



# **GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL**

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW – JANUARY 18, 2023

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**Trinity River Authority of Texas**  
*Enriching the Trinity basin as a resource for Texans*

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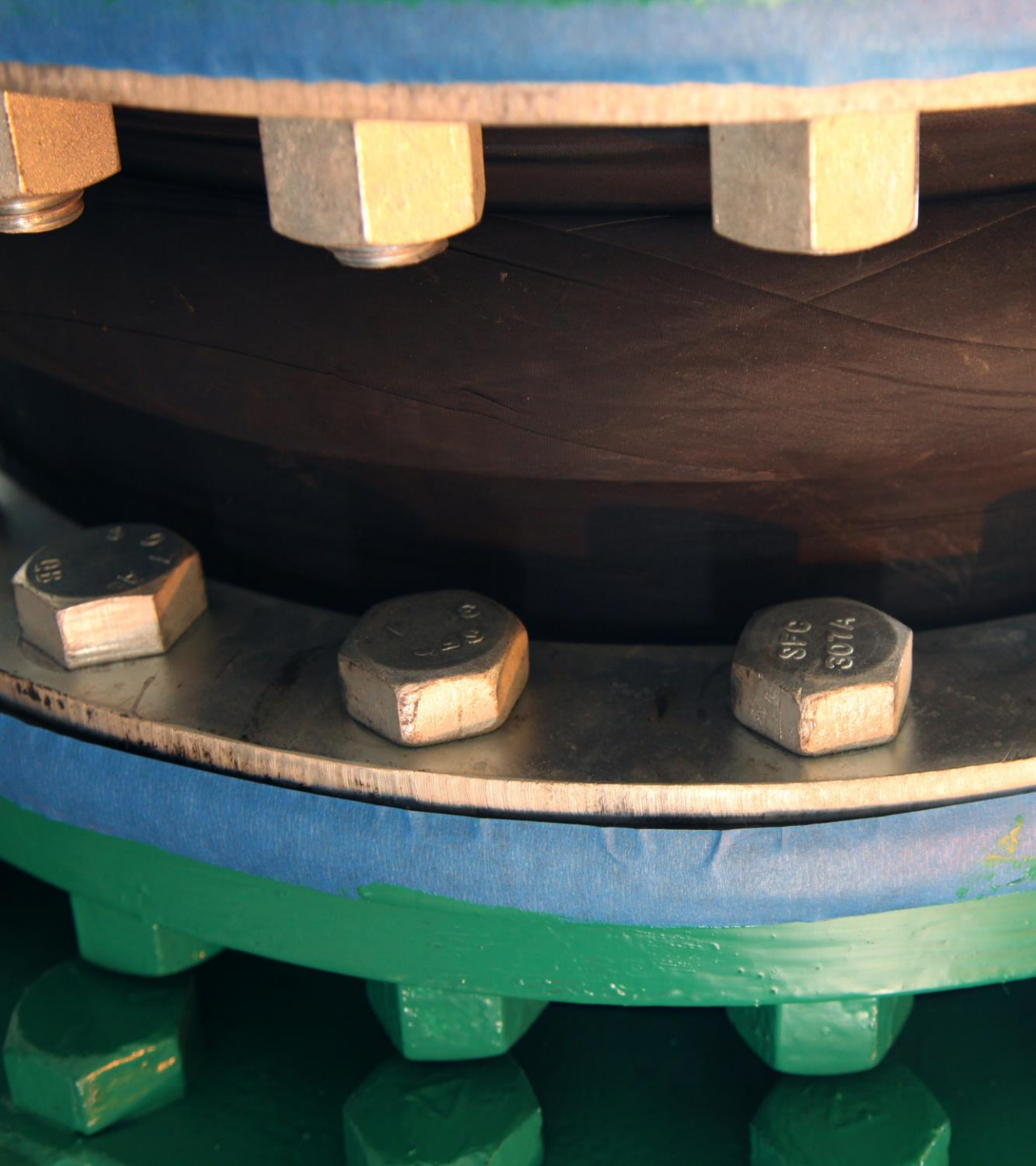
# TEXAS LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

January 18, 2023

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Governmental  
Relations Manager,  
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## OVERVIEW

