

# STAFF REPORTS

## TEXAS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Michael Lozano, PBPA

This quarter the PBPA Texas Legislative Committee remained active and engaged, covering the bevy of items being considered by the legislature during the interim and beyond.

In both the Texas House and Senate “Interim Charges”, or items that the legislature shall research before the next legislature convenes in 2021, have been released. In total, nearly 176 items will be reviewed by Texas House Committees and 116 will be reviewed by Texas Senate Committees. This does not include extraordinary issues requested by the Lt. Governor or the Speaker at a later date.

In both chambers, the bulk of this work will be done over the next year, but some has already begun. This includes nearly a dozen hearings between the announcements of these studies and the end of the year.

Additionally, the makeup of the legislature is of vital importance when it comes to legislative affairs and advocacy efforts in state, and no shortage of elections lay ahead across the state. For that reason the legislative committee has been kept apprised of those updates as they occur.

Statewide, there are two incumbent races, the race for U.S. Senate and Texas RRC Commissioner, and both Senator Cornyn and RRC Commissioner Sitton have filed. In the Texas Senate, with four-year staggered terms, half of the offices are up for re-election, and all of the seats are vacant in the two-year terms for the State House. As of this writing, 14 out of the 15 incumbent members of the Texas Senate up for re-election have filed, and in the House 116 out of the 140 who have stated their intent to run for re-election have filed. At least one Texas Senate seat, and nearly a dozen House seats in the traditional Permian Basin region, are up for election.

With the primary election taking place in March, potential run-off elections in May, and the general election in November, there will be innumerable races across the state, not to mention federally, to watch closely.

The Texas Legislative Committee has received consistent and timely updates on these items of interest and in addition have been apprised of developments related to matters before regulatory agencies and bodies across the state. Our goal for the interim is to prepare ourselves and our members on industry issues well ahead of the legislative session. This includes drafting legislative proposals and offering testimony to legislative committees on the numerous issues that come before them.

Lastly, we have been working to make sure our most active committees’ work is shared with the Texas Legislative Committee. As everyone knows, PBPA’s strength comes from its members and when our committees and their efforts can work hand in glove, our impact is greater.

Moving forward, our immediate future plans include hosting a Texas Legislative Committee meeting in Midland after the first of the year and we look forward to great participation from all our committee members.