



February 18, 2021



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My staff and I experienced power outages during this once in a generation winter storm, but we are continuing our work to behalf of constituents in Senate District 8. I am here to listen, learn, and lead for you!

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## CURRENT STATUS OF POWER OUTAGES

I, like so many of you, am weary and frustrated over the events resulting from the winter storm that impacted the entire state. Far too many individuals, families, and businesses in our community experienced significant disruption in electricity service, internet connectivity, and the availability of clean water, which are not just inconvenient, but dangerous, life-threatening and even fatal in some cases. This is completely unacceptable in Texas - a state rich in natural resources and advanced technology.

Here is an update on our current status:

- At this time, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) reports that generation capacity is now able to meet residential customer demands. There are still some local outages due to equipment malfunctions such as

transformers, downed power lines, or blown fuses that have to be fixed by your local retail utility provider.

- Oncor and CoServ have reported that they are no longer facilitating rolling outages and do not anticipate the need to do so again for this storm, unless ERCOT alerts them to needs to reduce power consumption.
- Local electric companies are working to restore outages in the field and if you are still experiencing an outage, contact your retail electric provider.
- The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) is slowly making improvements to its supply, and thankfully none of the communities receiving water from NTMWD have been called to boil water. Individuals and families are still asked to conserve water while supplies are being replenished.

Please be assured that I will continue to communicate with local electric service providers, city and county leaders, and officials from the state agencies that oversee state critical infrastructure including highways, utilities, and water.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The [Senate Business and Commerce Committee](#), on which I serve, will hold a committee hearing on [February 25](#) with ERCOT, the Texas Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and electricity providers. The committee has already sent questions in writing to the state agencies to investigate the outages and I have heard from a number of you about additional questions and concerns that we all share.

I echo Governor Abbott's desire to reform ERCOT, which he announced as an emergency legislative item this week. The legislature will also be working on legislation to require electric generators and utilities to winterize the state power system and provide funding to harden these critical systems for extreme weather conditions. I'm pleased the Governor made these items emergency legislative items today as well.

## AVAILABLE RESOURCES

The following resources may be useful for updates and help:

- If you need emergency help, call 9-1-1.
- For non-emergency assistance, including where to find shelter, call 2-1-1.
- A listing of warming shelters can be found at: <https://tdem.texas.gov/warm/>
- For a list of food banks, either for assistance or to donate, please visit [www.feedingtexas.org](http://www.feedingtexas.org).
- To track Oncor outages or report an outage: <https://www.oncor.com/SitePages/OutagesAndWeather.aspx> and 888-313-6862.
- For CoServ Cooperative information: [www.coserv.com](http://www.coserv.com)
- Electric Reliability Council of Texas: <http://www.ercot.com/>