

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM UPDATE

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
Groundwater Summit
August 31, 2022

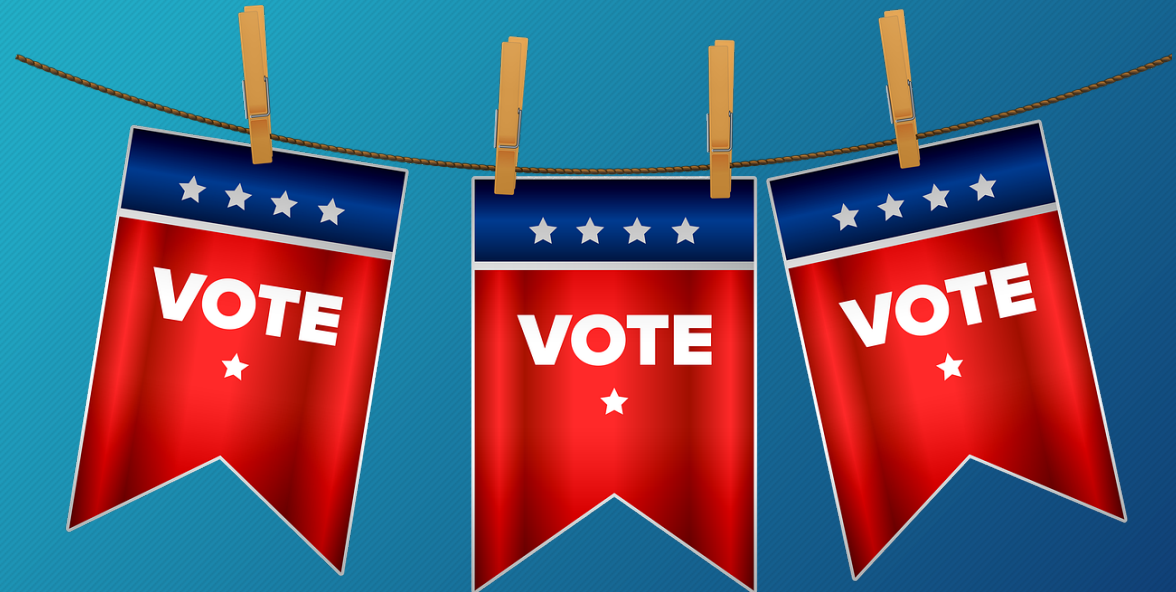


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Elections Update

- Texas House of Representatives
- Texas Senate
- Statewides



Interim Legislative Committees

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- Examine the state's groundwater management policy and regulatory framework.
- Review large-scale water transfers and impacts on groundwater resources
- Make recommendations to:
 - promote achievement of planning goals including DFCs...

Interim Legislative Committees

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (cont.)

- Make recommendations to:
 - provide adequate transparency to the permit application process
 - further the state's groundwater quality protection efforts, including an assessment of risks posed to groundwater by abandoned and deteriorated water wells and orphan oil and gas wells
 - promote conservation and waste prevention.
- Non-groundwater charges: water and flood infrastructure, desal, compensation/prior appropriations, coastal barrier system, others

Interim Legislative Committees

SENATE WATER, AGRICULTURE, AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- Groundwater Management and Protection:
 - Evaluate the status and effectiveness of the State's groundwater management process, including data used to support regional water planning and conservation goals.
 - Report on the effectiveness of the State's groundwater protection efforts and whether statutory changes are needed to protect groundwater quality.

Interim Legislative Committees

SENATE WATER, AGRICULTURE, AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (cont.)

- **Water Utility Infrastructure:** Evaluate the state's water infrastructure. Options to upgrade and update water infrastructure to address deferred maintenance, disasters, and water loss.
- **Water Supply:** Review and make recommendations to complete specific projects identified in the 2022 State Water Plan. In light of recent changes to the global economy, consider the current regulatory process regarding innovative technology solutions to water supply needs, such as marine desalination, and make recommendations for their improvement.
- Not listed, but important: SB 152

Interim Stakeholder Committees: TWCA

- GAM/Joint Planning Funding - Chairs: Mike Turco and Paula Jo Lemonds
- Mitigation - Chairs: Leah Martinsson and Lyn Clancy
- Surety Bonds (HB 3972 by T. King) - Chairs: Greg Ellis and Ed McCarthy
- Codify the Guitar opinion - Chairs: Doug Caroom and Shauna Fitzsimmons Sledge

Interim Stakeholder Committees: TWCA

- Groundwater Quality - Chairs: Marc Friberg and Ty Embrey
- Monitoring and Achievement of DFCs - Committee of the Whole
- Joint Efforts of TWCA Surface Water Committee and Groundwater Committee:
 - Task Force on Waste - Co-Chairs Lyn Clancy and Brian Sledge
 - Texas Real Estate Commission forms groundwater and surface water disclosures

SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION



- Typically, once every 12 years.
- Most natural resources agencies under review this year
- TCEQ; TWDB; PUC; TSSWCB
- Sunset amendments



UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

- November 8 - General Election
- November 14 - Prefiling of Bills for 88th Regular Session
- January 10, 2023 - 1st Day of Session



QUESTIONS?



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