



CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL



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## RAPPIN' Thomas Wyatt IT'S A MESS

If you can't beat 'em; impeach 'em!

You know what chaps my hide? The fact that we are a free country without a choice. The two-party political system is clearly not working. While one side offers non-sensical policies to cover everyday American problems with a broad stroke; the other side offers no solutions at all.

I, like many of you, am not a party-liner. Meaning, I don't go in the booth and vote a straight ticket. I, like many of you, believe in voting for the right person for the job. Hell, I'll even settle for the most qualified if the situation calls for it.

But look at what we have. The GOP wants to impeach President Biden. For what? Something he most likely does that everyone in the House and Senate do? You're not going to honestly tell me that Mitch McConnell's bills are designed to support and enrich the lives of poor people in Kentucky, are you?

Or how about closer to home where our own Attorney General is battling an impeachment trial of his own.

Tell me, how do any of these actions make your life better? Where are the higher education cost reduction referendums? Where are the common-sense gun laws? Where are the lower tax resolutions for the middle class and higher tax directives for the rich?

What about health care and affordable prescription drugs? What about fixing the cost of living in this town and throughout the U.S.? And what about civil rights, voters' rights, women's rights, and the fact that our supreme court is bought and paid for by super rich conservatives?

It's a mess. Democracy in this nation has run away. Only the greedy survive here...for now.

But if I were you, I'd pay closer attention to the Ken Paxton impeachment trial. Paxton isn't the only one on trial here. So many things about our state's government (lawyers) have come to light; including the weird crap that goes on behind our backs in our public banking system. You wanna know why it's impossible for you to get an adjusted mortgage loan on your home while the chump across the street got money to build his funky-\*\*\* McMansion? Watch the trials, dude. Watch the trials.

## ATTENTION: DO YOU KNOW THE 'NEW' TEXAS LAWS???

House Bill 718	House Bill 393
Senate Bill 505	Senate Bill 1551
House Bill 2170	House Bill 2899
Senate Bill 17	Senate Bill 1442
House Bill 25	House Bill 3554
House Bill 1277	Senate Bill 763
	House Bill 3
	Senate Bill 29

By Forward Times Staff

(TEXAS STATE CAPITOL) - Attention, Texans!

After every legislative session, the Forward Times provides our readers with a synopsis of some of the key new laws that will potentially impact them and tens of millions of other Texans.

In 2021, the Forward Times reported that 666 new laws had gone into effect in the state of Texas on September 1<sup>st</sup> of that year, which included the controversial 'permitless carry' bill that was signed into law by Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

Fast forward to 2023, nearly 800 new laws (774 to be exact) were signed into law coming out of the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session, having gone into effect on September 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. It is important to note that some of these new laws could potentially impact Texans from all walks of life, in a good or bad way, especially members of the African American community.

For those bills that were fortunate enough to make it through the gauntlet of committees, that got formally debated on the floors of the Texas House and Senate, and then eventually got sent to the governor's desk for his approval and signature, some went into effect immediately. Other bills, however, went into effect on September 1<sup>st</sup>, which is the day customarily assigned for a bill to go into effect in Texas after being signed into law by the governor. This year was no different.

Back in May, the Forward Times published an article entitled *ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION? 2023 Legislative Bills That Could Harm or Help African Americans in Texas*, where we highlighted key bills that the community was being asked to pay very close attention and to reach out to their respective elected officials about supporting or advocating against the bills.

Fortunately, some of the most attention-grabbing and controversial bills that we highlighted in that article failed to go to Gov. Abbott's desk. However, several others not only made it to Gov. Abbott's desk, but they were also signed into law and have gone into effect as of September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Here is a list of some of key new Texas bills that have gone into effect as of September 1<sup>st</sup>:

· Do not drive drunk, cause if you do, the newly signed law, **House Bill 393**, requires any person who is convicted of intoxication manslaughter to make restitution payments for the support of any child whose parent or guardian became a victim of that crime.

· **Senate Bill 1551**, authored by State Senator Royce West (D-Dallas), makes failing to provide your driver's license or refusing to provide your name, date of birth, and address to a law enforcement official, a criminal offense, meaning you could be charged with a Class B or C misdemeanor. Again, failing to identify and show your identification can get you charged and arrested.

· In what is being deemed a legislative overreach and an attack on duly-elected Democrats who are serving as district attorneys in many of the major counties across Texas, **House Bill 17** now gives the courts the power to remove district attorneys from their elected offices if they choose not to pursue certain types of crimes, particularly those related to elections, marijuana possession, abortions, etc., deeming it misconduct.

· Relative to schools, **House Bill 3** makes having an armed officer at every school campus in Texas and mental health training for school staff that interact with children a requirement. As it relates to

See **SENATE BILL 17**, page 6

## DON'T CALL IT A COMEBACK!



Health authorities have emphasized the urgency of vaccination once the shots become available. The new release coincides with a late summer surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations and growing concerns over the potential impact of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus, in the upcoming fall and winter seasons. See **FDA**, page 5

## INSIDE



Joyce James takes on community disparities in civic resources. See **EQUITY** Page 3



Is DACA headed to Supreme Court? See **LIKELY** Page 4



It's that time again. Volunteers needed at Lake Travis. See **CLEANUP** Page 7

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