

## TACC-PAC CONTRIBUTORS

### 2022 Capitol Solo Members

(People that contributed \$100 or more to TACC-PAC individually during the year, but were not associated with one of the two PAC categories.)

Kevin Brinkley  
Tommy Engelke  
Cary Eubanks  
Rex Ford  
Dwight Jackson  
Brian Lehrmann  
Keith Lucas  
Freddie Maxwell  
Randy Reid  
Curtis Stewart  
Robert Swize  
Charley Triplett  
Darren Turley  
Alan Woodard

### All-Time 100% Club Members

(These are cooperatives that have 100% of their directors and the general manager contributes a minimum of \$25 each to TACC-PAC in one year.)

Associated Cotton Growers – Crosbyton  
Bayside-Richardson Co-op Gin – Woodsboro  
Brownfield Farmers Co-op Station – Brownfield  
Central Rolling Plains Co-op – Roscoe  
Coyanosa Co-op Gin – Coyanosa  
Dumas Co-op – Dumas  
Farmers Cooperative Association – Stanton  
Farmers Co-op Elevator Association – Levelland  
Glasscock County Co-op – Garden City  
Gulf Compress – Corpus Christi  
Hereford Grain Corporation – Hereford  
Lone Star Farmers Cooperative – Mereta  
Midkiff Farmers Co-op – Midkiff  
Midway Gin and Grain – Taft  
New Home Co-op Gin – New Home  
Owens Cooperative Gin – Ralls  
Planter's Grain Cooperative – Odem  
Producers Cooperative Association – Bryan  
Smith Gin Co-op – Odem  
Texas Star Co-op Gin – Slaton  
Valley Co-op Oil Mill – Harlingen  
Wall Co-op Gin – Wall  
WesTex Co-op Gin – Slaton  
Woodsboro Farmers Co-op – Woodsboro

### All-Time Charlie Award Members

(These are cooperatives that have 100% of their directors and the general manager contributes a minimum of \$100 each to TACC-PAC in one year, with the total contribution being a minimum of \$1,000. The award is named in honor of former U.S. Congressman **Charles Stenholm**, who is credited with establishing TACC-PAC.)

Associated Cotton Growers – Crosbyton  
Brownfield Farmers Co-op Station – Brownfield  
Dumas Co-op – Dumas  
EdCot Co-op Gin – Odem  
Farmers Cooperative Compress – Lubbock  
Floydada Co-op Gins – Floydada  
Gulf Compress – Corpus Christi  
Hereford Grain Corporation – Hereford  
Midkiff Farmers Co-op – Midkiff  
Northeast Texas Farmers Co-op – Sulphur Springs  
Planter's Grain Cooperative – Odem  
Producers Cooperative Association – Bryan  
Producers Co-op Elevator – Floydada  
PYCO Industries, Inc. – Lubbock  
Smith Gin Co-op – Odem  
Skyland Grain LLC – Bushland  
United Agricultural Cooperative – El Campo  
United Cotton Growers – Levelland  
Wall Co-op Gin – Wall  
WesTex Co-op Gin – Slaton



### Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council Political Action Committee

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#### Trustees

#### April Graves

United Ag Co-op, Inc.  
El Campo, Texas

#### Greg O'Brian

Friona Wheat Growers  
Friona, Texas

#### Aaron Hendricks

Floydada Co-op Gins  
Floydada, Texas

#### Tony Morton

PYCO Industries, Inc.  
Lubbock, Texas

#### Seth Stephens

Producers Co-op Elevator  
Floydada, Texas



# THE PAC REPORT OCTOBER 2022

## "Avoiding a Dangerous Political Path..."

When compared to other states, Texas statewide lawmaking is relatively simple. In some states like California and Oregon and 24 other states, they have greater lawmaking processes with "initiative" and "referendum." If you are in agriculture, you never want "Initiative and Referendum" in your state constitution. Here's why...

**Initiative** is a process whereby a particular measure, such as no longer allowing caged chickens in California, was proposed by a group of citizens, wrote their own legislative language, garnered a minimum number of petitioner signatures, then took the measure before the entire citizens of the state for a vote. In such cases, the agricultural industry cannot compete with volumes of voters in Los Angeles and San Francisco and as such the measure passed and has become state law, which has resulted in a very crippled and ever-depopulating poultry industry in the Golden State.

**Referendum** is a process whereby a particular measure may or may not have passed the state, such as the abortion or heartbeat bill in Texas, but the citizens are not pleased with the outcome at the State Capitol. In this case, if the state had "Initiative and Referendum" powers, citizens could take the measure, receive a minimum number of petitioners signatures, then bring the proposed policy before the citizens of the state for a vote. Again, in agricultural terms, if such a measure impacting the industry ever came up, farmers and ranchers would not have the votes to compete with folks in Dallas, Houston, Austin and San Antonio.

