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**KEEP**

**2021**

*Texas*

**TEXYAN**

**TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL REPORT**

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Texans are no strangers to a challenge. With the country on the precipice across much of 2021 — from oppressive government, to citizen revolt, to a lost war, and beyond — the Lone Star State stood strong as a beacon of liberty, good governance, and the fulfillment of the American promise.

How did Texas stay fixed to its purpose even as Washington, D.C., along with many other states, went astray? First and foremost, there are the Texans — the most avid practitioners of the American way. Then there are the exceptional public servants who won't back down from a fight to ensure sound policy comes to fruition.

Then there is the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Our calling is simple: all we do is point our state and our fellow Texans toward the conservative solution, grounded in conservative principle. It is simple — but not easy. Arrayed against us are forces from academia to media and beyond, all eager to take Texas down a notch.

Like I said, we're no strangers to a challenge. We meet them head-on — and we win.

In this Annual Report, you'll read about what we achieved and how. Crucially, you'll see what your values and your support made possible. To loosely paraphrase Churchill, the fight is already in the heart of Texans: this Foundation just throws the punch.

What's remarkable is how often we connect. So where did we connect in 2021?

First, we connected on election integrity. Despite the full-fledged efforts of bad faith actors who sought to thwart the will of Texans, we passed an omnibus election integrity bill that makes it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

After years in the trenches, TPPF was instrumental in codifying a historic spending cap for the Texas budget. The Conservative Texas Budget is now a mostly binding law in the state, ensuring spending does not surpass the average taxpayer's ability to pay.

We connected in the courts, declaring victory on a number of lawsuits. Of paramount importance, we won a stay from the 5th Circuit to stop the Biden administration's unconstitutional private employer vaccine mandate.

We also held the line on bad policies, as evidenced by our ability to come together in the 11th hour to crush Medicaid expansion before it even saw the light of day.

Of course, there are so many more victories that you will read about in this report.

But as we look toward 2022, we know there's a lot to do. The fight for Texas never ends — and so we never rest. As the new CEO of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, I could not be more proud to lead this team. Across three separate decades, I've seen this organization grow, flourish, and proceed from strength to strength. We inherited a great state, and we've done more than our share to make it greater. With that experience at hand, I know two big things.

Our past is a triumph ... but our yesterdays, including the accomplishments in this report, are just prelude.

Just wait until you see what we do next.



**FOR TEXAS —**  
**Greg Sindelar, CEO**



## **RECOVERY AND RESPONSIVENESS**

2021 presented many difficulties for Texas. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the economic fallout from shutdowns and stay-at-home orders; a winter storm that broke records and pipes and seemingly, for a time, the entire electricity infrastructure of the Lone Star State; a crisis at the southern U.S. border that the Biden administration refused to acknowledge—all of these things are public policy problems by themselves. Together, they made 2021 a year of challenges.

But Texas is bigger than any crisis, even all of them at once. We rolled up our sleeves and got to work. Texans don't back down from a challenge, and that's especially true of the Texas Public Policy Foundation. We led the way on seeking real solutions to these crises, and in instance after instance, we were successful. Whether in the courts, in the chambers of the state Capitol, or at the grassroots level, we fought to Keep Texas Texan.

**TEXANS  
DON'T BACK FROM A  
DOWN FROM A  
CHALLENGE**

## RESOLVING THE ENERGY CRISIS

Most of us didn't even know they gave winter storms names. But what came blustering out of Canada on Valentine's Day in 2021 was every bit as deadly as the hurricanes we're used to. The storm showed how dangerous our state's growing dependence on unreliable power sources can be. TPPF's energy policy initiative, Life:Powered, has long issued warnings about the prospect of major blackouts. In the months following the storm, our experts took the lead in showing how investment strategies that discriminate against reliable energy producers may lead to more crises like the one that struck Texas last February. Life:Powered advanced a model bill for ending energy discrimination that will make the energy grid in Texas stronger.

