

TO: All Texas DeMolay Chapter & Rainbow Assembly Advisors
FROM: Andrew Parks, Texas DeMolay Govt. Day Dir.;
Chance Chapman, Texas DeMolay Dep. Exec. Off. for Admin.;
Michael Cote, Texas DeMolay State Scribe
SUBJ: Govt. Day Move to Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco
DATE: January 21, 2025

Due to unforeseeable circumstances, Texas DeMolay Executive Officer Tommy Chapman, Deputy Executive Director for Administration Chance Chapman, State Scribe Michael Cote, and Government Day Director Andrew Parks (collectively, Govt. Day Leadership) have elected to move the 2025 Texas DeMolay Government Day set to convene February 8-9, 2025, from the Texas State Capitol in Austin to the Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco.

Background:

In 2023, the Texas House of Representatives adopted a new policy requiring adoption of House resolution to grant external organizations permission to use the House chamber when the Legislature is convened for a regular or called session. This was a new requirement motivated by a combination of security, pandemic-related, and logistical concerns; prior to adoption of the policy, Texas DeMolay had not been required to secure adoption of a House resolution for use of the chamber during a regular session in at least fifteen years. The new prerequisite nearly preempted Texas DeMolay from using the House chamber in 2023, but then-leadership was able to secure adoption of the appropriate resolution just in time for Govt. Day to carry on as normal.

As DeMolay and Rainbow advisors are likely aware, the House has recently undergone the most politically tumultuous change in leadership since at least 2009. Owing to the leadership change and expected changes to the House rules stemming from the associated political fallout, the House has not yet considered or adopted rules of procedure for the 89th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature. In effect, this means that the House is unable to conduct business—and thus unable to adopt the appropriate resolution granting Texas DeMolay permission to use the chamber for the 2025 Govt. Day. The inclement weather across the state this week has only further stalled the House’s progress.

Govt. Day Leadership have secured agreement to carry the corresponding resolution in the Senate granting Texas DeMolay permission to use the upper chamber. Unfortunately, however, the Senate chamber is not large enough to accommodate all attendees.

Resulting Changes:

To ensure the 2025 Govt. Day can carry on, Govt. Day Leadership have elected to move the event to the Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco. Many advisors and attendees will recall that the 2021 Govt. Day was held in that location due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Govt. Day leadership anticipate that the 2025 Govt. Day will proceed in much the same way as the 2021 event, except that both attendees will be organized into separate House and Senate chambers as they would be at the Capitol.

The House will meet in the larger, upper auditorium, and the Senate will meet in the smaller, lower auditorium. Meetings with chapter and assembly advisors will take place in the Past Grand Master’s Office. Lunch will be provided for advisors and attendees at Grand Lodge on Saturday. Govt. Day Leadership have secured space to host the dance Saturday evening at Grand Lodge as well.

Please find attached to this memorandum:

- (1) an updated schedule containing all of the relevant details; and
- (2) the rules, calendar, and legislation applicable to the 2025 Govt. Day for both chambers.

Please be advised that we do not anticipate these circumstances will affect the 2026 Govt. Day.

Staff Needed:

Judges are still needed to evaluate and score attendees for purposes of determining the winners of Govt. Day awards. Parliamentarians are still needed to help attendees interpret and navigate the rules in each chamber. Please reach out to Govt. Day Leadership to volunteer.

Questions & Concerns:

Govt. Day Leadership regret the necessity and last-second nature of the changes outlined in this memorandum. Unfortunately, the circumstances which require this decision are totally beyond Texas DeMolay's control.

Questions and concerns regarding the contents of this memorandum or the changes discussed herein are welcome, and may be directed to any of the members of Govt. Day Leadership specified below:

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