

**MAYOR**

The mayor serves as the head of the city council, leading meetings, appointing committee members, and voting on policy decisions. The extent of the mayor's authority depends on the city's charter structure.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

Regardless of the city charter, the mayor serves as the figurehead of city government, shaping the tone in both media and city council meetings. The mayor can convene meetings and set agendas, influencing policy discussions. In some cities, the mayor also has the authority to appoint the city manager and department heads, granting broader control over city administration. Additionally, the mayor oversees emergency management efforts.

*Example: In response to protests following the murder of George Floyd in 2020, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey called in the National Guard.*

**CITY COUNCIL**

The city council is a city's government's policy-making and legislative body, overseeing various city departments. Depending on the city's charter, it may appoint key positions such as the City Manager and Chief of Police.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

As the city's main policy-making body, the city council is the key driver of local policy change. For a policy to be enacted, it must gain sufficient support within the council to pass by majority vote.

*Example: In 2020, San Marcos became the first city in Texas to adopt a citywide Cite & Release policy after the city council successfully voted to do so.*

**SCHOOL BOARD**

The school board is the governing body of Texas school districts, responsible for passing policies, adopting budgets, appointing personnel, and handling various other duties.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

School boards manage school operations at the local level, including hiring and overseeing superintendents, setting pay for teachers and staff, and making key budgetary decisions, such as school closures.

*Example: In 2024, the San Antonio Independent School District School Board voted to close 15 schools, citing budgetary and enrollment concerns.*

**VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCT 7, 2024**

**EARLY VOTING: OCT 21-NOV 1, 2024**

**ELECTION DAY: NOV 4, 2024**

For more info, visit [movetexas.org/vote](https://movetexas.org/vote)

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**COUNTY JUDGES**

County Judges function like little mayors of the county, presiding over the County Commissioners Court. They oversee county departments, help create the budget, implement county plans, and handle various other responsibilities.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

County Judges wield significant power, often managing budgets larger than those of Texas cities, to allocate resources and influence the direction of jails, courts, and election systems. They establish the vision and set the course for the county's future.

*Example: In 2020, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff spearheaded a billion-dollar lawsuit against major pharmaceutical companies. Counties can use their resources to take on a wide range of harmful actors*

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The County Commissioners Court is the county's governing body, responsible for setting tax rates, adopting budgets, establishing voting precincts, and more.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

As key policymakers at the county level, commissioners oversee taxes and departments like the sheriff's office and elections. They also serve as the primary governing authority for residents living in unincorporated areas outside city limits.

*Example: In 2019, the Bexar County Commissioners Court approved countywide polling, allowing voters to cast their ballots at any precinct, not just the one nearest to their registered address.*

**TEXAS HOUSE**

Members of this chamber represent the other half of the state's legislative branch and make up the larger of the two bodies. They serve two-year terms and can be re-elected indefinitely with no term limits.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

Every two years, in odd-numbered years, members of the Texas House convene to file thousands of bills that directly impact Texans' lives. State legislatures, including Texas, pass more legislation than the U.S. Congress, making a strong case that state lawmakers have a more immediate influence on our daily lives as policymakers.

*Example: members of the Texas House can propose legislation that impacts voting rights, targets trans youth, undermines public education, and increases the state's reliance on fossil fuels. Electing a majority that aligns with the interests of everyday young Texans is crucial, which is why the representatives in the Texas House play such an important role!*

**LOCAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS**

Texas District Attorneys are responsible for leading criminal prosecutions within their county. They also serve as the county's legal counsel, providing guidance on electoral work can intersect with protest activity.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

District Attorneys can be "tough on crime" or pursue criminal justice reforms which challenge punitive, carceral approaches to crime. It is a key office where electoral work can intersect with protest activity.

