



### **PHCC Focusing on Preserving Statewide Licensure Law**

When the Texas Legislature didn't extend the State Board of Plumbing Examiners during the 2019 session, it also didn't renew the law requiring statewide licensure of plumbing. For now, Gov. Abbott's Executive Order GA 06 has extended both until the Legislature can revisit the issue during its 2021 session.

While much of the focus of this debate has surrounded the continuation of the State Board of Plumbing Examiners, the lack of a statewide licensure structure will create uncertainty and risks, producing a "Wild West" plumbing market across the state.

Without statewide licensure of plumbing, oversight of plumbing services would fall to local governments, many of which would lack the funding and expertise to regulate. This would leave consumers exposed and many plumbers unlicensed, creating confusion and producing a piecemeal patchwork of plumbing regulations across the state. The lack of statewide coordination of licensure would leave consumers and the industry exposed to harm from "fly-by-night" operators taking advantage of a lack of scrutiny of their skills and experience. Renewing the requirement for statewide licensure is a priority for our organization and our trade. Consistent and uniform statewide standards are relied upon by those who use plumbing services, and are valued by the responsible individuals and companies that comprise the plumbing industry.

We are committed to working with the Legislature to ensure statewide plumbing standards and enforcement remain in place. We encourage PHCC members to make their support for statewide oversight known to their legislators and the consumers they serve.

### **Ensuring Plumbers Have a Voice in the 2020 Elections**

The future of how our industry operates will be at stake when the Texas Legislature convenes in 2021.

Our efforts are well underway to convince legislators of the importance of maintaining statewide licensing of plumbers. But between now and the 2021 legislative session, the 2020 elections will determine the individuals who will make the decisions about our future. It's critical that our industry have a voice in those elections. It's imperative we stand with those who have stood with us and who will carry our fight forward.

### **Help PHCC Get the Message to Legislators**

As we shared last month, PHCC is leading an effort to convince state leaders of the importance of maintaining statewide licensure of the plumbing industry. We need your help to spread the word to legislators who will be making the decisions that will determine the future of our industry. Whether you know your legislator or not, you can play an important part in demonstrating the strength, unity and engagement of Texas plumbers.

In preparing our strategy, PHCC is working to identify plumbers who are willing to contact their legislators. PHCC will be coordinating these efforts by providing material, talking points and a timeline for this outreach.

If you have not done so already, please take a moment to complete the survey at the link below so you can be a part of our movement.

When legislators know their constituents are engaged and watching, they take notice. Your position on this issue matters, and your legislator needs to know where you stand.

If you are willing to contact your legislators, please take a moment to complete our short survey by [clicking here](#).

***Alicia Dover***

*Executive Director – PHCC*