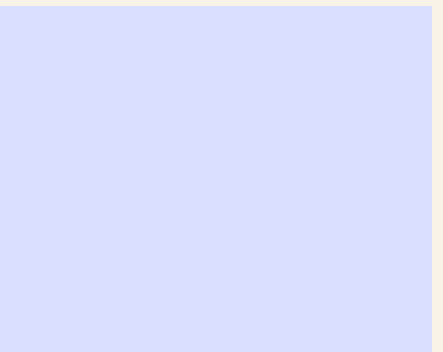
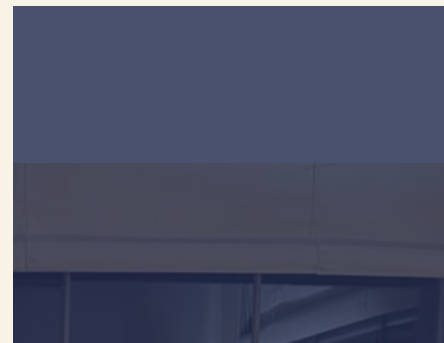


Blue Horizon Texas Annual Report 2025



Explore More
→



Message from our Co-Founders

Dear Stakeholders,

2025 was a challenging year from many perspectives, but it ended on a high note for the progressive movement and democracy building in Texas. Four years ago, Blue Horizon set a goalpost to contest every single state legislative race, and in 2025, the hard work paid off.

Democrats in Texas are officially contesting every single statewide, Congressional, State Senate, State House, and State Board of Education seat on the ballot in 2026. This is a result of years of effort and hundreds of the state and county parties, grassroots groups, volunteers, and allied organizations working to build the infrastructure and momentum to be ready to field a full federal and state slate.

With the help of a Texas-sized effort, candidates across the state are willing to see in themselves the leaders we need in this moment. We won't win all of these races, but we know we lose 100% of the races we don't run. This year, with this depth of candidates, we'll see unprecedented wins in unexpected places – and our mission at Blue Horizon is to help turn that potential into reality.

Following this successful recruitment effort, our goals for 2026 are to keep strengthening our relationships with our Blue Horizon candidates and to deliver a training program that matches those needs. Later in the year, we'll aid endorsed candidates in reaching voters and turning them out in November.

It's time to get to work. Because anything is possible this year.

Claire Barnett & Stephanie Phillips

Co-Founders, Blue Horizon Texas



Building Progressive Power in Texas

Blue Horizon Texas is building a progressive candidate pipeline by inspiring, recruiting, and preparing diverse, local leaders to make the next step to run for office in rural and exurban areas of Texas. In 2025, we partnered with state and national organizations to organize, recruit, and train prospective candidates. Throughout our work, we stay true to our mission and core values.

- We collaborate with those closest to the communities we serve to build relationships, resolve conflict, and improve communication.
- We shift paradigms, developing solutions based on real needs and not allowing status-quo approaches or perceived resource limitations to constrain possibilities.
- We respect who the leaders we work with are and the communities they come from.
- We prioritize communities most underrepresented in elected office, due to systemic injustice and resource disparities.