## STRENGTHENING THE TEXAS BORDER

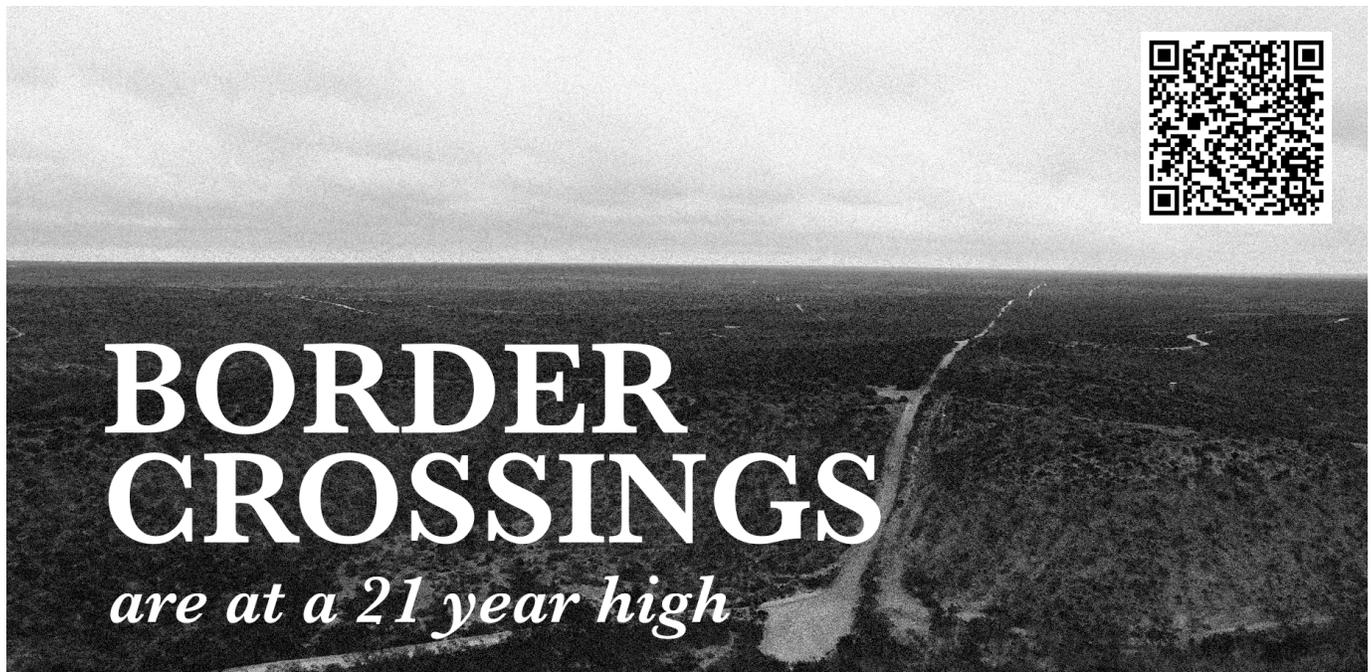
Our Border Security Coalition visited the border in 2021 so we could see for ourselves the unfolding crisis. Human traffickers continue to use would-be migrants to overwhelm the resources of the U.S. Border Patrol, thereby enabling easier entry for illegal drugs. While the mainstream media looked away, TPPF launched a series of videos highlighting the national security threat caused

by the Biden administration's failure to stop illegal entry into the U.S. The Texas Legislature responded to the crisis by tripling what Texas spends on border security, and TPPF applauds that legislation. If the federal government won't secure the border, we'll do it ourselves. Texas is stepping up as the current administration stands down.

## PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Sometimes, the cure is worse than the disease. At every level of government, responses to the COVID-19 pandemic have been inconsistent, even self-contradictory. At TPPF, we believe in personal responsibility—that mask mandates and lockdowns are wrong. Keeping children from in-person school when they want and need to attend is cruel and has had disastrous consequences on their education. And we believe that the Biden administration's vaccine mandate is unconstitutional.

That's why we're challenging it in court—and winning. We're also keeping an eye on how Texas is spending COVID-19 relief funds. They shouldn't be squandered or spent on continuing expenses (which would drive up taxes later); we're also watching how school districts are spending funds. Too many are spending relief funds on sports facilities and other things unrelated to the pandemic and the learning loss it caused.