A third measure could become commonplace in this expanded lawmaking discussion as well in the form of a **constitutional amendment**. Every two years in Texas, there are measures whereby the proposed law would change the state constitution. In this case, both chambers of the state legislature (Texas House and Texas Senate) must pass the measure by two-thirds vote, the Governor sign it, and it goes to the voters of the state as a constitutional amendment because it changes the constitution of the State of Texas. An example in 2021 was when a constitutional amendment was taken to and passed by Texas voters to allow property tax exemption for a homestead in the event a partner had their military spouse killed in action.

In short, Texas does not have "Initiative and Referendum." If you are in an outnumbered industry in terms of votes like agriculture, you never want it in your state. Agriculture no longer has the votes like it did a century ago!

## TACC-PAC HIGHLIGHTS

- TACC-PAC has been sending a consistent message to key policy-makers in Austin by contributing \$389,050 to 754 different election campaign races in the last eleven election cycles.
- The TACC-PAC Silent Auction, started in 2005, has had as high as 37 organizations annually contribute about 65 different items, which has raised a total of \$70,138 for TACC-PAC in the last eighteen years.
- In preparation for the November 2022 General Election, prepared another hard copy TACC-PAC Special Edition Newsletter, complete with an insert noting where most all agricultural PACs in Texas were placing their contributions. This is the eleventh edition covering the last 22 years of political elections in Texas!
- In 2019, TACC-PAC coordinated its sixth "Co-op Legislature Dinner" at the State Capitol in conjunction with Land O' Lakes & the Texas Association of Dairymen --- hosting 45-50 state legislators and co-op leaders. The seventh consecutive dinner will be held once again in the Spring of 2023 in Austin.

## “Advocating”: It’s All About Leveraging People Opportunites

The probability of becoming an overnight success is incredibly small. Unless you can sing like Marty Robbins or throw a football like Troy Aikman, your chances of being universally liked are minimal. This simple fact that most people do not possess an incredible skill that gets them to where they need to be means that we must rely on building and leveraging relationships.

Leveraging relationships is not a bad thing, rather it is a necessity to survive in today’s climate. In small communities, building a bond with city councilmen, county commissioners, county judges, and even the barber or county agent is imperative in protecting your interests and way of life at the local level. A recent issue that has been highlighted by trade associations in Austin is the “Right to Farm Act” being infringed upon by municipalities, where city managers dispatch a farmer’s crop without prior notice, citing “city ordinances” as the reason. Long-term relationships can be built to try to avoid issues and result in development that benefits agriculture and your own interests.

This is simply a local example of building and leveraging relationships, but it is already being done at the state level. As a member of the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, you exert influence at a state level by communicating with staff members at associations who use relationships that are built on your behalf in Austin. Associations also work together to collectively leverage their relationships in groups such as the Texas Ag Council (TAC), creating a unified and larger voice for Texas Agriculture. TAC is composed of 65 ag commodity groups having legislative and regulatory representation around the State Capitol.

It may not be the case that you can get away from the farm and meet with your state representative, but by leveraging contacts in Austin, you can be heard.

Speaking at a Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council board meeting years ago in Austin, former George W. Bush campaign manager Karl Rove was asked how he became the campaign manager for a U.S. President. His response revolved around relationships he built earlier in life, saying, “In college I served as student body president and later was elected president of the national association that represented all college student body presidents in the nation. What else can I say about leveraging relationships to improve your outcome?”

The same can be said of legendary country music artist, Glenn Campbell when asked how he became so successful. His response was, “It took me 15 years to become an overnight success!” The same can be said about advocating!

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR VOTING IN TEXAS

<b>Registration Deadline</b>	October 11 (postmarked by October 11)
<b>Early Voting</b>	October 24-November 4
<b>Absentee Ballot* Deadlines:</b>	
Request	(receive by) October 28
Return by Mail	Postmarked by November 8
<b>General Election</b>	November 8
<b>*An absentee ballot application must be filled out and submitted to your local election office for you to receive a ballot to vote by mail. The application can be found online or requested from your local election office (may be the county clerk). Election duties and contact information can be found at:</b>	
<a href="https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/county.shtml#F">https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/county.shtml#F</a>	

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR TEXAS LEGISLATURE

<b>First Day to Prefile Bills:</b>	November 14, 2022
<b>State Legislative Session Begins:</b>	January 10, 2023
<b>Last Day to File Bills:</b>	March 10, 2023
<b>State Legislative Session Ends:</b>	May 29, 2023
<b>Last Day the Governor Can Sign or Veto Bills:</b>	June 18, 2023
<b>Date that Bills (without specific effective dates) Become Law:</b>	August 31, 2023

