2016 ELECTION RECAP & 85\textsuperscript{TH} LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

Andrew Cates, Director of Government Affairs
Announcements

Nurse Day 2017 - Caring for Texas
- February 27th & 28th 2017
- https://texasnurses.site-ym.com/events/event_list.asp

APRN Legislative Day
- February 10th, 2017
- http://www.texasnp.org/event/APRNDay17

Communities
A new way for nurses to connect to each other.
Log in to www.texasnurses.org
Vision for NLAC’s Future

- Frequent legislative & regulatory updates
- PAC solicitations & election updates
- Grow exponentially
- Wider breadth of subject area expertise
Texas Nurse PAC

Why is the PAC important?
- Fragmented political giving
- Centralize & exponentiate nursing’s influence on political campaigns
- TMA - $3,000,000; $1,000,000 every cycle

The nursing industry must come together to have any real impact.

Texas Nurse PAC and NLAC are the two biggest opportunities that we have to compete with the "medical machine" of TMA at the Texas Capitol.
2016 Elections - Voting

- Turnout
  - 4.2 million voters in primary
  - 8.9 million voters in general
  - 15.1 million registered
    - More than 2008 Obama election
2016 Elections - Primaries

- Ted Cruz won Texas with 43.8% of the vote
- Trump took 26.7%
- Clinton won Democratic primary with 65.2%

- What about Texas legislative races?
2016 Elections - Primaries

Turnout + Vacancies + Crowded Fields = 22 runoffs

House
- Rep. John Otto
  - Chair, Appropriations Committee
- Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock
  - Chair, Public Education Committee
- Rep. Jim Keffer
  - Chair, Natural Resources Committee
- Rep. Sylvester Turner
  - Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
- Rep. Myra Crownover
  - Chair, Public Health Committee
- Rep. Scott Turner
- Rep. Marisa Marquez
- Rep. Joe Farias
- Rep. Patricia Harless
- Rep. Allen Fletcher
- Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon
- Rep. Susan King (nurse member)

Senate
- Sen. Kevin Eltife
- Sen. Troy Fraser
2016 Elections - Primaries

- No incumbent senators defeated
- Only 6 incumbent House members defeated
- 3 members from the far Right
- 3 members from the Speaker’s moderate team

Joe Straus spent $4.7M defending his seat = $307.22 per vote
2016 Elections - Primaries

Susan King (R-Abilene), one of only 3 nurses in the Texas Capitol

Lost her seat to Dr. Dawn Buckingham (R-Austin).

This now makes at least 12 physicians in the Capitol.
2016 Elections - General

- Historic election
- Early vote - first two days broke Texas records
- All polling was wrong - What happened?
2016 Elections - General
2016 Elections - General

- Trump won TX with 52%
- Trump effect
  - Not conservative *enough*
  - 4 GOP House seats → Dem
  - HALF of all Hispanic Republican House seats defeated
2016 Elections - General

- 26 new legislators for 85th Session
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Budget
  - School Finance
  - Transportation
  - Property Taxes
- Sunset
- Uber/Tesla
- Texas Foster Care
- Bathrooms
- Sanctuary Cities

- Top Filed Bills So Far
  - SB 2 - Property Taxes
  - SB 4 - Sanctuary Cities
  - SB 7 - Relationships bt Teacher/Students
  - SB 8 - Abortions
Budget
- Gasoline & Sales Tax Revenues ↓
- Deficit >$1 billion
- $5 billion mandatory for state hwy fund
- Cost of Medicaid ↑$2 billion last session
85th Legislative Session Issues

- School Finance
  - SCOTX Ruling - school finance system not unconstitutional
  - Straus - Not worth celebrating
    We should do more
  - School Choice/Vouchers - HSA parallels
  - 2015 compromise - split bt parents and public schools
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Sunset
  - Each state agency gets audited every 12 years
  - This year - BON & TMB
  - Rumor - sunset bills may be emergency items - may be done in 1st 60 days
  - BON - discipline, Excelsior, compact
85th Legislative Session Issues

- **Uber/Tesla**
  - Now a fight over local vs. state control of industry
  - Sen. Schwertner carrying Uber (SB 176), Sen. Hancock likely to carry Tesla
  - Parallels to APRN full practice
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Texas Foster Care
  - 2015 federal judicial opinion - DSHS handling of foster children = unconstitutional
  - National attention - UT student murder by foster-care teen runaway
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Bathrooms: The Women’s Protection Act
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Oncor Sale to NextEra
  - $18 billion
- Texas’ largest transmission & distribution utility
  - 10 million customers in 401 cities & 91 counties
  - 6th largest in the US
- Formerly TXU
85th Legislative Session
Likely Healthcare Related Issues
85th Legislative Session Issues

Overall
- Medicaid
- Mental Health
- Abortion
- Obamacare
- Marijuana?

