



STATE AFFAIRS FORUM TOPICS 2016-17

Education

1. State funding for the UT System has dropped from 47% to 13% of the system's total budget.
2. Ethics among school administration
3. Texas ranks among the bottom third in the U.S. for per-pupil funding.
4. School testing reform in Texas.
5. Texas ranks 47 in the nation for SAT scores.
6. The low high school graduation rate in Texas
7. Education for special needs students in Texas
8. College campus sexual assault in Texas
9. Universal pre-K education considerations in Texas

Civil Liberties

1. Deaths in Texas due to driving while under the influence
2. Capital punishment in Texas
3. Voter ID laws in Texas
4. Texting and driving laws in Texas
5. The enactment of "campus carry" in Texas

Technology

1. Cyber Security in Texas
2. Decreased funding for NASA as it affects Texas
3. Fracking regulations in Texas
4. Driverless car regulations in Texas

Health

1. The National Institute of Health has lost 22% of its purchasing power since 2003's federal budget.
2. The opioid crisis has led to a near 100% rise in overdose deaths since 2003.
3. Drinking water quality in Texas leading to rise in "boil-water" advisories.
4. Medicaid expansion in Texas
5. Teen substance abuse

Economy

1. Public transportation infrastructure in Texas
2. Economic measures to support businesses in Texas
3. The poverty rate in Texas is 17%, compared to national average of 14.5%; the southern border of Texas has an average of 35%.
4. The minimum wage in Texas
5. Guaranteed paid family leave in Texas

National and Foreign Affairs

1. Drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants
2. "Sanctuary cities" for undocumented immigrants
3. Surplus military equipment of police departments
4. The murder rate in major U.S. cities
5. Firearm laws and regulations in the U.S
6. U.S. companies' production in foreign countries
7. Planned obsolescence and increased electronic waste in the U.S.