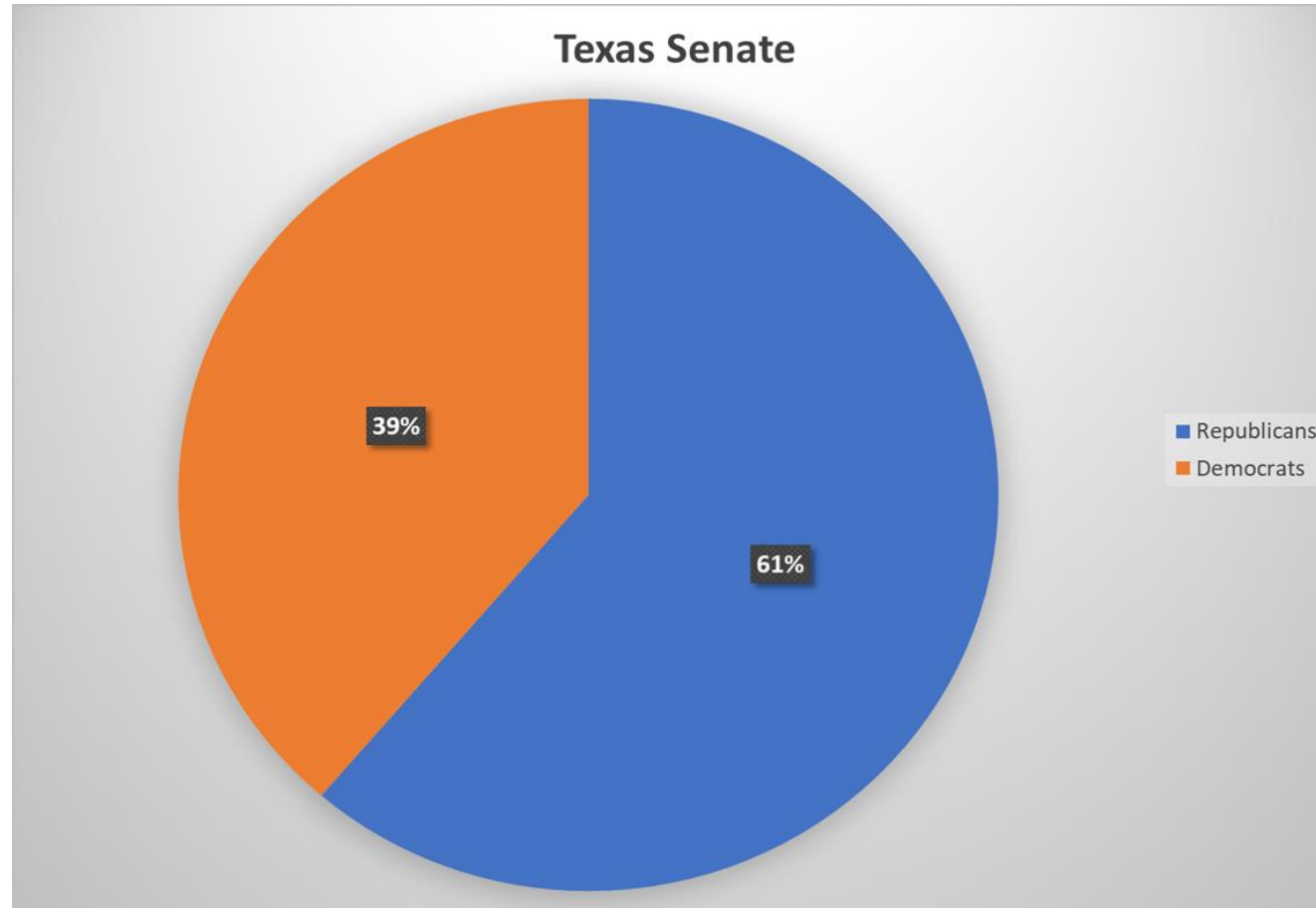
- The Players
- The Process
- Key Dates
- What to Watch
- Advocacy
- Questions

# THE PLAYERS

- Texas Senate
- Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick
- 31 Members
- 19 Republicans
- 12 Democrats
- 25 Incumbents
- 6 New Members



# THE PLAYERS – TEXAS SENATE



# SENATE – KEY COMMITTEES

- Finance
- Ag, Water & Rural Affairs
- Natural Resources & Economic Development
- State Affairs
- Select Committee on Ports



