

TEXAS PRISONS COMMUNITY ADVOCATES



70 OF TDCJ'S 100 FACILITIES ARE NOT FULLY AIR CONDITIONED



Texas is treating its citizens worse than animals. TDCJ pig barns have air-conditioned... Why don't the people barns?

**#85TOSTAYALIVE
#TEXASPRISONSAREOVENS
#LEGISLATORSWENEEDANSWERS**

WHAT ARE WE ASKING FOR

HUMANE TEMPERATURES in ALL TDCJ facilities. Currently, Texas Jails utilize a temperature standard of between 65°F and 85°F (heat index). We **MUST** put the same standard in place for TDCJ's prison facilities and put an end to decades of torture. Let's finally get this situation resolved!

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE BILLS

SB 169 Senator Menéndez
 HB 3006 Representative Canales
 HB 469 Representative Rosenthal
 HB 2997 Representative Bryant
 HB 1315 Representative Martinez-Fischer
HB2997 Representative Reynolds



"On a typical hot summer day in Texas, if it's 90°F and you add humidity, it can feel like 100°F. However, this summer, we have EXPERIENCED temperatures over 110°F in some areas.

What if you were locked in a concrete building (kind of like baking in an oven) with limited ventilation and little to no breeze? At 110°F plus humidity, that gets us to at least 120°F, now adding inadequate ventilation, concrete, and metal, we're at a minimum of 125°F. According to the heating matrix utilized by TDCJ, at 90°F, heat exhaustion is possible, and at 105°F, heatstroke is possible."

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Extreme Heat has Killed too many (Provision of Air-Conditioning and Heat-Related Mortality in Texas Prisons, 2022)
 - Excessive heat is STILL the number one weather-related killer in the United States. (2023)
 - Both incarcerated individuals and staff have died due to the extreme heat.
 - Suicide rates within TDCJ facilities increase during hot summer months.
 - Exposure to extreme heat can lead to aggression and exacerbate mental health problems putting incarcerated individuals and correctional officers at increased risk for violence and injury.
 - Heat is a Contributing factor in Employee turnover. "Among staff who work in units without HVAC, 80 percent reported this makes their job more difficult". TDCJ spent \$277 million on CO and sergeant overtime in fiscal year 2023 (Sunset 2024)
- Excessive Medical Expenses
 - Heat can cause a medical crisis and intensify the severity of pre-existing medical conditions, which can lead to substantial increases in medical care costs.
- Lack of Humane Temperatures in all TDCJ facilities Inhibits Rehabilitative Efforts
 - The few rehabilitative programs that TDCJ offers are unit-specific. Therefore, if an individual isn't transferred to one of those particular units, they are denied access to participate in these rehabilitative programs.
- Current Mitigation policies are ineffective (Extreme Temperatures and Covid 19 in Texas Prisons, 2022)
 - Policies are ignored
 - The current policy is riddled with problems. It's unsatisfactory, inconsistent, and just not working.

Taxpayers are losing MILLIONS of dollars on medical/heat related lawsuits and stand to lose more in the near future

Death of Kenneth James 4:18-CV-00975	\$ 900,000.00
Death of Douglas Hudson 4:18-CV-00976	\$ 475,000.00
Death of Rodney Adams 4:14-CV-03326	\$ 750,000.00
Death of Larry McCollum 4:14-CV-03253	\$ 905,000.00
Death of Robert Allen Webb 4:14-CV-03302	\$ 600,000.00
Death of Michael Martone 4:13-CV-03369	\$ 500,000.00
Death of Alexander Togonidze 4:14-CV-03324	\$ 450,000.00
Death of Albert Hinojosa 4:14-CV-03311	\$ 250,000.00
Brad Caddell, who survived a heat stroke. 4:14-CV-03323	\$ 90,000.00
Pack Lawsuit Cole v. Collier 4:14-CV-01698	\$ 7,000,000.00
Roy Jones 4:17-CV-02334	\$ 101,500.00
Total	\$ 12,021,500.00

Violation of Rights & Inhumane Treatment

US District Judge Keith P. Ellison ruled in July 2018 that heat inside prisons was "cruel and unusual punishment." (Houston Chronical, 2018, Pack Lawsuit).



<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/26/us/texas-prisons-heat-air-conditioning.html>

For more Info - <https://www.tpcadvocates.org>

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