Collaboration



Equity & Inclusion



Creativity



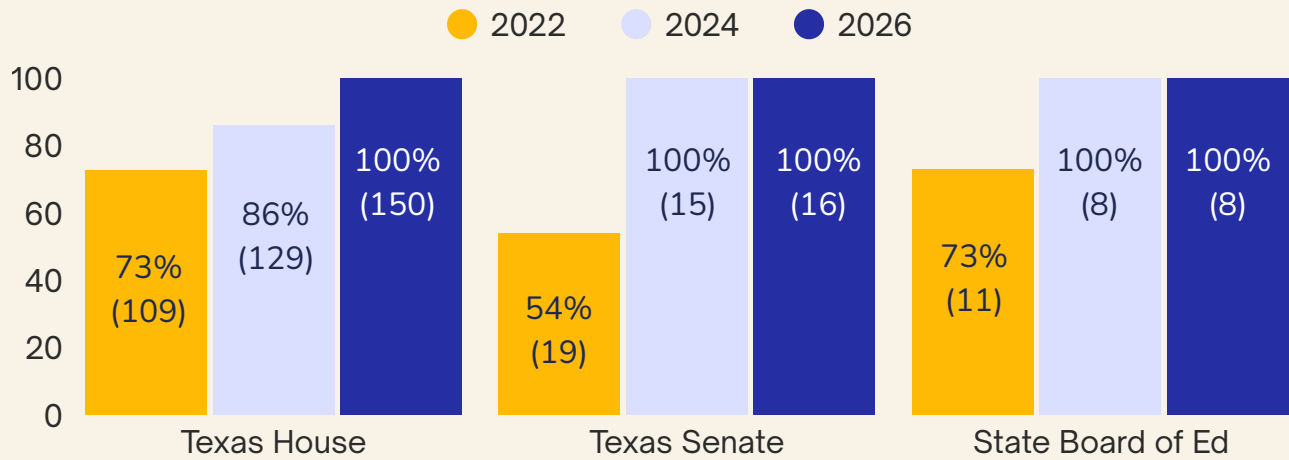
Respect



Candidate Recruitment & Leadership Pipeline

Beginning in 2022, when Democrats failed to contest 57 state legislative and State Board of Education seats, Blue Horizon has been working to build a pipeline of progressive leaders ready to run for office across the state. Contesting 100% of these races in 2026 is a huge accomplishment but just the start of ensuring Democrats are showing up in every county, at every level.

Races Democrats Contested



in 2022, all Texas Senate and SBOE seats appeared on the ballot since the new maps based on the 2020 census had just gone into effect.

State Races Contested

71% → 100%



Our civic education and regional organizing programs inform, inspire, and engage local leaders to make the next step to run for office.

108

Counties with local Dems running



Blue Ballot Data Project

The Blue Ballot Data Project is a civic engagement and education program with the goal of providing open, accessible information about state and local elections to progressive organizations and entities, local and state activists, and prospective candidates about upcoming ballot opportunities to aid in candidate recruitment.

In 2025, the Blue Ballot Data Project volunteer data research team completed research for 90 counties, including the state's largest and reached the 60% mark of offices identified and detailed. The public launch of the database is scheduled for summer of 2026.

17

Volunteers

90

Counties
Researched

18k+

Offices Detailed



Filing Fee Grants

Following the success of our 2023 Filing Fee Grant program, in 2025, other groups joined Blue Horizon Texas PAC in providing filing fee grants to state-level candidates.

As a result, we were able to expand our grant program to issue grants to county candidates for positions like County Judge, Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner, and more. Recipients are running in rural and exurban counties across Texas, including Brazoria, Lubbock, Ellis, Bastrop, Potter, Smith, Victoria, and Lampasas.

In December 2025, the Blue Horizon Texas PAC issued 21 grants to Democrats running for state and county office in 2026, totaling \$16,000. These candidates would have been unable to run without financial assistance.

In 2026, we will keep strengthening our relationships with our new Blue Horizon candidates, beginning with upskilling them through Campaign Nuts & Bolts webinars and Blue Horizon Candidate Community.

