

# Texas Senate



## THE ISSUES

**JOHN CORNYN**

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT



**MJ HEGAR**

DEMOCRAT



| See <a href="#">Guides.vote</a> for online guides with links and sources.  | Volunteer for John Cornyn<br><a href="http://johncornyn.com">johncornyn.com</a>   | Volunteer for MJ Hegar<br><a href="http://mjfortexas.com">mjfortexas.com</a>  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>AFFORDABLE CARE ACT</b><br>Support Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare?  | No. Voted against ACA in 2009 and has since backed <a href="#">27 bills to kill it</a> . <a href="#">“Our health care system is broken, but Obamacare, with its prohibitive costs and job-killing policies, isn’t the answer.”</a>  | Yes. Obamacare needs improvement but must be kept so insurance companies can’t <a href="#">“discriminate against those with pre-existing conditions or sell junk plans that leave folks vulnerable.”</a>  |
| <b>CAMPAIGN FINANCE</b><br>Limit contributions to campaigns or require more disclosure about their sources?  | No. Supports <i>Citizens United</i> , allowing corporations to contribute unlimited amounts to PACs. Supreme Court <a href="#">“has acted to protect ... First Amendment rights of free speech.”</a>  | Yes. Supports campaign finance and ethics reforms to <a href="#">“ensure Washington is accountable to voters and no one else.”</a>  |
| <b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b><br>Consider human-caused climate change a serious threat? Address as a top priority by taxing or limiting output of greenhouse gases?            | Unclear. Says he recognizes that nation <a href="#">can’t ignore issue</a> . Approaches focus mainly on <a href="#">development of carbon capture technology</a> , not regulation. <a href="#">Reintroduced a bill to end tax incentives for new wind energy projects</a> .   | Yes. Climate change is <a href="#">“one of the greatest threats to the health and safety of our communities.”</a> Advocates <a href="#">“aggressive action”</a> to reduce carbon emissions and calls renewable energy <a href="#">“critical to both our economy and national security.”</a>   |
| <b>COURT—SUPREME COURT</b><br>Supported nominations of Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court? See <a href="#">CEEP Supreme Court guide</a> . | Yes. <a href="#">Played key role ensuring Kavanaugh’s confirmation</a> . In 2016, rejected considering Obama nominee Merrick Garland. <a href="#">“Too much at stake to leave the decision in the hands of a president who is headed out the door.”</a> Later said Republicans <a href="#">had been elected to put a check on Obama</a> . <a href="#">Supports</a> voting on Barrett as Ginsburg replacement. | No. <a href="#">Kavanaugh showed “disdain” for female senators, “distressing” for a Supreme Court member “deciding issues that relate to women and our freedom.”</a> <a href="#">Opposes</a> picking Ginsburg replacement now versus letting presidential winner of November election choose. |
| <b>COVID-19</b><br>Support administration’s response to coronavirus pandemic?  | Yes. Supports <a href="#">Trump downplaying the virus</a> . But need <a href="#">“improved testing capacity to identify and stop the spread.”</a> <a href="#">“Congress must invest more in research”</a> for a vaccine.  | No. COVID <a href="#">“has been devastating to residents and staff in nursing homes. ... While our leaders fumble ... through this pandemic, lives are being lost.”</a>   |
| <b>ENVIRONMENT</b><br>Tighten or loosen environmental regulations?   | Loosen. Praised EPA repeal of Clean Water Rule saying the rule <a href="#">“prevents farmers, landowners and job creators from taking care of their land how they know best.”</a>   | Tighten or maintain. <a href="#">“I am running for Congress to fight for our children’s futures: to ensure they can breathe clear air, drink clean water, and lead healthy and fulfilling lives.”</a>   |
| <b>FINANCIAL REGULATION</b><br>Tighten or loosen regulation?   | Loosen. <a href="#">Introduced legislation to roll back Dodd-Frank banking rules</a> .  | No position found.  |
| <b>GUN RULES</b><br>Enact more restrictive legislation on guns?  | Mostly no. <a href="#">Opposes ban on assault weapons and semi-automatic rifles</a> . Has expressed <a href="#">openness to regulating “bump stocks.”</a>   | Yes. <a href="#">Universal background checks, end to gun show loophole and “Red Flag” laws restricting gun access for domestic abusers</a> .  |

