



**42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL TACHE CONFERENCE**

**TACHE @ THE LEGE:**

**A CONVERSATION ON POLITICS, POLICY & RESISTENCE**

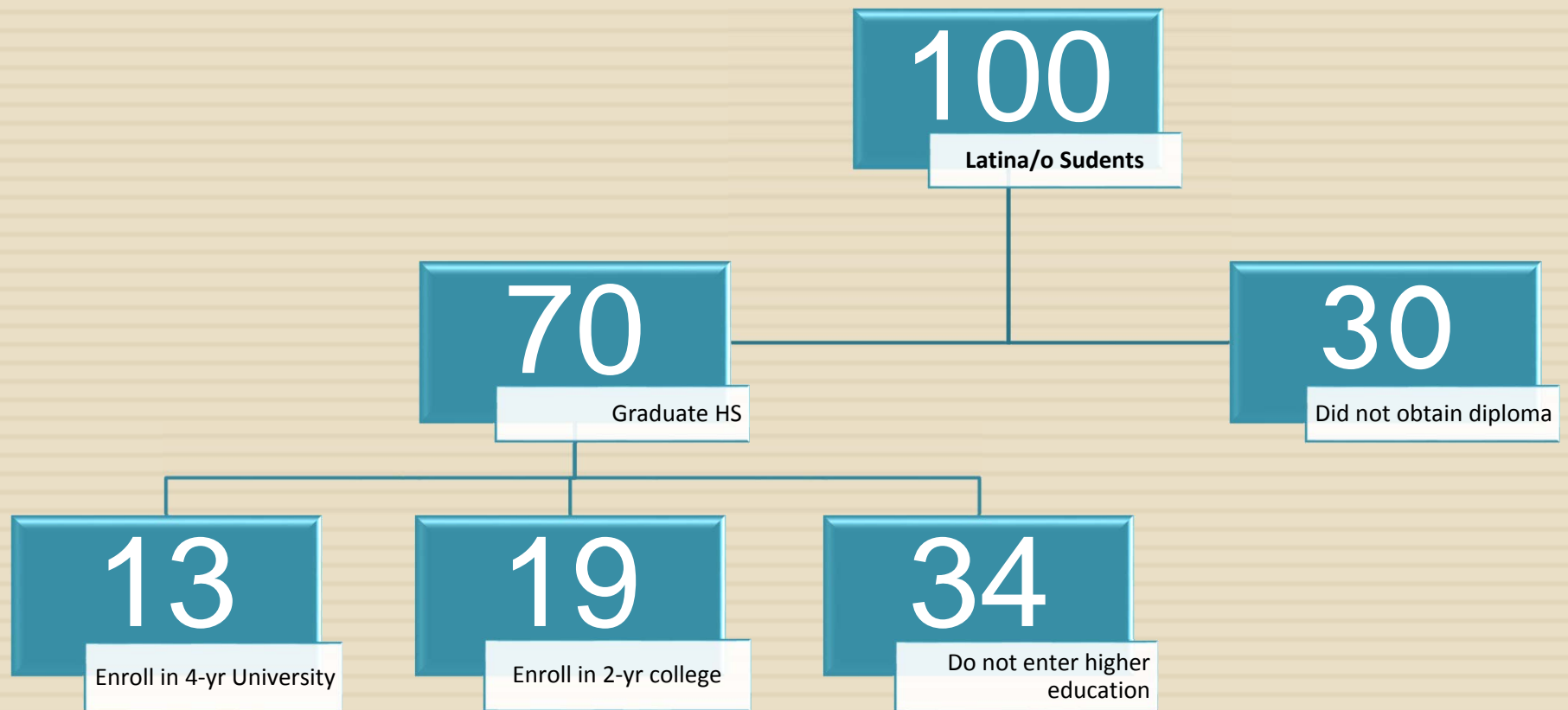
**Celina Moreno, MALDEF**

# Overview



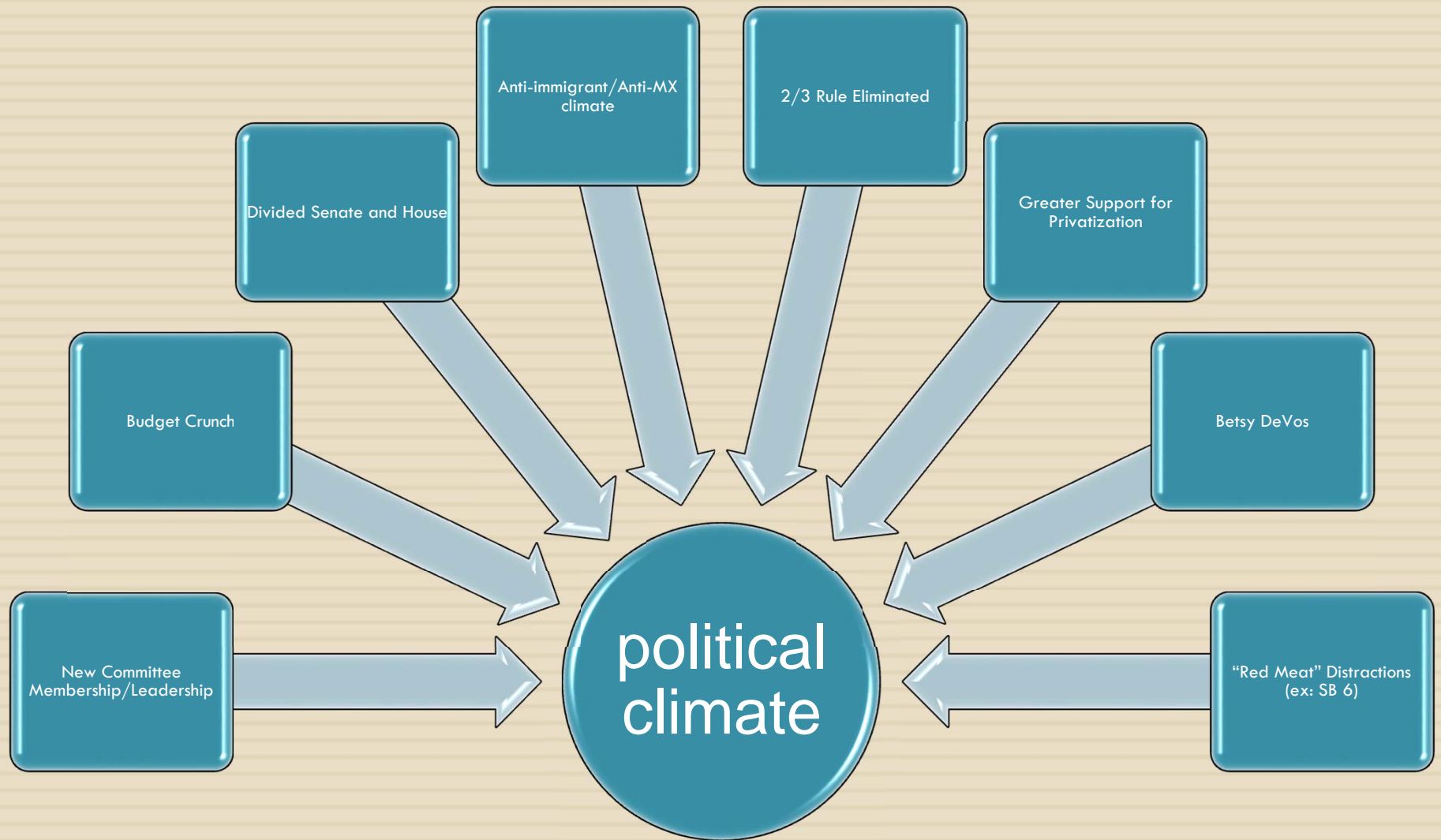
- Educational Pipeline
- Political Climate – statewide & national
- Legislation
- #Resistance

# Leaks in the Educational Pipeline



Sources: THECB and IDRA

# State and National Political Climate



# Committee Assignments

## K-12 Education

- **Senate:** Taylor (Chair), Lucio (Vice Chair), Bettencourt, Campbell, Hall, Huffines, Hughes, Seliger, Taylor, Uresti, West
- **House:** Huberty (Chair), Bernal (Vice Chair), Allen, Bohac, Deshotel, Dutton, Gooden, King, Koop, Meyer, VanDeaver

## Higher Education

- **Senate:** Seliger (Chair), West (Vice), Bettencourt, Buckingham, Menéndez, Taylor, Watson
- **House:** Lozano (Chair), Raney (Vice), Alonzo, Button, Clardy, Howard, Morrison, Turner

