

# 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 TBA Representative Canales  
HB 469 Representative Rosenthal  
HB TBA Representative Bryant  
HB 315 Representative Martinez Fischer



"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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,021,500.00</b>

### 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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