



VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK

February 15, 2023 • Austin, Texas





The Association
OF FORMER STUDENTS®
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY®

and

TEXAS  **EXES**®

are proud sponsors of

ORANGE & MAROON LEGISLATIVE DAY 2023

*Thank you for volunteering today and for your
continued support of these two great institutions.*

CONTENTS

Priority Issues	4
Reminders for Meetings with Legislators	10
Frequently Asked Questions	11
Capitol Map	12
Talking Points	14
Texas Senate	15
Texas House	16
Key Facts and Figures	20

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Help generate social media buzz around this important day. Post your photos using the hashtag **#OMLD2023**.
- Be in the group photo at the south steps of the Capitol at 5:00 p.m.
- Invite legislators and their staff to our reception at 800 Congress from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Complete the meeting form on your mobile device for each office visit.

CONTACTS

Daniel Becka

Constituent Relations Consultant for the Texas Exes

Cell: (512) 632-3839

Email: daniel.becka@texasexes.org

Miranda Henderson

Director of Advocacy and Legislative Affairs,

The Association of Former Students

Cell: (432) 940-6127

Email: mhenderson09@aggienetwork.com

THE ISSUES

1 Strong Investment in the Core Academic Mission of UT Austin and Texas A&M University

REQUEST

- Strengthen the core academic mission with increased funding through the formulas.
- Fund formulas to account for statewide enrollment growth.

BACKGROUND

- The legislature uses funding formulas to distribute available state appropriations for public institutions of higher education.
- Formulas are calculated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and its recommendations are presented to the Legislative Budget Board in June of even-numbered years. They are then sent to the legislature for consideration during the legislative session. In 2011, higher education suffered substantial cuts in base funding levels.
- In recent years, appropriators have maintained modest increases in funding for higher education that have spurred innovation, a strong workforce, and attracted businesses to Texas. In the last legislative session, adjustments in the formulas were made to address enrollment growth; but it was not enough to keep the rate from declining.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- State formula funding directly supports the core academic mission of flagship universities: educating students.
- The costs of educating students have increased over time, creating greater strain on students and families of Texas.
- Enrollment growth at UT Austin and Texas A&M University, along with rising inflation, must be considered in the formula appropriations.
- Stable and predictable state funding helps to keep college affordable and promotes efficiency and consistency for the universities, students, and families.

THE ISSUES

2

Increased Investment in Texas-Based Research Initiatives

REQUEST

- Enhance the funding rate for Texas Research University Fund (TRUF).
- Maintain the \$40M funding level for the Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI).

BACKGROUND

- Texas Research University Fund (TRUF) provides roughly \$1.2 million investment for every \$10 million in research expenditures to the state's flagship universities: UT Austin and Texas A&M University.
- The Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI) invests \$40 million biennially to help universities attract world-class researchers. This fund helps UT Austin and Texas A&M University attract world-class faculty.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Basic research conducted at the state's two flagship universities enhances the quality of life for Texans by creating lifesaving, critical developments in medicine, technology and virtually every other sector of our economy.
- Stronger investment in research aimed at solving the complex challenges facing our state stimulates the state's economy and creates invaluable opportunities for students to gain hands-on, practical experience in their chosen fields while receiving instruction from world-class faculty.

THE ISSUES

3 Investments to Support the Innovations and Production of Semiconductors in Texas

REQUEST

- Appropriate funds for efforts that would strengthen Texas proposals to successfully compete for federal CHIPS funding.

BACKGROUND

- In the summer of 2022, Congress passed the CHIPS and Science Act, which provides over \$52 billion for American semiconductor research, development, manufacturing, and workforce development. This funding will help secure domestic supply chains, create tens of thousands of jobs, and catalyze hundreds of billions more in private investment.
- A state investment in this area will uniquely position Texas to effectively compete for the \$13 billion in federal R&D funds and become a national leader in the semiconductor industry.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- With semiconductor devices and systems now impacting all aspects of daily life, demand for advanced technologies is growing exponentially, with no end in sight. The consequences of falling behind are more dire today than ever before.
- At the national level, a partnership between the State of Texas, premier research institutions and other educational partners – as well as preeminent semiconductor systems and defense electronics companies – would create a best-in-class and sustainable public-private electronics ecosystem.
- Texas Institute for Electronics (TIE) is a partnership led by UT Austin, created to address the needs of both industry and national security and to help recruit, educate, and train the next generation of highly skilled innovators.
- Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) is prepared to establish a Center for Microelectronics and Microsensors Systems specific to address gaps in domestic semiconductor manufacturing. \$26.4 million is requested to create a comprehensive program, to be complementary with

