

CIVICS 201

So you won an election: now what?

Governing doesn't just happen

People are people:

- 1. Local interests tend to get favor**
- 2. Money can talk – a lot (Federal limits, not so much state or local)**
- 3. What is in it for me?**
- 4. You want what?**
- 5. Doing the right thing can cost you! (Sell your accomplishments)**



SOUTHWEST DEMOCRATS

Reflecting the Diversity of Houston.

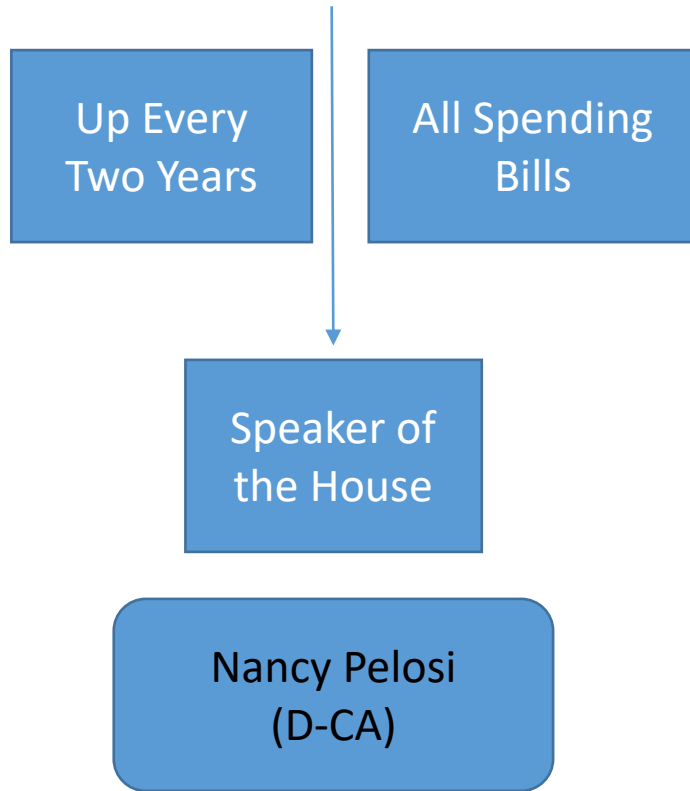
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LAW MAKING

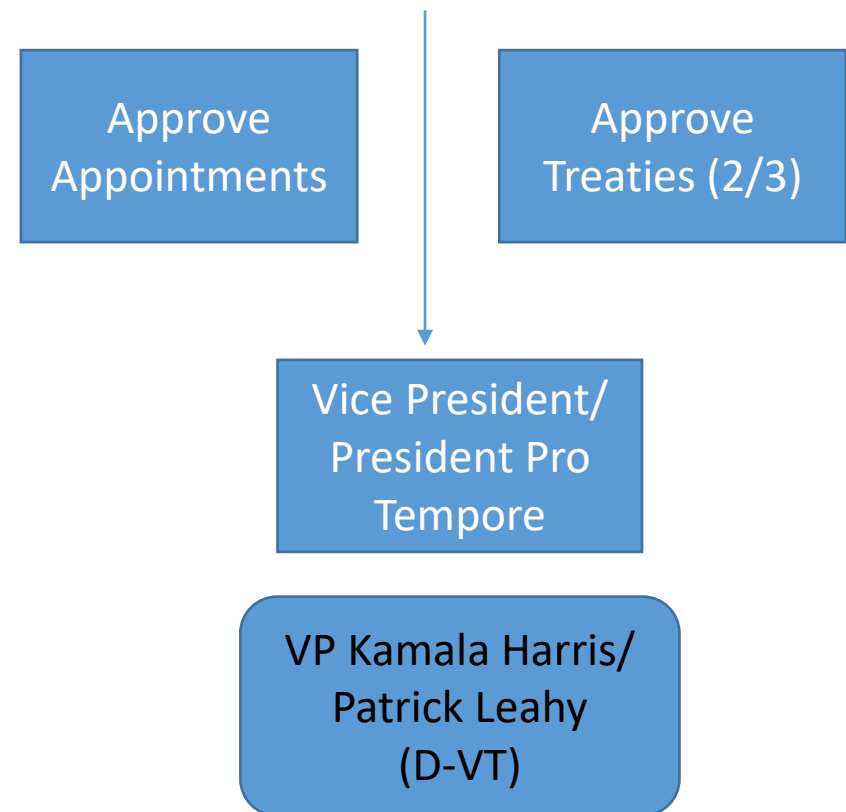


CONGRESS

The House (435)



