



**Advocacy**

**DEEP  
DIVE 24**

**Wednesday, July 10th**

# Key Dates



## **Profile Deadline** **FRIDAY, MARCH 1**

5:00 PM, for all bills that are not general appropriation or local bills



## **Convenes** **MONDAY, MARCH 11**

12:00 PM



## **Power Coalition Day at the Capitol** **THURSDAY, MARCH 14**

Learn about what policies we are supporting, see the policy making process live in person, and join our press conference



## **Deadline for third reading/final passage of a bill**

### **MONDAY, MAY 31**

6:00 PM on the 57th legislative day or the 82nd calendar day



## **Adjourns** **MONDAY, JUNE 3**

Final adjournment no later than 6:00 PM



## **Bills go into effect** **TUESDAY, AUGUST 1**

Unless bill provides otherwise

# Power DAY *at the* Capitol

March 14

24

**Learn about what policies Power Coalition and its partners are supporting during the Legislative Session!** We encourage the community to attend and see the policy making process live in person; we will also be holding a press conference on the stairs of the Capitol with opportunities to meet legislators.

- ➔ **Thursday, March 14, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**
- ➔ **Lunch Provided**
- ➔ **Sign Up Today! [bit.ly/2024PowerDay](https://bit.ly/2024PowerDay)**











# A Few of Our Partners



**SPLC**  
Southern Poverty  
Law Center



**Louisiana  
Partnership**  
*for children & families*



**Vera** INSTITUTE  
OF JUSTICE



\*Note: Partners will focus on their legislation they are supporting and we are the bridge for everyone else. Many days it will look like one person on each side (House and Senate) dropping off green cards and red cards in each committee room. The weekly policy call during the session will allow partners to know what is going on at every organization and what support is needed.



# What is Power Coalition's Role?

**Like GOTV, Legislative Session is one of those times where we are the bridge for our community and partners to cross over.**

*Each of our partners holds a body of work that informs our values, analysis and approach to moving the needle on the persistent systems that hold Louisiana at the bottom of most quality of life indicators. Collectively we work together to move an agenda that is informed by our analysis, work and obstacles.*

**Community  
& Partners**



**Power Coalition for Equity & Justice**

analysis

work

obstacles

# What is Power Coalition's Role?

## **Engaging with Partners weekly and in person at session is where we really live in our mission**

*We are a team of organizations who believe in the power of community and taking action. Our goal is to equip our fellow Louisianans with the knowledge and information they need to use their voice.*

## **Communications Support**

*There will be a lot of One-Clicks during the session! Our partners will need one, state reps and state senators may reach out for one, and we will be pushing our own. Most of them will be created by Power.*