THE ISSUES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW (cont.)

respective funding for TIE, that will help address the global supply chain shortage for critical chip technologies.

- Combined, respective funding for TIE and TEES will enable the State to address national defense and secure commercial production challenges.

4 Mental Health

REQUEST

- We ask the Texas Legislature for a strong investment in student mental health services.

BACKGROUND

- With more students seeking mental health services, the costs of these services have increased by 76% at Texas A&M since 2020 and are projected to increase by an additional 150% by FY25 to meet demands for care.
- This increased demand for resources and services was seen prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need was further magnified by the pandemic and associated challenges to students.
- The national standard for mental health professionals to college students is a ratio of one professional for every 1,000-1,500 students. This standard was “set” prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Universities need funding that will enable competitive salaries to help recruit and retain mental health care professionals.
- Increased funding will be used to expand counseling and mental health care services for students in need, including 24/7 access to qualified care.
- Funds will be used to educate college students through communications platforms that most resonate with them, thereby providing accessible care options which best supports their needs about available mental health services.

THE ISSUES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- UT Austin and Texas A&M University have seen a 30% increase in students seeking mental health care or experiencing a mental health crisis, and both institutions have enhanced outreach, resources, and created new care pathways to help serve them.
- For example, at both institutions, the My Student Support Program (mySSP) provides all enrolled students with free, 24/7 counseling services and chats.
- With more students seeking mental health services, the costs of these services have increased significantly at UT Austin and Texas A&M since 2020.

5

Fully Fund Military Veteran Education Benefits – Texas Hazlewood Act

REQUEST

- Honor the legislature’s commitment to our military veterans, as created in the Hazlewood Act, by fully funding costs specifically associated with children of eligible service men and women — referred to as “Legacy” beneficiaries.

BACKGROUND

- The Hazlewood Act, enacted by the Legislature in 1943, is a State of Texas benefit that provides tuition exemptions for qualified military veterans with up to 150 hours at public institutions of higher education. In 2009, this benefit was expanded with the Hazlewood “Legacy” benefit, allowing veterans to transfer their well-deserved tuition exemption to any eligible dependent children.
- However, it is largely an unfunded mandate on public institutions of higher learning in Texas. The cost of these tuition “waivers” is ultimately passed on to other students — through higher tuition and fees — enrolled at their respective campuses.
- The average impact of a Hazlewood “legacy beneficiary” waiver passed on to other students is approximately \$196 at UT Austin and \$270 per year at Texas A&M University.

THE ISSUES

BACKGROUND (cont.)

- In 2021-2022, the Hazlewood Act and its associated “Legacy” benefits imposed a cost of over \$12 million to UT Austin and \$27 million to Texas A&M University.
- Texas A&M University enrolls the largest number of “Legacy Program” students of any state public institution of higher education, with nearly 14% of the entire student body. Since FY2016, Texas A&M has experienced a 30% increase in exemptions for “Legacy Program” students.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Texans, through action by their State Legislature, committed that our military veterans and their eligible dependents can have the benefit of a tuition exemption at public institutions of higher education. UT Austin and Texas A&M University share a collective commitment to care for and honor the sacrifice of our service men and women.
- With an ever-growing number of eligible dependents matriculating each academic year, UT Austin and Texas A&M University cannot sustain these costs without significant increases in tuition for non-eligible students.

