

**Texas LULAC Legislative Agenda
for the
86th Texas Legislature**



All for One – One for All

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LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Affordable Housing

Affirmative Action

Automatic Payroll Deductions

Child Welfare

Criminal Justice Reform

Discrimination & Racial Profiling

Economic Development

Education

Health Care

Human Trafficking

Immigration

LGBTQ

Persons with Disabilities

Veteran's Issues

Women's Rights

Voting Rights

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Texas LULAC supports an increase in the state's stock of affordable housing. The government should increase resources to build, rehabilitate, and preserve housing for low to extremely low- income households in both the rental and purchase market.

Texas LULAC supports

- The elimination of any legislative restrictions on cities and counties legal abilities to issue bonds for the creation of affordable housing;
- The legislation to provide funds to create similar programs like the HOME AFFORDABLE MODIFICATION PROGRAM (HAMP) to continue to assist people in acquiring mortgage modifications.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Texas LULAC remains committed to fighting efforts to overturn decisions that have upset affirmative action programs in Texas.

Texas LULAC supports

- Equal opportunity for all in employment and promotion in the workplace without regard to national origin, race, religion, language, sexual orientation, age, or disability;
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- Affirmative Action as a set of positive steps that employers use to promote equal employment opportunities.

Texas LULAC opposes:

Discriminations of any form in the workplace.

AUTOMATIC PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

Texas State LULAC supports the individual right to join and participate in unions and to request to have their dues automatically deducted from their paycheck.

Texas State LULAC supports:

- The right of Texas workers to have their union dues or any other contribution they request be automatically deducted from their paycheck.

Texas State LULAC opposes:

- Any legislation that would hinder or oppose the rights of Texas workers to participate in unions.
- Any legislation that would prohibit the automatic deduction of union dues or any other contributions from the paychecks of union members.

CHILD WELFARE

Texas LULAC recognizes that children and youth from communities of color are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system and experience a high propensity of entrance into the juvenile and criminal system.

Texas LULAC supports:

- The reform of the child welfare system;
- Maintaining funding for Child Protective Services (CPS) at the rate needed;
- Insuring that the staffing of CPS offices meets the needs of the communities that they serve;
- Additional training and requirements of a bachelor's degree for CPS caseworkers;
- Investigating cases of racial profiling and discrimination in the child welfare system.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

LULAC advocates for the reform of the Criminal Justice System to reduce the disproportionate number of Latinos who are incarcerated.

LULAC Supports

- Reform of the court system to ensure fair sentencing guidelines that do not discriminate among race or socio-economic background;
- Ensuring that statistical data of inmates in the state prison system is gathered for Hispanics/Latinos of any race;
- Preventative education and social programs to reduce incarceration and recidivism:
- The repeal of legislation harmful to Latinos to redress disparate treatment of minorities, such as the elimination of the death penalty
- Independent investigation panels to review cases for potential civil rights violations involving police brutality, excessive force, and/or lethal force:
- Efforts to build trust and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the Latino community.

LULAC Opposes

- The Incarceration of youth in adult prisons;
- Racial profiling;
- Any form of discrimination based on national origin, race, religion, language, sexual orientation, age, or disability.
- For-profit private prison industrial complex and detention centers;

DISCRIMINATION & RACIAL PROFILING

Texas LULAC in congruence with the National LULAC denounces any form of discrimination based on national origin, race, religion, language, sexual orientation, age or disability. Texas LULAC is concerned with the growth of hate groups and encourages the state Legislature to strongly monitor agencies and their enforcement of hate-crime laws.

Texas LULAC opposes:

- Any effort to amend the U. S. or Texas Constitution in any manner that reduces the protection of any individual's rights based on national origin, race, religion, language, sexual orientation, age or disability.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Texas LULAC urges companies and government agencies to embrace diversity in all aspects of business, whether employment, promotion, or contracting (including federal and state contracting), as well as to support representation of Hispanics at all levels, from day to day management and governance to the boardroom.

Texas LULAC supports

- The implementation of the Community Reinvestment Act by commercial banks and saving associations to promote economic stimulus to low-income minority communities;
- Texas LULAC encourages the federal government to reform the federal tax code to address the financial challenges regarding our federal budget and subsequent funding for programs and services that are important to the Latino community:
- Financial education efforts aimed at improving the economic security and stability of the Latino community.