LEGISLATIVE  
**POWER**  
**2023**

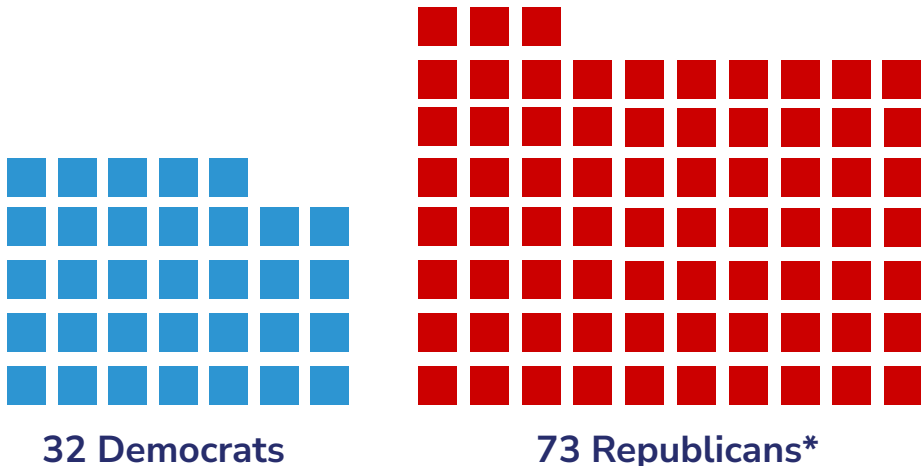


# Current Demographics

## House of Representatives

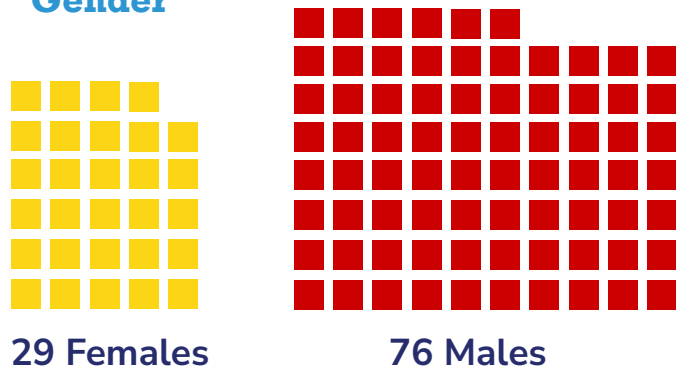
53 Needed for Majority

### Party Affiliation

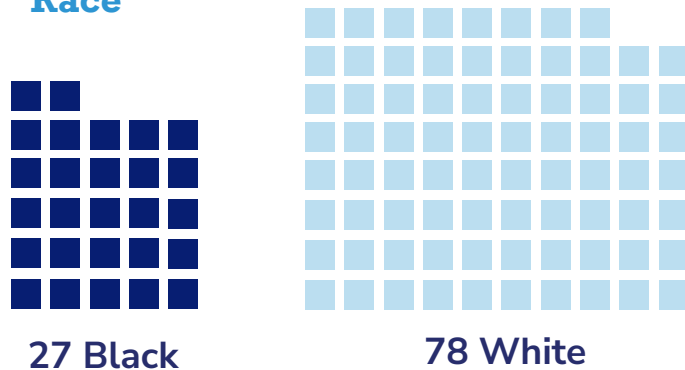


*\*Republicans now have a supermajority in the House since Rep. Francis Thompson recently changed his party affiliation.*