HELPFUL NOTES FOR MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS

When you arrive at a legislative office:

- **Identify yourself and ask to speak to the legislator.** Tell them you are an alumnus and are in Austin for Orange & Maroon Legislative Day. If it's your local senator or representative, make sure they know you are a constituent. If the legislator is busy, meet with the chief of staff or an aide in charge of higher education issues.
- **Sign the guest book.**
- **Be sure to address the legislator as "Senator" or "Representative" when speaking to him/her.**

When you meet with a legislator or their staff:

- **Share your story.** Know what you are going to say before walking into the room. Tell the legislator or staff about your experience with higher education and what it means to you.
- **Focus your discussion on the major legislative issues listed in your handbook.** Be brief and to the point. If they need more information than you are able to provide, tell them that you will ask someone to get back with an answer.
- **Be patient, responsive, and appreciative. Allow the legislator or staff member to express his or her point of view.** Keep a friendly tone during the meeting. Thank them for their service. Remember that you are representing your university.
- **Leave the provided folder behind for their review.**
- **Remind them about the reception at 800 Congress from 5:30–7:30 p.m.** All legislators and staff are welcome.

After your meeting:

- **Fill out the legislator meeting form in the event manager on your device.** Please note any recommended follow-up with the legislator/staff.

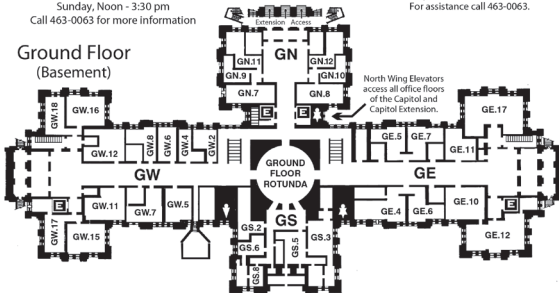
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. UT Austin and Texas A&M receive money from the Permanent University Fund (PUF). Why do these institutions need more state funding?

The PUF, established by early state leaders in the Texas Constitution, is an advantage for UT Austin and Texas A&M; the schools are very grateful to receive it, but we are not the only benefactors. Today, the PUF supports 17 institutions and six agencies from the UT and Texas A&M Systems. The income from the PUF, called the Available University Fund or the AUF, can only be used for certain expenditures. Because state support has not kept pace with increasing costs, the AUF has been used for operational costs and directed away from excellent academic programs.

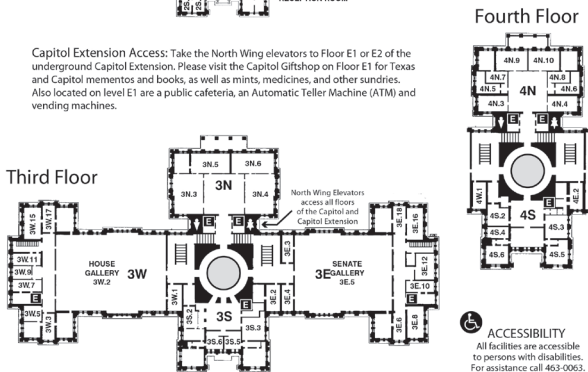
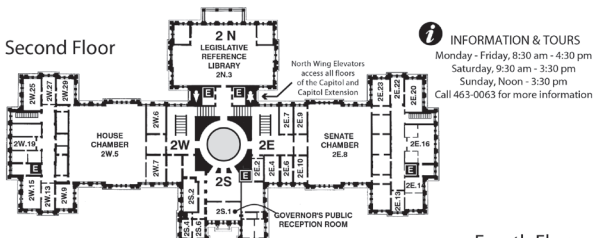
2. Why is research funding so important?

Research conducted at UT Austin and Texas A&M is directly impacting lives today and shaping our world for tomorrow by developing new technology, curing diseases, and generating economic growth. State support for research at UT Austin and Texas A&M helps these institutions attract researchers as well as the nation's best and brightest students and faculty. It also helps them stay competitive with the nation's top public institutions of higher education.



