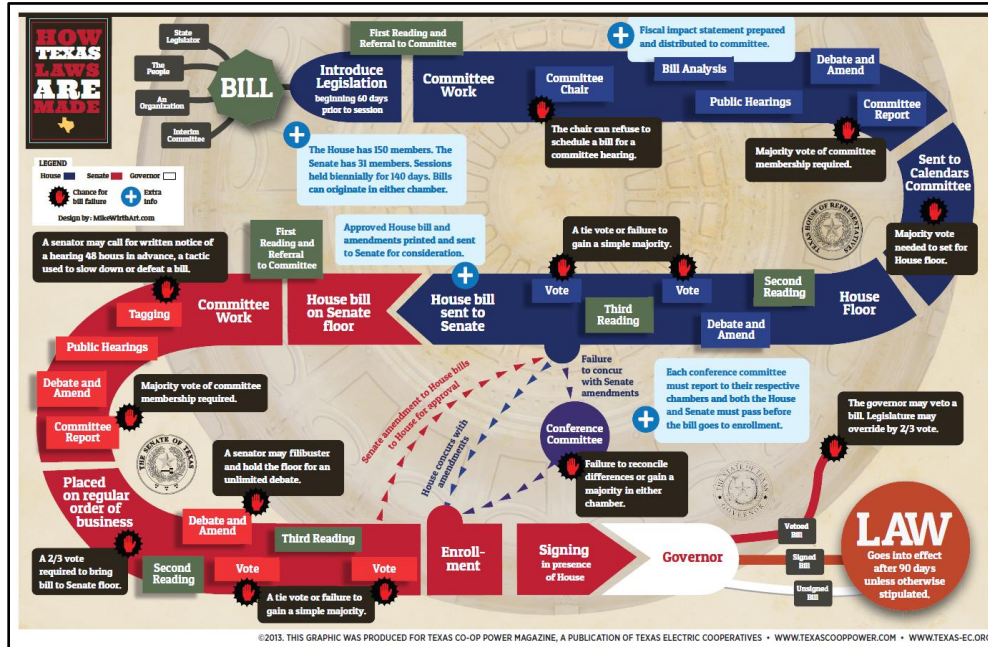


Texas Inmate Families Association: San Antonio Chapter

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”

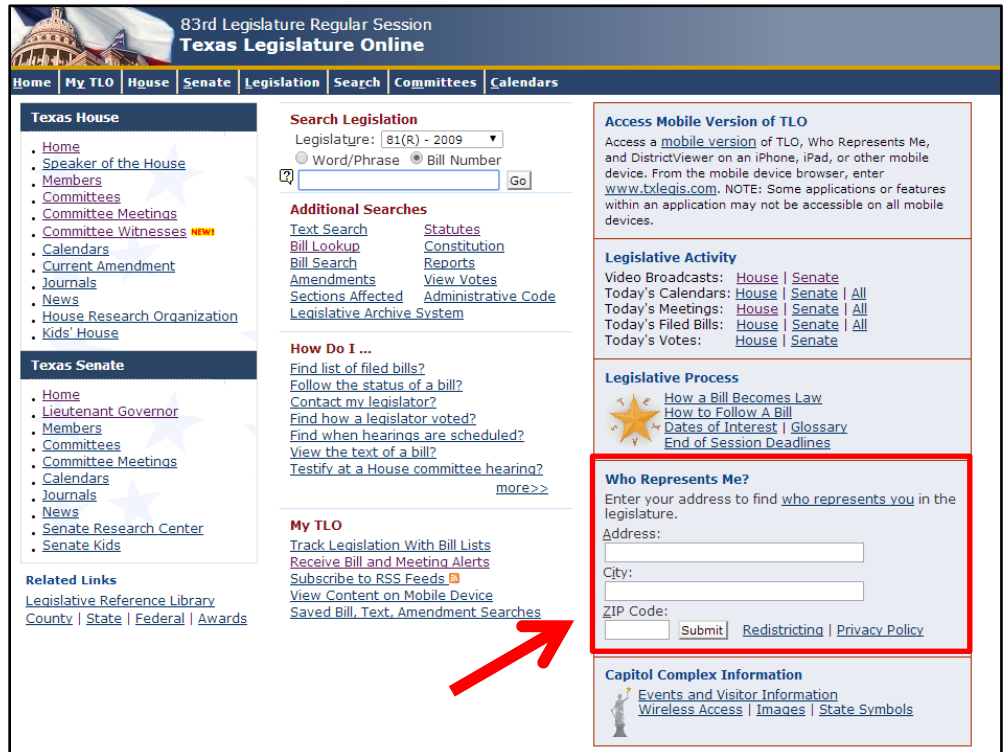
Franklin D. Roosevelt

WHO REPRESENTS ME?

www.capitol.state.tx.us
 “Who Represents Me?”

Find out:

- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative
- State Senator
- State Representative
- State Board of Education Member



The screenshot shows the Texas Legislature Online website for the 83rd Regular Session. The navigation bar includes Home, My TLO, House, Senate, Legislation, Search, Committees, and Calendars. The main content area is divided into sections for the Texas House and Texas Senate, each with a list of links to various resources like members, committees, and news. A search bar for legislation is also present. On the right side, there are sections for mobile access, legislative activity, and the legislative process. The 'Who Represents Me?' section is highlighted with a red box and contains a form for entering an address to find the representative. A red arrow points to the 'Submit' button in this form.

STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- **DECIDE** which issues will be pursued during session
- **DEVELOP** clear, concise positions and messages on each issue
- **CONDUCT** an educational campaign (website, email alerts, fact sheets, stories, witnesses)
- **MEET** with legislators to establish positive relationships (local legislators and those assigned to relevant committees; gather facts about the issue, including opposition, create concise fact sheets for members)

STEPS TO TAKE DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- **TRACK** legislation on your issue (utilize “My TLO” at www.capitol.state.tx.us)
- **“SHOP”** your bill to legislators
- **HOST** a legislative action day
- **SELL** the legislation to committee members once your bill is assigned to a committee (calls, visits, letters)
- **PREPARE** for and **ATTEND** public hearings to provide support or testimony
- **SELL** the legislation to floor members—be available as a resource

STEPS TO TAKE AFTER LEGISLATIVE SESSION

<p>If your bill dies in committee or a particular chamber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Don't be discouraged – most bills do not make it out of committee</i> - THANK the legislators who were of major assistance to your group - WRITE a press release (if appropriate) - FOCUS on future legislators and trying again 	<p>If your bill becomes law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CELEBRATE! - WRITE a press release - INVOLVE your group in the bill's implementation process
<p>If your bill is vetoed by the Governor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WRITE a press release - ENCOURAGE local implementation (instead of statewide implementation) - CONCENTRATE on established foundations who support the issue - DEVELOP relationships with the Governor and his allies - MEET with opponents of the bill 	<p>If a committee wants an interim study on the issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PROVIDE research to committee members - TESTIFY at hearings as permitted - RECRUIT experts to attend the hearings - APPRISE lawmakers, stakeholders, and the media of your suggestions and recommendations - GAIN more support during the interim for greater success next session!

HOW TO GET MEDIA ATTENTION FOR YOUR ISSUE

- **CREATE** a contact list of media persons who are familiar with you and your issue
- **CALL** the media directly to pitch your issue
- **WRITE** a Letter to the Editor for our local newspaper
- **WRITE** an “op-ed” (opinion editorial) for your local newspaper
- **SEND** media outlets press releases on important developments and events
- **HOST** a press conference
- **FOCUS** on the message—nothing is ever “off the record”

HOW TEXAS LAWS ARE MADE

