



**Austin Area
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

SAVE THE DATE | APRIL 28, 2023

DEMOCRACY DAY:

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE EDITION

A DAY OF POLICY, EDUCATION, AND ACTIVATION



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Austin Area Urban League at a Glance *Executive Summary*

The Urban League is a historic civil rights organization dedicated to providing economic empowerment, educational opportunities and the guarantee of civil rights for African Americans and other underserved/underrepresented populations in America.

Since 1977, the Austin Area Urban League has enriched the lives of citizens within the greater Central Texas Region. The Austin Area Urban League is one of more than 90 affiliates of the National Urban League providing direct services that impact and improve the lives of thousands in the central Texas region. Aligning with the program pillars of the Urban League, the Austin Area Urban League seeks to meet the needs of underserved populations in the Austin area by focusing on programming in the areas of Education and Youth Development, Workforce and Career Readiness, Health and Quality of Life, and Housing.

- *The Mission of the Urban League Movement is to enable African Americans and other underserved American residents to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights.*
- *The Vision of the Austin Area Urban League is a Austin/Central Texas that provides an **Equitable Quality of Life** opportunity for all its residents, in all aspects of life.*
- *The Mission of the Austin Area Urban League is to provide tools to African Americans and under-served populations to build a foundation for social and economic equity and equality.*

This is done through a programmatic and service focus and delivery under five(5) **Empowerment Pillars**:



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (JOBS):

Every American has access to jobs with a living wage and good benefits. From at-risk teens, to the formerly incarcerated, to older Americans re-entering the workforce or in need of new skills, Urban League workforce programs have helped thousands to find careers and prepare for new challenges.



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EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:

Every American child is ready for college, work and life. Through mentorship, sponsorship, prevention, intervention and college-immersion experiences, Urban League Education and Youth programs are closing the racial achievement gap in communities large and small. Advocacy on the local, state and federal level keeps issues of equity and fairness forefront in the education debate



HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Every American lives in safe, decent, affordable and energy efficient housing on fair terms. The housing crisis of the last decade hit African Americans disproportionately hard, wiping out recent gains in the home ownership rates. Through Home repair, foreclosure prevention, pre-purchase counseling and financial literacy initiatives, Urban League programs are closing the gap and helping minority families buy and keep their own homes.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

Every American has access to quality and affordable health care solutions. Black Americans are almost twice as likely as whites to lack health insurance. Life expectancy is four years shorter, and younger people of color are more likely to develop or die from health conditions that typically occur at older ages in whites, such as heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Urban League programs are raising awareness about health disparities and helping people to quit smoking, enroll in health insurance and make healthier choices.



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JUSTICE & ADVOCACY:

Every American has an equal right and responsibility to fully participate in our democracy and civic processes, and all people have a right to justice and fairness. Voter suppression, mass incarceration, lax civil rights enforcement and rising levels of hate crime and racial hostility threaten to erase the nation's progress over the last 50 years. The Urban League remains a powerful voice for fairness, peace and equality.

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Justice & Advocacy Division at a Glance

Justice & Advocacy Executive Summary

Our Approach

The Austin Area Urban League launched a division under the ***Justice and Advocacy*** empowerment pillar tasked with prioritizing: 1) Initiating and supporting reform efforts that will measurably improve equity in all areas of life, and; 2) Increasing transparency and access for building stronger relationships between the Central Texas community public and private sector at local, state, and national level. This includes Texas elected and appointed officials. The need for community-based advocacy has become more urgent as state and local governments assert a more direct role in such critical issues that align to the Urban League's 5 empowerment pillars (Education & Youth Development, Workforce & Career Development, Housing, Health & Wellness, Justice & Advocacy).

Core Belief

Every American has an equal right and responsibility to fully participate in our democracy and civic processes, and all people have a right to justice and fairness.

Methodology

- AAUL Advocacy effectively encompasses a broad range of activities including research, budget and legislative/policy analysis, community organizing & mobilizing, communication (in all forms) and civic engagement & education.
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative focusing on advancing equity practices and policies in public and private entities/sectors.
 - Education Equity via Equity and Excellence Project (EEP) in partnership with the National Urban League.
 - Civic Engagement Advocacy
- Voter Education/Registration (VER) - 1. Get out the Vote 2. Our Vote Matters 3. Beyond the Election Cycle.
 - Census complete Count (Phase 1. Outreach & Education Phase 2. Completion)



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Research*Evaluation*Policy*Advocacy*Analysis (REPAA)