CAPITOL BUILDING GUIDE

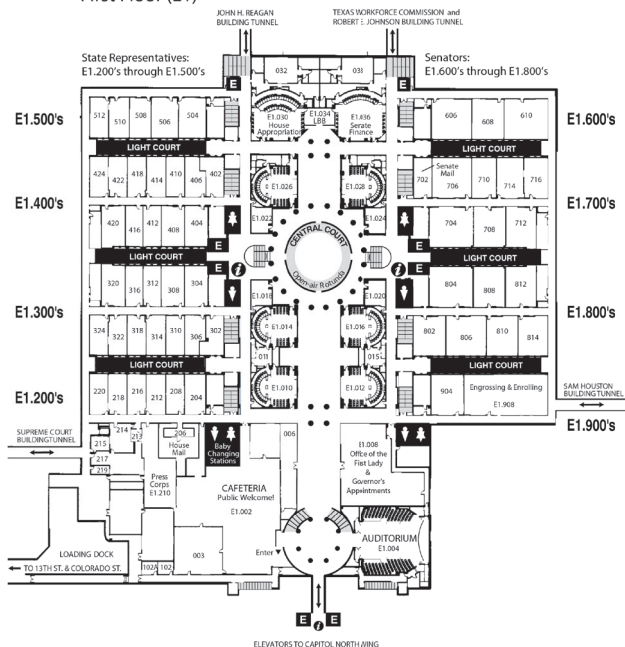
FLOORS 1 & GROUND



CAPITOL BUILDING GUIDE

FLOORS 2, 3, & 4

Extension
First Floor (E1)

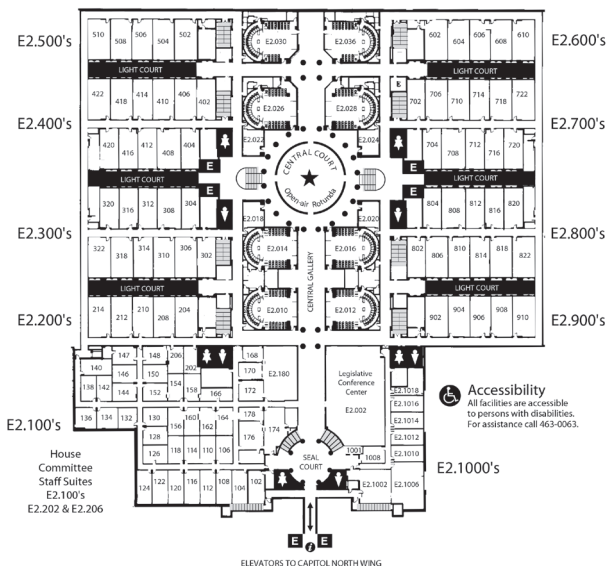


Capitol Extension Guide

Floor E1

Extension
Second Floor (E2)

State Representatives Offices
E2.200 through E2.900's



Capitol Extension Guide

Floor E2

TALKING POINTS











Research conducted at UT Austin and Texas A&M enhances quality of life for all Texans.

- Research at these universities not only creates lifesaving and important developments; it also allows students to gain practical educational experiences.
- For example, at UT Austin, research led to the development of a new clot-busting medication that can reduce the risk of brain bleeding in stroke victims by half.
- At Texas A&M, researchers discovered new biological technologies to fight complex pathogens that infect Texas crops and cost the U.S. agricultural industry billions each year.
- Research investment at both institutions generates the equivalent of 18,335 new jobs per year and has resulted in the creation of thousands of new patents.













Tier One research institutions have a strong economic impact on the state.

- An investment in UT Austin and Texas A&M is an investment in a sustainable, healthy, and productive economy.
- UT Austin and Texas A&M add a combined \$18 billion in income to the Texas economy each year, the equivalent of 225,824 jobs. Students graduating with a degree from one of these universities will earn a combined average of \$5.7 billion in increased income over their working lives.
- UT Austin alumni and Texas A&M former students working in Texas generate an accumulated contribution of \$13.1 billion in state income each year.
- Grants, corporate start-ups, and numerous other enterprises from UT Austin and Texas A&M expand our tax base and strengthen our economy.

