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Senator Sarah Eckhardt Announces Her Top Policy Priorities for the 87th Texas Legislature

Austin, TX — Senator Sarah Eckhardt plans to make the following policy areas top priorities for the 87th Legislature:

- 1. Addressing the economic, health, and housing impacts of COVID-19;**
- 2. Passing comprehensive criminal justice reforms;**
- 3. Making Texas' elections more democratic and more accessible;**
- 4. Legalizing marijuana;**
- 5. Making Texas government more responsive to the needs of Texans;**
- 6. Promoting renewable energy, sustainable practices, and resiliency in the Texas government and the Texas economy to the threats posed by climate change;**
- 7. Promoting women's health care; and,**
- 8. Promoting gun safety.**

Responding to the economic and housing impacts of the COVID-19 crisis:

- Expand Medicaid.
- Increase broadband access.
- Provide assistance for Texas' artists, musicians, venues, and other people in the entertainment industry.
- Give tenants of low-income housing more security in their housing by protecting against unfair, mid-lease rent increases.

- Ensure proper notice be given for rent increases when renewing a lease.

Passing comprehensive criminal justice reform:

- Pass the Mike Ramos Act.
- Decriminalize marijuana.
- Give people incarcerated for crimes committed as youths an opportunity to review extreme sentences.
- Collect statewide data on the demographics of defendants and judicial case outcomes.
- Update the definition of consent in cases of sexual assault.
- Prohibit juveniles from receiving the death penalty.
- Ensure NDAs are unenforceable in instances of sexual assault and/or harrassment.

Making Texas' elections more democratic, accessible, and fair for all Texans:

- Create no-excuse vote by mail.
- Restore voting rights for ex-felons once they have completed their term of incarceration.
- Allow student IDs as an acceptable form of ID for voting.
- Take politics out of redistricting.
- Bar candidates from appearing on the ballot for two offices at the same time.
- Allow local authorities to opt in to ranked choice voting for local elections.

Legalizing the sale and use of marijuana.

Making Texas government more responsive to the needs of Texans:

- Require the Texas Legislature to meet every year.
- Allow the Speaker of the Texas House and the Lieutenant Governor to jointly call special sessions.

Promoting renewable energy, sustainable practices, and resiliency in the Texas government and the Texas economy to the threats posed by climate change:

- Set a statewide goal of being zero net carbon by 2035.
- Create a marketplace for agricultural carbon sequestration.
- Ensure Texas agencies and new state buildings maintain environmentally sound practices.
- Repeal tax exemptions for fracking, and impose taxes to disincentivize flaring.

Promoting women's health care:

- Pass [Rosie's Law](#).
- Require written consent for pelvic exams.
- Allow CHIP to cover contraceptives.
- Prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of reproductive health care decisions.
- Charge people who pose as medical providers and women's health care providers and receive consent under false pretense with sexual assault.

Promoting gun safety:

- Close the gun show loophole.
- Prohibit carrying a firearm in a government building.
- Prohibit displaying firearms at a protest.
- Instate a 1% sales tax on firearms and firearm accessories to fund domestic violence prevention and resources for survivors.

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