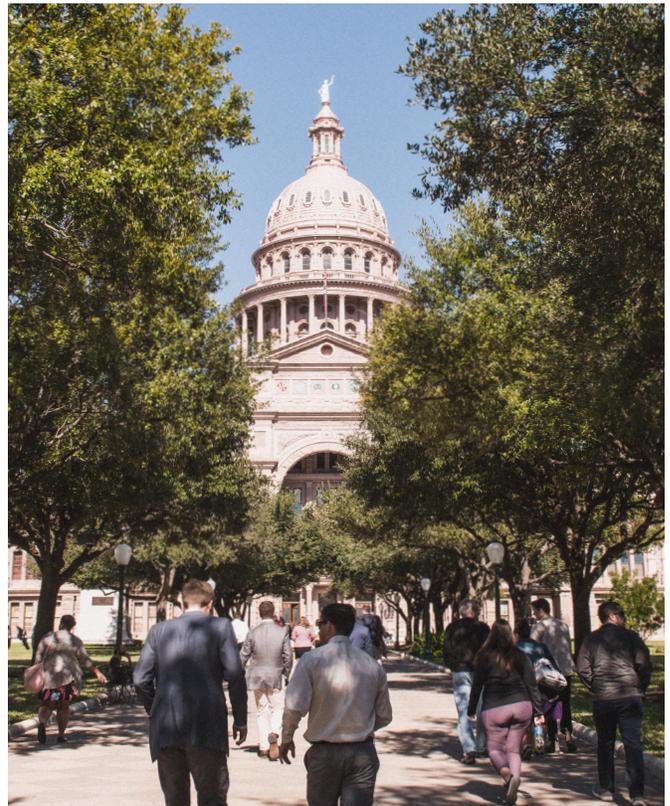
Border crossings are at a 21 year high. Scan the QR code above to see what TPPF is doing about it.

# TEXAS TOGETHER

ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN 2021, TPPF TOOK CHARGE  
TO FIND COMMON GROUND AND SECURE VICTORIES FOR TEXANS.

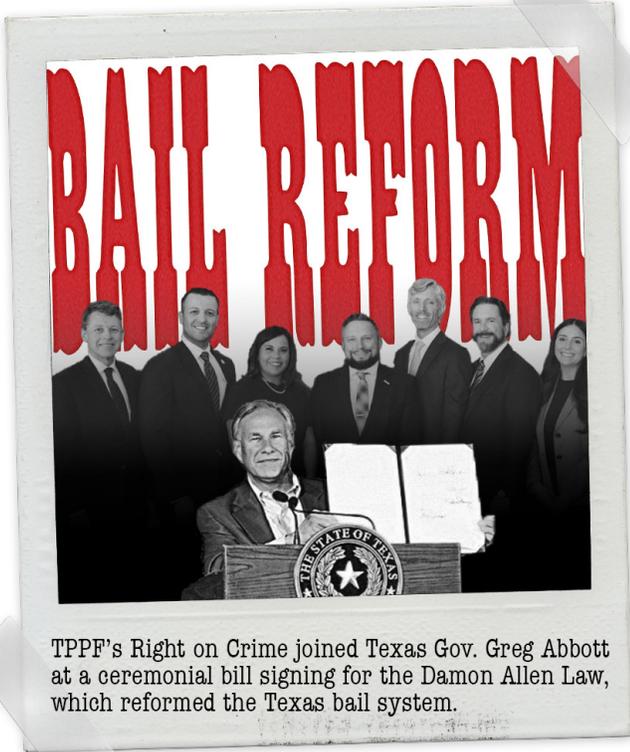
## THE FOUNDATION'S VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

What do we do at the Texas Public Policy Foundation? We provide the ideas—and the research to support them—that arm lawmakers and their staffs with the knowledge they need to address the challenges they've been sent to Austin to address. At a time of historic divisiveness, TPPF finds common ground on the ideas that improve life for everyone. We provide the powder and shot, you might say, to make a legislator more effective. Whether the issue is health care or the economy, we've got the research and the polling to enable lawmakers to make their case. Our communications arm helps distribute the good ideas and policy reforms that will make Texas a better place to live and raise families. With staff in Washington D.C. and several other states, we're now taking Texas' success national. We're telling the story of Texas—its forging and its fearlessness. That's what TPPF does.