TEXAS SENATE























SENATORS	OFFICE	UT/A&M ALUMNI
Sen. Carol Alvarado	1E.9	6,446
 Sen. Paul Bettencourt	3E.16	37,843
Sen. Brian Birdwell	1E.3	14,453
Sen. César Blanco	GE.7	4,839
Sen. Donna Campbell	3E.18	51,899
 Sen. Brandon Creighton	E1.606	25,238
 Sen. Sarah Eckhardt	E1.804	129,456
 Sen. Pete Flores	E1.808	28,280
Sen. Roland Gutierrez	3S.3	9,603
Sen. Bob Hall	4E.2	16,283
Sen. Kelly Hancock	1E.12	15,846
Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa	3E.6	10,078
Sen. Joan Huffman	1E.15	45,776
Sen. Bryan Hughes	3E.8	12,887
 Sen. Nathan Johnson	3E.10	24,224
Sen. Phil King	GE.5	15,380
Sen. Lois Kolthorst	GE.4	30,534
 Sen. Morgan LaMantia	E1.712	8,589
Sen. José Menéndez	E1.610	13,061
 Sen. Mayes Middleton	E1.708	26,297
Sen. Borris Miles	3E.12	12,027
Sen. Robert Nichols	E1.704	13,698
Sen. Tan Parker	E1.608	29,496
Sen. Angela Paxton	3E.2	26,551
Sen. Charles Perry	E1.806	7,835
 Sen. Charles Schwertner	3S.5	80,238
 Sen. Kevin Sparks	E1.810	7,405
Sen. Drew Springer	E1.706	14,465
Sen. Royce West	1E.5	11,579
Sen. John Whitmire	1E.13	31,846
 Sen. Judith Zaffirini	1E.14	20,471

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVES	OFFICE	UT/A&M ALUMNI
Rep. Alma Allen	4N.10	1,346
Rep. Steve Allison	E2.322	9,773
Rep. Rafael Anchia	1N.5	3,229
 Rep. Charles “Doc” Anderson	1N.8	4,567
 Rep. Trent Ashby	E2.806	3,042
 Rep. Ernest Bailes	E2.818	1,919
Rep. Cecil Bell, Jr.	E2.708	5,730
Rep. Keith Bell	E2.410	2,119
Rep. Diego Bernal	E1.508	4,745
Rep. Salman Bhojani	E2.314	2,009
 Rep. Greg Bonnen	E2.502	6,963
Rep. Rhett Bowers	E2.906	1,680
Rep. John Bryant	4N.6	8,602
 Rep. Brad Buckley	E1.324	2,644
Rep. John Bucy	E2.306	13,158
Rep. Ben Bumgarner	E1.418	5,040
Rep. DeWayne Burns	E2.604	2,142
Rep. Dustin Burrows	E2.610	1,542
Rep. Angie Chen Button	GW.7	6,087
Rep. Briscoe Cain	E2.706	2,458
Rep. Elizabeth Campos	E1.306	1,371
Rep. Terry Canales	4S.4	1,137
Rep. Giovanni Capriglione	E1.506	7,827
Rep. Travis Clardy	GW.6	3,187
 Rep. Sheryl Cole	E2.910	13,490
Rep. Nicole Collier	4S.6	1,294
Rep. David Cook	E1.402	3,293
 Rep. Philip Cortez	GW.4	1,739
Rep. Tom Craddick	1W.9	3,036
Rep. Charles Cunningham	E2.402	5,648
 Rep. Drew Darby	GW.12	2,046
Rep. Yvonne Davis	4N.9	1,446
Rep. Jay Dean	E2.422	2,780
 Rep. Mano DeAyala	E2.416	15,966
Rep. Mark Dorazio	E1.416	11,457
Rep. Harold Dutton, Jr.	3N.5	1,570
 Rep. Maria Luisa “Lulu” Flores	E2.312	13,751
 Rep. James Frank	4S.2	1,431
Rep. Frederick Frazier	E1.412	4,125
 Rep. Erin Gamez	E2.420	1,774

