



How TXCPA Navigates Political Influence for Business Success and Legislative Update

Renee Prince, CPA *Renee Prince, CPA, PC*

Josh LeBlanc, CPA *Edgar, Kiker & Cross, P.C., CPA*

Denise Davis, JD *Davis Kaufman PLLC*

Kenneth Besserman, JD *TXCPA Director of Government Affairs and Special Counsel*

2024 ELECTION - PRIMARY

Unchartered Territory

- 19 House retirements; 2 Senators (Whitmire Mayor of Houston; Springer) leaving
- **Unprecedented - 45 incumbents challenged**
 - Many Republican incumbent challengers endorsed by Abbott (**school vouchers vote**) or Paxton (**impeachment vote**) or both
- Ultraconservative/business unfriendly groups pouring tens of millions of dollars into the primaries.
- Texas Business Roundtable (TXCPA a member) working on campaigns to promote business friendly issues; educate new legislators; promote voter engagement.

2024 ELECTION - PRIMARY

Primary Results - Unchartered Territory

- Speaker Phelan won runoff against well-funded, Trump endorsed opponent
 - Targeted by Lt. Gov. Patrick and AG Paxton.
 - House moves farther to the right
 - New Speaker? (Oliverson and Slawson have filed thusfar)
- 10 House Republican incumbents **lost in the primary**
 - Reliable; business friendly; Supportive of TXCPA (PAC gave to all 10)
 - Reps. Clardy, Bailes, Shine, Smith, Rogers, Allison, Thimesch
- 6 House Republican incumbents **lost in a runoff**
 - Holland, Stucky, Klick, Frazier, Burns, Kuempel
 - All are very friendly and close to TXCPA and the business issues
- **2021 – 19 House incumbents had primary challengers; only one lost**
- **Only D in runoff lost (Thierry)**

2024 ELECTION – CPAs running for office

- Only three CPAs in the Texas Legislature
 - **Rep. Angie Chen Button (R-Plano)**
 - Tough general election opponent – Asian American Democrat; Former Ms. Texas
 - High on Speaker’s “protect incumbents” list
 - **Senator Charles Perry (R-Lubbock)**
 - Up for reelection in 2026
 - Retire or run again?
 - **Rep. Sheryl Cole (D-Austin)**
 - CPA (inactive status)
- CPAs running in 2024 – **We need more CPAs running for office!**
 - Walter Coppage (D) – general election against Rep. James Frank (R)
 - Brad Schofield (R) vs. Rep. Gio Capriglione (R)- **Capriglione won**
 - Raul Torres (R) – general against Sen. Chuy Hinojosa (D)
 - **Congress – Kenneth Omoruyi (R; TXCPA member) lost runoff in HD 7**

2025 – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Challenges in Texas

- **Increased regulatory challenges** to CPA license
 - Bills to weaken regulatory authority of licensing boards
 - Bills to weaken licensing requirements – allowing anyone to engage in professions without sufficient education/experience
- **CPA licensing** – national and state implications
 - States adopting alternate pathways to licensure?
 - Changing the definition of Substantial Equivalency (Education, Experience, Exam)
 - 150 vs. 120 debate
 - Mobility and reciprocity challenges
- **Increasing and continuing anti-business climate in the Texas legislature**
 - Social issues continuing to affect Texas businesses and pro-business climate

2025 – Possible Legislative Initiatives

- Providing a Safe Harbor for current CPA licensees relating to mobility
 - UPPA changes; TAC
- Allow some amount of CPA exam review courses to count towards college credit for licensure
 - NPAG recommendation
- Amending the Public Information Act to allow more licensee information to be available to statewide membership organizations/societies
 - TXCPA working with Architects, Texas Veterinary Medical Assn, and others to build a coalition
- Legislation to allow the TSBPA the authority to adopt alternative pathways to licensure (SPP, ELE, and other initiatives)

TXCPA Key Persons Program

- One of the oldest advocacy programs among state associations
 - Many modeled after TXCPA Key Person Program
- Connect members with legislators
- 200+ members come to Austin for Advocacy Day every odd numbered year (session)
- Help TXCPA to advocate for/against issues important to the CPA/accounting profession
- Key point of contact with legislature – every legislator has a CPA
- Delivery PAC checks; make calls to legislators; promote TXCPA issues

TXCPA CPA-PAC (APRIL 1 – MARCH 31)

(as of 7.12.24)

