



Legislative Hearing Guide - Data Centers & 765-kV

SUMMER 2026 INTERIM

The House and Senate have been assigned interim charges to study key policy topics and assess current laws. These hearing present the opportunity for residents like you to provide testimony! Let's take a look at key upcoming hearings and what topics are being covered.

TUESDAY JUNE 23RD - HOUSE CHAMBER - Natural Resources Committee

🕒 10:00 AM

📍 EXTENSION E2.036

The Committee's Focus: Water availability, groundwater depletion, and the statutory authority of Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs).

➔ AGENDA HERE

Most Appropriate Testimony Types:

- The "Right to Farm" and Agricultural Testimony: Farmers, ranchers, rural constituents. Testimony should pertain to their livelihood and the state's food security is directly threatened because data centers are allowed to mask their massive water draws under "general manufacturing/commercial" categories.
- The Local Authority Testimony: Local county officials or GCD board members. Message should be: We lack the statutory zoning tools to manage this massive influx. The state must step in and give us data transparency so we can protect our local aquifers.
- Everyday Residents: Those concerned about water security, consumption and drought in Texas.



KNOW THE COMMITTEE

POSITION	NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
CHAIR	CODY HARRIS	8	REPUBLICAN
VICE CHAIR	ARMANDO MARTINEZ	39	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	TRENT ASHBY	9	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	JEFF BARRY	29	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	CECIL BELL	3	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	BRAD BUCKLEY	54	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	CAROLINE FAIRLY	87	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	ERIN GAMEZ	38	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	JOSEY GARCIA	124	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	MARY GONZALEZ	75	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	RAMON ROMERO	90	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	DENISE VILLALOBOS	34	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	ERIN ZWIENER	45	DEMOCRAT



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TUESDAY JUNE 24TH - SENATE CHAMBER - Business & Commerce Committee

🕒 09:00 AM

📍 EXTENSION E1.012

The Committee's Focus: Data centers and grid impact requirements in Texas, fostering financial technology innovation, consumer protections.

➔ **AGENDA HERE**

Most Appropriate Testimony Types:

- Ratepayers: Average residential consumer or small business owner. The testimony must focus entirely on cost-shifting: "Why are Texas families facing higher utility bills and grid alerts to socialize the massive infrastructure costs of billionaire tech companies?"
- The Energy-Water Nexus Connection: Testimony on how water scarcity directly threatens grid reliability (if the water runs dry, power plants lose their thermal cooling capacity, triggering blackouts).

🔍 **KNOW THE COMMITTEE**

POSITION	NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
CHAIR	CHARLES SCHWERTNER	5	REPUBLICAN
VICE CHAIR	PHIL KING	10	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	CÉSAR BLANCO	29	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	DONNA CAMPBELL	25	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	BRENT HAGENBUCH	30	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	ADAM HINOJOSA	27	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	NATHAN JOHNSON	16	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	LOIS KOLKHORST	18	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ	26	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	KEVIN SPARKS	31	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	JUDITH ZAFFIRINI	21	DEMOCRAT



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MONDAY JULY 27TH - SENATE CHAMBER - Finance Committee

🕒 10:30 AM

📍 EXTENSION E1.036

The Committee's Focus: Data center tax abatements and sales tax break, fire risk caused by data centers and 765-kV power lines in rural areas.

➔ AGENDA HERE

Most Appropriate Testimony Types:

- Anti-Corporate Welfare Testimony: Multi-billion-dollar tech companies use local tax abatements (like Chapter 312 or 313/Chapter 403 agreements) to pay next to nothing in local taxes, while permanently draining state-funded water infrastructure. "They take our tax breaks, they drain our state-funded reservoirs, and they leave Texas taxpayers to pick up the tab for expanding the grid."
- The "Fiscal Waste & Fraud" Testimony: The committee has a strict oversight mandate regarding fraud, waste, and state agency accountability, however the TWDB and the PUCT are mismanaging public planning resources by completely ignoring the data-center blind spot.
- Fire Risk Testimony: Data centers and 765-kV lines present fire hazards that fire departments in rural communities are not equipped to handle.



