# Introduction

## Problem

The democratic process works best if there is a well-informed citizenry. Given more information, voters can make more informed decisions on their support for political candidates. However, there currently does not exist a well-made central database containing information concerning the Texas Senate. There is no place to see comprehensive information on bills, senators, committees and the relationship between them. Without such a database, it is difficult for citizens to hold their government accountable. The ability for voters to see a candidate’s voting record allows them to decide for themselves whether a candidate is suitable for the job. While such databases exist for the federal government (<https://www.govtrack.us/> is an example), the only place where one can access a database for bills going through the Texas legislature is through the official Texas legislature website, which is insufficient, as it only contains information on bills, and contains no information about the voting records for specific legislators. The Texas Senate Database exists to provide such a service, to serve as a source of information so that voters can learn about bills, legislators, and committees in order to stay informed about the democratic process in Texas.

## Use Cases

The Texas Senate Database contains the following things:

Information about specific bills that are going through, or have gone through, the Texas Senate, including a brief summary, author, status, a link to the full text of the bill, the committee that the bill went through, and a breakdown of the votes for the bill.

Information about individual senators, including a brief biography, their voting history, a list of committees they chair or are a member of, and a link to their facebook and/or twitter, if they have one.

Information about Senate committees, including a description, their members, and a list of all bills to have gone through that committee.

Users of the Texas Senate Database