



NLAC Update: MARCH 2020

Spring is on the way - Birds are singing, flowers are blooming, the Texas Primaries are over and we are careening towards what promises to be a raucous election cycle. Find out the primary results that matter to nursing in Texas in the *Capitol Update* below.



What's your organization's strategy for reaching out to state legislators and candidates running for office to ensure they know about your nursing and health care issues?

TNA's Government Affairs Committee has member liaisons throughout Texas who engage state lawmakers and candidates, develop relationships and provide resources on nursing concerns. In addition to the [NLAC](#) web page, which includes the 2019 Nursing Legislative Agenda, the BON's Legislative Report, several 1-pagers on pertinent nursing issues, and links to all of the NLAC member organizations - TNA's [Policy](#) tab features podcasts from policy leaders, policy

positions developed by our committees, and issue briefs.

We are committed to providing Texas nurses with resources to empower them to improve their profession through policy and legislative action. Share your advocacy resources and strategies with us so we can all encourage more nurses (and Texas nurse organizations) to join us and amplify nursing's voice at the state legislature.



The 2020 spring NLAC meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2020 at TNA offices in Austin. This meeting will provide NLAC members the opportunity to discuss pertinent nursing issues, the political environment in Texas as we head toward the November elections and to begin laying the foundation for the 2021 Nursing Legislative Agenda. Meeting details have been sent to attendees. We look forward to the discussion and beginning our work preparing for the 87th Texas Legislature.



*** Follow us on Twitter at @TXNursesLege, the twitter handle for Nursewatch.*

Capitol Brief Update

by Kevin C. Stewart, II

Texas Primary Election Results

National Results

Both parties in Texas conducted their primary races on Tuesday night. In the national race, all eyes were on Biden and Sanders – polls leading up to the primaries showed Bernie with a serious lead. Surprising many, even early voting returns pointed to Sanders as the winner. Nevertheless, Biden finished the

election with 34% of the vote, with Sanders coming in at a close second with 30%.

State Results

While many of the state-level races were uncontested, there were some surprises, as well. Just as a reminder, Texas is a runoff state. In other words, if there are more than two candidates, and one candidate does not receive 50% of the vote, then the top two candidates run against each other in a runoff election. With that in mind, let's look at the results.

A few House and Senate incumbents are headed to runoffs, although they led their respective races. This includes Rep. Dan Flynn (R-Canton) and Rep. Harold Dutton (D-Houston), who both received roughly 45% of the vote in their respective districts. Their opponents both received less than 35% of the vote, so they have an easier, but far from guaranteed, path to victory. Sen. Lucio (D-Brownsville), who is also headed to a runoff, is in a similar situation—he received 49.8% of the vote and the next best only received 35.6%.

The biggest surprise this time around was Dr. J.D. Sheffield (R-Gatesville). Not only is he headed to a runoff, but he finished with only 30% of the vote. He'll face off against Shelby Slawson, who finished with 45% of the vote. No incumbent wants to go to a runoff, but going to a runoff after trailing in the primary is a worst-case scenario. Given Dr. Sheffield's position on the House Public Health Committee, we will be watching this race closely.

For more detailed results of the election, the Texas Tribune has provided a full list of each of the outcome of each race, [here](#).

Texas Medical Board

The Texas Medical Board (TMB) met Friday. For those of you who aren't aware, the TMB proposed some very concerning rules back in November. These rules restricted a physician's ability to delegate in multiple ways, in turn impacting nurses' ability to practice. After an exceptional effort from nurses, legislators, and other stakeholders, we are happy to announce that the TMB did not adopt those rules. The rule proposals will automatically expire in early May, before the TMB's next scheduled meeting. Special thanks to those of you who participated in this fight—it is truly incredible what nurses can do when we band together!



Bookmark [Texas Tribune](#)
to get the latest political news!

Texas Register: Rules and Regulations

There were no pertinent nursing rules or regulations in February.

Remember ...

- You can find the [Texas Register](#) on the Texas [Secretary of State](#) website, where ALL the rule proposals and adoptions from the Texas BON and other state regulatory agencies are updated weekly on Fridays and published. *Nursewatch* will print some of the more pertinent updates to nursing rules and regulations but you can delve deeper into current and past issues of the Texas Register at your leisure on the S.O.S. website.

Upcoming Events

- [TNP PAC Reception with Representative Frank](#), 6 p.m. CST March 12, Wichita Falls. Get details and RSVP via the link.
- **TNA 2020 Policy Summit and House of Delegates: Building Nursing Influence Through Policy Capacity** - June 5-6, 2020, Houston. Learn how nurses can affect policy development and implementation – from analyzing policy to establishing relationships with policy makers to running for office –and how to develop action plans for expanding individual capacity for policy influence from statewide experts. Early-bird registration is open through March 31, 2020! Details and registration [here](#).

*If your NLAC organization/association is having an open event or you know of a relevant activity/event, please send the information to TNA Government Affairs Coordinator [Cathy White](#) for inclusion in upcoming issues of *Nursewatch*.*



Contribute to the the Texas Nurse PAC today and strengthen nursing's influence with the Texas Legislature in 2021. Just \$20 can make a big difference during this election season! [Invest](#) in your profession. [Invest](#) in your peers. [Invest in the Texas Nurse PAC today!](#)

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[Texas Nurses Association](#)

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