 Longhorn  Aggie

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVES	OFFICE	UT/A&M ALUMNI
Rep. Josey Garcia	E2.304	1,374
Rep. Gary Gates	E2.506	9,036
 Rep. Stan Gerdes	E2.816	6,319
Rep. Charlie Geren	GW.15	3,491
Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins	E1.302	1,729
 Rep. Craig Goldman	E2.510	5,777
 Rep. Mary Gonzalez	E1.504	478
Rep. Jessica Gonzalez	E2.212	1,120
 Rep. Vikki Goodwin	E2.208	24,913
Rep. Bobby Guerra	GN.7	2,903
 Rep. Ryan Guillen	3N.6	2,281
Rep. Sam Harless	E2.810	6,951
 Rep. Cody Harris	E2.606	2,266
 Rep. Caroline Harris	E1.312	10,220
 Rep. Brian Harrison	E2.704	2,866
 Rep. Richard Hayes	E2.302	2,466
Rep. Cole Hefner	E2.718	2,132
 Rep. Ana Hernandez	1W.11	824
  Rep. Abel Herrero	3S.2	1,917
 Rep. Gina Hinojosa	E2.214	54,909
Rep. Justin Holland	E2.608	5,337
 Rep. Donna Howard	GW.11	30,041
Rep. Lacey Hull	E1.322	9,029
Rep. Todd Hunter	1W.5	4,655
Rep. Carrie Isaac	E2.702	10,159
Rep. Jacey Jetton	E1.220	9,678
 Rep. Julie Johnson	E2.310	5,961
 Rep. Ann Johnson	E2.412	19,942
Rep. Jarvis Johnson	E2.904	3,423
 Rep. Venton Jones	E2.404	1,665
Rep. Jolanda Jones	E1.424	5,595
 Rep. Kyle Kacal	GS.6	10,320
 Rep. Tracy King	GW.16	1,528
Rep. Ken King	E2.808	815
 Rep. Stan Kitzman	E2.716	7,969
Rep. Stephanie Klick	E2.504	2,328
 Rep. John Kuempel	GW.17	3,789
Rep. Suleman Lalani	E1.512	3,962
Rep. Stan Lambert	E2.814	1,944
 Rep. Brooks Landgraf	E2.602	695

 Longhorn  Aggie

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

	REPRESENTATIVES	OFFICE	UT/A&M ALUMNI
	Rep. Jeff Leach	GN.11	5,416
	Rep. Terri Leo-Wilson	E2.720	5,236
👉	Rep. Oscar Longoria	4N.4	912
	Rep. Janie Lopez	E2.802	2,034
	Rep. Ray Lopez	E1.422	2,702
👉	Rep. J.M. Lozano	1W.4	2,423
	Rep. John Lujan	E2.812	2,035
	Rep. Christian Manuel	E2.320	1,384
	Rep. Armando Martinez	1N.10	1,131
👉	Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer	4S.5	3,284
	Rep. Will Metcalf	1N.7	4,706
	Rep. Morgan Meyer	GN.12	16,308
	Rep. Terry Meza	E1.204	1,811
	Rep. Joe Moody	GW.18	1,730
👉	Rep. Eddie Morales, Jr.	E1.212	1,541
	Rep. Christina Morales	E1.510	5,049
	Rep. Penny Morales Shaw	E1.406	4,687
	Rep. Geanie Morrison	1W.6	4,578
👉	Rep. Sergio Muñoz Jr.	1W.3	967
👉	Rep. Andrew Murr	E1.308	5,424
	Rep. Victoria Neave Criado	E2.308	1,703
	Rep. Candy Noble	E1.414	4,415
	Rep. Tom Oliverson	E2.408	9,280
	Rep. Claudia Ordaz Perez	E2.414	867
👉	Rep. Angelia Orr	E1.218	3,585
👉	Rep. Lina Ortega	E2.204	1,143
👉	Rep. Jared Patterson	E1.310	4,438
	Rep. Dennis Paul	GN.10	7,159
	Rep. Mary Ann Perez	E2.406	1,025
👉	Rep. Dade Phelan	2W.11	3,249
	Rep. Mihaela Plesa	E2.316	5,730
👉	Rep. Four Price	1N.9	1,082
	Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos	E2.318	4,095
👉	Rep. John Raney	1N.12	45,212
👉	Rep. Richard Peña Raymond	1W.2	2,407
	Rep. Ron Reynolds	4N.7	4,262
👉	Rep. Glenn Rogers	E2.820	3,393
	Rep. Ramon Romero, Jr.	GN.9	1,474
	Rep. Toni Rose	4N.5	482
👉	Rep. Jon Rosenthal	E2.210	3,211