KNOW THE COMMITTEE

POSITION	NAME	DISTRICT	PARTY
CHAIR	JOAN HUFFMAN	17	REPUBLICAN
VICE CHAIR	JUAN HINOJOSA	20	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	CAROL ALVARADO	6	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	PAUL BETTENCOURT	7	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	DONNA CAMPBELL	25	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	LOIS KOLKHORST	18	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	PETE FLORES	24	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	ANGELA PAXTON	8	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	CHARLES PERRY	28	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	ROYCE WEST	23	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	JUDITH ZAFFIRINI	21	DEMOCRAT
MEMBER	BOB HALL	2	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	PHIL KING	10	REPUBLICAN
MEMBER	CHARLES SCHWERTNER	5	REPUBLICAN



Legislative Hearing Guide - Helpful Info

PLANNING YOUR ARRIVAL TIME

Arrive at least an hour before the scheduled hearing time. This allows enough time for parking, walking to the building, passing through security, finding the hearing room and signing up to testify.

PARKING

Parking fills up quickly on hearing days. These are some of the best parking spots near-by:

- 📍 **CAPITOL VISITORS PARKING** - 1201 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin
First 2 hours are free and it's \$1 for each half hour thereafter. Maximum daily charge is \$12.
- 📍 **THE CAPITOL TOWER GARAGE** - 940 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin
Purchase in advance here → [CAPITOL TOWER PARKING](#)
- 📍 **METERED STREET PARKING**
Map of nearby street parking here. Approx. \$1/hour → [METERED PARKING MAP](#)

ENTRY

Visitors can enter through the North, East, South or West entrances.

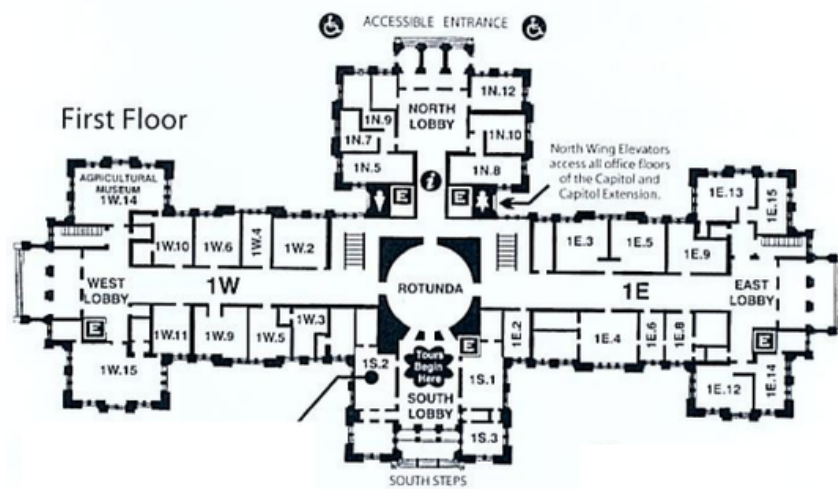
- 📍 **CAPITOL ADDRESS** - 1100 Congress Ave. Austin

Every guest will pass through security. This is a quick process.

Remove coats and jackets, place bags in the plastic bin and remove your phone, keys and anything metal objects from your pockets (not including belts and jewelry) before walking through the detector.

NAVIGATING THE CAPITOL

All hearings located in E1 and E2 are part of the Extension. To get there, find the nearest elevator (E in diagram) in the North or South wings, find them by walking towards the Rotunda in the center of the building. If entering through the East or West entrances, walk through the Rotunda to the North or South wing. Restrooms are located near the elevators.





Legislative Hearing Guide - Helpful Info

REGISTERING TO SPEAK - HOUSE HEARINGS

Registration opens up an hour before the hearing begins. You cannot register in advance, however you can create a user profile before your arrival.

Step 1: REGISTER A PROFILE IN ADVANCE HERE: → [WITNESS PROFILE](#)

Step 2: SIGN UP AT A KIOSK

Kiosks are located outside the hearing room

OR

Step 3: SIGN UP USING YOUR PHONE/LAPTOP

Connect to the Capitol Wi-Fi and use your browser to visit <http://hwrs.house.texas.gov> or scan the QR code on kiosk

Step 4: INFO TO KNOW

- Name of Committee
- Time and Location of hearing

Step 5: WAIT UNTIL CALLED TO TESTIFY

You'll have 2 minutes to address the committee

 If bringing printed testimony or material, come prepared with 15 - 20 unstapled physical copies to submit to the clerk.

REGISTERING TO SPEAK - SENATE HEARINGS

Registration opens up an hour before the hearing begins.

Step 1: SIGN UP AT A KIOSK

Kiosks are located outside the hearing room

OR

Step 2: SIGN UP USING YOUR PHONE/LAPTOP

Connect to the Capitol Wi-Fi and use your browser to visit <http://swrs.senate.state.tx.us> or scan the QR code on kiosk

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