### Gender



### Race

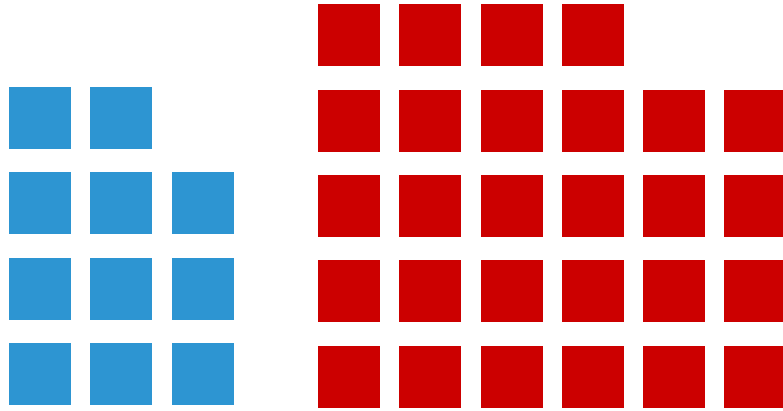


# Current Demographics

## Senate

21 Needed for Majority

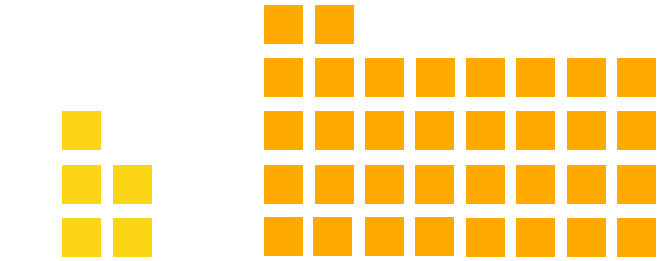
### Party Affiliation



11 Democrats

28 Republicans

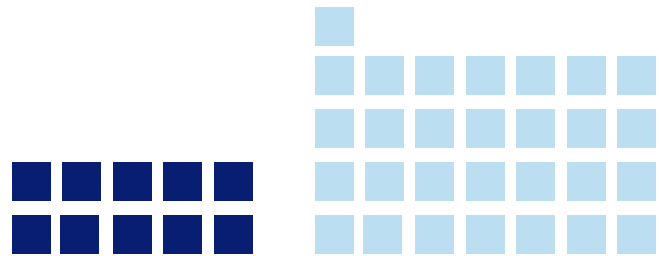
### Gender



5 Females

34 Males

### Race



10 Black

29 White

# State of the Legislature

- ➔ **In the Senate, Republicans currently have a supermajority,** which is when they control more than 2/3 of the seats in the chamber.
- ➔ **In the House of Representatives, Republicans have enough seats to claim a supermajority.**
- ➔ If a party all votes together when they have a supermajority, it means they have enough votes to overturn gubernatorial vetoes or to act on some budget and tax provisions ***without requiring any input from the other party.***

# ANOTHER Voting Rights Victory for the People of Louisiana!

Today, a federal court ruled in favor of Louisiana voters, agreeing that the current state House and Senate district maps violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

*Nairne v. Ardoin* was originally brought in March 2022 and asserts that the maps deny Black residents an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice, in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In its decision, the court condemned the packing and cracking of Black communities within the maps, **emphasizing the importance of upholding the principles of equal representation for all citizens.**

## WHAT'S NEXT?

In response to these findings, the court has mandated remedial measures to rectify the discriminatory boundaries, **ensuring that future elections reflect the true diversity of the Louisiana population.**

Today's decision reinforces the importance of protecting every citizen's right to vote and ensures that electoral processes are fair, just, and free from discriminatory practices.

**This ruling clears a path for NINE extra state legislative seats in Louisiana which could upend the supermajority and change opportunities for Black people in state policy making.**

[PowerCoalition.org/Redistricting](https://PowerCoalition.org/Redistricting)

**2024**

**Voting Rights  
Priorities**



# Voting Rights Priorities

## Registration

Amending the deadline to register in person at the Registrar of Voters office for people with necessary identification who require internet access or other assistance may complete the electronic voter registration process in person at their Registrar of Voters' Office

***Target Sponsor: Jenkins***

# Voting Rights Priorities

## **Materiality (Mother's Maiden Name)**

Removing the inclusion of “mother’s maiden name” as a requirement for voter registration and absentee-by-mail ballots

***Target Sponsor: Fields***

# Voting Rights Priorities

## Poll Site Changes

Requiring public disclosure to clarify the **reason** for a poll site change and requiring parishes with websites to link to the list.

***Target Sponsor: Newell***

# Voting Rights Priorities

## **State Board of Election Supervisors**

Requiring public posting of the State Board of Election Supervisors proposed policies prior to their annual meeting and their final report following.

***Target Sponsor: Marcelle***

# Contacting Your Legislator



## Plan

What are you contacting your legislator about?

Is there a specific bill that you want them to vote yes or no on?

What is the story you want to tell them in your phone call or email?

You can write down a script for yourself so you don't forget your main point!

**Find Your  
Legislator Here:**



[pcej.org/FindMyLegislator](https://pcej.org/FindMyLegislator)

# 2024 Crime Session



## Updates:

None of the Crime Session Bills provide any programming, nor fund prevention, rehabilitation, or reentry. However, the incarceration costs will soar at least **\$60 - \$100 million annually under the Governor's package of bills.**

**This session is about crime "reaction," and nothing about crime "prevention."**

**Find Your  
Legislator Here:**



[pcej.org/FindMyLegislator](https://pcej.org/FindMyLegislator)

# Contacting Your Legislator

## Power Tips

When you contact your legislator, you should **identify yourself as one of their constituents** (someone who lives in their district) and then **explain why you are contacting them**.

Your goal is to either persuade them to support or oppose a particular issue.

Alternatively, **it is important to thank your legislator when they take a vote that you support** as a reminder that they are representing the voices of their community members.

