

## **AT&T Says They Support Voter Access, But AT&T's Texas PAC Gave \$100,000 To Texas Governor Greg Abbott The Same Day He Called For A Special Legislative Session To Pass A Major Voter Suppression Bill.**

**AT&T Publicly Says, "The Right To Vote Is Sacred" And That They Are "Working [...] To Support Efforts To Enhance Every Person's Ability To Vote."**

### **In April 2021, AT&T's CEO Said, "The Right To Vote Is Sacred," And AT&T Has A Dedicated "Racial Equality" Web Page**

**April 2021: AT&T Issued A Statement From Its CEO Saying, "We Believe The Right To Vote Is Sacred."** "AT&T issued a statement from its CEO, John Stankey. He said, 'We believe the right to vote is sacred and we support voting laws that make it easier for more Americans to vote in free, fair and secure elections.'" [Deadline, [04/01/21](#)]

**April 2021: AT&T Issued A Statement From Its CEO Saying, "As A Company, We Have A Responsibility To Engage" On Voting Rights.** "We understand that election laws are complicated, not our company's expertise and ultimately the responsibility of elected officials. But, as a company, we have a responsibility to engage. For this reason, we are working together with other businesses through groups like the Business Roundtable to support efforts to enhance every person's ability to vote. In this way, the right knowledge and expertise can be applied to make a difference on this fundamental and critical issue." [Deadline, [04/01/21](#)]

**April 2021: AT&T Issued A Statement From Its CEO Saying, "We Are Working [...] To Support Efforts To Enhance Every Person's Ability To Vote."** "We understand that election laws are complicated, not our company's expertise and ultimately the responsibility of elected officials. But, as a company, we have a responsibility to engage. For this reason, we are working together with other businesses through groups like the Business Roundtable to support efforts to enhance every person's ability to vote. In this way, the right knowledge and expertise can be applied to make a difference on this fundamental and critical issue." [Deadline, [04/01/21](#)]

**AT&T Has A "Racial Equality" Page Of Its Website Stating, "We Have A Moral And Business Obligation To Engage On The Fundamental Issues Of Equality And Fairness."** "Our society doesn't work if it doesn't work equally for all. That's why at AT&T, we are committed to Stand for Equality as one of our core values, and we believe we have a moral and business obligation to engage on the fundamental issues of equality and fairness." [AT&T, accessed [06/13/21](#)]

**AT&T: "We're Dedicating Resources And Leadership Toward Initiatives That We Believe Can Move The Needle On [...] Ensuring Civil Rights For All People."** "To help drive change, we're dedicating resources and leadership toward initiatives that we believe can move the

needle on advancing economic opportunity, overcoming systemic barriers, and ensuring civil rights for all people.” [AT&T, accessed [06/13/21](#)]

**AT&T CEO John Stankey: “It Is A Business Imperative To Champion Equality, Diversity And Inclusion In Every Aspect Of Our Business.”** “Our corporate value to Stand for Equality has never been more relevant, not only inside AT&T but outside, as well. It is a business imperative to champion equality, diversity and inclusion in every aspect of our business. That's why we are committed to ensuring our workplace is inclusive and that we recruit, retain and advance people with a wide diversity of backgrounds and perspectives,” John Stankey, CEO.” [AT&T, accessed [06/13/21](#)]

## **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 –**

### **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 Reported A Contribution Of \$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 But Reporting At The Time Notes He Planned To Ask Lawmakers To Work On "Elections... Bills."** "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.' Abbott has already said that he plans to ask state lawmakers to work on two priority elections and bail bills that died in the final hours of the regular legislative session after House Democrats walked out of the chamber." [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](#)]