Two notable things will happen in 2020. It’s in 2020 that TFN celebrates our 25th anniversary of social justice advocacy. And 2020 represents an important election that could bring historic change to our state.

Our focus on 2020 drove many of our efforts in 2019. That’s because you can’t expect to see our values – your values – reflected at the ballot box without first putting in the work required to build and energize a movement of progressive Texans that supports reproductive freedom, LGBTQ rights and strong public schools.

And so, in 2019, TFN continued to build that movement with an eye toward an election that will decide who controls everything from the State Board of Education to the Legislature and even the White House.

Here’s just a snapshot of what we accomplished together in 2019.

At the Capitol we scored victories on LGBTQ equality, voting and worker rights, and public education. TFN’s Texas Rising program worked in communities across the state to register the next generation of voters. Our faith program, Just Texas, spread the message of a growing faith voice for reproductive rights and LGBTQ equality. And we launched Teach the Truth – a campaign to bring medically accurate, comprehensive sex education to Texas public schools.

In 2020, you can expect to see all of the above from TFN and much more.

We have ahead of us a big year, a big TFN anniversary and a big moment in the history of Texas – and our country.

We’re ready. We know you’re ready, too.
A Once-in-a-Generation Chance to #TeachTheTruth on Sex Ed

For the first time in more than two decades, the Texas State Board of Education began a revision of state health curriculum standards – which include guidelines for sex education – in a process that should conclude in the fall of 2020.

OUR MESSAGE TO THE BOARD: IT’S TIME TO #TEACHTHETRUTH.

More than 80% of the state’s school districts teach abstinence-only or no sex education at all.

Stubbornly sticking to a failed abstinence-only approach has contributed to the state’s high incidence of teen pregnancy and repeat births to teens.

TFN is leading a campaign to ensure the new standards include such things as information on contraception and disease prevention. Partnering with SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change, TFN issued a report with recommendations on how to make the next generation of sex ed standards medically accurate, comprehensive and LGBTQ-inclusive.

“IT’s past time for Texas to teach students the truth about sex education. That means teaching them not just about abstinence, but also how to protect themselves from disease and unintended pregnancy when they decide at whatever point in their lives not to be abstinent. This common-sense approach will help students make healthy, responsible decisions based on facts as well as their own and their families’ values.”

- CARISA LOPEZ
TFN POLITICAL DIRECTOR

JOIN THE #TEACHTHETRUTH CAMPAIGN:
TFN.ORG/SEX-ED
THROUGHOUT ITS BRIEF HISTORY, TEXAS RISING – TFN’S PROGRAM ORGANIZING TEXANS UNDER 30 – HAS FOCUSED MUCH OF ITS EFFORTS ON REGISTERING NEW YOUNG VOTERS.

That was still true in 2019, when the program began its campaign to register an additional 100,000 voters in time for the presidential elections of 2020 – a year in which the generation it represents will be part of what is expected to become the largest voting bloc in the country.

But there’s much more.

IN 2019, TEXAS RISING:

• Helped stop a bill at the Texas Legislature that threatened to discourage, and even criminalize, voter participation.
• Played a role in the coalition that made earned paid-sick time a reality for thousands of working families in Dallas and San Antonio.
• Moved quickly to support the community in the days following the mass shooting at a local Walmart in El Paso.
• Continued its fight to overturn juvenile curfew ordinances.
• Stood with immigrant communities and partnered on Know Your Rights campaigns in the Rio Grande Valley.
• Joined in the Climate Strike movement in several major Texas cities.

The day when the Texas Rising generation’s impact would be felt is here. It’s happening now, and this is only the beginning.

TEXAS RISING BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presence on</th>
<th>Texas Rising staff members:</th>
<th>Organizers in the field</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25+ Colleges and universities</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>40+</td>
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Paid campus organizers: 35

A goal to register 100k new voters in 2020
Throughout its history, TFN has sought to organize a growing community of progressive faith leaders and clergy. In 2019, TFN’s Just Texas program took voices from diverse faith traditions to the Capitol in Austin and to communities, large and small, across the state.

During the Texas legislative session, Just Texas members were at the Capitol to lead a “One Voice for Justice March” in support of LGBTQ equality, reproductive freedom and immigrant rights.