Find Your  
Legislator Here:



[pcej.org/FindMyLegislator](https://pcej.org/FindMyLegislator)



## Updates:

New Orleans will be occupied by a **second layer of state police** whose arrests will be handled by the state Attorney General. A message to law enforcement that they will have immunity from prosecution or lawsuits regarding brutality and rights violations (**HB 2, SB 6**). A State of Emergency was declared to allocate additional funding to hire more police and alleviate any restrictions on hiring them too quickly or without proper training.

Find Your  
Legislator Here:



[pcej.org/FindMyLegislator](https://pcej.org/FindMyLegislator)





## Transparency/Online Records

**HB 1:** is to make those permanent records easier for the general public to look up any time, including arrest records. This would also apply to every violent crime for 14 – 16 year olds.

Find Your  
Legislator Here:



[pcej.org/FindMyLegislator](https://pcej.org/FindMyLegislator)



## Distribution of Fentanyl

HB 8: A 25-year mandatory minimum for people convicted of possession with intent to distribute fentanyl that appears to be attractive to minors.

Find Your  
Legislator Here:



[pcej.org/FindMyLegislator](https://pcej.org/FindMyLegislator)



## Increase Violations and Extend Probation

**HB 11:** What happens upon arrest and after the mandatory drug test? Some will be on probation or parole. Louisiana is set to **increase probation sentences from 3 years to 5 years and allow people to be violated for as little as an arrest.**

**Find Your  
Legislator Here:**



[pcej.org/FindMyLegislator](https://pcej.org/FindMyLegislator)



## Permitless guns

**HB 12:** Reduce age for concealed carrying of firearms to 18; eliminate bar on people with mental health or substance abuse issues.

**HB 12** and **SB 1** make it so any 18-year-old can hide a gun under their jacket, even if they have a documented mental illness or substance use issue. The only people prevented would be those with a felony record.

Find Your  
Legislator Here:



[pcej.org/FindMyLegislator](https://pcej.org/FindMyLegislator)

# Example of Bills to Watch Out For

## **HB 51 Courts/Court Costs**

Increases the fees for the Alexandria City Marshal in criminal matters


# Supporting Our Partners

Legislative Session SPRING 2022

## Stop Vaccine Exemptions in Schools

### OPPOSE HB 47!

Sponsored by Rep. Kathy Edmonston



We should not be marketing vaccine exemptions in schools! We must protect our kids from preventable and deadly diseases with lifesaving vaccines! **Combat vaccine hesitancy and misinformation!** Oppose HB 47!

**Contact Your Legislators Today!**

POWER COALITION  
Member of the  
Coalition for the Protection of the Vulnerable

PowerCoalition.org/TakeAction

- We host a **weekly policy check in** on **Friday's 9 AM - 10 AM** (normally session did not convene on Friday's)
- **Policy Agenda** we used every week.
- We support by creating **One-Click Campaigns** for each partner.
- We support by **dropping red cards and green cards** for each partner.

HOUSE WITNESS CARD - AFFIRMATION IN OPPOSITION

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Regarding: HB No. \_\_\_\_\_ HCR No. \_\_\_\_\_ HR No. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR No. \_\_\_\_\_ SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  
 I am present and would like to speak  
 I am present and will provide information, if requested  
 Although I do not wish to speak, I am present and in opposition

PLEASE PRINT:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Representing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your signature required on the back needs to certification that your testimony is true and correct and an acknowledgment that you are testifying under oath.

HOUSE WITNESS CARD - AFFIRMATION IN SUPPORT

HCR No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_ HR No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to speak  
 I will provide information, if requested  
 I do not wish to speak, I am present and in support

PLEASE PRINT:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Representing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your signature required on the back needs to certification that your testimony is true and correct and an acknowledgment that you are testifying under oath.

# Someone You Should Know



**Maxine Cormier our consultant  
for the legislative session.**

**Maxine Cormier.**

She helps build policy for us and get it passed by having meetings with the representatives. If you see her, speak and introduce yourself.