EDUCATION

LULAC believes that universal and quality public education is the foundation for lifelong success and strongly opposes any measure that denies education as a fundamental right including those of immigrant children.

LULAC supports:

- A comprehensive study funded by the Texas Legislature where shareholders from all affected jurisdictions will recommended equitable funding formulas for public education;
- Legislation that would STOP any more decreases in the state portion for funding public education in Texas for the next six years to address the increased costs to local taxpayers in last few years, and until equitable funding formulas are adopted, as per the above study recommendation;
- Adopt legislation that would mandate the use of public-school tax money for public schools ONLY, and not for private ventures, private charter schools, voucher programs, or other State expenditures;
- Dual language as a model for bilingual education programs in this State;
- Development of school curriculum materials that reflect an unbiased view of history for all ethnic groups;
- Standardized accountability measures for all schools that receive State funds;
- Support a Texas Dream Act which would allow for in-state tuition at colleges and universities for affected immigrants;
- A school funding system that would not desegregate schools based on income;
- Continue funding of ESEA parental involvement provisions, with fidelity to the original intentions of the Civil Rights Act in the schools;

- A study that would show the impact of HB5 on rural schools and minority students as per the endorsement tracks chosen that eliminate Algebra II, a college prep course.

LULAC opposes

- The use of public funds for vouchers or any other funding method that will limit funds for public schools;
- Or any legislation that seeks to transfer public property tax money away from public schools;
- Harsh and discriminatory discipline practices, including suspensions and expulsions, and zero tolerance that removes students from classrooms and keeps them from learning.
- Any efforts to deny access to education and to ensure access to parents and children living in Texas to education services regardless of immigration status;
- Policies that solely rely on a single test score to determine grade promotion or retention decisions, deny students a high school diploma, deny access to college, or financial aid or contaminate student's course GPA's.

HEALTH CARE

Universal health care is a priority for Latinos and it should include affordable and assessable primary, preventive and emergency room health care that is administered in a culturally competent and linguistically appropriate manner.

Texas LULAC supports

- The establishment and funding for programs that are preventative and proactive health care which focus on diabetes, obesity and coronary diseases, hypertension, Alzheimer's, mental health, and HIV/AIDS;
- Increased funding for programs to promote self-esteem and prevent teen pregnancy;
- Guidelines that improve the nutritious quality of meals served in public schools;

- The expansion of the Medicaid program;
- Health care for all and a public health care plan for mental health and mental disabilities;
- The State of Texas to provide funding to the study and prevention of health disparities among minority and disadvantaged communities including funding and support for community health care centers;
- Programs to protect women and their children from domestic violence and sexual abuse and strong penalties for abusers.

LULAC opposes

- Any effort to restrict funding to health clinics to limit access to comprehensive health and reproductive services.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LULAC supports state and federal efforts to combat international and domestic trafficking of human beings and the full implementation of the Victims Protection Act (TUPA) of 2000.

Texas LULAC supports

- The continued monitoring of anti-trafficking programs;
- The expansion of criminal provisions for those profiting from human trafficking;
- That unaccompanied minors be treated as refugees and provided with the fullest form of care and protection including being protected from incarceration and detention.

Texas LULAC opposes

- Changing existing human trafficking laws to strip away critical protection for unaccompanied minors to speed up deportation

IMMIGRATION

LULAC supports an Immigration Policy that is fair and an equitable for all and supports an immediate end to family detention practices.

LULAC Supports

- Full worker protection be extended to all workers regardless of their immigration status.
- In-state tuition for Dreamers who were brought to this country as children.
- Comprehensive immigration reform legislation that allows undocumented workers already in the U.S. who contribute to the U.S. economy and society by providing a pathway to citizenship.
- All medically fragile children be treated in a timely manner regardless of immigration or citizenship status;
- Recognized immigrants are an integral part of the Texas labor force by addressing employment-based immigration needs and reforming the visa system for issuing permanent and temporary visas for high and low-skilled workers; allowing workers to fill jobs already available to them.

