

#PWNVotes



PWN's GUIDE to GOVERNMENT

Know Which Elected Official To Call and When



POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK
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PWN'S GUIDE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**THE PRESIDENT
U.S. SENATOR
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
U.S. SUPREME COURT**

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PWN'S GUIDE to GOVERNMENT



If you ever have an issue with your government and need to speak to "the manager", here's a quick guide to the:

U.S. PRESIDENT

**VOTED BY
THE PEOPLE**

- Signs and enforces laws and treaties created by Congress. Can also sign or veto bills enacted by Congress.
- Appoints members to executive departments and federal commissions to carry out responsibilities of the federal government, e.g. Supreme Court, HUD, CIA, federal judges, etc.

For example, the president cannot do anything about the Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, but the President can nominate another person to sit on the Supreme Court or sign and enforce laws Congress makes to outlaw states from banning abortion care.

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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

"Manager" of issues involving:

- introducing and deciding bills and resolutions (CARES Act, BREATHE Act, etc.) to serve the people in their congressional district.

For example, after the Buffalo and Uvalde shootings in 2022, the U.S. House of Representatives passed significant gun violence legislation to curb the frequency of mass shootings in the United States. Now, the President will need to sign it to make it law.

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UNITED STATES SENATOR

"Manager" of issues involving:

- criminal trials against federal officials, e.g. the President;
- selecting Supreme Court Justices; or,
- passing US laws, e.g. healthcare.

For example, the U.S. Senate is responsible for passing laws to protect voting rights in the country, but have been unsuccessful because they can't get the majority of United States Senators to agree on voter protections.

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APPOINTED
BY THE US
SENATE

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

- The highest court in the country acting as the final arbiter of the law.
- Responsible for ensuring the American people get equal justice under law.
- Guards and interprets the U.S. Constitution.

For example, in 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court voted in favor of Norma McCorvey's fundamental right to choose whether to have abortions without excessive government restriction and struck down Texas's abortion ban as unconstitutional in the case of *Roe v. Wade*; but, in 2022 the U.S. Supreme Court reversed this decision and made it possible for states to decide if abortion care will be legal or not.

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PWN'S GUIDE TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT

**THE GOVERNOR
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

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GOVERNOR

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- "CEO" of the state elected by the citizens every four years.
- Policies that the state House and Senate representatives can sponsor.
- Appointments of the Secretary of State, commissioners, and state boards (DSHS, ERCOT, etc.) who oversee the heads of state agencies and departments.

For example, in 2021 the Governor was responsible for the winter outages because Governor Abbott appoints the ERCOT board who manages the state's electrical grid - a grid that isn't equipped to keep up with extreme temperatures and, as a result, left Texans dead and in the cold.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

"Manager" of issues involving:

- The Texas Senate as the 2nd highest executive office and 2nd most powerful position in the Texas government.
- The budgeting process as a leader of the Legislative Budget Board which is responsible for ensuring state programs like schools, public services, and health care programs are adequately funded.

For example, the PWN Texas Strike Force has been advocating for the Texas HIV Medication Program to be adequately funded since 2021. The Lieutenant Governor has the authority to approve additional state funding and make sure that Texans living with HIV have access to life saving medications.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL



"Manager" of issues involving:

- The State of Texas laws as written in the state Constitution. This is done by providing legal representation to the State, its officials and agencies, giving legal opinions, reviewing bonds of public security, and ensuring compliance with the Texas Public Information Act.
- Child support law enforcement and the collection of child support on behalf of Texas families.
- The investigation and prosecution of criminal activities against Texans, including crimes of human trafficking, internet crimes against children, election fraud, assisting local law enforcement in prosecutions and appeals, investigating Medicaid fraud, apprehending fugitives, and providing support to victims of violent crime and administering victim assistance programs.

For example, after the 2020 election the Texas Attorney General put forth a law suit to challenge the election results and overthrow the votes of the American people who fairly elected the President of the United States.

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

"Manager" of issues involving:

- changes to the state constitution, state laws and resolutions; and,
- funding for state programs, i.e. jails/prisons, education, and healthcare, etc.

For example, Texas Representatives passed Senate Bill 8 which bans abortions after a fetal heartbeat can be detected (said to be as early as six weeks). This law added to the charge to ban abortion care in the United States and limit a person's right to decide what happens to their bodies.

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PWN'S GUIDE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**COUNTY JUDGE
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DISTRICT JUDGE (COUNTY-LEVEL)
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER**

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COUNTY JUDGE

- "CEO" of the county serving in many administrative functions - depending on the size of the county - including budget officer, head of emergency management, and supervisor of the commissioners court.

For example, in 2020 the Harris County Judge fought against planned immigration raids in the County to protect immigrant families and expanded access to COVID testing and relief programs for Harris County residents during the pandemic.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONER

"Manager" of issues involving:

- County jail, parks, and community centers; or,
- funding county programs, including the Jail/Sheriff's dept.

For example, after Hurricane Harvey, Harris County Commissioners applied and advocated for federal funding to help address flooding issues.

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY

"Manager" of issues involving:

- Law enforcement by working with police officers to determine if there are grounds for criminal prosecution of cases within their districts and presents cases at trial, including to the state and grand jury.

For example, in 2022 after the Supreme Court decision on *Roe v. Wade*, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg said her office will determine whether to prosecute abortions on a "case-by-case basis".

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DISTRICT JUDGE (COUNTY-LEVEL)

"Manager" of issues involving:

- public defenders, adult and juvenile crimes;
- search or arrest warrants; and,
- bail/bail reform, bondsmen and complaints against them.

For example, after 2017, Harris County District Court Judges began enforcing new policies for weed possession cases to free their courtrooms to try more violent crimes. Rather than prosecuting the weed cases for criminal punishment, offenders will be counseled and required to take a drug education class.

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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

"Manager" of issues involving:

- evictions (tenant/landlord);
- small civil court disputes; or,
- misdemeanors.

For example, after the pandemic the Harris County Justice of the Peace decided how and when eviction cases would be processed through the courts. leaving many people unsure how they would pay for their rent because of job insecurity and fearful of eviction.

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MAYOR

"Manager" of issues involving:

- The general management of the City and seeing that all laws and local ordinances are enforced.
- Presenting an annual city budget to city council for approval.
- Appointing city administrators such as the police chief.
- Meeting with department heads and persons serving on advisory boards.

For example, when Hurricane Harvey hit Houston, Mayor Turner led the city's emergency planning efforts and worked to ensure the city had resources to rebound after the Hurricane.

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CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

"Manager" of issues involving:

- Enacting and enforcing all city ordinances and resolutions, including
- Adopting or altering the annual budget.
- Confirming the Mayor's appointments, such as police chief.
- Issuing bonds and awarding contracts and approving City expenditures over \$50,000.

For example, in 2022, District B City Councilmember worked to raise awareness and get resources to residents after learning they were living in unlivable apartments and also addressed the need for better drainage systems in the district.

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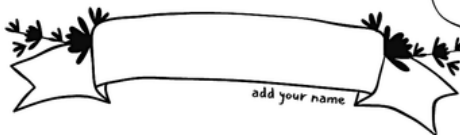
POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK

☆ color and personalize your pledge!

☆ tag PWN when you show off your art on social!

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#LiberateAbortion



add your name

sign the
digital pledge &
get connected
with PWN!

pledge to protect
ABORTION ACCESS

Reproductive Justice

**& BODILY
AUTONOMY**

for



who are you fighting for?