1/18/24

# Senate & Governmental Affairs

## SB4 BY PRICE



**Redistricting  
Special Session**  
January 16, 2024



**Ashley K. Shelton**

Founder, President, & CEO  
Power Coalition for Equity & Justice



# Delivering **Testimony**



There are limited opportunities during the legislative process when the public is able to go on the record and share information with legislators, but **when a bill is being heard in committee, the public can provide written statements ahead of time or can provide in person testimony.** Both of these options will go into the record and are a great opportunity to share your perspective with legislators before they vote on a bill.

**Legislators want to hear from constituents!** They are there to represent your voice in government and sharing your authentic story and additional information is a great way to encourage legislators to support good legislation or stop bad bills from moving forward.

## Providing Testimony In Person

To address a committee, you must complete a witness card stating your name, agency, organization or other interest represented, address, and the bill number for which you would like to provide comments. The witness card will also indicate whether you are there in support of the bill, in opposition of the bill, or there for informational purposes only.

All testimony is delivered from the witness table in front of the committee after you are recognized by the chairman. You will deliver your testimony into the microphone at the witness table. **We recommend that you prepare your testimony ahead of time, have it written down, and have multiple copies available for members of the committee.**

Legislators may ask you questions after your testimony to help clarify your statements or based on information that you bring up.

A pink form titled "HOUSE WITNESS CARD - AFFIRMATION IN OPPOSITION". It includes fields for "Date", "Committee" (with sub-fields for HJR No., HCR No., HRS No., and SCR No.), and "Regarding" (with sub-fields for HJR No., HCR No., HRS No., and SCR No.). It contains a "CHECK ONE" section with three radio button options: "I am present and would like to speak", "I am present and will provide information, if requested although I do not wish to speak", and "I am present and in opposition although I do not wish to speak". Below this is a "PLEASE PRINT" section with fields for "Name", "Representing", and "Address". At the bottom, there are fields for "PHONE NUMBERS" and "Cell". A small note at the bottom states: "This signature required form book cannot be used to certify that you are testifying in support of or in opposition to a bill. It is for informational purposes only." The form is tilted slightly to the right.A green form titled "HOUSE WITNESS CARD - AFFIRMATION IN SUPPORT". It includes fields for "Date", "Committee" (with sub-fields for HJR No., HCR No., HRS No., and SCR No.), and "Regarding" (with sub-fields for HJR No., HCR No., HRS No., and SCR No.). It contains a "CHECK ONE" section with three radio button options: "I am present and would like to speak", "I am present and will provide information, if requested although I do not wish to speak", and "I am present and in support although I do not wish to speak". Below this is a "PLEASE PRINT" section with fields for "Name", "Representing", and "Address". At the bottom, there are fields for "PHONE NUMBERS" and "Cell". A small note at the bottom states: "This signature required form book cannot be used to certify that you are testifying in support of or in opposition to a bill. It is for informational purposes only." The form is tilted slightly to the right.

# Delivering **Testimony**

## Best Practices

- If you use any statistics or other data, share where you got the information.
- Keep your statement on the shorter side-**what is the main takeaway for legislators?**
- Anticipate what questions legislators might have for you so that you can answer them.
- **Do not argue** with members of the committee, instead lay out your comments in an easy to understand way so that you can convince them.

# What Are The Committees?

## House of Representatives

Only listing ones we frequent, you can check the website to see the full list

- **Administration of Criminal Justice (ACJ)**
- **House of Governmental Affairs (HGA)**  
*(focuses on: Legislative rules and procedures; Expenditures of funds by the Legislature; Services of or for the House and/or its committees and members; Assignment)*
- **Commerce** *(focuses on: Banking and the regulation thereof; Communication by telephone, telegraph, radio and television)*
- **Education** *(focuses on: Education generally; Schools and secondary education; School employees, administrators, teachers, bus drivers and others; School employees' and teachers' pay)*
- **Labor and Industrial Relations**  
*(focuses on: Labor and industrial relations generally; Wages and hours of labor; Workers' compensation)*
- **Judiciary** *(focuses on: matters relating to the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, District Courts, Family Courts, and Juvenile Courts, matters of the jurisdiction of said courts)*
- **Civil Law and Procedure** *(focuses on: Matters encompassed by the Civil Code)*
- **Appropriations** *(focuses on: Appropriation of state funds; Expenditure of funds; General appropriation bill; Deposit and investment of public monies)*

