Brazos River Authority

Legislative Update

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Post Election

- **Things We Know:**
- **Water supply is still a non-partisan issue**
- **Full scale change at all levels of government**
- **Texas Senate will be the Chamber of No**
- **Presidential election in Nov. 2028; all US and Texas House seats will be back up for re-election**
- **Change is coming, at varying speeds**

- **Things We Don't Know:**
- **Texas Senate rules fights, operations, and chairs**
- **Appointments**
- **Federal fights**
- **Major policy priorities for new leaders**
- **Texas House Speaker**

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LGA Overview

Federal Monitoring:

- Congressional hearings, bills, relationship building with our delegation
- Regulatory bodies (EPA) and agencies (USACE, BOR, USFWS)

State Monitoring:

- Texas Legislature hearings, bills, relationship building with our delegation and leadership offices
- Regulatory agencies (TCEQ, PUC, TWDB, TPWD)
- Board of Directors Appointments

Local Government Monitoring:

- Watching local government customers throughout the basin to understand the needs and issues at the local level
- Relationship building with partners in local governments

Associations & Stakeholder Groups:

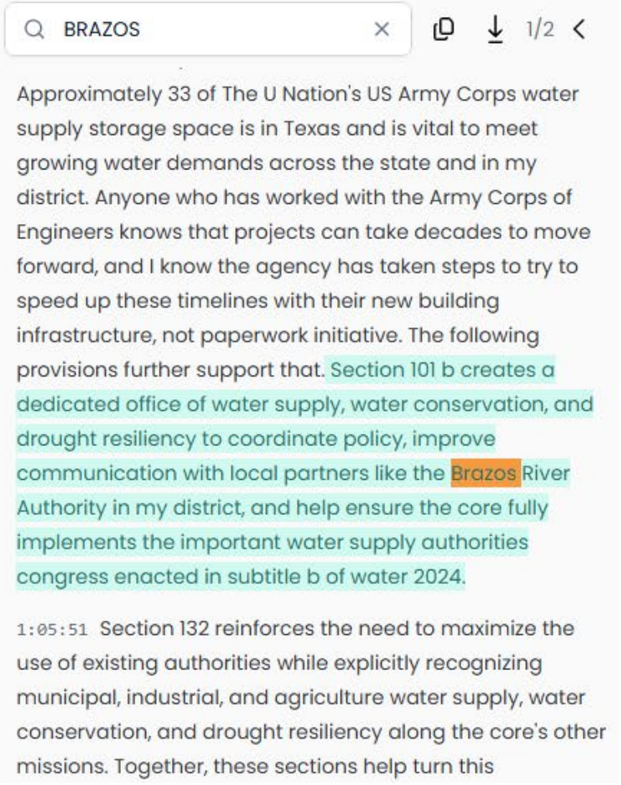
- TWA, NWSA, WEAT Texas

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Outreach Efforts This Year

- Tours of EWC and Lake Limestone with TWDB director and legislative staff
- BRA 101s with Congressional and Texas Legislature staff
- Updates on Allens Creek and Lake Whitney Reallocation to our delegation
- Signed letters of support from delegation members on Whitney
- WRDA and Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026 support
- Association legislative subcommittees





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Federal Update

- 100+ new members across both chambers
  - Senate: 54/44/2
  - House: 222/138 (75 or so races still not called)
- Committee Chairs will change in both chambers
  - House Transportation and Infrastructure
  - Senate Environment and Public Works
- New minority leaders in House (minority leader, minority whip, and conference leader)
- Federal appointments to agencies will be slow or not happen
- Pres. Trump has veto power
- Lame Duck Session:
  - WRDA
    - Office of Water Supply provision
  - Bipartisan Permit Reform
  - Continuing Budget Resolutions

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Texas Legislature Update

- **Interim Hearings**
  - **Texas House-7 committees, combined 37 charges (not all BRA related, but tangentially)**
  - **Texas Senate-5 committees, combined 29 charges**
- **Major Issues We're Watching**
  - **Produced & Desalinated Water**
  - **Data center Regulations (water, power, land use)**
  - **765KV lines (eminent domain changes, SOAH process changes)**
  - **Affordability Issues (water rates at PUC, local government tax issues, etc.)**
  - **Budget Constraints and impacts to TWDB funding programs**
  - **Groundwater Changes & Regulatory Reforms to GCDs**
  - **MAHA related issues like PFAS and Biosolids**

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Other Legislative Issues

- Texas Legislature will have several big ticket items that will take up a lot of time and political capital
  - Property Taxes
  - Public Education/Vouchers
  - Data centers
  - Flock Cameras/Personal Privacy
  - Homeowners Insurance
  - Immigration/H1B
  - THC
  - AI Regulation
  - Tort Reforms/Nuclear Verdicts
  - Redistricting Texas House/Senate
- Budget is very tight
  - Agencies asking for help; were asked to reduce budgets by 3%
- Limited time for other issues; likely several special sessions to get through work

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New Legislative Issues

- Possible large scale budget moves to spend more money from the ESF
  - Could be a positive for water supply funding
  - Requires 2/3 vote of both chambers
  - $28 billion available
- New leaders and new chairs means opportunity to discuss large scale water supply with fresh perspectives
- Medicaid Expansion
- Changes to vouchers/more public school funding
- Infrastructure and kitchen table issues could garner bipartisan support

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Next Steps

- **Pre-Filing begins today!**
  - **Begin analyzing bills and getting feedback from our team**
- **90R begins January 12th; bill filing deadline March 12th. Sine Die May 31st.**
- **New delegation member outreach and education (state and federal elected officials)**
- **Continue to tell the BRA story well to key stakeholders and be a resource on policy issues**

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