*Example: District Attorneys have the power to implement diversion policies that issue citations instead of making arrests, keeping people out of jail. They can also dismiss unfounded mass charges against protesters after large demonstrations. Additionally, they have the authority to decline pursuing the death penalty in certain cases.*

**2024 BALLOT BREAKDOWN**

**FEDERAL PRESIDENT**

The President is the leader of the executive branch of the U.S. government and serves as the commander-in-chief of the military. This role oversees the federal government's executive operations and holds the power to veto legislation, preventing bills from becoming law.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

The President appoints lifelong Supreme Court Justices and can use their executive powers to enact significant changes when it domestic and foreign policy. These powers can create major shifts in domestic policy and have profound effects on global politics, including decisions of peace or war.

*Example: In 2012, President Obama used his executive power for protect Dreamers from deportation and allow them to work in the United States when Congress would not pass the Dream Act.*

**US SENATE**

One of two chambers of Congress, consisting of 100 members, with 2 senators representing each state. The **Senate is critical in crafting and passing federal legislation and confirming presidential appointments**, and also has **unique powers**, including conducting impeachment trials and acting as a check on executive. The US Vice President serves as President of the Senate, only voting in cases of a tie.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

The U.S. Senate has considerable influence over policymaking due to its structure. With **six-year terms** and **two senators per state**, regardless of population, **the Senate gives equal representation to all states**, which can amplify the voices of less populated areas. This design allows for long-term decision-making, as senators serve extended terms before facing re-election.

*Example: In 2022, Joe Manchin's single vote determined the passage of the 330 million dollar climate legislation the Inflation Reduction Act.*

**TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS**

A judicial body in Texas composed of justices who review criminal cases that have been appealed from lower courts. Their role is to assess these cases, ensuring that legal procedures were followed correctly and that the rights of individuals are upheld during the appeals process.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

These courts have discretionary review lower court rulings and grant new trials. Cases to hear, except in matters involving capital punishment or bail denial. They also have the power to overturn lower court rulings and grant new trials.

*Example: In 2021, The court ruled against the Texas Attorney General unilaterally prosecuting voter fraud cases.*

**TEXAS SENATE**

Members of this chamber represent half of the state's legislative branch and serve four-year terms. It is the smaller of the two legislative bodies, and members are eligible for re-election after each term. The Senate is led by the Attorney General, who is currently Ken Paxton.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

For state legislation to pass in Texas, it must be approved by both chambers of the legislature and signed by the Governor. Many progressives in the state recognize that their bills face slim odds in the Texas Senate, which is known for its intense debates. Minority party members often have to employ strategic tactics to challenge the majority's dominance and influence.

*Example: In 2013, Texas Senator Wendy Davis conducted a 13-hour filibuster in an attempt to block the passage of Senate Bill 5, which aimed to impose strict abortion restrictions, including a ban on abortions after 20 weeks and new regulations on clinics that would effectively close many in the state. Her efforts delayed the vote, drawing national attention, though the bill ultimately passed in a special session.*

**US HOUSE**

The US House is the larger of the two chambers of the US Congress. The number of representatives per state is based on population (determined by the US Census every 10 years!). Members work on passing federal laws, serve in committees, and participate in caucuses. Six US Territories have representatives in the House, although they do not have voting power.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

Members of Congress can choose to represent either special interests or the interests of the public. By comparing public opinion polls with Congressional voting records, it's clear that a gap often exists between the two. This highlights the need to advocate for representation that truly reflects the political will of the people.

*Example: Representative Greg Casar introduced the "Connect the Grid Act" to connect us to the national grids after Texas's independent grid failed in a climate crisis induced winter storm.*

**STATE RAILROAD COMMISSION**

Despite the title, **they have absolutely nothing to do with railroads**.This office oversees the state's oil and natural gas industry, including pipelines, coal mining operations, and natural gas utilities. The commission plays a role in regulating the environmental impacts, ensuring compliance and promoting energy development.

**HOW THIS OFFICE DRIVES CHANGE**

Given **Texas's significant contribution to national carbon emissions**, the Railroad Commission is **one of the most important elected offices** in the country when it comes to addressing the climate crisis.

*Example: Our partners at Commission Shift, a Texas-based nonprofit focused on the Railroad Commission, have published several reports highlighting the financial connections between many Commissioners and the fossil fuel industry. For the sake of climate action and integrity, we need elected officials who can serve as impartial regulators.*