

# 2024 Texas State Policy Agenda

**YOUNG**   
**INVINCIBLES**

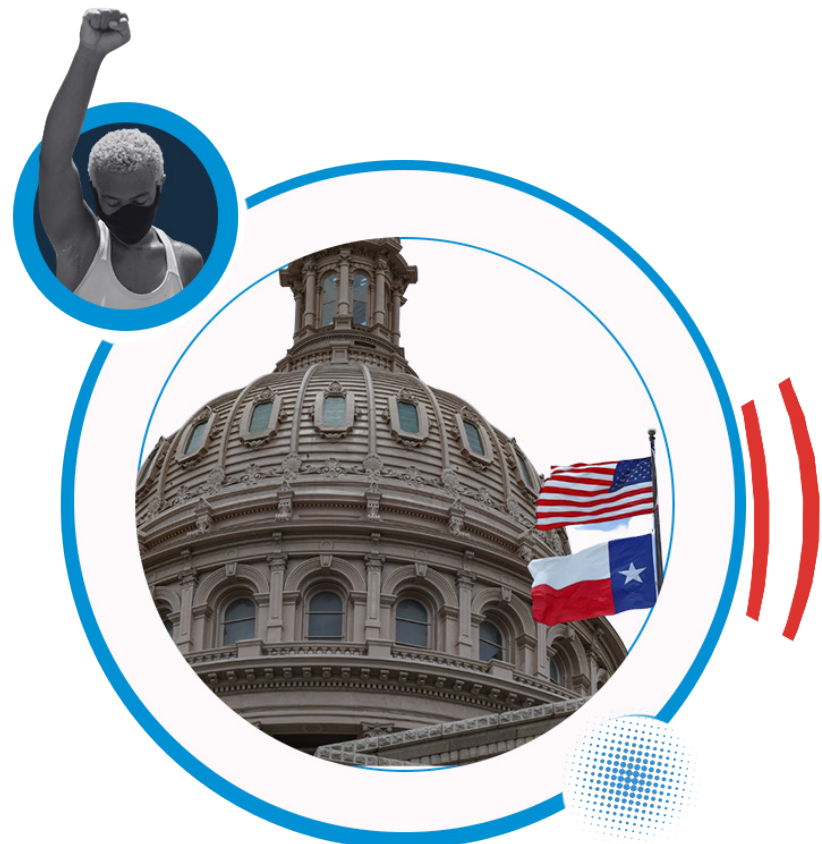
## Overview

Texas continues to be a trendsetting state in good and bad ways. The Texas legislature held its 4th consecutive special session, an unprecedented call made by Governor Greg Abbott in response to the gridlock he has faced getting his priority bills passed and after an unprecedented trial in which the Texas Attorney General, Ken Paxton, was acquitted of his impeachment charges. These scenarios have created even further divides amongst legislators and forced members to focus on border security and education savings account programs (aka school vouchers) rather than the critical issues that burden young Texans daily. Meanwhile, Young Texans specifically are being disproportionately impacted by the rising costs of living, assaults on democracy, civil and LGBTQ+ rights, immigrant rights, and reproductive health care. Given the unprecedented challenges facing our state, it's crucial that young people continue to mobilize in record numbers to ensure our legislature represents our diverse and localized needs.

Following our belief in structural transformation through winning many small and large changes that act as stepping stones on our path to changing our economy and society, we will continue to monitor our policy “wins” and ensure decision-makers hear young adult voices throughout the implementation and rulemaking process of the interim period.

## Implementaion

As the 88th regular session ended, we were happy to see progress in higher education, specifically investment in community colleges and dual credit programs, prioritization of parenting students through early registration, and the establishment of student-parent liaisons in higher education institutions. Our team at Young Invincibles



plans on closely monitoring those laws as well as the expansion of Medicaid coverage for mothers postpartum, the bill that will address the field of study curricula to help simplify the credit transfer process, the workforce development career education and training evaluation pilot program, as well as the anti-DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) legislation implementation. We also plan to watch for the Texas Workforce Commission’s apprenticeship opportunities report and continue our conversation with the Office of Mental Health Coordination at Texas Health and Human Services around the geographic information system (GIS) mapping of LMHAs (local mental health authorities).

## Higher Education \_\_\_\_\_

1. Study impact on mental health access in higher education and student-to-counselor ratios
2. Ensure the implementation of the Diversity, equity, and Inclusion Bill does not impact mental health promotion and suicide prevention.
3. Examine the implementation of House Bill 8 and the host of community college bills from the 88th Texas Session and further opportunities to increase pathways to postsecondary education.
4. Study the needs of postsecondary students to determine basic resources institutions can provide to help reduce barriers to completion of post-secondary education.
5. Examine student debt, student loan defaults, and transcript withholding impact on Texas students.
6. Pursue access to voting for students by pursuing a Student ID as a Voter ID and expanding polling places on college campuses so that campuses with over 1,000 students have an on-campus voting option.



## Workforce \_\_\_\_\_

7. Research access to childcare subsidies and how that may impact parents, especially women, in the workforce and their children
8. Identify initiatives regarding youth apprenticeship recruitment, such as workshops, data tools, and public information campaigns, that the state can scale to positively impact disparities in apprenticeship access.

## Health Care \_\_\_\_\_

9. Solidify a path to affordable and comprehensive health coverage for young people in Texas, including access to reproductive and mental health care.
10. Expand access to contraception and reproductive justice for young people across the state and gather data to explain how lack of access is impacting young people.
11. Study the health insurance and health care system literacy of young Texans and its impact on health access and delivery.

Young Invincibles has listened to the voices of our young adult base through surveys and listening sessions and has created this agenda centered around the concerns and needs of young Texans. This policy agenda seeks to harness the lessons learned from the past few legislative sessions and the voices of young people today. Over the interim, we will begin to channel our vision into a series of actionable policy proposals that will address the pressing challenges facing our state and lay the foundation for a more equitable and prosperous future for all Texans.

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