

ADVOCACY AGENDA

— UNIVERSITY DEMOCRATS



89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION



BLEEDING ORANGE, VOTING BLUE

University Democrats is a student-led political organization at UT Austin dedicated to advocating for the rights of students and promoting democratic values. Through grassroots activism, civic engagement, and policy discussions, we empower students to participate in the democratic process and make a positive impact in their communities. Our organization provides opportunities for students to engage in political discourse, support progressive initiatives, and work toward a more just and equitable society.

WAS YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL A **CHAMPION** OR **ENEMY** FOR SUPPORTING PUBLIC EDUCATION IN 2025?

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HOW WE DEFINE OUR SUPPORT

BILLS WE SUPPORT

SUPPORT











BILLS WE ARE AGAINST




AGAINST



VOTING RIGHTS




	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	OUR POSITION
<u>HB 332</u>	Bucy	Allowing student ID's to be acceptable voter ID	
SUPPORT			
<u>HB 425</u>	Bucy	Same day voter registration at polling places	
SUPPORT			
<u>HB 1321/SB 977</u>	Morales Shaw/ Eckhardt	Creates online voter registration	
SUPPORT			
<u>HB 1439</u>	Bucy	Online vote by mail application / email voting	
SUPPORT			
<u>SB 892</u>	Johnson	Online voter registration, same day voter registration.	
SUPPORT			
<u>SB 147</u>	Menendez	Requires polling places for large universities	
SUPPORT			
<u>HB 1001</u>	Toth	Ban ballot marking devices, ban electronic signature review machines, ban electronic signature list - increases voting wait times.	
OPPOSE			
<u>HB 1013</u>	Toth	Cuts the amount of early voting. Bans countywide polling places. Requires hand counting which leads to delays, and public video of voting which infringes on voter privacy.	
OPPOSE			

VOTING RIGHTS









	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	OUR POSITION
<u>SB 76</u> OPPOSE	Hall	Ban countywide polling place, limit number of student election clerks.	
<u>SB 309</u> OPPOSE	Hughes	Requires proof of citizenship to register to vote - Many students don't carry passports/birth certificates, or other citizenship documents with them.	
<u>SB 511</u> OPPOSE	Bettencourt	Would prohibit voter registration efforts. Ex. Travis County's project of mailing forms to unregistered voters being challenged by AG Paxton	



PUBLIC EDUCATION

	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	OUR POSITION
<u>HB 1157 / HB 1073 / SB 233</u> SUPPORT	Hinojosa / Lozano / Johnson	Attendance to enrollment based funding for Public Schools	
<u>HB 595 / HB 2835</u> SUPPORT	Howard / Anchia	Raising the basic allotment for Public Schools	
<u>HB 172</u> SUPPORT	Talarico	Giving schools money for fine arts programs	

PUBLIC EDUCATION





	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	OUR POSITION
<u>HB 221</u>	Landgraff	Reduce the number of STARR tests	
SUPPORT			
<u>SB 598</u>	West	Fixing unfunded mandate of armed guards, more money for school safety allotment	
SUPPORT			
<u>SB 2</u>	Creighton	Universal \$10K voucher to for Private School Tuition	
OPPOSE			
<u>HB 3</u>	Buckley	Public Money Voucher for Private School Tuition	
OPPOSE			
<u>SB 10</u>	King	Mandates 10 Commandments be Placed in Public Schools	
OPPOSE			
<u>SB 11</u>	Middelton	Allows School Districts to require a “Prayer Period” and reading of the Bible	
OPPOSE			
<u>SB 13</u>	Paxton	Allows for Bans of Books that “violate community values”	
OPPOSE			
<u>HB 612</u>	Shaheen	Public Money Voucher for Private School Tuition	
OPPOSE			

PUBLIC EDUCATION






	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	OUR POSITION
<u>HB 960</u> OPPOSE	Toth	Significantly limits ISD's ability to raise funds via property taxes	
<u>HB 165</u> OPPOSE	Vasut	Eliminates funding source for Public Schools	



D.E.I.

	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	OUR POSITION
<u>HB 393</u> SUPPORT	Bucy	Reinstates DEI in Higher Education.	
<u>SB 579</u> SUPPORT	West	Allows for Privately Funded DEI related scholarships.	
<u>HB 187</u> SUPPORT	Blanco	Creates statewide discrimination and harassment reporting system	
<u>HB 184</u> SUPPORT	Menendez	Allows for DEI related programs, scholarships, and activities not funded by the State of Texas	

D.E.I.

	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	OUR POSITION
<u>HB 271/SB 769</u> SUPPORT	Mary Gonzalez/ Menendez	Creates report of barriers for students with disabilities in university	
<u>HB 1830</u> OPPOSE	Shaheen	Further erodes tenure provisions for professors	
<u>HB 2311</u> OPPOSE	Harrison	Eliminates exceptions to 88R SB17	
<u>HB 2339</u> OPPOSE	Harrison	DEI ban expansion into curriculum, expanded to include LGBTQ studies	
<u>SB 689/ HB 1521</u> OPPOSE	Hughes/ Gerdes	Ban DEI hiring practices in government agencies, legislature, ISD's, charter schools	
<u>HB 232</u> OPPOSE	Vasut	Requires citizenship to qualify for in state tutition	