- **Research** - the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.
- **Evaluation** - the making of a judgment about the amount, number, or value of something; assessment.
 - Program evaluation is distinct from *performance measurement*, which is an ongoing organizational process aimed at learning and improving, typically conducted by an organization's own staff.
- **Formative Evaluation** - Formative evaluation is used before program design or implementation. It generates data on the need for the program and develops the baseline for subsequent monitoring. It also identifies areas of improvement and can give insights on what the program's priorities should be. This helps project managers determine their areas of concern and focus and increases awareness of your program among the target population prior to launch.
- **Process Evaluation** - Process evaluation occurs once program implementation has begun, and it measures how effective your program's procedures are. The data it generates is useful in identifying inefficiencies and streamlining processes and portrays the program's status to external parties.
- **Outcome Evaluation** - Outcome evaluation is conventionally used during program implementation. It generates data on the program's outcomes and to what degree those outcomes are attributable to the program itself. It is useful in measuring how effective your program has been and helps make it more effective in terms of delivering the intended benefits.
- **Economic Evaluation** - Economic evaluation is used during the program's implementation and looks to measure the benefits of the programs against the costs. Doing so generates useful quantitative data that measures the efficiency of the program. This data is like an audit and provides useful information to sponsors and backers who often want to see what benefits their money would bring to beneficiaries.



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- **Impact Evaluation** - Impact evaluation studies the entire program from beginning to end (or at whatever stage the program is at), and looks to quantify whether or not it has been successful. Focused on the long-term impact, impact evaluation is useful for measuring sustained changes brought about by the program or making policy changes or modifications to the program.
- **Summative Evaluation** - Summative evaluation is conducted after the program's completion or at the end of a program cycle. It generates data about how well the project delivered benefits to the target population. It is useful for program administrators to justify the project, show what they have achieved, and lobby for project continuation or expansion.
- **Goals**-Based Evaluation - Goals-based evaluation is usually done towards the end of the program or at previously agreed-upon intervals. Development programs often set 'SMART' targets — Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely — and goals-based evaluation measures progress towards these targets. The evaluation is useful in presenting reports to program administrators and backers, as it provides them the information that was agreed upon at the start of the program.
- **Policy** - A rule, plan, course or principle of action adopted or proposed by a government, party, business, organization or individual. A policy is a deliberate system of principles to guide decisions and achieve specific outcomes. A policy is a statement of intent and is implemented as a procedure or protocol. Policies are generally adopted by a governance body within an organization.
- **Advocacy** - Public support for or recommendation of a particular societal cause/solution or public issue.
- **Analysis** - A detailed examination of anything complex in order to understand its nature or to determine its essential features. A thorough study doing a careful analysis of the problem. Separation of a whole into its component parts.



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Local Agenda

1. **Unhoused neighbors**
 - Initial service provider to unhoused neighbors during Storm Uri
 - Prop B. Advocacy
 - H.B. 1925 Advocacy
 - Housing Summit leadership
 - Unhoused Community Council (UCC)
 - Inclement Weather and Shelter operation policy

2. **Infrastructure and Mobility**
 - Project Connect
 - ATX Mobility Coalition
 - Future of I-35
 - Capital Metro & Safety Stewards

3. **Police Reform**
 - Duty to intervene local integration
 - Fiscal consequences to misconduct
 - Policy Accountability and Transparency

4. **Disaster Response**
 - Vulnerable population service provision
 - Tenant advocacy
 - Regional disaster relief responders

5. **Preparing Future Advocates**
 - Austin Area Urban League Center for Advocacy and Social Justice



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Democracy Day – Texas Legislative Edition

The Austin Area Urban League to appear at the Capitol to educate and advocate for policies that impact the quality of life for vulnerable populations.

AUSTIN, Texas (April 28, 2023) – The Austin Area Urban League, a community impact organization, will appear at The Capitol on April 28, 2023, to educate and demand change concerning policies and legislation that impact the vulnerable populations it serves.

Centering lived experiences, the Austin Area Urban League connects with local businesses, corporate community leaders, and citizens who are working to build a stronger, more vibrant Austin. Democracy Day: Texas Legislative Edition, will be a day of policy, education, and activation. The day will offer education on how the legislature works, bill education on how it impacts everyone, and mobilize community advocacy to state representatives. Participants will be given the opportunity to learn more about the Texas legislative policies and procedures, as well as how to effectively participate in policy discussions. Attendees can ask questions and engage in meaningful discussions with elected officials and subject matter. There will be experts on matters related to realms of inclement weather response, the housing crisis, gun reform, women's health, and voting.

