

# Votes In This Scorecard

# 2017 Texas State Senate Scorecard

Of the hundreds of bills voted on by the 85th Legislature, we identified a few key votes that will have the greatest impact on Texas' environment and public health. Short descriptions of each bill can be found below, and more details are available on our website.  
<http://www.EnvironmentTexas.org>

Not sure who represents you?  
 Go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/> to learn the names of your representative and senator.

## 1. Tire Dumping: SB 570

Pro-environment Vote: YES

SB570 provides a civil penalty for the illegal dumping of tires.

Outcome: PASSED

## 2. Wind Energy: SB 277

Pro-environment Vote: NO

SB277 eliminates state tax incentives for wind farms near military bases.

Outcome: PASSED

## 3. Bee Protection: SB 1172

Pro-environment Vote: NO

SB 1172 preempts local governments from protecting bees by regulating seeds treated with neonicotinoids, a class of insecticide known to kill bees and other pollinating insects.

Outcome: PASSED

## 4. Clean Air: SB 1045

Pro-environment Vote: NO

SB1045 reduces the rights of citizens in air pollution permitting cases.

Outcome: PASSED

## 5. Pollution Lawsuits: HB 2533

Pro Environment vote: NO

HB 2533 makes it more difficult for local governments and citizens to file civil suits that seek penalties for illegal pollution.

Outcome: PASSED

## 6. Green Infrastructure: HB 1536, SB 2026

Pro-environment Vote: YES

The bills direct the state to study green stormwater management strategies such as green roofs and rainwater harvesting.

Outcome: FAILED IN HOUSE (HB 1536), PASSED IN SENATE (SB 2026)

## 7. (s) Electric Cars: SB 26

Pro-environment Vote: YES

SB 26 reauthorizes the state clean air program and provides incentives for purchasing electric vehicles.

Outcome: PASSED

## 7. (h) Fracking Penalties: HB 1818 Amd 10 (h.1)

Pro-environment Vote: NO on the motion to table

Amendment 10 increases penalties for oil and gas companies in violation of state environmental laws. The vote was on a motion to table the amendment.

Outcome: Amendment tabled

## 8. (s) Fracking Enforcement: HB 1818 Amd 1

Pro-environment Vote: YES

Amendment 1 directs state oil and gas regulators to post information about their enforcement activity online.

Outcome: Amendment failed

## 8. (h) Fracking Waste: HB1818 Amd 13 (h.2)

Pro-environment Vote: NO on the motion to table

Amendment 13 requires state oil and gas regulators to hold public hearings for proposed new fracking waste injection sites. The vote was on a motion to table the amendment.

Outcome: Amendment tabled

| Senate Member      | Party | District | 2017 Texas State Senate Scorecard |                |                   |              |                       |                         |                  |                         |       |            |
|--------------------|-------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------|------------|
|                    |       |          | 1. Tire Dumping                   | 2. Wind Energy | 3. Bee Protection | 4. Clean Air | 5. Pollution Lawsuits | 6. Green Infrastructure | 7. Electric Cars | 8. Fracking Enforcement | 2017% | Lifetime % |
| Paul Bettencourt   | R     | 7        | -                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 25    | 25         |
| Brian Birdwell     | R     | 22       | +                                 | +              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 50    | 37         |
| Dawn Buckingham    | R     | 24       | -                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 25    | 25         |
| Konni Burton       | R     | 10       | -                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | -                       | -                | -                       | 0     | 13         |
| Donna Campbell     | R     | 25       | -                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 25    | 29         |
| Brandon Creighton  | R     | 4        | -                                 | +              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | -                | -                       | 25    | 25         |
| Craig Estes        | R     | 30       | +                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 38    | 53         |
| Sylvia Garcia      | D     | 6        | +                                 | +              | -                 | +            | +                     | +                       | +                | +                       | 88    | 96         |
| Bob Hall           | R     | 2        | -                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | -                       | -                | -                       | 0     | 7          |
| Kelly Hancock      | R     | 9        | -                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 25    | 29         |
| Juan Hinojosa      | D     | 20       | +                                 | -              | -                 | -            | +                     | +                       | +                | +                       | 63    | 69         |
| Don Huffines       | R     | 16       | +                                 | +              | -                 | -            | -                     | -                       | +                | -                       | 38    | 38         |
| Joan Huffman       | R     | 17       | +                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 38    | 53         |
| Bryan Hughes       | R     | 1        | -                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 25    | 30         |
| Lois Kolkhorst     | R     | 18       | -                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 25    | 31         |
| Eddie Lucio Jr.    | D     | 27       | +                                 | -              | -                 | -            | +                     | +                       | +                | +                       | 63    | 75         |
| José Menéndez      | D     | 26       | +                                 | -              | -                 | +            | E                     | +                       | +                | +                       | 71    | 80         |
| Borris Miles       | D     | 13       | +                                 | -              | -                 | E            | +                     | +                       | +                | +                       | 71    | 90         |
| Jane Nelson        | R     | 12       | +                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 38    | 50         |
| Robert Nichols     | R     | 3        | +                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 38    | 40         |
| Charles Perry      | R     | 28       | +                                 | +              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 50    | 30         |
| José Rodríguez     | D     | 29       | +                                 | +              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | +                       | 63    | 87         |
| Charles Schwertner | R     | 5        | -                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 25    | 38         |
| Kel Seliger        | R     | 31       | +                                 | +              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 50    | 62         |
| Larry Taylor       | R     | 11       | +                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | -                       | 38    | 46         |
| Van Taylor         | R     | 8        | -                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | -                       | -                | -                       | 0     | 25         |
| Carlos Uresti      | D     | 19       | +                                 | -              | -                 | +            | P                     | +                       | +                | +                       | 71    | 80         |
| Kirk Watson        | D     | 14       | +                                 | +              | +                 | +            | +                     | +                       | +                | +                       | 100   | 96         |
| Royce West         | D     | 23       | +                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | +                       | 50    | 80         |
| John Whitmire      | D     | 15       | +                                 | -              | -                 | -            | -                     | +                       | +                | +                       | 50    | 78         |
| Judith Zaffirini   | D     | 21       | +                                 | +              | -                 | -            | +                     | +                       | +                | +                       | 75    | 87         |