The Senate (100)



Constitutional Offices



Speaker

Majority Leader

Majority Whip

Caucus/Conference Chair

**House
&
Senate
Party
Structure**

Majority Leader

Majority Whip

Caucus/Conference Chair



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Speaker
Nancy Pelosi

Majority Leader
Steny Hoyer

Majority Whip
Jim Clyburn

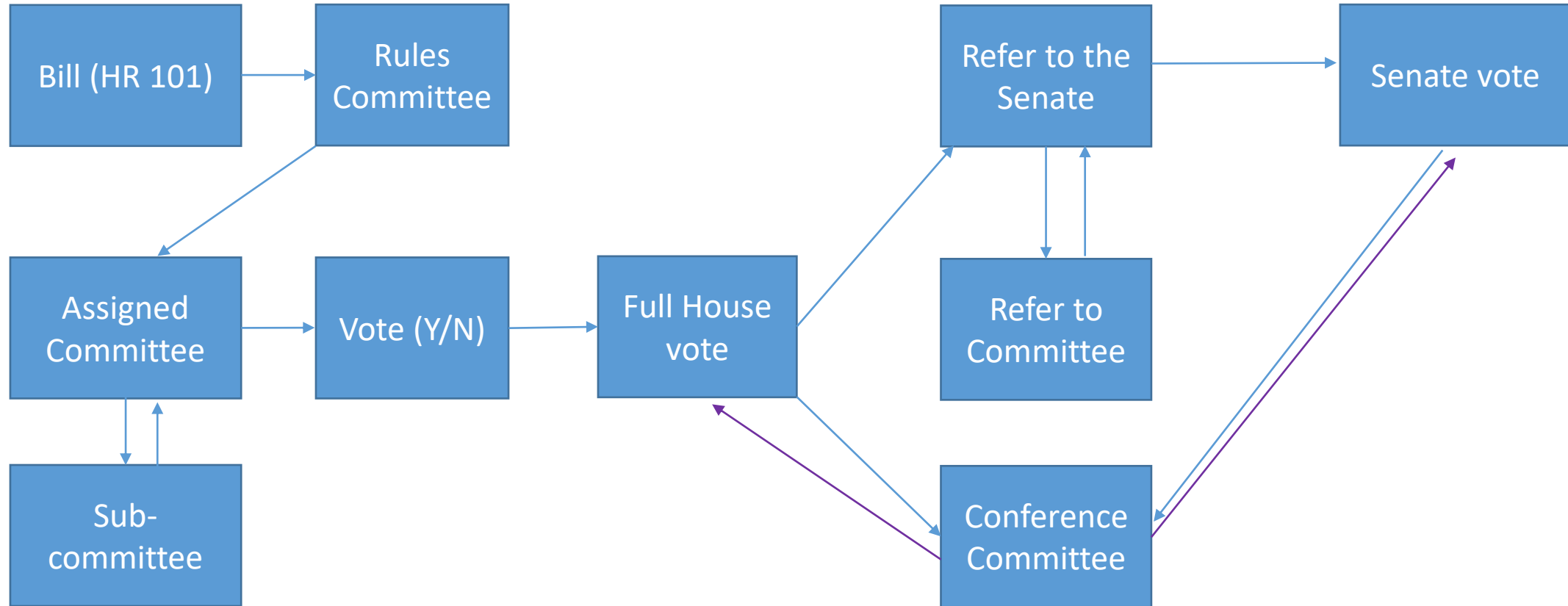
Caucus/Conference Chair
Hakeem Jefferies

**House
&
Senate
Party
Structure**

Majority Leader
Chuck Schumer

Majority Whip
Dick Durbin

Caucus/Conference Chair
Patty Murray



The first and most important lesson:

The POWER of the Chair!

She who controls the gavel controls the Rules!

Rules Committee
9D – 4R

She who controls the gavel, makes the Rules!

Committee referral

Time for debate

Privileged?