## IMPROVING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

For years, bail reform has been a top priority for TPPF's Right on Crime project. Our jobs have only gotten more difficult as states such as California and cities like Houston push policies that essentially serve as a get-out-of-jail-free card and call it "bail reform." In September, Right on Crime experts joined Gov. Greg Abbott as he signed the Damon Allen Act into law. Named for a fallen state trooper, the Act bans cashless releases for violent offenders and those accused of sexual offenses, while giving greater flexibility in bail options for low-level offenders.



TPPF's Right on Crime joined Texas Gov. Greg Abbott at a ceremonial bill signing for the Damon Allen Law, which reformed the Texas bail system.

## REFORMING HEALTH CARE

Texas improved health care in this legislative session—without expanding Medicaid. More on that soon. Texas improved Medicaid, made prescriptions more affordable for the uninsured, drove down the cost of services, and provided new options for the uninsured. Together, these new laws help Texas families get what they need—care, not simply coverage. In a

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bipartisan effort, lawmakers strengthened Medicaid for vulnerable children by streamlining the eligibility process and ensuring continuous coverage for up to a year past eligibility. And they addressed maternal health and mortality by expanding Medicaid eligibility to new mothers for up to six months after their child's birth. Another bill strengthened hospital price transparency rules, a fundamental step toward making health care more affordable for all of us.

## SUNSETTING GOVERNMENT CRONYISM

Local tax abatement agreements (under Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code) allow businesses such as big solar energy developers to partner with school districts to create tax shelters, with the threat that they can take their jobs and their future revenues elsewhere. TPPF pushed hard to let the act sunset, bolstered by a coalition from across the political spectrum. These agreements not only fail to live up to their promises, they also weaken the state's energy grid by subsidizing unreliable forms of energy.



## CODIFYING THE CONSERVATIVE TEXAS BUDGET

The Texas Legislature passed its budget for the upcoming biennium, fulfilling its most basic function. It came in with a rate of growth below population-plus-inflation, our formula for a Conservative Texas Budget (CTB)—meaning it’s a budget that doesn’t grow beyond the average Texan’s ability to pay. We love budget and tax cuts, of course; the Texas Legislature should take every opportunity to ease the burden on taxpayers, leaving more of their money in their

own pockets. The Foundation created the concept of the Conservative Texas Budget in 2014 as a tool for lawmakers. This session, legislators even wrote the CTB into law—meaning Texas will benefit for generations to come. The Texas Legislature’s practice of fiscal restraint while meeting the needs of the state is good news for Texans. The Legislature can build on these policy wins by providing paths for more fiscal gains—such as eliminating property taxes, imposing local spending limitations, and responsibly appropriating federal funds.



Chief economist Vance Ginn discusses the Texas Budget with Rep. Dan Crenshaw.

THE CONSERVATIVE

# Texas Budget

<b>CTB's Recommended Maximum Budget</b> .....	<b>\$246.8</b>
<b>Budget Approved by the Legislature</b> .....	<b>\$245.2</b>

States that TPDF has laid groundwork in to pass similar conservative spending legislation:

Michigan	Montana
Tennessee	New Mexico
Florida	West Virginia
Kansas	Kentucky
Alaska	South Carolina
Iowa	Georgia

## STOPPING MEDICAID EXPANSION

Many on the left applied intense pressure on lawmakers to expand Medicaid in Texas. We knew this fight would be tough, and we were right. We gave legislators the ammunition they needed to not only stop Medicaid expansion, but to improve it for the neediest Texans—especially children and young mothers.



David Balat hosts annual health care conference.

The fact is that adding 1.4 million people to the Medicaid rolls in Texas would swamp the system. A 2016 survey by the Texas Medical Association suggested that less than half of Texas doctors would be willing to accept new Medicaid patients, primarily because of low reimbursement rates and the bureaucratic burden that comes along with it. Expansion would crowd out the state's neediest families.