## TACC-PAC CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES 2022 ELECTION YEAR CYCLE

	Republicans				Democrats					
	March		November		March		November		Total	
	Candidates	Dollars	Candidates	Dollars	Candidates	Dollars	Candidates	Dollars	Races	Total
Statewide	6	4000	9	3700	0	0	0	0	15	7700
Senate	8	4000	7	2500	1	350	0	0	16	6850
House	38	10,750	24	5850	2	500	3	750	67	17,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>18,750</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12,050</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>32,400</b>

## POTENTIAL 2023 STATE AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. Approve a two-year state budget. (By state law, the ONLY reason they must meet.)
2. Larger municipalities are beginning to challenge provisions to the Right to Farm Act. Some municipalities are also imposing new ordinances/restrictions on veterinary practices.
3. The state’s economy is far exceeding expectations to the tune of \$27 billion. The challenge will be properly allocating these excess state funds.
4. Improve broadband coverage & capacity. (\$500 million was approved last session, but with new federal funding, somewhere around \$800 million - \$1.4 billion will now be available.)
5. A strong momentum to reduce property taxes, given all the excess state funds.
6. Addressing border security issues.
7. Dealing with school safety improvements.
8. To bring equality to fuel taxes for vehicles, electric cars will likely have increased registration fees (\$200 extra annually at registration for an electric vehicle and \$100 for a hybrid is being proposed).
9. Reauthorization of ag-related state agencies under Sunset Review:
  - a. Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)
  - b. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
  - c. Public Utility Commission (PUC)
  - d. Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
  - e. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
  - f. State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
10. Rural road and Shortline railroad infrastructure improvements. (There is a lot of money here & there is a special rural urban dispersal formula in place. There was \$2 billion allocated here in the 2016 TXDOT 10-year plan, but in the most recent plan there is \$14 billion. Of the 5 TXDOT Commissioners, one must be from rural Texas & currently that person is from San Angelo.)
11. Trucking legislation. (Huge advancements were made last Session to reduce accident awards, thus, stabilizing runaway insurance costs for large trucks. Other than attempts to tweak weight limits, little change is foreseen here. Currently, there is a limited CDL for those 18 years old. There may be an attempt to cause CDL training / licensing be incorporated into high school curriculums via industrial arts or the co-op training programs, so as to aid in more CDL drivers.)
12. Approving continued funding of the state boll weevil eradication program.
13. Moving from direct notification to central notification. (Until the rural broadband issue is addressed, this will not likely be a continuing concern.)
14. Fake meat bill. (This billed died last Session but will be resurfaced by Charles Perry in the Senate & Brad Buckley in the House.)
15. Private property rights / condemnation. (If this resurfaces this next Session, it will be to a much lesser degree.)
16. Migrant labor housing. (This failed last Session but will reappear to upgrade minimum housing standards for farm workers.)
17. Electric reliability. (Some form of legislation will appear far beyond simply improving ERCOT or PUC oversight. The Lt. Governor was not pleased that some things did not pass in this regard last Session.)
18. School choice / vouchers. (This topic is not popular in rural areas of the state, since in some cases, the school system is the biggest employer in many rural communities.)
19. Stricter gun control. (In Texas, this will not be an issue, but it will be on the national stage.)
20. A school parental rights platform. (This is a major issue for the Governor in that he feels parents should have a more pronounced voice in local school curriculum and direction.)
21. Taxes. (Given the state has an excess in funds, general concerns like threats to the sales tax exempt status & other such measures are not likely to occur. However, two concerns will likely be given some attention: a) lessen misunderstanding of “tax rate” vs “tax valuation” and b) lessening 254 different & independent interpretations of tax law between counties.)
22. Carbon neutral alternatives and what are the future of carbon markets in Texas. (Uncertainty abounds on this topic with no clear direction.)
23. Given the extreme 2022 drought, drought legislation or adjustments in water planning & water policy will surface in some form. Giving expanded water capacity authority at the local level is being considered as well as developing additional water trading legislation.
24. The Texas Department of Agriculture and the Texas Animal Health Commission will be seeking supplemental funding for new “roadside inspection stations.”
25. The issue of Dicamba spray drift was unexpectedly brought up in a Committee hearing recently.
26. Foreign ownership of land. There is increasing pressure to examine foreign ownership of Texas farmland in that it is becoming a security risk.
27. The increasing impact of solar projects consuming more and more of prime Texas farmland.
28. Reauthorizing the Chapter 313 tax incentive program to lure more businesses to Texas.
29. Given inflationary pressures and universal labor shortages, key ag-related state regulatory agencies need assistance in preserving and securing key staff positions.
30. Due to teacher shortages, including a virtual learning option to public school curriculums is being considered.