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The Texas Legislature officially convenes in 7 days and involvement in that process for parks and recreation professionals begins now. There are several ways to prepare for session and the TRAPS Legislative Committee is here to help. The following items will help members maximize their participation in the state legislative process.

- Meet your legislator or their staff. If you have not met your legislators or a staff member from their office, now is the time to do so. Relationship building starts now, not when our industry has a specific ask of their office. Simply contact your legislators local or Austin office and introduce yourself. If you can get a meeting with a legislator, great! But that is unlikely and meeting their Chief of Staff or other personnel is equally important. Familiarize yourself with the TRAPS Public Policy Platform and let them know that you would like to be their contact on matters related to parks and recreation. Discuss parks and have fun doing it. Once you have made contact, let us know how it went at traps.org/legislation-and-advocacy/.
- Register for the TRAPS Walk the Halls event on Thursday, January 26 at the State Capitol. Members from across the state will convene in Austin for a day of lobbying for parks and recreation-related issues. Attendees will be grouped according to their place of residence and will be matched with an experienced group leader. Not only will members advocate for the industry they love, but it is a wonderful tool for networking and professional development (hint..hint...Future & Young Professionals).
- The Legislative Committee also asks that member cities approach their City Councils, County Commissioners, or Parks & Recreation Advisory Boards to adopt a resolution of support for the TRAPS Public Policy Platform and Priorities. Doing so assists the Parks & Recreation industry by demonstrating the support of local elected officials in each of our communities. It also helps members when advocating for or against legislation that may impact a specific community.

For our legislative efforts to succeed, we will need the entire parks and recreation community. That includes your staff, parks board members, council members, citizens, friends, family, and anyone else that loves their parks. For more information on the legislative process and how to get involved, visit the TRAPS Legislation and Advocacy page.

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