

# **AT&T Funneled \$127,500 In June 2021 Contributions To Texas State Lawmakers Who Pushed May 2021 Voter Suppression Bills—These Same Lawmakers Are Fighting To Revive Voter Suppression Legislation During Texas’ July Special Session**

**AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$20,000 To Texas State Senator Kelly Hancock Nearly Three Months After He Voted For SB7—On July 13, 2021, Hancock Also Voted To Advance Voter Suppression Bill SB1 During Texas’ Special Session**

## **Sen. Kelly Hancock Voted For SB7, Which The Texas State Senate Approved on May 30, 2021**

State Sen. Kelly Hancock Voted For SB7. [Texas State Senate Journal, [05/29/21](#)]

- **May 30, 2020: The Texas State Senate Approved Senate Bill 7.** “In the course of several hours Saturday and early Sunday, Senate Republicans hurtled to move forward on a sweeping voting bill negotiated behind closed doors, where it doubled in length and grew to include voting law changes that weren’t previously considered. Over Democrats’ objections, they suspended the chamber’s own rules to narrow the window lawmakers had to review the new massive piece of legislation before giving it final approval ahead of Monday’s end to the legislative session.” [Texas Tribune, [05/30/21](#)]

**HEADLINE: “‘Largest Step Back Since Jim Crow’: Houston-area Officials, Business Leaders Denounce SB7, HB6 Bills.”** [Click2Houston, [04/05/21](#)]

## **On June 21, 2021, AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$20,000 To Texas State Senator Kelly Hancock’s Campaign**

Kelly Hancock Is A Texas State Senator Representing District 9. [The Texas Senate, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

June 21, 2021: AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$20,000 To The Kelly Hancock Campaign. [Texas Ethics Commission, AT&T Texas PAC July Report, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

## **Sen. Kelly Hancock Voted To Advance SB1 On July 13, 2021**

Texas’ 18 Republican State Senators Voted Unanimously To Advance SB1 On July 13, 2021. [Democracy Docket, [07/13/21](#)]

**July 2021: Texas Senators Are Considering SB1, Which Would “Clamp Down” On Vote By Mail And Other Access To Voting.** “On Tuesday, one day after the House Democrats left, breaking quorum, the Texas Senate was set to vote on SB1. Like HB 3, SB 1 would amend the state’s election code to clamp down voting-by-mail rules and limit initiatives Harris County took in 2020 to widen access to voting.” [KVUE, [07/13/21](#)]

**AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$5,000 To Texas State Rep. Phil King The Month After He Voted For SB7—King Also Sponsored HB6 In 2021, Which Critics Deemed “‘One Of The Worst Anti-Voting Bills In The Country’”**

## **March 2021: Rep. Phil King Signed On To Co-Sponsor HB6, “One Of The Worst Anti-Voting Bills In The Country”**

Rep. Phil King Co-Sponsored HB6 In 2021. [Legiscan, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

Rep. Phil King Signed On To HB6 On March 30, 2021. [Texas Legislature, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

**Critics Called HB6 “One Of The Worst Anti-Voting Bills In The Country.”** “Under cover of darkness, the Texas House just passed one of the worst anti-voting bills in the country,’ said Sarah Labowitz, policy and advocacy director of the ACLU of Texas. ‘Texans deserve better than to wake up and find out that lawmakers jammed through a law that will make participating in our democracy harder and scarier.” [Houston Chronicle, [05/07/21](#)]

## **On May 07, 2021, State Rep. Phil King Voted For SB7, Deemed The “Largest Step Back Since Jim Crow”**

May 07, 2021: State Rep. Phil King Voted For SB7. [Legiscan, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Largest Step Back Since Jim Crow’: Houston-area Officials, Business Leaders Denounce SB7, HB6 Bills.”** [Click2Houston, [04/05/21](#)]

## **On June 22, 2021, AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$5,000 To Texas State Rep. Phil King**

Phil King Is A Texas State Representative Representing District 61. [Texas House of Representatives, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

June 22, 2021: AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$5,000 To The Phil King Campaign. [Texas Ethics Commission, AT&T Texas PAC July Report, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

**AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$2,500 To Texas State Representative Trent Ashby, Just Months After He Cosponsored HB6 And A Month After Ashby Voted For SB7 – Just Weeks After AT&T’s Contribution, Ashby, As Chair Of The House Select Committee On Constitutional Rights And Remedies, Advanced The House’s Voter Suppression Bill To Be Considered By The Chamber**

## **April 1, 2021: Texas State Rep. Trent Ashby Signed On To Cosponsor Texas’ HB6, An Election Integrity Bill Voting Advocates Have Called “One Of The Worst Anti-Voting Bills In The Country”**