👉 Longhorn 👉 Aggie

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

	REPRESENTATIVES	OFFICE	UT/A&M ALUMNI
	Rep. Matt Schaefer	GN.8	4,034
	Rep. Nate Schatzline	E1.410	2,741
	Rep. Mike Schofield	E2.418	7,564
	Rep. Matt Shaheen	E1.320	8,402
	Rep. Carl Sherman, Jr.	E2.508	1,200
	Rep. Hugh Shine	GS.2	3,655
	Rep. Bryan Slaton	E2.714	1,866
👉	Rep. Shelby Slawson	E2.804	2,522
	Rep. Reggie Smith	E1.314	1,923
	Rep. John Smithee	1W.10	1,777
👉	Rep. David Spiller	E1.318	2,596
	Rep. Lynn Stucky	E2.822	2,424
	Rep. Valoree Swanson	E2.710	5,429
👉	Rep. James Talarico	E2.902	13,402
	Rep. Carl Tepper	E1.316	1,129
	Rep. Shawn Thierry	E1.408	3,815
	Rep. Kronda Thimesch	E1.216	5,183
	Rep. Ed Thompson	4S.3	5,189
	Rep. Senfronia Thompson	3S.6	765
	Rep. Tony Tinderholt	E1.420	3,926
	Rep. Steve Toth	E1.404	9,306
👉	Rep. Ellen Troxclair	E1.208	11,116
👉	Rep. Chris Turner	4N.3	1,403
	Rep. Gary VanDeaver	E1.304	2,198
👉	Rep. Cody Vasut	E2.712	3,730
	Rep. Hubert Vo	4N.8	2,831
	Rep. Armando Walle	GW.5	874
👉	Rep. Terry Wilson	E2.722	9,560
👉	Rep. Gene Wu	GW.8	2,654
👉	Rep. Erin Zwiener	E2.908	7,891

DID YOU KNOW?

The University of Texas at Austin

Founded: 1883

Enrollment: 52,384 (Fall 2022)

Degrees awarded yearly: 14,665 (2022)

Alumni: 570,000+

Registered student organizations: 828

Undergraduate tuition for residents: \$10,398

Number of colleges: 18

Research funding: \$780 million

Patents awarded: 1,201 in the past 10 fiscal years

Museums and libraries: Seven museums; seventeen libraries, including one presidential library

Texas A&M University

Founded: 1876

Enrollment: 74,829 (Fall 2022)

Degrees awarded yearly: 18,666 (2022)

Former Students: 574,000+

Registered student organizations: 1,100+

Undergraduate tuition for residents: \$13,012

Number of colleges: 17

Research funding: \$1.13 billion

Patents awarded: 79 (Fiscal Year 2022)

Museums and libraries: Seven museums/galleries; six libraries, including one presidential library

NOTES



OMLD 2023 SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

9:00 a.m. Volunteer Registration Opens

800 Congress

9:45 a.m.– Kick-off Luncheon & Volunteer Briefing Session

12:15 p.m. *800 Congress*

University leaders will speak on legislative issues facing our two universities in preparation for office visits to the Capitol later in the day. Volunteers will enjoy lunch and have opportunities to network with other volunteers and university leaders.

1:00 p.m.– Volunteer Office Visits

5:00 p.m. *Texas Capitol*

Alumni volunteers will visit legislative offices in assigned small groups. Volunteers are encouraged to stop by their local legislator's office to visit with staff between or after their scheduled meetings.

5:00 p.m. Group Photo

South steps of Texas Capitol

All volunteers, university administrators, legislators, and legislative staff are invited to attend.

5:30 p.m.– Reception

7:30 p.m. *800 Congress*

All volunteers, university administrators, legislators, and legislative staff are invited to attend.