## Scorecard Key

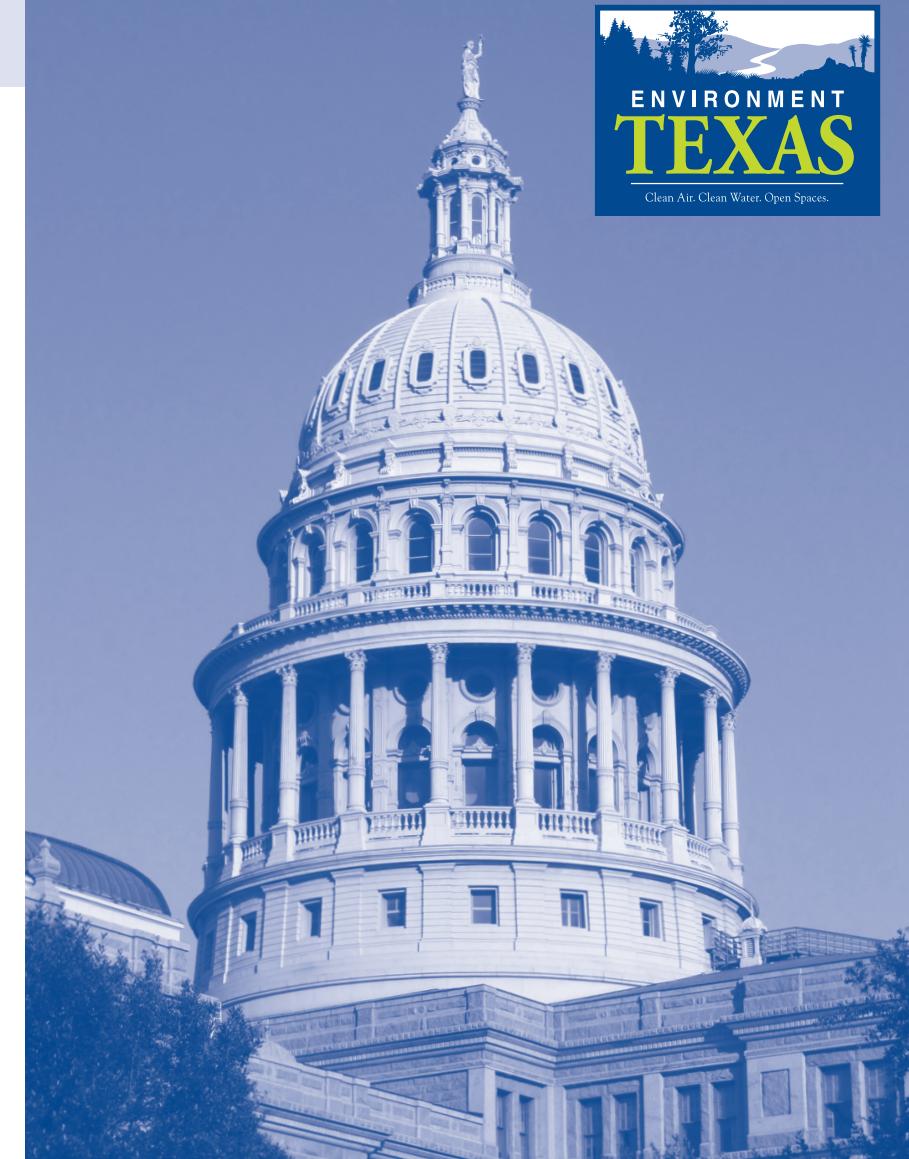
- (+) Vote for the environment
- (-) Vote against the environment
- (P) Present, Not Voting
- (E) Excused from Vote
- (A) Unexcused Absence from Vote

## Environment Texas

Environment Texas is a nonpartisan organization that combines independent research, practical ideas and tough-minded advocacy to overcome the opposition of powerful special interests and win real results for Texas's environment. We have compiled this legislative scorecard as a tool to educate Texas citizens about the voting records of their elected officials.

### Environment Texas

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# 2017 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

# 2017 Texas State House Scorecard