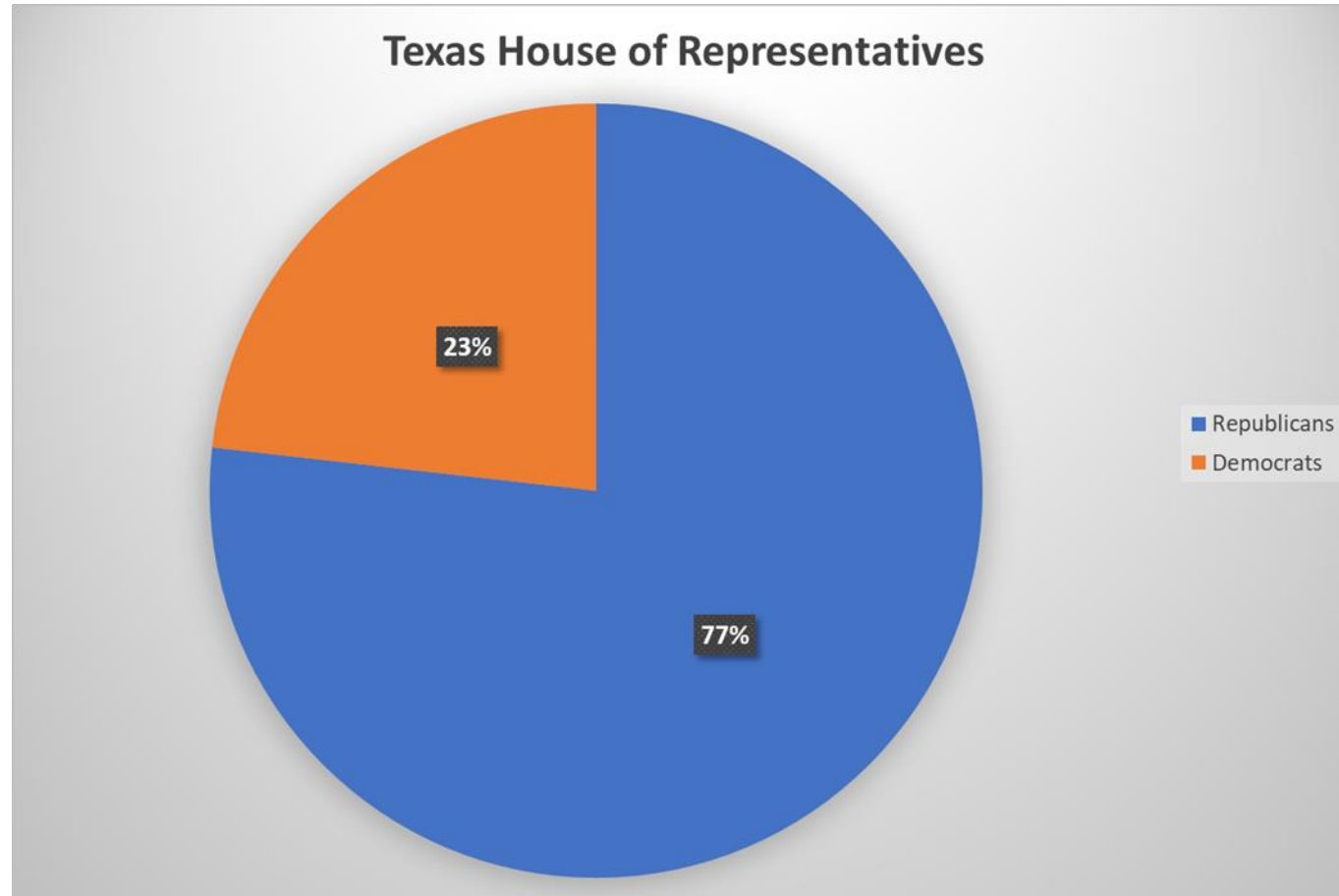
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# THE PLAYERS

- House of Representatives
- Speaker Dade Phelan
- 150 Members
- 86 Republicans
- 64 Democrats
- 124 Incumbents
- 26 New Members



# THE PLAYERS – TEXAS HOUSE





# HOUSE – KEY COMMITTEES

- Appropriations
- Natural Resources
- Environmental Regulation
- Land & Resource Management
- Calendars

# TEXAS HOUSE WATER CAUCUS

- Texas Water Foundation establishes Texas House Water Caucus, a new, bi-partisan collaborative focused on water issues with a starting roster of thirty-eight legislators committed to the cause.

# THE PROCESS

- Legislative Priorities
  - Leadership
  - Current events/reaction to recent events
  - Interim reports/charges
  - Party platforms
  - Association driven





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## THE PROCESS

- 1,926 bills filed
- 10,000 filed last Regular session
- 3,804 passed
- 20 vetoed

# KEY DATES

- November 14 – bill prefiling
- January 10 – First day of session
- January 17 – Gov. and Lt. Gov. – Oath of Office
- March 10 – Deadline for bill filing
- May 29 – Sine die



# WHAT TO WATCH

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- Water Quality/Availability
- Water Rights/Permits
- Environmental/Social Justice/Climate Change
- State Agency Requests
- Sunset bills





# WATER QUALITY/AVAILABILITY

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- HB 570 – TDEM drought/wildfire study
- HB 766 – TCEQ hearings
- SB 156 – regulation of Groundwater Conservation Districts
- SB 296 – update WAMs for Guadalupe, Lavaca, Nueces, San Antonio, San Jacinto and Trinity River basins

# WATER RIGHTS/PERMITS

- HB 874 – exempts cancellation of a water right for nonuse
- HB 934 – TCEQ contested case hearing
- HB 935 – TCEQ public comments on matters subject to a hearing

# ENVIRONMENTAL/ SOCIAL JUSTICE/CLIMATE CHANGE

- HB 50 – requires TCEQ and permit applicants to provide notice/documents in language other than English
- HB 57 – climate change planning and reporting
- HB 642 – establishes Texas Environmental Justice Advisory Council
- HB 846 – creates Climate Change Impact Assessment Council



# STATE AGENCY REQUESTS

- Comptroller Hegar - \$32.7 billion surplus
- LAR – employee retention/recruitment
- Funding for existing programs
  - TWDB – FIF

# SUNSET BILLS

- TCEQ – public input/monitoring/enforcement
- TWDB – project delays/outreach
- River Authorities – board Chairs/terms
- PUC – more funding

# LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND

- Press release by The Nature Conservancy of Texas and Texas Coast and Water Program at the National Wildlife Federation
- Calls on the Legislature to “make a water session to remember”



# ADVOCACY

- Educate your State Senator and State Representative
- Inform Committee Chairs/Committee Clerks
- Attend Committee hearings and provide oral/written testimony
- Register on/for or against a bill
- Engage others who might be impacted

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Thank you!

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