# What Are The Committees?

Only listing ones we frequent, you can check the website to see the full list

- ➔ **Senate Governmental Affairs (SGA)** *(focuses on: Affairs of the Senate, Appointments which require confirmation by the Senate, Apportionment for public officials and governing authorities, etc.)*
- ➔ **Environmental Quality** *(focuses on: air quality, environmental control and regulation, land pollution, etc.)*
- ➔ **Judiciary A, B, and C** *(focuses on: Administration of criminal justice, DA, AG, Department of Correction, Civil Code, etc.)*
- ➔ **Health and Welfare** *(focuses on: children, services for children with disabilities, mental health facilities, etc.)*
- ➔ **Natural Resources** *(focuses on: Accretion, alluvion and dereliction of public and private lands, Mineral resources and public lands, etc.)*

# Basics To Know At The Capitol

## Attending Committee Meetings

**Senate Committee Rooms A-B,C,E, and F** are located on the ground floor in Duval Hall. Access to the John Hainkel Room is down a set of steps at the end of Duval Hall. An elevator is available.

### **Before testifying you should be prepped**

In committee meetings bills will either be: voluntarily deferred, involuntarily deferred, voted favorably, or unfavorably.

The committee hearing is an opportunity to inform legislators of your position regarding pending legislation or just to observe the legislative process. However, the length of the meeting agenda and the number of people who wish to testify may require the imposition of time limitations. If you are with a group, it is advisable to appoint a spokesperson.

- ➔ **Don't clap, snap, or cheer** in chamber or committee rooms.
- ➔ **Don't approach the desk** to speak to committee members.
- ➔ **Food and drinks are prohibited** in committee hallways and committee rooms.
- ➔ **Don't take phone calls in committee rooms.** You may take phone calls in the hallway only, not in committee rooms. *Please place ALL cell phones and other electronic devices on vibrate mode.*

# Basics To Know At The Capitol

## Green Cards and Red Cards

HOUSE WITNESS CARD - AFFIRMATION\* IN SUPPORT

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Regarding: HB No. \_\_\_\_\_ HCR No. \_\_\_\_\_ HR No. \_\_\_\_\_  
SB No. \_\_\_\_\_ SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE:  
 I am present and would like to speak  
 I am present and will provide information, if requested  
 Although I do not wish to speak, I am present and in support

PLEASE PRINT:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Representing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your signature required on the back hereof is certification that your testimony is true and correct and an acknowledgment that you are testifying under oath.

HOUSE WITNESS CARD - AFFIRMATION\* IN OPPOSITION

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Regarding: HB No. \_\_\_\_\_ HCR No. \_\_\_\_\_ HR No. \_\_\_\_\_  
SB No. \_\_\_\_\_ SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE:  
 I am present and would like to speak  
 I am present and will provide information, if requested  
 Although I do not wish to speak, I am present and in opposition

PLEASE PRINT:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Representing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your signature required on the back hereof is certification that your testimony is true and correct and an acknowledgment that you are testifying under oath.

A **GREEN CARD** is submitted to show your **support** for a bill.

A **RED CARD** is submitted to share your **opposition** to a bill.

**Your oral and written comments and positions stated on the cards are important and become part of the permanent public record.**

- ➔ If you submit a card, **you have the option to speak** but do not have to speak.
- ➔ These Witness Cards are available in the committee room and overflow rooms on the witness tables.  
**Carefully read, fill out, and sign the back of the witness card.** Your signature is an oath that you will tell the truth. *If you wish to speak, please check the appropriate box on the card.* Please return completed cards to the designated staff member or sergeant-at-arms.
- ➔ **Important Note:** You must fill out a separate card for each bill you are supporting or opposing.

