

How to Vote Like a Student of Truth

Seven questions to ask of any claim, and a map of who actually controls what in Texas

The Seven Questions

1	Who is saying this, and what do they gain?
2	Can I find the original source?
3	Is it a rate, a count, or a percentage, and compared to what?
4	Is it a fact, a prediction, or a value judgment?
5	Does this office actually control this?
6	What would change my mind, and have I looked at that evidence?
7	Would I accept this standard of proof if the conclusion pointed the other way?

Quick habit

Before you share or vote on a claim, pick one question and answer it out loud. If you cannot, hold the claim loosely. Check both sides with the same standard. A claim you like deserves the same scrutiny as one you dislike.

If something goes wrong at the polls

Ask for a provisional ballot if you are told you cannot vote. Note the time and the polling place. Call 1-800-252-VOTE (8683).

Master Map: Who Controls What

Topic	Primary control	Also shapes it
Property taxes	Local taxing units set rates	Legislature sets caps and exemptions; governor signs or vetoes
School funding, vouchers	Legislature writes formulas and programs	Governor and Lt. Gov. set agenda; agencies administer
Redistricting	Legislature draws maps	Governor can call special sessions; courts decide legality
Campaign money	Legislature and Texas Ethics Commission (state); FEC and Congress (federal)	Courts set constitutional limits
Immigration, border	Federal government sets law and enforcement	State can fund, deploy, sue; AG litigates
Power grid	Legislature and state regulators set rules	Local governments and homeowners have limited levers
Water	Legislature, state water agencies, local districts	Governor and Lt. Gov. steer funding; cities run supply
Abortion, health	Legislature writes law; courts interpret	AG enforces and litigates; doctors and hospitals apply
Policing, local safety	Cities, counties, sheriffs, DAs	Legislature can limit local budgets; governor signs
Crime, guns	Legislature writes criminal and gun law	Federal law applies; DAs and judges decide cases
Voting rules, elections	Legislature writes Election Code	Secretary of State and county clerks run it; courts review
Lawsuits as a lever	Attorney General (state side)	Courts decide; litigation is slow and can lose
U.S. Senate	Federal law, budget, confirmations	Cannot change Texas statutes or local rates