PAC PARTICIPATION

CPA MEMBERS

Goal	5%
Actual	1.7%

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

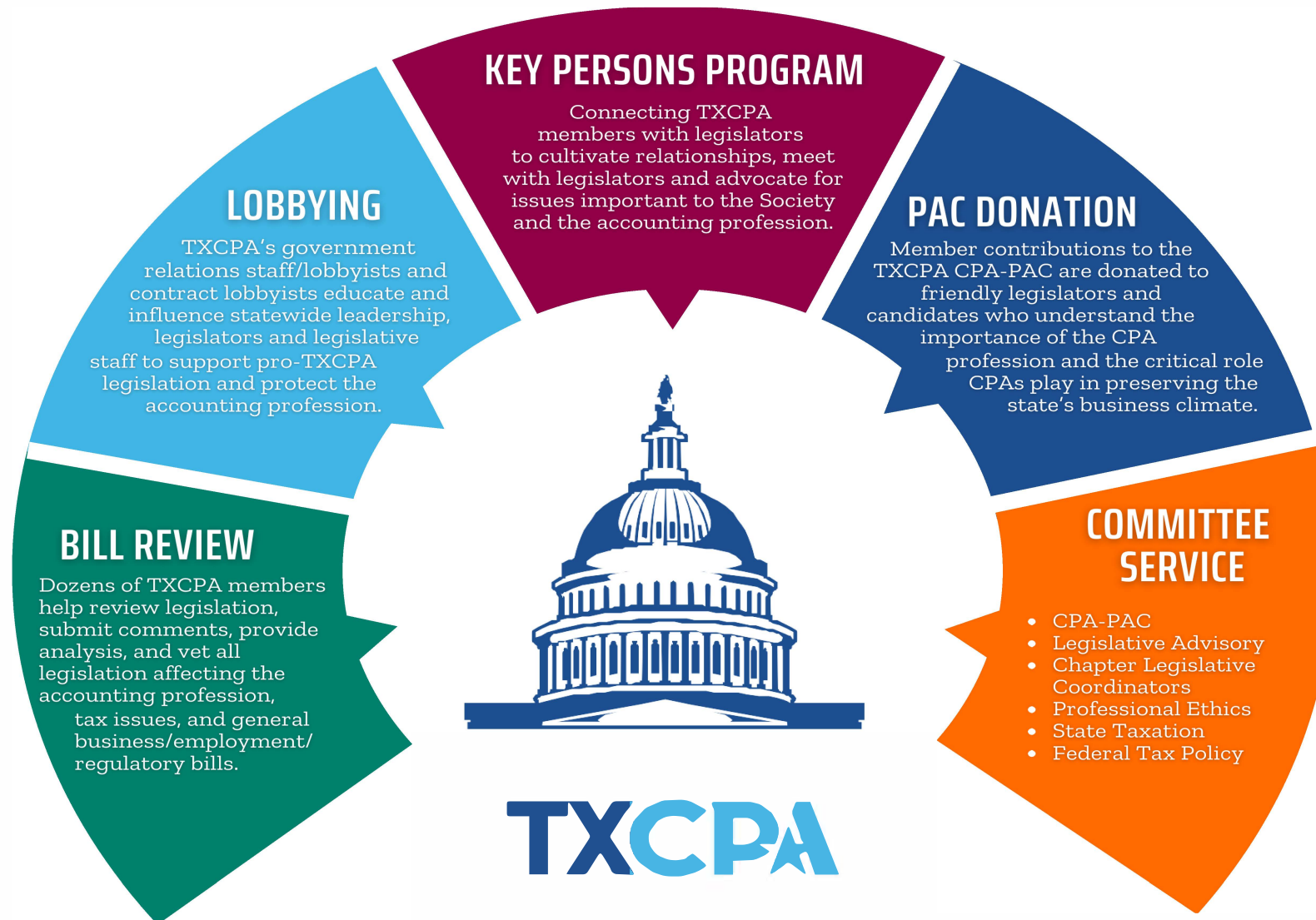
Goal	85%
Actual	45.0%

PAC FUNDRAISING

Goal (2-yr goal)	\$200,000
Actual	\$55,219

TXCPA's Advocacy Network:

Working Together Towards Legislative Success



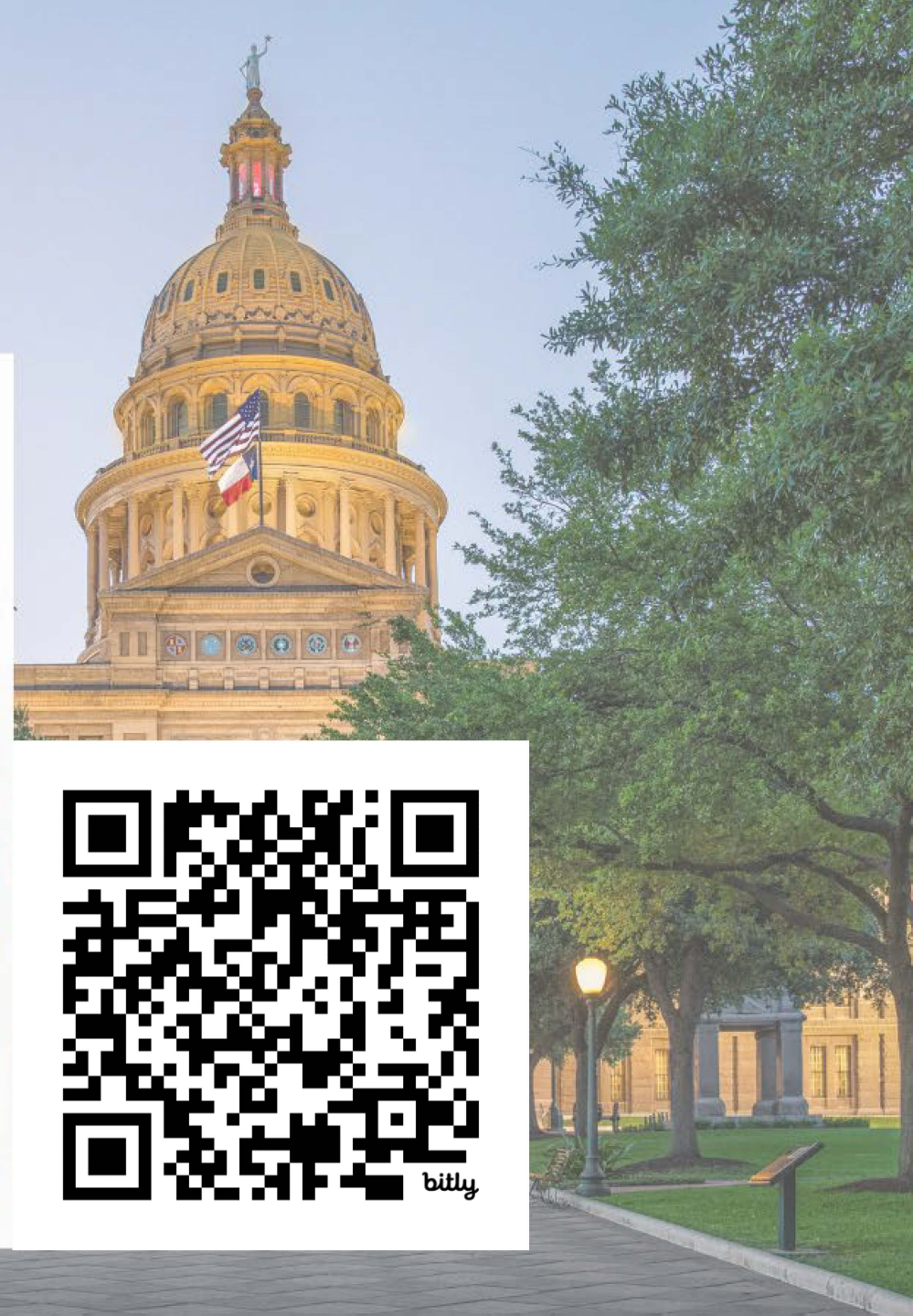
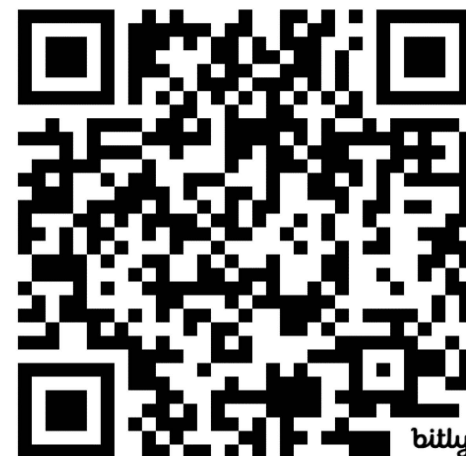


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ADVOCACY DAY AND LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

Downright Austin,
A Renaissance Hotel
(previously Sheraton Austin at Capitol)

January 28-29, 2025 | Austin, TX

Registration & additional
meeting information coming soon!