➔ Examples: [2022 internal tracker](#) & [Bill Tracker](#) on the PCEJ website

➔ Once columns are set in the Google Sheet, don't change without letting Jen know.

➔ The spreadsheet is linked to the website so that changes are shown directly on the website.

Bill #	Key	Bill Focus	Bill #	Org	Sponsor	Position	Summary	Current Status	Committee Assign
PreK-12	HS.11	SCAN, Agri	Representative Phillip Tarver	Support	specifically 750k Appropriations ask regarding EBT match at farmers market for	Pending House Appropriations	House Appropriations		
Health	HB.17	LSR, VOTE	Representative Kathy Edmon	Oppose	Provides relative to court-monitored domestic abuse intervention program (OR NO	Pending House Administration of Criminal Justice	House Administration of Criminal Justice		
Firearms	HB.12	VOTE	Representative Larry Frieman	Neutral	Allows city prosecutors and assistant city prosecutors to legally carry guns	Pending House concurrence	House Administration of Criminal Justice		
Firearms	HB.12	VOTE	Representative Paul Hollis	Oppose	Prohibits homeowner association community documents from restricting lot owners'	Pending House Civil Law & Procedure	House Civil Law & Procedure		
Government Affairs	HB.12	VOTE	Representative Larry Frieman	Oppose	Provides for legislative termination of a declaration of an emergency or any portion	Subject to call - Senate final passage	House and Government Affairs		
Environment	HB.27	2000 Fund	Representative Darryl McCormick	Oppose	Prohibits retirement systems from investing in companies that boycott energy companies	Pending House Retirement	Retirement		

Bill Focus	Bill #	Bill Sponsor	Summary	Current Status	Committee Assign
Health	HB 1	Representative Jerome Zeringue (R)	specifically 750k Appropriations ask regarding EBT match at farmers market for fruits and vegetables be statewide	Pending House Appropriations	
PreK-12	HB 4	Representative Phillip Tarver (R)	Removes gubernatorial appointments on BESE, reducing board # from 11 to 8.	Subject to call - House final passage	
Criminal Justice	HB 7	Representative Kathy Edmon (R)	Provides relative to court-monitored domestic abuse intervention program (OR NO IMPACT See Note)	Pending House Administration of Criminal Justice - Considered 3/1/22	
Firearms	HB 8	Representative Bryan Fontenot (R)	Allows city prosecutors and assistant city prosecutors to legally carry guns	Pending House concurrence	
Firearms	9	Representative Paul Hollis (R)	Prohibits homeowner association community documents from restricting lot owners' rights to protect their property and persons domiciled on their property.	Pending House Civil Law & Procedure	
Government Affairs	HB 12	Representative Larry Frieman (R)	Provides for legislative termination of a declaration of an emergency or any portion of the declaration.	Subject to call - Senate final passage	
Environment	HB 25	Representative Darryl McCormick (R)	Prohibits retirement systems from investing in companies that boycott energy companies	Pending House Retirement	





# SOULS to the POLLS

*Mini GRANTS*



[pcej.org/Faith-MiniGrants](https://pcej.org/Faith-MiniGrants)

The questions should take 15-20 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions, please reach out to

**Quincy Bates** at [qbates@powercoalition.org](mailto:qbates@powercoalition.org) or  
**Carlos Pollard, Jr.** at [cpollard@powercoalition.org](mailto:cpollard@powercoalition.org)

The background of the image is a bright yellow sunburst pattern. The rays of the sunburst radiate from the bottom center towards the top corners, creating a sense of energy and positivity. The rays are of varying lengths and thicknesses, creating a dynamic and textured effect.

**Contact Kaitlyn Joshua**  
**For any Faith in Action Questions:**  
**[kjoshua@PowerCoalition.org](mailto:kjoshua@PowerCoalition.org)**



**Please Fill Out An Evaluation!**



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**info@PowerCoalition.org**