| ISSUES  | CORNYN (R)   | HEGAR (D)  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>IMMIGRATION</b><br>Create path to citizenship for “DACA” residents brought to U.S. as children?                          | Unclear. <a href="#">Supports Trump administration effort to reverse Obama order that created DACA, but says “DREAMers” should be protected through a legislative solution.</a> ”  | Yes. <a href="#">“It’s in our country’s best interest that we keep these people here because we’ve invested in them so much and they really do represent the best of us.”</a>  |
| <b>IMMIGRATION</b><br>Support expanded border walls?  | Yes. Securing border must be <a href="#">“a top priority.”</a> <a href="#">Approved of Trump’s diverting military construction funds for a border wall.</a>  | No. Secure border with <a href="#">effective procedures and technologies, not waste billions on an ineffective wall that robs from the military budget while “seizing land from Texans ...”</a>                              |
| <b>IMPEACHMENT</b><br>Support calling witnesses and convicting Trump on impeachment charges?                                | No on both. Democrats <a href="#">“failed to bring forward compelling and unassailable evidence of any crime, and thus failed to meet their burden of proof.”</a>  | Yes. <a href="#">Criticized Cornyn for violating his oath to defend the U.S. Constitution by refusing to have a fair process or listen to evidence and testimony.</a>  |
| <b>IRAN</b><br>Oppose military attacks on Iran without congressional approval?  | No. <a href="#">Opposed bipartisan effort to limit Trump’s ability to attack Iran without Congressional approval.</a>  | Unclear. <a href="#">Has criticized erosion of congressional war powers and withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal.</a>   |
| <b>LABOR</b><br>Support “right to work” laws, eliminating the ability of unions to mandate dues for workers they represent? | Yes. <a href="#">Voted to prohibit TSA employees from collective bargaining.</a> Co-sponsored <a href="#">National Right-to-Work Act</a> that would weaken unions.   | No. <a href="#">Supports rights of workers to unionize and bargain for healthy working conditions, fair wages, and to secure benefits.</a>   |
| <b>LEGAL ABORTION</b><br>Ban/highly restrict or legal?  | Ban, <a href="#">except in cases of rape, incest or danger to a woman’s life. Introduced four anti-abortion bills, including one criminalizing performing an abortion after 20 weeks.</a>                                | Legal. Wants <i>Roe v. Wade</i> codified as federal law so women’s reproductive rights <a href="#">“are not subject to the whims of an increasingly partisan court system.”</a>  |
| <b>LGBTQ RIGHTS</b><br>Support LGBTQ rights?  | No. Signed brief arguing <a href="#">workplace discrimination protections don’t apply to sexual orientation.</a>   | Yes. <a href="#">Backs civil rights protections for LGBTQ Americans in employment, housing ... credit, education, and federally funded programs.</a>   |
| <b>MARIJUANA</b><br>Legalize marijuana?   | No. <a href="#">Is concerned drug will “damage ... developing brains” of young people and affect the “unborn child” of the pregnant.</a>   | Yes. Legalize. <a href="#">Banning “only boosts cartel profits.”</a> Also expunge <a href="#">“records of those who have been incarcerated for such.”</a>  |
| <b>MINIMUM WAGE</b><br>Raise federal hourly minimum wage above current \$7.25?  | No recent position. Called <a href="#">2014 bill to raise federal minimum wage a “job killer.”</a>   | Yes. <a href="#">“We need to raise wages ... instead of giving tax breaks to companies that ship their jobs overseas.”</a>   |
| <b>PLANNED PARENTHOOD</b><br>Support Planned Parenthood receiving public funds for non-abortion care?                       | No. <a href="#">Introduced 2015 legislation to defund Planned Parenthood. “We must stand up to protect our most vulnerable.”</a>   | Yes. <a href="#">“In a state with one of the highest maternal mortality rates, I’m proud to fight alongside Planned Parenthood ... so every Texan can receive quality health care.”</a>                                      |
| <b>POLICE/COMMUNITY</b><br>Restrict police use of force and increase public oversight?                                      | Unclear. <a href="#">“A one-size-fits-all rulebook would create more problems than solutions. But ... Congress has a responsibility to ensure all police departments are transparent, accountable and well-trained.”</a> | Yes. <a href="#">“Must pass comprehensive criminal justice reforms to combat racial and economic disparities ... including ending racial profiling and stop and frisk,”</a> and remove profit incentives for unfair arrests. |
| <b>TAXES</b><br>Support administration’s \$1.9 trillion (2017) tax cuts?  | Yes. Calls it <a href="#">“the first step toward our goal of modernizing a tax code riddled with special interest giveaways.”</a>  | No. Says <a href="#">tax cuts were “for big corporations and the wealthiest Americans.”</a> Would vote against any legislation that helps the wealthy <a href="#">“while hurting working families.”</a>                      |
| <b>VOTING RULES</b><br>Support voting by mail to address COVID’s impact on voting?  | No. Said <a href="#">if voters “can go to the grocery store they can go to the poll. ... “Anybody who wants to vote has an opportunity to vote.”</a>   | Yes. <a href="#">“No Texan should have to choose between exercising their constitutional right to vote or putting public health in danger.”</a>  |

[Campus Election Engagement Project](#) is a nonpartisan effort to help colleges engage students in elections. Sources include [Votesmart.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#) and candidate statements. [Vote411.org](#) and [Ballotready.org](#) offer guides to local races.