## TEACHING HISTORY THE RIGHT WAY

Texas lawmakers banned Critical Race Theory (CRT) from our public schools, ensuring that this new form of racism wouldn't be taught in our classrooms. The new Texas rule on CRT doesn't restrict fair and accurate teaching. It simply reinforces that our full history, good and ill, should be taught without divisiveness. Specifically, the bill states that students should understand "the history of white supremacy, including but not limited to the institution of slavery, the eugenics movement, and the Ku Klux Klan, and the ways in which it is morally wrong." The misguided teachings of CRT go beyond simply learning America's history and, in fact, require white people to accept blame for all economic and social disparities experienced by

people of color today. That is what is being banned by the CRT bill—and for good reason. Not only does CRT discriminate against white people, but it hurts minorities, too. It forces young Black and Hispanic children to accept they will always be victims and that under our current system, there is nothing they can do to improve their lot in life.



Members of TPPF's Liberty Leadership Council visit the Capitol in November 2021.

## *How to identify* **CRITICAL RACE THEORY** IN THE CLASSROOM

A graphic from TPPF's social media campaign to educate and empower parents on Critical Race Theory.



Dr. Carol Swain debunks the 1619 project.



TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION

# WOKE SCOLDS GET ELECTION PROTECTION LAWS WRONG

## WHAT THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS SAYS ABOUT SB7

"... would **limit** early voting hours." (7a.m. to 7p.m.)



"... would **limit** mail-in voting ballot locations."



"... would **ban** drive-through voting."



## WHAT SB7 ACTUALLY SAYS

SB7 **EXPANDS** voting hours (6a.m. to 9p.m.)

SB7 **MAINTAINS** mail-in voting processed by the USPS.

SB7 **CONFIRMS** that this was not legal in the first place.

## ELECTION PROTECTION

Texas strengthened its election laws in the 2021 session. The simple fact is that according to the U.S. Constitution, the "Times, Places and Manner" of elections are to be determined by the state legislatures—not county officials and not mayors. The biggest change SB 1 makes is that it adds voter ID requirements to mail-in ballots. The U.S. Supreme Court has clearly ruled that voter ID rules are constitutional. Other changes to existing voting laws are relatively minor. SB 1 expands voting hours; it doesn't ban 24-hour voting or drive-through voting—because those were never legal in the first place. It doesn't

"empower" partisan poll watchers; poll watchers are already a part of the process and serve as an important safeguard. SB 1 simply makes it illegal to obstruct their view. The eyes of the public must be able to see the process. And the new law also strengthens rules for helping the elderly and disabled to vote.

## SAFEGUARDING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

TPPF's litigation arm, the Center for the American Future, filed numerous lawsuits throughout the year, on issues ranging from vaccine mandates to property rights. And we're growing our team of attorneys to strike against domineering government. As 2021 drew to a close, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in our favor on the vaccine mandate. Earlier in the year, President Biden acknowledged that he couldn't force people to be vaccinated. Then he tried to do it anyway. The Court of Appeals saw through his deceit and pointed to numerous fatal statutory and constitutional problems with the mandate. The court also made it clear that OSHA is to take no further steps to enforce the mandate until a court has a chance to fully rule on the merit. In other cases, TPPF attorneys took action in support of election protection laws, continued to challenge the unlawful ban on evictions from the CDC, fought to protect parental rights, and sued to block portions of the American Relief Plan Act that included racial and gender discrimination.

WE'RE GROWING OUR  
TEAM ATTORNEYS  
OF ATTORNEYS  
TO STRIKE AGAINST DOMINEERING  
GOVERNMENT

## FORGING TEXAS SERIES

The Foundation's outstanding *Forging Texas* film series continued with Episodes Two and Three in 2021. The story of the Texas Revolution is the story of ourselves—who we are, how we came to be, and what it means to truly be Texan. Texas is the extension of America's founding, based on the principles of ordered liberty, self-government, and equality.



Actors practicing their stunts on the set of *Forging Texas*, episode 3 "The Battle of San Jacinto".