## Finance and Appropriations

- **Senate:** Nelson (Chair), Hinojosa (Vice Chair), Bettencourt, Birdwell, Hancock, Huffman, Kolkhorst, Nichols, Schwertner, Seliger, Taylor, Uresti, Watson, West, Whitmire
- **House (Art. III S/C):** Ashby, Giddings, González, Howard, Koop, Raney, VanDeaver

# Key Appropriations Priorities

## Higher Education Budget

- Across the board 4% cuts. SB 1 reduces higher ed funding by \$1.1B.
- A&M Chancellor on SB 1: “The sky really is going to fall if you pass this bill.”
- College presidents warned of faculty layoffs, reduction in student enrollment, school closures, and accreditation worries.

## TEXAS Grants

- No increase in funding for this Session which, because of student enrollment, actually means a cut in per student TEXAS Grant funding

## Teacher Aide Exemption AKA “Grow Your Own Teacher” Program

- Helps teacher aides attend college, tuition free (while continuing to work at their schools) to become teachers in shortages area like STEM, special ed, bilingual ed
- Program has awarded nearly 50K tuition scholarships
- Once funded at \$30M at 100+ colleges, budget was zeroed out during 2011 cuts

# Key Legislation

## High School High-Stakes Testing

- SB 463/HB 966 (Seliger/Huberty): Allows individual graduation committee to satisfy certain graduation requirements for students who do not pass one or more end-of-course exam

## Tuition Re-Regulation (SB 19)

- Priority bill of Lt. Gov. Patrick
- Would freeze tuition and fees at public colleges for the next 4 years

## College Tuition Set-Asides (SB 18)

- Priority bill of Lt. Gov. Patrick
- Would permanently repeal requirements that colleges set aside 15% of designated tuition for student financial aid for low- and middle-income students

## Top Ten Percent Plan

- No bills filed yet but Seliger expressed intent to file a bill to repeal/modify TTPP
- Key coalition: minority legislators and rural Republicans

# Key Legislation (cont'd)

## SB 6 – “Transgender Bathroom Bill”

- Requires colleges to adopt policies restricting transgender Texans’ ability to use a bathroom that doesn’t conform with their biological sex assigned at birth

## Texas Dream Act

- HB 393 by Stickland – repeals Texas Dream Act
- SB 141 by Van Taylor – prohibits Dreamers from accessing TEXAS Grants
- Visit [trustcoalition.org](http://trustcoalition.org) to access fact sheets, petition, and business sign-on letter

## SB 4 (so-called “anti-sanctuary cities/campuses” bill)

- Tramples on local control by forcing cities, counties and universities to blur the line between local policing and federal immigration enforcement
- Visit [stopSB4.org](http://stopSB4.org) to sign UWD petition and to share business sign-on letter



# Stay Informed!

## ➤ Education

- Follow [Facebook.com/LatinoEducationTaskForce](https://www.facebook.com/LatinoEducationTaskForce)
- Follow [@TXLatinoEdu](https://twitter.com/TXLatinoEdu)
- Get TextAlerts: Text EZTLEC to 797979
- Meetings at the Capitol every other Thursday at 10 a.m.

## ➤ Immigrants' Rights

- Visit [www.trustcoalition.org](http://www.trustcoalition.org) and [www.stopSB4.org](http://www.stopSB4.org)
- Follow [Facebook.com/TrustCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/TrustCoalition)
- Follow [@TRUSTCoalition](https://twitter.com/TRUSTCoalition)
- Get TextAlerts: Text EZTRUSTTexas to 313131
- Meetings at the Capitol every other Thursday at 3 p.m.

# #Resistance

Let's.Get.Loud.

- Designating Proxies to Testify
- Latina/o Education Day of Action:
  - **March 21 - Rally/Office Visits at the Capitol**
- Local organizing
- In-district legislative visits



# Happening Today!

- **Day of Action for Immigrants and Refugees**

- 11 am Rally at the Capitol

- **Senate Finance Hearing on SB 17**

- SB 17: Seeks to lower the business tax, which would lead to less General Revenue funds, i.e. less money to fund higher education

- Register at an iPad Kiosk in the hallways outside of E1.036