\$16k
Grant Dollars

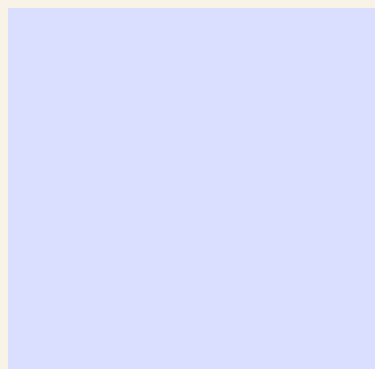
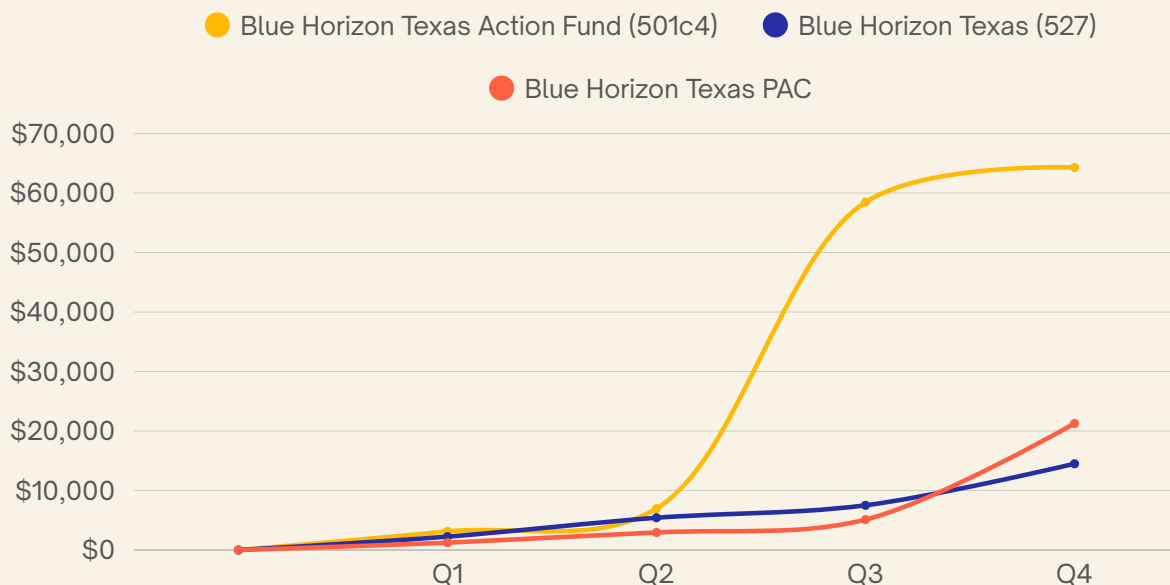
21
Candidates



Financial Performance

Although 2025 was a difficult year across the progressive non-profit and political fundraising space, Blue Horizon began the year in a strong financial position due to a successful 2024, and was able to make strategic investments throughout 2025 that paid big dividends near the end of the calendar year.

We tripled the number of grants pledged or received into our 501c4, and built key relationships with statewide campaigns and funding organizations in preparation for the 2026 election cycle.



The Year in Numbers

In 2025, Blue Horizon invested heavily in scaling our 501c4 programming and building capacity in fundraising and operations to further organizational sustainability and stability, especially between major election cycles. We spent substantial effort in our Blue Ballot Data Project, readying for a 2026 launch and fine-tuning plans for our regional organizing program.

In the fourth quarter of the year, we had a surge in political fundraising for our filing fee grant program.

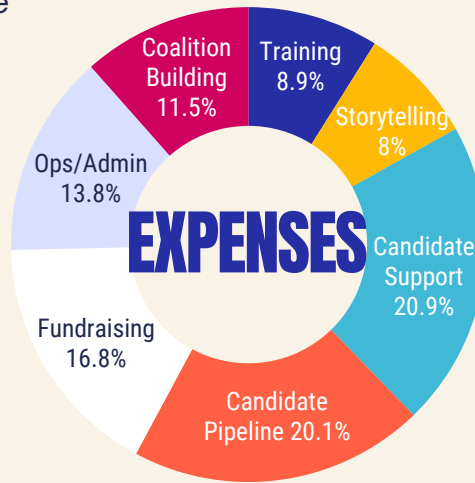
REVENUE

\$102,252

2025 Dollar Revenue

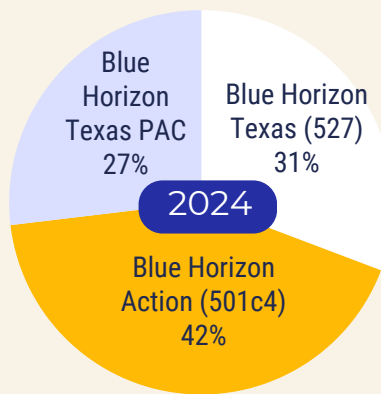
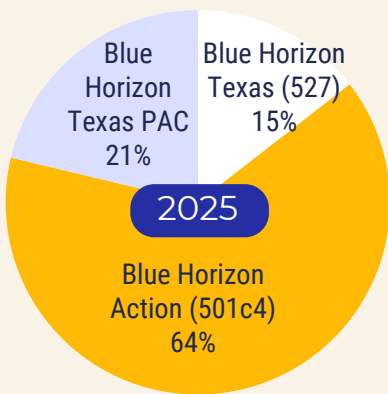
\$191,826