LULAC opposes

- The separation of families at the borders and the detention of children who have been separated from their parents in detention centers;
- The practice of housing families in detention centers;
- The licensing of detention centers as day care facilities by the state;
- The detention of asylum seekers who present themselves at our borders;
- the use of local law enforcement in immigration enforcement;
- The use frivolous legislation and litigation aimed at immigrants;
- All forms of profiling by law enforcement.

LGBTQ

Texas LULAC supports the rights of the LGBTQ community and adamantly opposes any legislation that would discriminate against the LGBTQ community.

Texas LULAC supports

- Efforts that would dismantle discrimination against the LGBT community;
- Efforts that would address Bullying against LGBTQ students in school such as the Student Safety Improvement Act and the Student Non-Discrimination Act;
- Programs and legislation to protect the quality of life for Latino seniors including LGBTQ seniors;
- The development of fair and affordable housing for the elderly, including LGBTQ seniors as well as the creation of additional emergency shelters to permanent housing for victims of domestic violence including the LGBTQ community

Texas LULAC opposes

- Any effort to amend the Texas Constitution that reduces the protection of an individual's rights based on national origin, race, religion, language, sexual orientation, sexual identity, age or disability.
- The ICE detention and treatment of vulnerable populations like the LGBTQ Trans immigrants.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In the State of Texas, Persons with Disabilities strive to live a productive and meaningful life. ARC of Texas stated “that Texas ranks 50th in the nation for funding services to persons with disabilities; this is unacceptable for a state with 12th largest economy in the world. Every Legislative Session they seek to improve their quality of life in healthcare, education, employment, transportation, and housing. Texas LULAC supports these efforts.

Texas LULAC supports

- Increase community attendant wages to ensure a reliable workforce (currently wages are at \$8 per hour);
- Reduce Medicaid Waiver waiting time (currently there is a fourteen year wait), for traumatic brain, spinal cord injuries;
- Promoting independence program to relocate or prevent institutionalization and Early Childhood intervention funding;
- Restore provider cuts to Medicaid therapies and add dental care for Medicaid adults;
- State supported life centers' (SSLC) enrollment has declined for over 25 years, the program should be right-size and monies moved into community care;
- Accessible parking reforms;
- Recovery services for thousands of children with disabilities who were denied special education;
- Waiver to the State's immunity to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Texas LULAC opposes

- The non-medical switching from an effective drug;
- Paying people with disabilities a sub-minimum wage;
- Providing a very limited post-secondary education for individuals with IDD.

VETERAN'S ISSUES

LULAC recognizes the achievements and the contributions made by Latino veterans.

LULAC supports

- The continuation of The Hazelwood Act in its entirety;
- The establishment and funding for Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress
- Establish and fund Clinics for Veteran suffering from Drug Abuse and homeless;
- An exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the appraised value of the residence;
- The entitlement of spouse of certain veterans with disabilities to veteran's employment preferences;
- Leave for certain veterans obtaining medical and mental health care.
- Green card Veterans who have been deported due to minor legal infractions and the efforts to return them to the United States;

LULAC opposes

- Any reductions to the Hazelwood Act.
- The deportation of Green Card Veterans who have served our country.

VOTING RIGHTS

LULAC believes that every person has the duty and responsibility to vote and that the State has the responsibility to make sure that every voter's rights are protected. That every eligible person can register and participate in an election without fear of intimidation or harassment.

LULAC supports

- Establishing standards for Redistricting which must be based on apportioned based on equal population, that districts be geographical and contiguous, ensure that districts be compact, and lines coincide with local political divisions, and are not drawn to dilute the voting strength of the minority population or are drawn to favor one political party over another.
- On-line Voter registration, which would make the process of registering to vote easier.
- Same day voter registration.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

LULAC supports Women's Rights and is concerned with ongoing findings that Hispanic women fare worse in health and health care than other populations and strongly encourages better access to health benefits, literacy, and improved doctor-patient relationships

LULAC supports

- Pay equality for women
- Strong penalties for Sexual Harassment
- Strong programs that protect women and children from domestic violence and sexual abuse, with strong penalties for their abusers;

LULAC opposes

- Any legislation or litigation that interferes with a woman's right to seek health care.