Texas State Representative Trent Ashby Cosponsored House Bill 6, An Election Integrity And Security Bill. [Legiscan, accessed [07/12/21](#)]

Trent Ashby Signed On To HB6 On April 1, 2021. [Texas Legislature, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

**Critics Called HB6 “One Of The Worst Anti-Voting Bills In The Country.”** “Under cover of darkness, the Texas House just passed one of the worst anti-voting bills in the country,’ said Sarah Labowitz, policy and advocacy director of the ACLU of Texas. ‘Texans deserve better than to wake up and find out that lawmakers

jammed through a law that will make participating in our democracy harder and scarier.” [Houston Chronicle, [05/07/21](#)]

## **On May 7, 2021, Ashby Voted To Pass SB7, The Texas Senate’s Election Integrity Law That Critics Have Called The “Largest Step Back Since Jim Crow”**

May 7, 2021: The Texas State House Read And Voting On SB7 For A Third Time. [Legiscan, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

Ashby Voted To Pass SB7. [Legiscan, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

HEADLINE: “Largest Step Back Since Jim Crow’: Houston-area Officials, Business Leaders Denounce SB7, HB6 Bills.” [Click2Houston, [04/05/21](#)]

## **June 22, 2021: AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$2,500 To Texans For Trent Ashby**

June 22, 2021: AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$2,500 To Texans For Trent Ashby. [Texas Ethics Commission, AT&T Texas PAC July Report, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

## **On July 11, 2021, Ashby And His House Committee, The House Select Committee On Constitutional Rights And Remedies, Advanced Voting Restriction Bill HB3 To The House For Consideration**

Ashby Is The Chair Of The House Select Committee On Constitutional Rights And Remedies. [Texas House of Representatives, accessed [07/12/21](#)]

The House Select Committee On Constitutional Rights And Remedies Was Formed To Address Potential Agenda Items For The Special Session, Including The Controversial Voter Suppression Bill. “Earlier this week, Phelan announced the formation of the House Select Committee on Constitutional Rights and Remedies, saying it would address potential agenda items for the special session. (The agenda had not been revealed yet at that point.) Phelan said Wednesday that he established the select committee to ‘to get a broader perspective of House members involved’ — and made clear he had the elections bill in mind.” [Texas Tribune, [07/08/21](#)]

July 11, 2021: The House Select Committee On Constitutional Rights And Remedies Advanced Voting Restriction Bill HB 3. “The second round of the Texas voting bill fight kicked off with haste this weekend as Republicans worked to rapidly push through new restrictions in overnight hearings. Just a few days into a 30-day special legislative session, a Texas House committee voted early Sunday morning to advance a revived GOP-backed bill that would bring back many of the proposals that failed to pass in the spring [...] In Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 3, Republicans have already dulled some of the edges of the legislation, dropping controversial provisions to restrict Sunday voting hours and to make it easier for judges to overturn elections.” [Texas Tribune, [07/10/21](#)]

**AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$100,000 To Texas Governor Greg Abbott The Same Day He Called For A Special Session To Revive The Voter Suppression Bills That He Pushed For In May 2021 – Additionally, The Contribution Came Within Weeks Of Abbott’s Threats Against Legislators To Cut Their Funding, Arrest Members Who Broke Quorum, And Hold “Special Session After Special Session” To Pass The Election Bills**

## **May 2021: Claiming That Election Integrity Was An Emergency In The State, Texas Governor Greg Abbott Pushed Texas' Election Bills HB6 And SB7, Claiming They Would Make It "Easier To Vote" – Voting Advocates Criticized The Bills, Claiming That They Were "A Cynical Attempt At Holding On To Power"**

**May 2021: Texas Governor Greg Abbot Claimed That "Election Integrity" Was An Emergency In Texas.** "Abbott, who says "election integrity" remains an emergency in Texas, wields control over what is essentially legislative overtime, where lawmakers consider issues on a sped-up timeline. When the session will begin remains unclear." [The Guardian, [05/31/21](#)]

**Texas Governor Greg Abbott Praised Texas' SB7, Claiming That It Would Make It "Easier To Vote And Harder To Cheat."** "Texas is making it easier to vote and harder to cheat. #SB7 increases the hours of early voting and protects the number of early voting days — days that states like NY & Biden's home state of Delaware do NOT have." [Twitter, [04/29/21](#)]

**Civic Engagement Advocates Called The Texas Election Bills "A Cynical Attempt At Holding On To Power."** "People want a fair system. And they saw what happened, and they know that this is a cynical attempt at holding on to power," said Charlie Bonner, communications director at the civic engagement non-profit Move Texas. "These are people who are trying to stack the deck, and they're doing it in the middle of the night." [The Guardian, [05/31/21](#)]