Total Monetary + In-Kind Donations

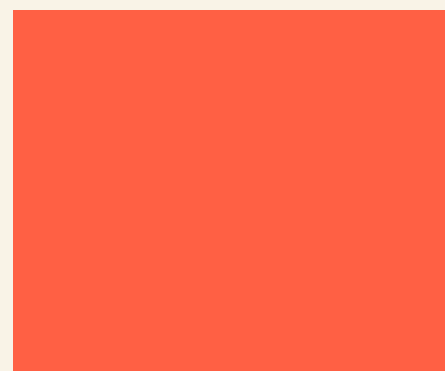


\$207,673

2025 Operating Expenses (includes in-kind time)



	Blue Horizon Action Fund (501c4)	Blue Horizon Texas (527)	Blue Horizon Texas PAC
Total \$ Revenue	\$64,282	\$14,497	\$21,274
Grants or Sponsorships	RDI: \$50k, BRIDGE: \$5k, WDN Action: pledge	n/a	Talarico: \$2k, Agave: \$3k
In-Kind Donations	\$73,000	\$16,800	\$2,000



Planning for 2026

Alongside a successful recruitment effort, in late 2025, we conducted strategic planning for the 2026 election season, laying out program goals, budgets, and needed resources more clearly and earlier than ever.

In addition to planning our program work, Blue Horizon co-founders completed the BRIDGE Incubator 5 program, building our internal capacity, connecting with other leaders of progressive non-profits in Texas, and setting us up for a historic 2026.

Planned Program Activities for 2026

Blue Horizon Action Fund (501c4)	Blue Horizon Texas (527)	Blue Horizon Texas PAC
<p>Blue Ballot Data Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete data research • Design and develop website & user interface • Public release of database (summer) <p>Organizing for Regenerative Democracy (ongoing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional organizing • Candidate recruitment for May & November local races <p>Rural Candidate Fellowship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs assessment • Planning for design, development, and pilot 	<p>Campaign Nuts & Bolts Webinars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan: Campaign Finance & Fundraising • Feb: Campaign Strategy & Goal Setting • Mar: Field & Data • April-May: Campaign Tools & Resources • Jun-Aug: Policy & Messaging <p>Online Candidate Community & Volunteer Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private discussion groups • Zoom office hours • Online resource library • Volunteer matching 	<p>Filing Fee Grant Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed for 2026 election year • Prepare for 2028 <p>Endorsements & Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apr-Aug: Strategic goal setting and coaching sessions • Sep-Oct: Endorsement announcements and fundraising support <p>Get-out-the Vote Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct-Nov: GOTV programs
<p>Budget: \$305,843</p>	<p>Budget: \$76,694</p>	<p>Budget: \$77,535</p>

Full program plans and budgets available upon request.



2026 Priorities

1 Sustain the Blue Horizon Online Community membership and expand offerings

In 2026, Blue Horizon will grow the Blue Horizon Online Community, relaunching our Campaign Nuts & Bolts Webinar Series, formalizing our Volunteer Network, and continuing to add to our library of campaign resources.

2 Invest in Direct Voter Outreach in rural and exurban districts

Blue Horizon will endorse and support Democratic candidates in rural and exurban districts across the state with endorsements and GOTV programs. In 2024, Blue Horizon's GOTV program reached over 300,000 voters on behalf of our endorsed candidates. This year, through strategic partnerships, we plan to expand the benefits available to Blue Horizon candidates, to include voter outreach tools throughout the general election season.

3 Launch the Blue Ballot Data Project website and dashboard

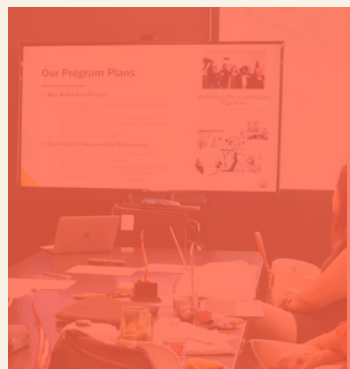
In the first half of 2026, Blue Horizon will complete phase 1 research for our statewide ballot opportunity database and develop the user interface. We will prepare for a summer release of our Blue Ballot Data Project, to provide free, transparent access to a database of all ballot opportunities to county parties, grassroots organizers, and potential candidates.

4 Initiate programming for Organizing for Regenerative Democracy

With the goal of empowering underrepresented rural communities, Blue Horizon will engage grassroots leaders in key regions of rural Texas, where demographics and voter turnout indicate potential for civic growth, to identify and recruit diverse local leaders to run for local office, rebuilding democracy from the ground up.

