

2015 Texas State Senate Scorecard

Votes In This Scorecard



Senate Member	Party	District	1. Protecting Rivers	2. Illegal Dumping	3. Citizen Rights	4. Pollution Penalties	5. Chemical Safety	6. Fracking Regulation	7(s). Parks Funding	8(s). Renewable Energy Repeal	2015 %	Lifetime %
Paul Bettencourt	R	7	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	25	25
Brian Birdwell	R	22	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	38	32
Konni Burton	R	10	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	25
Donna Campbell	R	25	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	38	31
Brandon Creighton	R	4	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	25	25
Rodney Ellis	D	13	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	100	94
Kevin Eltife	R	1	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	63	68
Craig Estes	R	30	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	38	57
Troy Fraser	R	24	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	38	49
Sylvia Garcia	D	6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	100
Bob Hall	R	2	-	-	-	-	+	-	E	-	14	14
Kelly Hancock	R	9	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	38	31
Juan Hinojosa	D	20	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	63	73
Don Huffines	R	16	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	38	38
Joan Huffman	R	17	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	50	59
Lois Kolkhorst	R	18	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	38	38
Eddie Lucio Jr.	D	27	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	50	78
José Menéndez	D	26	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	88	88
Jane Nelson	R	12	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	63	51
Robert Nichols	R	3	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	50	41
Charles Perry	R	28	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	38	38
José Rodríguez	D	29	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	96
Charles Schwertner	R	5	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	50	44
Kel Seliger	R	31	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	50	65
Larry Taylor	R	11	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	38	50
Van Taylor	R	8	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	50	50
Carlos Uresti	D	19	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	63	81
Kirk Watson	D	14	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	95
Royce West	D	23	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	86
John Whitmire	D	15	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	88	84
Judith Zaffirini	D	21	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	88	89

Environment Texas

Environment Texas is a nonpartisan organization that combines independent research, practical ideas and tough-minded advocacy to overcome the opposition of powerful special interests and win real results for Texas’s environment. We have compiled this legislative scorecard as a tool to educate Texas citizens about the voting records of their elected officials.

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Scorecard Key

(+) Vote for the environment  
(-) Vote against the environment

(P) Present, Not Voting  
(E) Excused from Vote  
(A) Unexcused Absence from Vote

Of the hundreds of bills voted on by the 84th Legislature, we identified a few key votes that will have the greatest impact on Texas’ environment and public health. Short descriptions of each bill can be found below, and more details are available on our website.  
<http://www.EnvironmentTexas.org>

Not sure who represents you?  
Go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/> to learn the names of your representative and senator.

1. HB1016: Protecting Rivers

Pro-environment Vote: **YES**  
HB1016 designates parts of the Nueces, Frio, Sabinal, San Marcos, and Comal Rivers as being of ‘unique ecological value’ to protect them from reservoir development.  
Outcome: **Enacted**

2. HB274: Illegal Dumping

Pro-environment Vote: **YES**  
HB274 increases the maximum fines for illegal dumping from \$2,000 to \$4,000.  
Outcome: **Enacted**

3. SB709: Citizen rights

Pro-environment Vote: **NO**  
SB709 makes it easier for polluters to get permits from the state by placing assumption that draft permit meets legal and technical requirements and adequately protects the environment. Now, when a citizen or group challenges a pollution permit, the burden falls on them to prove otherwise.  
Outcome: **Enacted**

4. HB1794: Pollution Penalties

Pro-environment Vote: **NO**  
HB1794 limits the civil penalty for certain environmental violations in a suit brought by a local government. As a result, cities will likely be forced to bring fewer lawsuits against polluters.  
Outcome: **Enacted**

5. HB942: Chemical Safety

Pro-environment Vote: **YES**  
The explosion of a fertilizer plant in West in 2013 highlighted the dangers of ammonium nitrate. HB942 requires the owner or operator of facilities with ammonium nitrate to allow reasonable fire marshal safety inspections and implements new safety requirements.  
Outcome: **Enacted**

6. HB40: Fracking regulation

Pro-environment Vote: **NO**  
HB40 prevents local governments from placing bans, limits, or regulations on oil and gas development in their municipality, leaving exclusive jurisdiction to the state.  
Outcome: **Enacted**

7 (h) HB40 Amd 6: Hurricane Safety

Pro-environment Vote: **NO**  
Amendment 6 would have allowed cities to require oil and gas companies to install subsurface safety valves to limit damage fromhurricanes. The vote was on a motion to table the amendment.  
Outcome: **Amendment tabled**

7 (s). HB158: Parks funding

Pro-environment vote: **YES**  
HB 158 ensures that sales taxes on sporting goods go to their intended purpose – funding state and local parks and historic sites.  
Outcome: **Enacted**

8 (h). HB2571: Climate Planning

Pro-environment Vote: **YES**  
HB2571 would have required the state climatologist to provide regular climate projection reports to the Legislative Budget Board for use by state agencies in strategic planning.  
Outcome: **Failed**

8 (s). SB931: Renewable Energy Repeal

Pro-Environment Vote: **NO**  
SB931 would have repealed Texas’ successful renewable energy program.  
Outcome: **Failed**

9. HB14: Clean Air

Pro-environment Vote: **YES**  
HB14 would have extended the Texas emissions reduction plan, including the electric vehicle rebate program, to continue until 2023.  
Outcome: **Failed**



2015 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