“As a collaborative organization with a long-standing history of service provision with excellence, the Austin Area Urban League is uniquely positioned to advocate for changes in policies that impact our most vulnerable neighbors. We have spent years doing the work — it is now time to change the policies that impede that work.” Yasmine Smith, Esq. Vice President of the Justice and Advocacy

The J&A department has been an active participant for change in many policy areas, including Unhoused neighbor support and policy advocacy, H.B. 1925 Advocacy, Austin Housing Summit leadership, and more.

Join the Austin Area Urban League at Democracy Day by visiting the link below. Stay updated on events like these and more by visiting www.aaul.org and following on Instagram @atxurbanleague. Please use the hashtags #AAUL and #DemocracyDay and tag us for content related to the day's events.

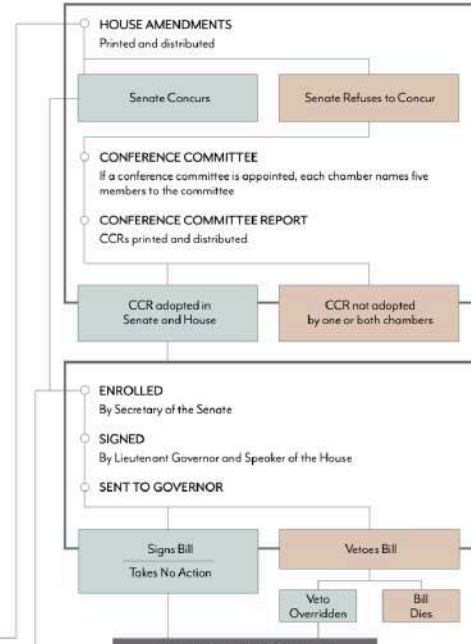
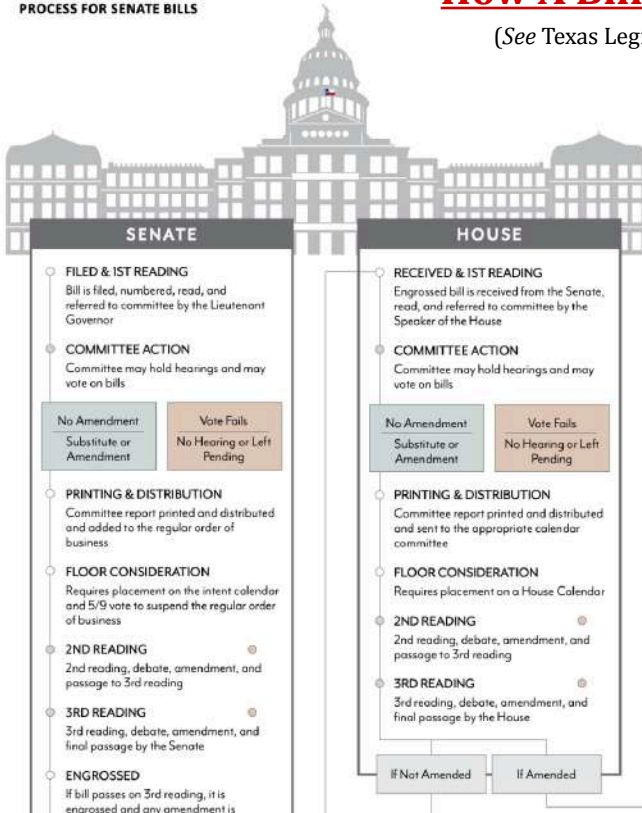
<https://aauldemocracyday.sched.com/>



