

STAFF REPORTS

TEXAS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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PBPA began this quarter with heavy focus on the pieces of the electoral puzzle that would come into place over the course of the March primaries, July runoffs (originally scheduled for May) and the upcoming November General Election.

With this focus, PBPA has established a greater focus on election reporting across the state. Although the Permian Basin is represented by a smaller group of elected officials, about a dozen in the Texas Legislature, its impact is statewide, and members from across the state need to be educated about this vital economic and energy region for Texas.

The Texas Legislative Committee held its first meeting in Midland on March 5, 2020 to discuss several areas, including a post-primary election debrief as well as plan out several key areas of focus, like transportation, taxes, and sustainability.

PBPA staff prepared an election wrap-up report that focused on the nearly 200 elections occurring that have immediate impact on legislative activity. This extensive report was compiled using election data, but also in district trips across the state to visit with legislators and discuss important issues to PBPA members.

Then, like many of you, the Texas Legislative Committee began to re-align its focus to take into account this new invisible enemy that would change the governing landscape for at least the remainder of the year.

Since that time, PBPA has been working with all members to develop an approach that focus on providing regulatory relief from agencies like the TCEQ and RRC, as well as working with the Office of the Governor to ensure that economic activity important to the energy security of the state remain allowable under “stay at home” orders.

PBPA was the first organization that reached out to the Governor’s staff in Texas and New Mexico to advocate on behalf of the industry, and establishing that the sector provides “essential services” to the public.

PBPA also remains in constant contact with elected officials, agencies, and their staff to keep apprised of every changing developments across the state.