Just Texas also made headlines when it led efforts to bless abortion clinics in Austin and McAllen, in addition to bringing the total number of Reproductive Freedom Congregations – faith communities who support access to reproductive health care services – to 23.

For far too long, a single faith perspective dominated the narrative at the Capitol. The progressive faith leaders and clergy members of Just Texas are changing that.

“We have a network of freedom-minded clergy members who want to both support our LGBTQ community and uplift Texas women. It just made sense to bring them all together under Just Texas.”

- SONJA MILLER
TFN OUTREACH AND FAITH DIRECTOR
TFN at the 86th Texas Legislature

The Texas Legislature met in 2019 for a session that featured fewer of the culture war battles that have become common.

Still, on certain issues — like abortion — lawmakers continued to pass extremist laws based on lies at the expense of Texas women.

But TFN can report some important victories on LGBTQ equality as we worked in coalition to defeat all but one (largely symbolic) anti-LGBTQ bill.

On reproductive rights, more than 30 bills were filed that sought to restrict access to abortion and reproductive health services. All but three were defeated.

On voting rights, Senate Bill 9 would have criminalized honest mistakes while voting or registering to vote, threatening to discourage potential voters. We and our coalition partners killed it.

And not one bill on private school vouchers made it to the floor. Texas remains voucher-free.

TRIBUTE & MEMORIAL GIFTS

In honor of
James Aldrete
By Robert Evans Jones
Elizabeth Grenadier
By Marianna Grenadier
Yvonne Gutierrez
By Cheryl & Jim George
Diane Ireson
By Joan & David Hilgers
Michael Kuhn
By Audrey & Ray Maislin
Shelley Livaudais
By Griffin Davis
Chula Sims
By Shelly Cohen
Susan Smith
By Toni & Richard Goldsmith
Tommy Smith
By Janet & Gen. Scott Magers
Pat Vaughan
By Marty Vaughan
Edith & Bob Zinn
By Gloria & Joe Pryzant

In Memory of
Phil Durst
By Michelle Alcala
David Anderson
Leon Barish
Becky Beaver & John Duncan
Maria Angela Beck
Heidi Bloch & Zoe King
Susan Bradshaw
Karen Burgess
Kathy Butler & Margie Harris
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James Dowdy
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Rick Freeman
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Lisa Garcia
Dr. Wendy Gordon & Steve Kostelnik
Ann S. Graham & Arlen Johnson
Malcolm Greenstein
Tom Harrison
Steven Hayes
Sharon Herman
Renea Hicks
Amelia Hinds
Diane Ireson & Rowland Cook
Sarah & Scott Jenkins
Ann Johns
Anne Johnson
Edna & Wayne Krause Yang
Thomas S. Leatherbury
Cynthia Leigh
Rebecca Lightsey & David Duhon
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Deborah Loomis
Karen Lundquist
Madalyn Marabell
Elena & Kenny Marks
Catherine Mayer
Fred McMullen
Jo Ann Merica
Judith Millsap
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Robert Tirion
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Jennifer Veninga
Brandy Voss
Melba & Ted Whatley
Karen Wilson & Karl Bayer
Mendel S. Kaliff
By Virginia & Stanley Schoenbaum
David Ostfeld
By Janis & Joe Pinnelli
TFN Impacts Local Reforms

TFN was part of successful efforts to pass a paid-sick ordinance in Dallas and to defend one already in place in San Antonio. Together with an ordinance in Austin, thousands of working families can earn paid-sick time.

In several communities, we are part of Democracy from the Ground Up. This is a coalition effort to advance local policies that would encourage voter participation and make it easier to vote. It’s a contrast to right-wing efforts at the Legislature focused on limiting participation.

2019 FREEDOM COUNCIL

Thank you to all our activists, volunteers and donors. Your time, talent and tribute made an impact in 2019.

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If the state legislature won’t act to encourage voter participation, local governments must step up.”

- CHASE PHILIP

TEXAS RISING STUDENT LEADER
2020 MARKS TFN’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY. THANKS TO OUR GRASSROOTS ACTIVISTS, WE HAVE MUCH TO CELEBRATE.