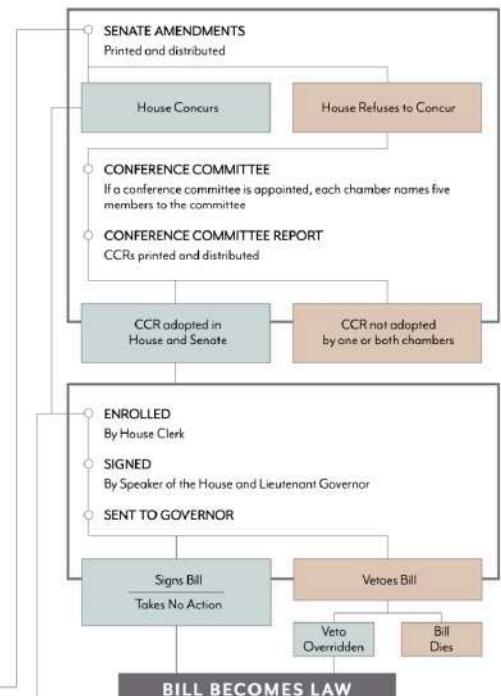
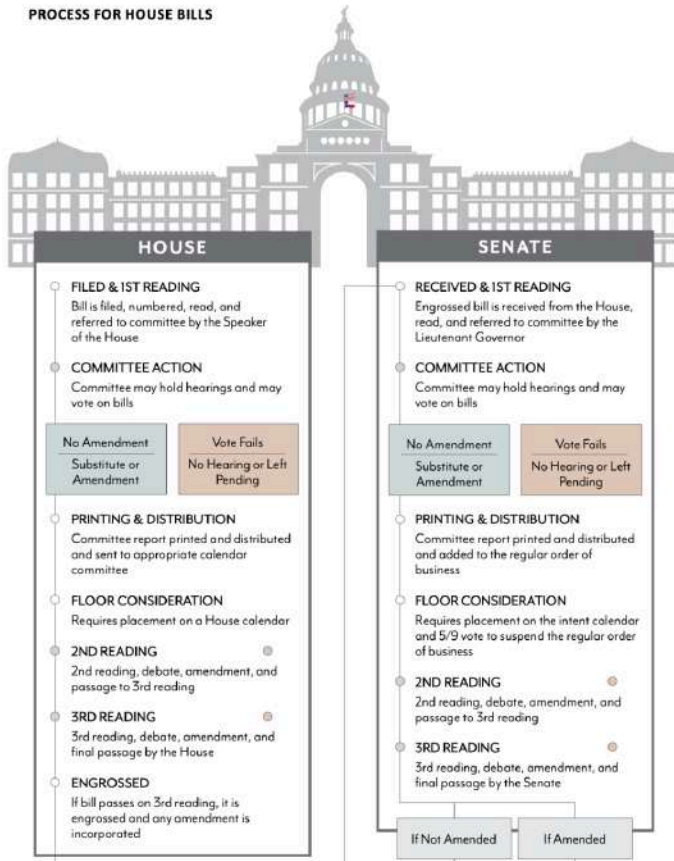
How A Bill Becomes Law

(See Texas Legislative Council 2023)

PROCESS FOR SENATE BILLS



PROCESS FOR HOUSE BILLS





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Agenda Areas for Democracy Day

Common Sense Gun Reform

HB 2744 — Relating to prohibiting the transfer of certain semi automatic rifles to certain recipients; creating a criminal offense; increasing a criminal penalty.

Education

HJR 3 — Proposing a constitutional amendment renaming the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund, providing for the appropriation of certain investment income from the economic stabilization fund to the Texas University Fund, excepting appropriations to and from the Texas University Fund from the constitutional limit on the rate of growth of appropriations, and appropriating money from the general revenue fund to the Texas University Fund to be spent for purposes of providing funding to certain public institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy.

SB 17 — Relating to the powers and duties of the governing boards of public institutions of higher education.

Finance & Appropriations

HB 1 — State Finances--Appropriations (I07 46)RIDER 186 ARTICLE 3 - Budge.

SB 30 — Relating to supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority regarding appropriations.seeks to make supplemental appropriations and give direction and adjustment authority regarding certain appropriations to address revised revenue estimates and supplemental needs.

HB 2127 — It protects predatory lenders at the expense of Texans and local economies. The bill would preempt beneficial local payday and auto title lending ordinances adopted in 49 Texas cities, covering 11 million Texans. It would leave Texans with no meaningful protections against abusive lending practices by payday and auto title lenders.



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Housing Crises

HB 2533 — Texas Hexas Homeless Data Sharing Network Expansion- Relating to the implementation of a statewide homeless data sharing network to share real-time data on homelessness.

HB 1917 — Texas Tenant readiness and landlord Incentive Program- Relating to the establishment and implementation by the Texas department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Policing

SB 2209 HB 4842 — Relating to the disclosure of information in department files of firefighters or police officers and civilian oversight boards in certain municipalities.

Voter Suppression

SB 2 — Relating to conduct constituting the criminal offense of illegal voting; increasing a criminal penalty.

SB 1045 — Relating to the creation of the Fifteenth Court of Appeals with jurisdiction over certain civil cases, the compensation of the justices of that court, and the jurisdiction of the courts of appeals in this state

SB 1750 — Relating to abolishing the county elections administrator position in certain counties.