Standing Committee on Rules

- **Open Rule***
- **Modified Open Rule***
- **Structured Rule**
- **Closed Rule**

House Committees

Agriculture
Appropriations
Armed Services
Budget
Education and Labor
Energy and Commerce
Ethics*
Financial Services
Foreign Affairs
Homeland Security
House Administration
Judiciary
Natural Resources
Oversight and Reform

Rules
Science, Space, and Technology
Small Business
Transportation and Infrastructure
Veterans' Affairs
Ways and Means
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
Select Comm on the Climate Crisis
Select Comm on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth
Select Comm on the Modernization of Congress
Joint Select Comm on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans
Joint Economic Committee
Joint Committee on Printing
Joint Committee on Taxation

Senate Committees

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Appropriations
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Budget
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Energy and Natural Resources
Environment and Public Works
Finance
Foreign Relations
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Indian Affairs

Joint Committee on Printing
Joint Committee on Taxation
Joint Committee on the Library
Joint Economic Committee
Judiciary
Rules and Administration
Select Committee on Ethics*
Select Committee on Intelligence
Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Special Committee on Aging
Veterans' Affairs



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Bill goes to the President to be
signed into law

Or Vetoed

Entered into the
Federal Register

Special Processes

- **The Budget Process**
- **Reconciliation – only fiscal, no policy (Byrd Rule)**
- **Appropriations – Omnibus Bill during Regular Order**
- **Continuing Resolution – doing what we did**
- **Privileged – (Impeachment, etc....)**

The Senate

- **Requires unanimous consent to run**
- **Sixty votes required for Cloture**
- **Blue slips* used in the judicial appointment process**
- **Treaty approval requires 2/3 vote**
- **Can't originate a revenue bill***

OVERSIGHT

- **Supposed to review Administration actions**
- **Supposed to question Admin Officials about policy**
- **Review spending items and directives**



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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

The Executive Office of the President

Council of Economic
Advisors

Council on
Environmental Quality

Domestic Policy Council

National Economic
Council

National Security Council

Office of
Intergovernmental
Affairs

Office of Management
and Budget

Office of National Drug
Control Policy

Office of Public
Engagement

Office of Science and
Technology

The Cabinet

Vice President Kamala Harris

State -	Anthony Blinken*	Education -	Dr. Miguel Cardona
Treasury -	Dr. Janet Yellen*	Veterans' Affrs -	Denis McDonough*
Defense -	Gen Lloyd Austin*	Homeland Sec -	Alejandro Mayorkas*
Justice -	Merrick Garland	EPA -	Michael Regan
Interior-	Deb Haaland	OMB -	Neera Tanden
Agriculture-	Tom Vilsack	DNI -	Avril Haines*
Commerce -	Gina Raimondo	USTR -	Katherine Tai
Labor -	Marty Walsh	UN Amb -	Linda Thomas-Greenfield
HHS -	Xavier Becerra	Cou Econ Adv -	Dr. Cecilia Rouse
HUD -	Marcia Fudge	SBA -	Isabel Guzman
Transportation-	Pete Buttigieg*	Off Sci & Tech -	Dr. Eric Lander
Energy -	Jennifer Granholm	COS -	Ron Klain

Executive Orders

- **Federal Directives – do X, Y, & Z**
- **Enhance legislation – order agencies to implement Congressional laws**
- **Disaster declarations**
- **Pardons**

The Judiciary





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TEXAS

The State Legislature

- **Session is 140 days every two years**
- **150 Members of the House and 31 in the Senate**
- **Governor has the power to call a Special Session – limited to specific areas**
- **Sessions can be BRUTAL**
- ***Sine die* adjournment – (sometimes the best move is no move)**

