke on a panel on AI at an event hosted by the Pacific Research Institute in Houston.

Oct. 8: **Rahul Sreenivasan** spoke on the "From Capitol to Your Cause" panel at the One Day Conference in Austin, hosted by AFP Greater Austin.

Oct. 13: **Luis Soberon** presented at the Annual Higher Education in Prison Collaboration Meeting in Georgetown, hosted by Windham School District.

Oct. 17: **Luis Soberon** spoke at the Texas Correctional Education Conference in Huntsville, hosted by Lee College.

Oct. 27: **Alex Rose Montgomery and Jeremy Mazur** spoke at the Texas Energy Summit in Austin, hosted by Juniper Advising.

Oct. 29: **Dr. Tracy Ayrhart** spoke at the Seventh Annual UT Austin Quant Night at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center, hosted by The University of Texas at Austin.

Oct. 30: **Mary Lynn Pruneda** spoke at Southern Methodist University's advisory event in Austin, "Building A Workforce That Doesn't Exist Yet."

Texas 2036 in the news

Texas 2036 has been mentioned in print, online, TV and radio news **915 times this year.**

Here are the top news stories this month:

- Texas Tribune, **How Texas candidates plan to lower the cost of gas, groceries and housing**
- Dallas Morning News, **State agencies say they can't bear the cost of proposed property tax reform**
- Dallas Morning News, **McKenzie: Texas needs to think long term about water**
- The College Investor, **Texas Public Schools Lost 76,000 Students In One Year**
- Spectrum News, **Early voting starts in one week. Here's what you need to know**
- The Education Gadfly, **Texas-sized paychecks for great teachers**
- Dallas Morning News, **Texas water plans missed Corpus Christi's crisis**
- The 74, **'Just Aren't Enough Kids': Choice Schools Feel Effects of Low Birth Rates, Too**