

Texas Water Independence Initiative

Executive summary

Water is the foundation beneath every Texas future: a home, a farm, a business, a river, and a growing city all depend on it. Drought, population growth, aging infrastructure, and groundwater depletion are narrowing the room to wait.

The case in brief

Texas already knows many of the projects and practices it needs. What is missing is consistent investment, stronger support for conservation and reuse, protection for the natural systems that hold water, and public accountability for results.

The scale of the choice

Texas is projected to reach 51.5 million people by 2070. The 2022 State Water Plan estimates that meeting projected water needs will require approximately \$80 billion in investment.

The pressure and the plan

Drought and a changing climate

Dry years reduce the margin for error and make every gap in the system more expensive. Preparing for drought has to happen before a crisis, not after one.

Growth and infrastructure

More homes, farms, businesses, and ecosystems will rely on the same finite resource. Pipes, treatment, storage, and delivery systems need maintenance and long-term capital, not just emergency repair.

Groundwater and natural sources

Aquifers are local lifelines for people and agriculture. Rivers, wetlands, and watersheds are part of the infrastructure that stores and moves water. Protecting them is a practical condition of future supply.

Proposed initiatives

1. Fund the state water plan. 2. Make conservation, leak reduction, reuse, and efficient agriculture core supplies. 3. Invest in local and regional resilience. 4. Protect groundwater, rivers, wetlands, and watersheds. 5. Report progress in public.

A clear request to Texas leaders

To the Texas Legislature

We ask you to secure the future of Texas water security by acting before the next emergency. Make the long-term investment needed for communities to meet projected water needs.

Make efficiency pay

Support conservation, leak reduction, reuse, and water-smart agriculture so efficiency is treated as a supply, not an optional extra.

Build resilience and protect sources

Support local and regional systems, storage, treatment, and skilled operators. Treat rivers, aquifers, wetlands, and watersheds as part of the infrastructure.

Measure and report progress

Publish milestones and results so Texans can see what is working and where the plan needs to change. The tools exist. The responsibility is shared. The time to build is now.

Take part

Read the full brief at texaswaterinitiative.com/white-paper and add your name at texaswaterinitiative.com/petition.