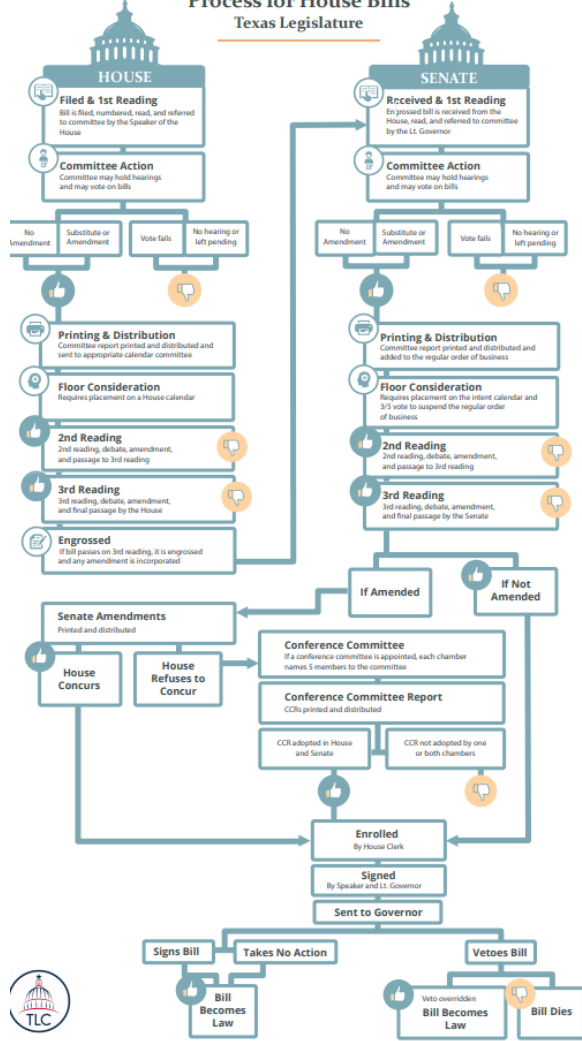
The House

Agriculture & Livestock
Appropriations
Business & Industry
Calendars
Corrections
County Affairs
Criminal Jurisprudence
Culture, Recreation, & Tourism
Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Elections
Energy Resources
Environmental Regulation
General Investigating
Higher Education
Homeland Security & Public Safety
House Administration
Human Services

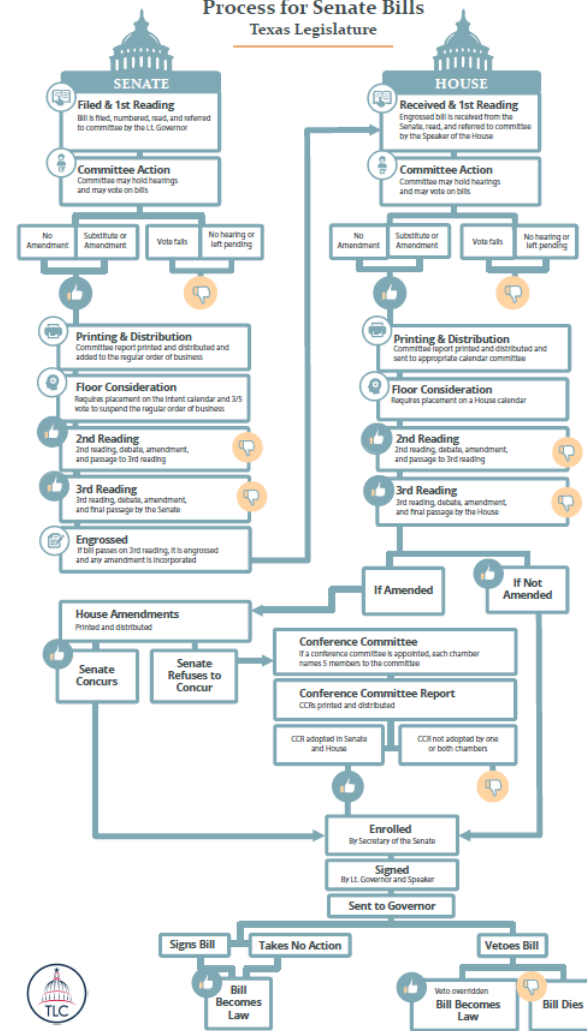
Insurance
**International Relations & Economic
Development**
Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Land & Resource Management
Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Local & Consent Calendars
Natural Resources
Pensions, Investments, & Financial Services
Public Education
Public Health
Redistricting
Resolutions Calendars
State Affairs
Transportation
Urban Affairs
Ways & Means



Process for House Bills
Texas Legislature



Process for Senate Bills
Texas Legislature



The Lt Governor of Texas

- **Head of the Senate**
- **Appoints Committee Chairs**
- **Assigns bills to Committee**
- **Leads the Budget process**
- **Controls part of Redistricting**