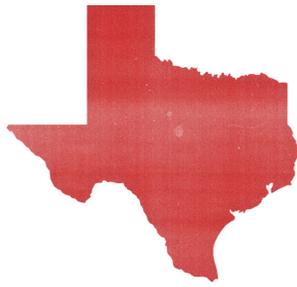


TPPF Filmmakers Stephen Robinson and Alex Quintana working to perfect a shot from the *Forging Texas* series.

Texas' story is a reflection of our national identity and we continue to fight for the same ideals. How do we live in liberty? How do we resist tyranny? What do we owe to our community? What are we willing to endure for our children's futures? The revolutionaries of the Texas past gave the best possible answers to each of these questions—and we owe it to them to aspire to their standard.



Brian Bosworth, actor and former NFL player, stars as Sam Houston in Episode 3 of *Forging Texas*.



# Events

## POLICY ORIENTATION

TPPF's Policy Orientation 2021 set the agenda for the newly started Legislative Session. In three days of discussion on topics ranging from elections to energy policy, solutions to real problems were laid out before lawmakers, capitol staffers, the media and many others. Just days before the Biden administration entered office, Policy Orientation was also the right place to marshal conservative forces to stand up to bad policies coming out of Washington.



The Honorable Jason Issac, Dr. Richard Johnson, and Jerome Greener speak at the State of the Taxpayer Tour.



**327**  
CAPITOL LEADERS  
& FEATURED GUESTS



**112**  
SPEAKERS  
& PANELISTS



**357**  
SUPPORTERS  
& SPONSORS



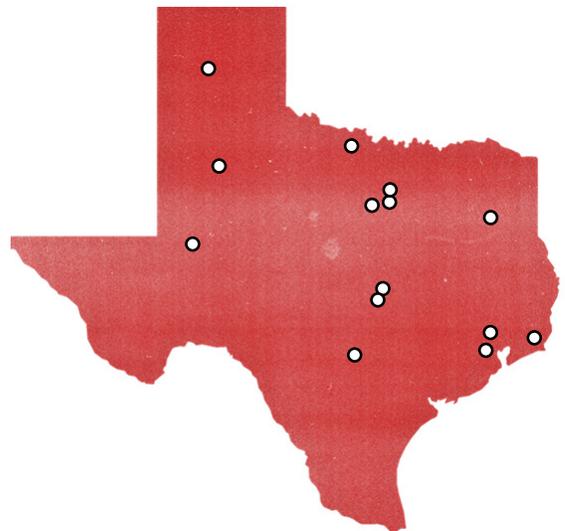
**17,050**  
LIVESTREAM VIEWS  
(DURING EVENT)



**15k+**  
RECORDING VIEWS  
(AFTER EVENT)

## STATE OF THE TAXPAYER TOUR

TPPF experts fanned out across the state this summer for our State of the Taxpayer tour—our report to the people of Texas about what was achieved (and what wasn't) by the Texas Legislature. We made fourteen stops around the state: Amarillo, Austin, Beaumont, Dallas, Fort Worth, Frisco, Georgetown, Houston, Lubbock, Midland, San Antonio, The Woodlands, Tyler, and Wichita Falls. Our experts offered a non-partisan update and straight forward answers to the most pressing questions Texans face.



# LIVESTREAMS

TOTAL OF  
LIVESTREAM VIEWS

111,961

TOTAL OF  
LIVESTREAM EVENTS

51

Livestreams began because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but they proved so popular that we continued them throughout 2021. We discussed everything from the border crisis to election protection to critical race theory.



Young professionals from across the state visit the Texas capitol during the LLC Summit.

## LLC SUMMIT

America's bright future rests on the shoulders of the countless young citizens who are dedicated to constitutional values. Our Liberty Leadership Council, with local chapters in seven cities across the state, brought together dozens of young adults at our headquarters in the Texas capital in November 2021. This two-day summit provided a valuable opportunity for young leaders to network, socialize, and learn about the issues facing Texas, so that they can invest their talent in the future of the Lone Star State.

