



## UNDERSTANDING ROLES OF TEXAS STATE OFFICIALS

Use the chart below to better understand the roles and responsibilities of key state officials—from the Governor to your local State Representative. This guide outlines each role, when and why to contact them, and how to effectively direct your concerns for greater civic impact.

Position	Responsibilities	When/Why to Contact	Examples
<b>Governor</b>	Oversees state agencies, implements state laws, manages the state budget, directs emergency response efforts, and serves as commander-in-chief of the Texas National Guard.	To report state emergencies, advocate for state-level policies, or request clemency.	Natural disasters, clemency requests, executive orders, Texas National Guard deployment, border security issues, or urgent agency failures.
<b>Lieutenant Governor</b>	Presides over the Texas Senate, chairs the Legislative Budget Board, and has significant influence over legislative priorities and committee assignments.	For inquiries about legislative priorities, budget concerns, or Senate committee matters.	Budget proposals, legislative scheduling, committee assignments, or major policy initiatives moving through the Senate.
<b>Attorney General</b>	Acts as the state's chief legal officer, enforces state laws, defends Texas in federal court, and provides legal advice to government agencies.	To report fraud, corruption, legal violations, or consumer protection issues.	Consumer fraud, public corruption tips, legal misconduct, law enforcement complaints, or federal overreach concerns.
<b>Comptroller of Public Accounts</b>	Manages state finances, collects taxes, monitors public spending, provides revenue estimates, and oversees state audits.	To report tax fraud, inquire about state revenue, request audit information, or address property tax concerns.	Tax fraud, budget transparency issues, audit requests, property tax disputes, or financial mismanagement tips.
<b>Commissioner of Agriculture</b>	Regulates agricultural businesses, oversees food safety standards, manages rural economic development, and promotes Texas agriculture.	For agricultural concerns, food safety issues, rural development, or consumer protection inquiries.	Crop regulation, food recalls, pesticide complaints, farmers market issues, or deceptive business practices.
<b>Railroad Commissioner</b>	Regulates the oil and gas industry, oversees pipeline safety, manages mineral rights, and ensures energy infrastructure security.	For oil and gas industry concerns, pipeline safety issues, or energy regulation matters.	Pipeline safety violations, oil and gas permit issues, mineral rights disputes, or energy infrastructure concerns.

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<b>Commissioner of the General Land Office</b>	Manages state public lands, oversees the Permanent School Fund, handles veterans' benefits, and manages coastal resources.	For state land issues, veterans' benefits, coastal concerns, or school funding matters.	State land leases, veterans' home loans, coastal erosion, oil and gas royalties for schools, or public beach access.
<b>Secretary of State</b> <i>(Appointed not Elected)</i>	Oversees elections and voting procedures, maintains business registrations, handles international protocols, and preserves official state records.	For voting rights issues, election procedures, business registration matters, or official document authentication.	Voter registration problems, election security concerns, business entity filings, notary issues, or apostille services.
<b>State Board of Education Members</b>	Sets curriculum standards, adopts textbooks, establishes graduation requirements, and oversees public education policy across Texas.	For concerns about curriculum standards, textbook adoptions, graduation requirements, or statewide education policies.	Curriculum content disputes, textbook selection issues, graduation requirement changes, or educational standards concerns.
<b>State Senator</b>	Drafts and passes state laws, approves budgets, confirms gubernatorial appointments, and represents district interests in the upper chamber.	To advocate for state laws, address concerns about state funding, or request legislative support.	Proposed bills, state funding requests, budget objections, confirmation concerns, or district-specific legislation.
<b>Speaker of the House</b>	Presides over the Texas House of Representatives, controls legislative flow, assigns bills to committees, and influences House priorities and procedures.	For concerns about House legislative priorities, committee assignments, or procedural matters affecting legislation.	Bill assignments to committees, House calendar scheduling, legislative priorities, or concerns about House procedures and rules.
<b>State Representative</b>	Drafts and passes state laws, develops policies for education, healthcare, public safety, and represents local district interests in the House.	To discuss state-level issues, propose policy changes, or request assistance with state agencies.	Local legislation, school funding concerns, healthcare policy feedback, public safety issues, or help with state services.