The Senate

Administration

Business & Commerce

Committee of the Whole

Senate

Criminal Justice

Education

Finance

Health & Human Services

Higher Education

Jurisprudence

Local Government

**Natural Resources & Economic
Development**

Nominations

Ports, Select

Redistricting, Special

State Affairs

Transportation

Veterans' Affairs & Border Security

Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs

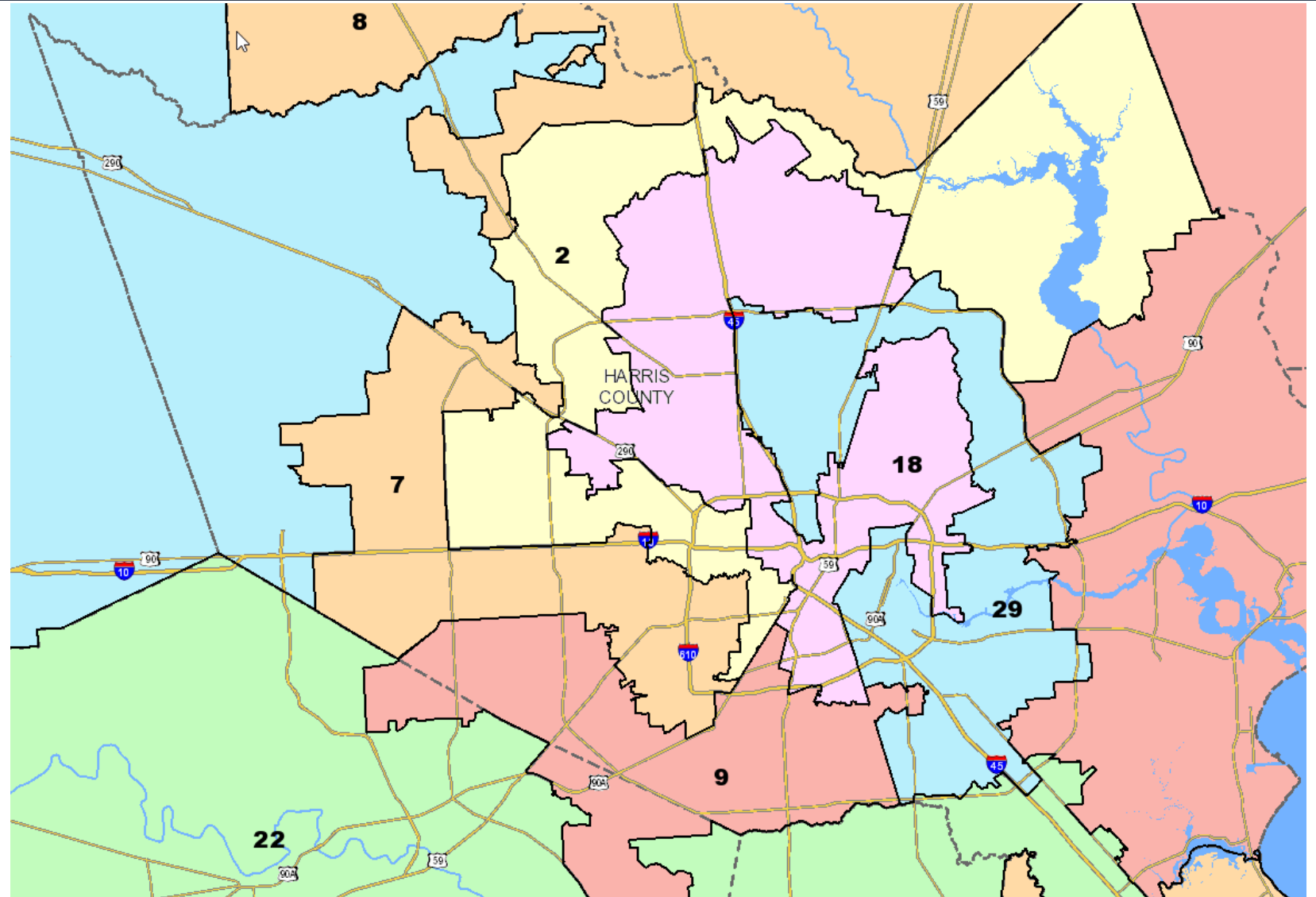


SOUTHWEST DEMOCRATS

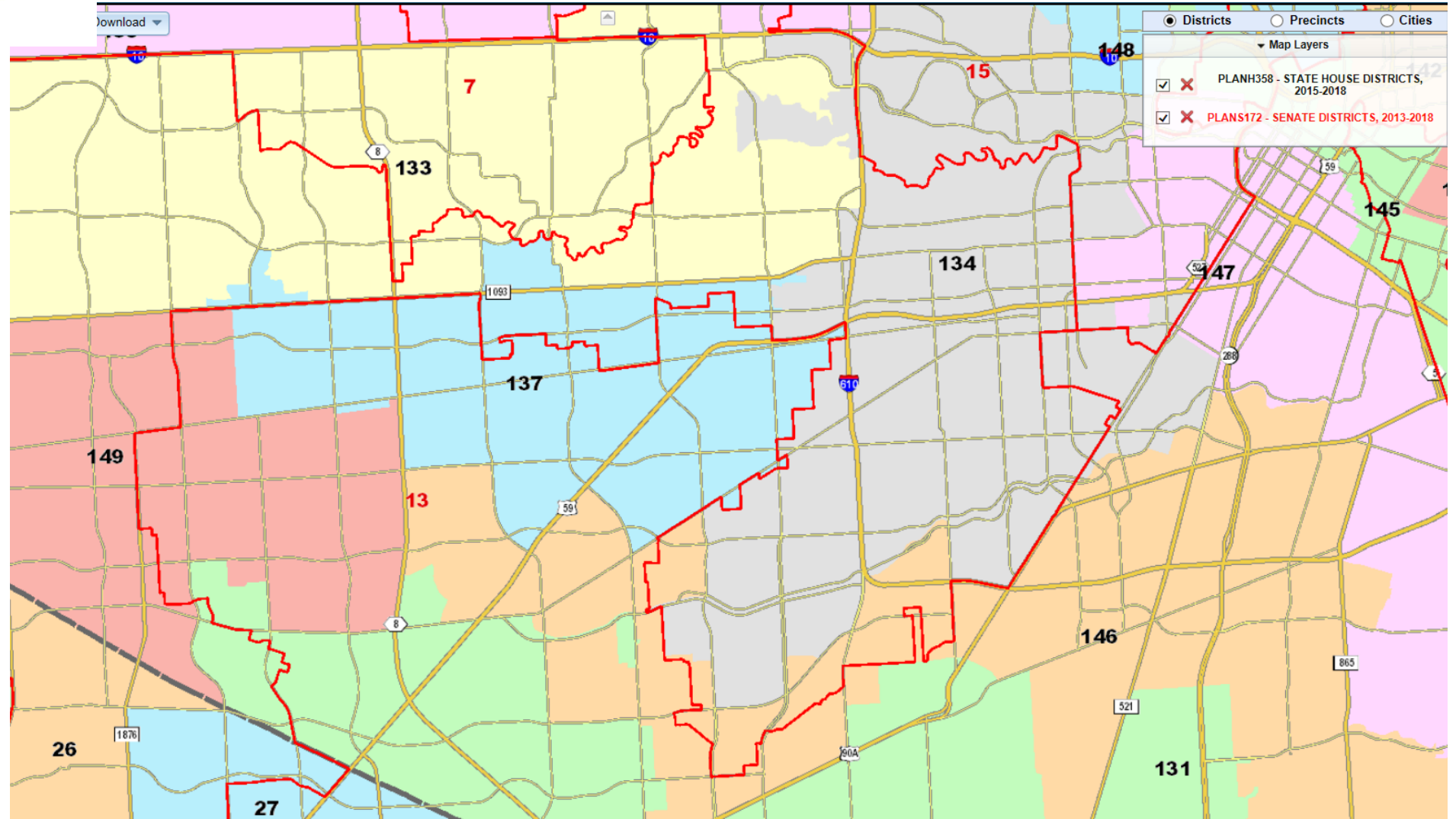
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Control of Redistricting matters



Control of Redistricting matters



Lobby your Reps

UNITED STATES

<https://www.house.gov/>

<https://www.senate.gov/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/>

TEXAS

<https://house.texas.gov/>

<https://senate.texas.gov/>

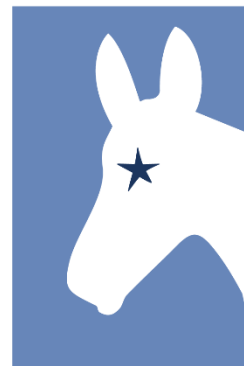
<https://gov.texas.gov/>

Contact info for Reps at those sites

QUESTIONS?



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SOUTHWEST HOUSTON
BLUE ACTION
DEMOCRATS