5 Further organizational sustainability through diversifying revenue and investing in operational infrastructure

Blue Horizon will continue to invest in our internal fundraising and operational capacity to sustain and scale Blue Horizon programs across our three entities, to provide our proven excellence to progressive organizers and campaigns.



Thank You

We are grateful for the contributions of all those who worked tirelessly to support Blue Horizon Texas throughout the year. Thank you to—

All the candidates who stepped up to run for office in 2025. Your run matters.

Our Blue Ballot Data Research team, headed by the intrepid Carl Mason and Charlotte Harris.

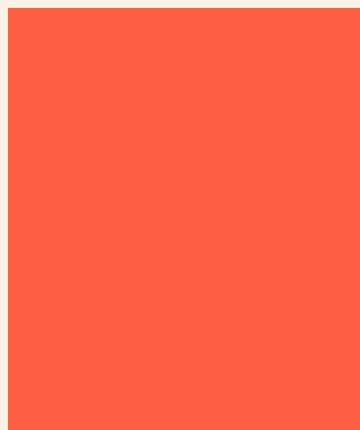
Grassroots organizers and community leaders, including Kim Gonzalez, Kerrigan Sanders, Jennifer Lee, and Ashlea Allsup, among many others, for being the boots on the ground in candidate recruitment and leadership pipeline building.

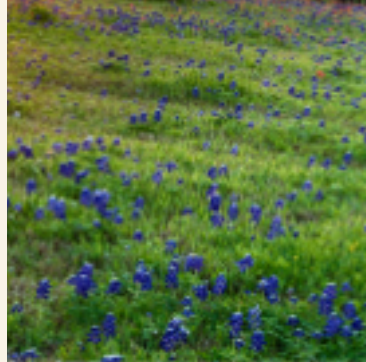
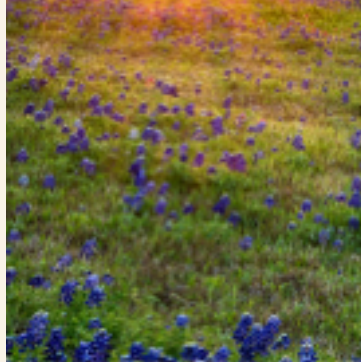
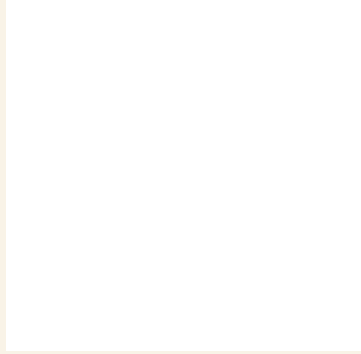
Our Boards of Directors & Advisory Board members for their leadership, guidance, and support.

Our colleagues from partner organizations, particularly Isabel Longoria from Annie's List; Katy Schmader from the Texas Democratic Party; all the great folks from the Texas Leadership Pipeline; Monique Alcala from the Texas Democratic Rural Initiative; Luke Warford and Logan Davidson from the Agave Democratic Infrastructure Fund; Danny Diaz from Rural Democracy Initiative; Drew Galloway, Roseangela Hartford, and the rest of the staff from BRIDGE Movements; and Hillary Holley, Lisa Hardy, and the entire WDN Action team.

Our contributors, including Liz Wally, Margery Loeb, Mary Ford, Hannah Cutshall, Bruce Carpenter, James Talarico, Mary Wilson, Steven Kling, Mary Wilson, D. Karen Wilkerson, Elaine Gerdine and Marshall Strauss, and Pam Woodley.

In memory of Roland Pesch, a great friend, supporter, and founding donor of Blue Horizon.







Join the Movement

For the first time in 50 years, Texas Democrats are contesting every single state and federal race. That's just step one, but it's an essential one. We get to say what it means to be a Democrat and stop letting Republicans define us in the reddest areas of the state. We get to build and rebuild in places that haven't seen a real campaign in decades.

What does all of that mean for us? We need to get to work because anything is possible this year.

Contact us to join the movement.

 +210-660-8390

 PO Box 780162, San Antonio, TX 78278

 info@bluehorizontexas.org

 www.bluehorizontexas.org