

# TEXAS FREEDOM NETWORK

## 25 YEARS DEFENDING PROGRESSIVE VALUES

The Texas Freedom Network has been a champion for progressive values in the state for 25 years. Since its founding in 1995, TFN has fought efforts to censor and politicize textbooks, has opposed private school vouchers and other schemes to undermine public education, and has defended church-state separation from constant attack. Over the years the organization's work has greatly expanded to include the fight for LGBTQ equality, access to abortion and other reproductive health care, criminal justice reform and voting rights. And TFN has become a leading grassroots organizer of progressive faith communities and a rising generation of young Texans.



Samantha Smoot, Cecile Richards, Kathy Miller

### FEBRUARY 1995

Cecile Richards founds the Texas Freedom Network. All three presidents of the organization over the past 25 years have been women.

### 1996

TFN launches the Texas Faith Network to bring together progressive clergy and other faith leaders to counter the religious right's misuse of faith as a political weapon.

### 2005

As state lawmakers move to pass a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage in Texas, TFN expands its work to embrace full equality for LGBTQ Texans.



Texas Rising Advocacy Day 2018.

### 2007

TFN establishes its first student chapter, the beginning of the organization's [Texas Rising](#) program for Texans ages 18-29. Texas Rising now has a presence on more than 20 college and university campuses around the state and is working to register 100,000 new young voters this year alone.

## 2013

As the assault on reproductive freedom intensifies across the nation, TFN greatly expands its work in support of women's access to abortion and other reproductive health care.

## 2016

TFN pioneers the Reproductive Freedom Congregations initiative to recognize religious congregations that publicly affirm women's right to reproductive freedom, including access to abortion.



Just Texas faith event at the Capitol.

## 2017

TFN brings its work with faith leaders in support of reproductive freedom, LGBTQ equality and other progressive values under the banner of [Just Texas](#).

## 2018

Texas Rising joins with partners to co-found the Texas Youth Power Alliance, which promotes civic engagement among young Texans of color.

## 2020

TFN marks its 25th year by reaffirming a commitment to ensuring that the state's growing and increasingly diverse population is fully represented at the ballot box and in the halls of government.