Nursing
- Public Health Coalition
- Texas Women’s Health Coalition
- NLAC & TNA issues
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Medicaid
  - SCOTX - Cuts to disabled children’s therapy providers likely to proceed.
  - Medicaid expansion very unlikely, and amendments to (if not repeal of) Obamacare likely under Trump administration
    - Unlikely during this session, too soon
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Mental Health
  - House Select Committee - Chair, Four Price
  - Senate Finance - mental health funding
  - BHAC Strategic Plan - cross-agency coordination
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Mental Health Bills
  - Anticipated - Rep. Sarah Davis
    - Lack of providers
      (psychiatrists/psychologists/pediatric physicians)
  - HB 392 (Donna Howard)/SB 220 (Jose Menendez)
    - Mental health facilities & handguns
  - HB 71 (Mando Martinez)
    - Transportation of mental health patients
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Abortion
  - Pregnancy-related deaths in TX doubled since 2011 (cuts to abortion-related clinics)
  - HHSC rule - abortion providers must cremate or bury fetal remains. (SB 8)
  - 10 bills already filed
85th Legislative Session Issues

**Public Health Coalition**
- Tobacco-free campuses
- Raise tobacco age to 21 (SB 183 by Uresti)
- Right to know - immunizations
- Require flu vaccine for children in child care
- Texting & driving ban (HB 62 by Craddick)

**Texas Women’s Health Coalition**
- Funding for women’s preventative HC
- Increase providers for state women’s health programs
- Access to full range of contraceptives (HB 222 by Howard)
- Eliminate barriers to preventative HC access
85th Legislative Session Issues

NLAC Agenda

- School Nurses
  - Notification
  - Spinal Screening
- Emergency Nurses
  - Car Seat Bill
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Texas Nurses Association Priorities
  - APRN Full Practice - Eliminate occupational licensing barriers to practice
  - Budget/Education - Fully fund NSRP & NFLRP
  - Sunset - Board of Nursing & Texas Medical Board
85th Legislative Session Issues

Scope of Practice
- APRN ability to do more
- Dirty word
- No chance of passage

Occupational Licensing
- APRN ability to do the same as now
- Not a scope issue
- Current interest by Senate
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Senate Business and Commerce Committee
  - Interim Report Recommendations
    - Limit licensing requirements to those that address legitimate public health and safety concerns to ease the burden of licensing on workers
    - Allowing practitioners to offer services to the full extent of their current competency, to ensure that all qualified workers are able to offer services
85th Legislative Session Issues

- **Budget/Education**
  - **Nursing Shortage Reduction Program**
    - $33.75M, appropriation & possible THECB reduction by $3.375M
  - **Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program**
    - No appropriation, only gets $$ when physicians have $$ left over. NONE left over this year.
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Nursing Education Issues
  - BSNs in Community Colleges
    - Full 4 year vs. RN-BSN
    - Senate Higher Education Report Recommendations
      - Continue articulation agreements
      - BSN degrees to CC’s
      - RN-BSN specifically
85th Legislative Session Issues

- Sunset
  - Board of Nursing - Excelsior & Discipline
    - Add’l - Nurse Licensure Compact
  - Texas Medical Board
    - Telemedicine
  - Sunset Hearings - December 8th/9th
TNA Additional Issues

Mental Health

- Senate HHS Report Recommendations
  - Prioritize mental health funding & address the forensic bed waitlist by expanding capacity access to inpatient beds within existing system
  - Contract for additional forensic capacity
  - Partner w/ universities to address workforce issues
85th Legislative Session Issues

- TNA Additional Issues
  - Workplace Advocacy
    - DSHS Workplace Violence Survey Results Pending
      - Study finished, waiting on publication
    - TNA to look at workplace violence prevention plans if deemed necessary by report
How to Stay Up-to-Date

1. Make sure your TNA contact info is up to date
2. TNA Communities
3. Specialty orgs need to JOIN NLAC
4. Whitelist TNA/PAC emails
5. Follow us on Facebook & Twitter
6. Attend Nurse Day Feb. 27th & 28th