SB 1933 — Relating to the randomized audits of elections in certain counties.

SB 1993 — Relating to the authority of the secretary of state to order a new election in certain counties.

HB 1243 — Relating to the penalty for the offense of illegal voting; increasing a criminal penalty.

HB 5053 — Relating to the venue for the prosecution of an election offense.

Women's Health

HB 12 — Relating to the duration of services provided under Medicaid to women following a pregnancy.

HB 663 — Relating to the confidentiality and reporting of certain maternal mortality information to the Department of State Health Services and to a work group establishing a maternal mortality and morbidity data registry.



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For The Record

Gone but not forgotten bills that impact vulnerable populations.

Bill Number in House and Senate	Issue	Content	Authors/ Sponsors
HB 31	Public Education Finance	Relating to the use of average enrollment for purposes of the public school finance system.	Hinojosa Shine Guerra
HB 882 / SB 88	Public Education Finance	Relating to an annual adjustment to the basic allotment under the Foundation School Program to reflect inflation.	Rep Howard / Sen Johnson
<u>SB 122</u>	Abortion Sexual Assault	Relating to the repeal of and exceptions to certain laws prohibiting abortion.	Alvarado, Blanco, Eckhardt, Gutierrez, Menéndez, Miles, West, Whitmire
<u>SB 123</u>	Abortion Physicians	Relating to exceptions to certain laws prohibiting abortion.	Alvarado, Blanco, Eckhardt, Gutierrez, Menéndez, Miles, West, Whitmire
<u>HB 61</u>	Abortion Attorney General Health and Human Services Commission	Relating to prohibited logistical support by a governmental entity for procurement of an abortion or an abortion provider's services.	Noble
<u>HB 239</u>	Elections	Relating to requiring a voter to be affiliated with a political party to vote in that party's primary election or otherwise participate in that party's affairs; creating a criminal offense.	Slaton
<u>HB 549</u>	Election Peace Officers	Relating to the enforcement of laws relating to elections.	Swanson
<u>SB 118</u>	Elections Education-higher institutions	Relating to the designation of polling place locations on the campuses of certain institutions of higher education.	Menendez Johnson
<u>HB 32</u>	Property Interests Taxes	Relating to limitations on increases in the appraised value for ad valorem tax purposes of residence homesteads and single-family residences other than residence homesteads.	Capriglione
<u>HB 379</u>	Property Taxes Education	Relating to the allocation and deposit of certain surplus state revenue to the property tax relief fund for use in reducing school district maintenance and operations ad valorem taxes.	Bell Cecil
S.B. No. 146	Relating to the creation of a Uvalde victim's compensation fund.	Recognizes the exacerbation of the event due to the inaction of law-enforcement and state public officials. Compensation will go to the immediate family and/or dependence of victims. Uvalde victims compensation board will be formed, composed of several lawmakers at the state level. Details are provided for the amounts of cash compensation for victims whose encounter resulted in death, injury, or mental trauma.	Gutierrez
H.B. No. 447	Relating to sales and use taxes imposed on certain assault weapons; imposing taxes.	Defines weapons and ammunition which may be purchased and are taxable according to this amendment. Applies a sales tax to defined assault weapons and ammunition §§§ purchased for storage use or other consumption.	Thierry
H.B. No. 925	Relating to firearms; authorizing a private civil right of action.	Regulates the sale, distribution, manufacturing, importation, giving lending or transportation of assault, weapons, .50 caliber, rifles, and unserialized firearms in the state.	Dutton



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H.B. NO. 913	Shared Information	Section 1 Subsection KK, Chapter 2306 proposed amendment by adding section 2306.911. This bill, if passed, would collaborate with state agencies to establish a statewide homelessness data system. information would be shared across domains such as law enforcement, court systems, schools, emergency services and providers. The purpose would be to connect persons with lived experience to services.	Campos
HB NO. 1078	Disaster Illuminated Display System	"Illuminated display" means a device capable of displaying a flashing light and a continuous light in either color white or the colors blue, green, red, and yellow. The sole purpose is for rehabilitation aspects of the state emergency management plan.	Martinez
HB NO. 1482	Housing First Initiatives	If this Bill is adopted, a fee would be imposed on counties with populations over 500,000 or more. The fee would be deposited into a separate fund and be used only for the purpose of emergency shelter, homeless prevention services, street outreach, rapid rehousing, and transitional housing programs.	Campos

Notes