## **May 31, 2021: After Democrats Broke Quorum And Stopped SB7, Gov. Abbott Threatened To Cut The Legislature's Funding, Called SB7's Failure "Deeply Disappointing," And Called For A Special Session**

**May 31, 2021: After Democrats Broke Quorum, Stopping The Republican-Backed Voting Bill "In Its Tracks," Governor Abbott Threatened To Cut The Legislature's Budget.** "Things are tense between Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Legislature. Their budget is on the chopping block in retaliation for a Republican-backed voting bill being stopped in its tracks. 'It's a nuclear bomb brought to a knife fight,' said Harvey Kronberg, editor of the Quorum Report Political Newsletter. In a tweet on Monday, Governor Abbott called out the legislature, threatening their funding following a quorum break by House Democrats, which effectively killed the Senate's voting bill, according to Representative John Smithee of Amarillo." [ABC7 Amarillo, [06/01/21](#)]

**May 2021: Abbott Claimed That The Failure Of The Texas State Legislature's Election Bill Was "Deeply Disappointing" And Called For A Special Session.** "The Texas governor, Greg Abbott – who leads the state's domineering Republican majority – has announced he will include the high-stakes issue on his agenda when he reconvenes the legislature for a rapid-fire special session. He called the failure of the bill 'deeply disappointing.'" [The Guardian, [05/31/21](#)]

## **Early June 2021: Gov. Abbott Told The Dallas Morning News "I Fully Expect To Have A [Special] Session Where We Will Pass An Election Integrity Bill"**

**Early June 2020: Gov. Abbott Told The Dallas Morning News "I Fully Expect To Have A [Special] Session Where We Will Pass An Election Integrity Bill."** "On elections and voting, he has said he wants lawmakers to send him an 'election security' bill and legislation related to bail reform. 'I fully expect to have a session where we will pass an election integrity bill, as well as bail reform,' Abbott told The Dallas Morning News earlier this month. 'Those are both needed and they both must pass. And as we get there, we may be adding some additional items.'" [Dallas Morning News, [06/22/21](#)]

## **June 22, 2021: AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$100,000 To Texas Governor Greg Abbott On The Same Day Abbott Called For A Special Legislative Session**

**June 22, 2021: AT&T Texas PAC Contributed \$100,000 To Texans For Greg Abbott.** [Texas Ethics Commission, AT&T Texas PAC July Report, accessed [07/14/21](#)]

**June 22, 2021: Gov. Abbott Officially Called For A Special Legislative Session.** [Texas Tribune, [06/22/21](#)]

**Abbott's June 22 Call For A Special Session Did Not Include Specifics On A Legislative Agenda.**

"Abbott's office did not specify what legislative priorities will be included on the special session agenda and said in an advisory that such items 'will be announced prior to the convening of the special session.'" [Texas Tribune, [06/22/21](#)]

**In July 2021, During Texas' Special Session, Texas State Legislators Fled The State To Block Passage Of The Republicans' Election Restriction Bill—Abbott Responded By Threatening To Arrest Legislators And Promising To Call "Special Session After Special Session" To Pass The Election Bill**

**July 2021: Texas House Democrats Left The State In A Bid To Block Passage Of The Republican Election Bill.** "After House Democrats left the state Monday in an attempt to block passage of a GOP election bill during the special legislative session, attention turned to the Republicans and what they can do to get the priority legislation passed [...] It's unclear though what impact such an order could have, given that Democrats have flown to Washington, D.C. where Texas law enforcement does not have jurisdiction. Republicans are also keeping their cards close to the vest as to whether there are other tactics they plan to employ to compel members from the state's minority party to return to Austin before the special session ends in 26 days." [Texas Tribune, [07/12/21](#)]

**In Response To The Democrats Fleeing The State, Abbot Threatened To Arrest The Legislators Upon Their Return To Texas.** "Answering your second question, yes, there is something the governor can do. First of all, I'll tell you what the House of Representatives can do. What the speaker can do is issue a call to have these members arrested. In addition to that, however, I can and I will continue to call a special session after special session after special session all the way up until election next year. And so if these people want to be hanging out wherever they're hanging out on this taxpayer-paid junket, they're going to have to be prepared to do it for well over a year. As soon as they come back in the state of Texas, they will be arrested, they will be cabined inside the Texas Capitol until they get their job done. Everybody who has a job must show up to do that job, just like your viewers on watching right now. State representatives have that same responsibility." [KVUE, [07/12/21](#)]

**Abbot Promised To Call "Special Session After Special Session" To Get The Election Bill Done.** "Of course, even if the Senate passes SB1, without a quorum in the House, the bill will die in the special session. But Abbott promised to call "special session after special session after special session" to get an election bill done. And a redistricting special session looms." [Twitter, [07/13/21](#)]