## AWARDS DINNERS

Awards dinners give TPPF the opportunity to thank the many supporters who embody the ideals we hold dear while celebrating the accomplishments of the past year. In 2021, we hosted events in Austin, Midland, Dallas, and Houston, where we presented awards to honored guests such as Dick Saulsbury, the Honorable Jeb Hensarling, Senator Paul Bettencourt, Vim Head, Forrest Hoglund, and Larry Kudlow. These luminaries serve as an inspiration to the Foundation, and we are grateful for their leadership and partnership.

## VICTORY SUMMIT

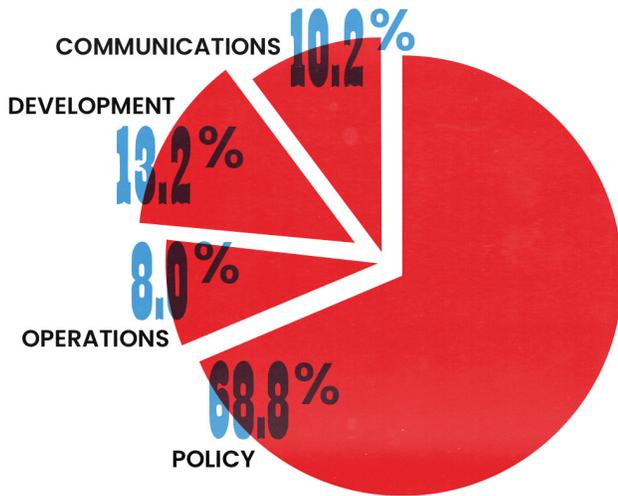
TPPF's influence continues to grow, achieving hundreds of legislative and policy successes for 2021 in Texas, in D.C., and in states across the nation. To celebrate these triumphs, and to prepare for the future that lies ahead, TPPF convened our first-ever Victory Summit, drawing together key stakeholders and leaders in the conservative movement—including special recognition for Dr. Wendy Gramm, Chairman Emeritus of TPPF's Board of Directors. We had an all-star lineup of speakers for the more than 100 supporters who attended, and the energy throughout was fantastic. We look forward to carrying this experience forward in 2022.



# DEVELOPMENT

## FINANCES

# EXPENSES



In TPPF's competitive internship program, students experience all aspects of a successful policy organization, including the importance of our donors.

## GROWING THE MOVEMENT

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, TPPF is better equipped than ever before to meet the challenges that face our state and nation. The excellence we strive for in our policy analysis, legislative engagement, and outreach efforts has inspired a groundswell of support for our mission in 2021.

# DONATIONS

	2020	2021	GROWTH
TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS	5,069	6,945	37%
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS RECEIVED	10,191	20,093	97%

The total number of donations we received in 2021 more than doubled from 2020, and there was a remarkable rise in the number of people who committed their financial support to our work. These generous contributions to our work serve to bolster our mission and uphold the values that keep Texas Texan.



At TPPF's Victory Summit, Donald Trump provides a special message to attendees.

## COME AND TAKE IT SOCIETY

TPPF is privileged to receive support from a dedicated group of monthly donors, the members of our Come And Take It Society. In 2021, our membership grew to nearly 1,000 monthly donors. By making a regular, affordable monthly gift, this band of patriots ensures that TPPF's mission to keep Texas Texan has the ongoing resources needed for success.

- ↑ 28%** CATIS MEMBERS AT END OF YEAR
- ↑ 60%** AVERAGE CATIS MONTHLY REVENUE
- ↑ 185%** TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED ONLINE

## LONE STAR LEGACY SOCIETY



To secure Texas' future liberty and prosperity, and to safeguard the American Dream for generations to come, TPPF instituted our Lone Star Legacy Society five years ago. The 45 members of this devoted group have planned gifts that will sustain our mission beyond their lifetimes. In 2021, two members' gifts were fulfilled, marking a lasting tribute to their legacy.

To be remembered alongside a donor's family, friends, and other heirs is the highest honor the Foundation can receive, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment.

<https://tppf.planmylegacy.org/supporters-like-you>

**"TPPF is one of the most important and influential policy organizations in the United States. You will keep hearing about them and their accomplishments for years to come."**

**—Lamar Smith, former U.S. congressman  
and current Come And Take It Society member**

**Just wait until you see what we do next.**



**Texas Public Policy  
Foundation**