



# CONNECTIONS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## "SHARE THE CHAIR CAMPAIGN"

Making a wellness appointment is an act of empowerment, when shame, stigma, lack of insurance, or financial barriers prevent many Texans from taking care of their health.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas launched a campaign to connect Texans to compassionate, quality healthcare services. The "Share the Chair" campaign spotlights the healthcare moment when our patients show up, put on the gown, and put their clothes on the chair. In that moment, patients need to know that Planned Parenthood providers will listen, respect, and provide expert healthcare--and definitely not care whether a patient hides their underwear on that chair!

*"I've been to wellness exams in the past where I felt like I wasn't heard or seen, and my concerns were swept under the rug. But that's not the case at Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas! They offer empathetic care, educated clinicians, and a judgement free zone."*

—Candace, a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood patient care



Candace of @rogerthat87, a spokesperson for patient care

## SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION IN TEXAS

In April 2024, Healthy Futures of Texas, that advocates for teen pregnancy prevention, spotlighted the creativity and advocacy of Texas teens by hosting an annual film festival. The short films screened and awarded prizes were created by teens and reflected their personal experiences and the messages they receive from media.

Planned Parenthood's Dallas Teen Advocacy Board (TAB) members attended along with Planned Parenthood educator and TAB lead, Chelsea. Participating in local teen empowerment events is just one of the ways that Planned Parenthood TAB members are engaged and expand their skills to advocate for sex education for themselves and their peers. Due to the support of donors like you we support youth advocacy and education.

*Photo (right): Dallas Teen Advocate Board participants attend a teen film screening in April.*



## A NEWS CONNECTION: HOW TEXAS TEENS LOST THE ONE PROGRAM THAT ALLOWED BIRTH CONTROL WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT

Federal Title X clinics do not require parental consent for birth control – except in Texas, where a lawsuit upended the longstanding program.

While many teens involve a parent when they seek birth control, some Texas teens are not able to include a parent. Confidential birth control appointments can be a critical entry point to the healthcare system for teens, where they can get screened for sexually transmitted infections and learn how to protect their health.

With community support, Planned Parenthood stands for healthcare access including for teens.

**[Scan here for the full article.](#)**



**In 2022, federal judge Matthew Kacsmaryk in Amarillo issued a ruling that overturned decades of public health precedent and sexual and reproductive healthcare policies by eliminating confidential teen access to birth control. Last month, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that decision.**

## May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

Young people need honest, evidence-based sex education to make informed decisions to protect their health. Each year **over 3.7 million Texas students do not receive even basic information** to make informed decisions on protecting themselves from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). By supporting Planned Parenthood, our community provides comprehensive sex education and empowers young people to protect their health.



Texas ranks in the top 10 states for unintended teen pregnancy rates.

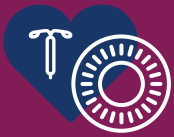
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Texas had the second-highest rate of repeat teen births in the country in 2021.

# 90%

90% of participants increased their knowledge of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention after attending a Planned Parenthood education workshop.

### Our most common services provided are:



Birth control to help patients plan and space their pregnancies.



Testing and treatment for STIs, HIV tests, and HIV prevention medication.



Lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings.

### TAKE ACTION: ELECTIONS ARE COMING! ARE YOU READY?

Most people know that Election Day is the first Tuesday in November, but not everyone knows there are multiple election days in Texas. Here's a quick guide to some upcoming elections—and resources to ensure we make our voices heard!

**You Must Be Registered to Vote.** Check that you are registered to vote—or learn how to register at [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov). Don't delay, you must be registered in advance of any election day.

**Local Elections on Saturday, May 4.** Some cities will hold elections for local leaders or bond initiatives on Saturday, May 4. Early voting is April 22-April 30.

**Primary Run-Off Elections Tuesday, May 28.** Some primary races were not decided during the March 5 primary elections but will be decided during the May 28 Primary Run-Off Elections. Check to see what's up in your district and if you need to vote.

### WAYS TO GIVE

Support high-quality healthcare and sex education programs. Please get in touch with us today at [development@ppgt.org](mailto:development@ppgt.org) or **214-254-3017** to learn how a legacy gift to Planned Parenthood ensures high-quality healthcare for generations ahead.

**What's the difference between giving to Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas and Planned Parenthood Federation of America?**

When you donate directly to Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, 100% of your gift supports local healthcare and sex education services across Central, East, North, and West Texas.



When you donate to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, a portion of your gift supports local services, as well as national advocacy and sex education efforts.



If you have a question, want to learn more, or want to get involved, please get in touch with the Development Office at (214) 254-3017 or [development@ppgt.org](mailto:development@ppgt.org).

