

Texas Water Scarcity and Resilience Initiative

1. What is the main goal of your water initiative, and why does Texas need it now?

The goal is simple: make sure every Texan has reliable water even during droughts, freezes, and long-term population growth. Texas water systems were built for a smaller, cooler state. Aquifers are dropping, rivers are unstable, and droughts are getting stronger. This plan creates a stable, modern water system that protects families, schools, farms, and businesses.

2. What part of the plan can begin first, and how quickly can Texans expect to see results?

The first phase focuses on schools, clinics, rural communities, and emergency centers. AWGs, reserve tanks, and condensate capture systems can be deployed immediately. Texans would begin seeing real improvements within the first year.

3. How do AWGs work, and why are they useful for schools, clinics, and rural communities?

AWGs pull moisture from the air and turn it into clean drinking water. They work well in Texas because of our humidity levels. They are ideal for schools and rural facilities because they keep water available even if a well drops or a pipe breaks. They are affordable, fast to install, and require no major underground infrastructure.

4. Why is coastal desalination an important part of Texas water security?

Desalination gives Texas a water supply that does not depend on rainfall. The Gulf Coast gives us a permanent, reliable water source that can support cities, agriculture, and industry for generations. It reduces pressure on our aquifers and protects rural areas that are already running out of groundwater.

5. How will this initiative help rural counties that are already experiencing declining wells?

Rural communities are first in line for AWGs, emergency reserve tanks, and early pipeline connections to the statewide system. This plan ensures that rural Texas does not fall behind as aquifers decline. It gives small towns water stability without forcing them to rely on expensive emergency deliveries.

6. Who will be responsible for installing and maintaining the new water systems across the state?

The Texas State Guard will lead large scale deployment and logistics. Local governments and school districts will handle daily operation of their units. State agencies will set standards and oversee safety and maintenance. The goal is to use existing expertise instead of building a large new bureaucracy.

7. What is the expected cost of the early phases, and how will the state fund them responsibly?

The early phases are affordable because they focus on AWGs, storage, and resilience projects. They cost far less than large desalination plants and can be paid for using existing emergency funds, infrastructure budgets, and redirected dollars that Texas already spends on water crises. The plan does not require new taxes.

8. Which parts of the plan can be launched using the authority the governor already has?

Several key components can begin immediately, including AWG pilots, emergency water hubs, condensate capture programs, rural resilience planning, and the expansion of State Guard water logistics. Desalination plants and major pipeline construction require legislative action, but early improvements do not.

9. How will this initiative strengthen Texas during droughts, freezes, and extreme heat events?

AWGs provide drinking water even when pipes freeze. Storage hubs protect communities during outages. Desalination supplies water during drought. The statewide system reduces the chance of boil notices, school closures, and emergency shutdowns. It ensures families always have clean water, even during extreme weather.

10. What is your plan to explain this program to Texans who may not read long policy documents?

The initiative will be communicated through simple explanations, short videos, community discussions, and clear examples. Texans will see how the plan helps their local schools, their town, their farmers, their hospitals, and their businesses. The full document exists for those who want the details, but everyday Texans will hear a clear, practical message: this makes your water supply safer.

11. Will any state agencies need new responsibilities to support this initiative?

Yes, but not new agencies. The Texas Water Development Board will take a stronger role in planning desalination and resilience. The Texas Division of Emergency Management will incorporate water readiness into its mission. The Texas State Guard will handle water logistics and deployment. This is about focusing existing agencies, not expanding government.

12. What early improvements will Texans be able to see within the first year of implementation?

Rural schools, clinics, and community centers will have AWGs and reserve tanks installed. Some regions will begin HVAC condensate capture and recycling programs. Emergency water hubs will open in priority areas. These first steps will prove the concept and show Texans that action is happening quickly.

13. How will this initiative improve daily life for families, schools, and businesses across Texas?

Families will face fewer boil notices and water outages. Schools will always have safe drinking water. Rural towns will be protected against declining wells. Businesses will have more predictable water supply for planning and expansion. This initiative strengthens the foundation that Texas life depends on.

14. How will environmental protections be built into coastal desalination projects?

Modern intake systems protect marine life. Brine is diluted offshore and reused for industrial purposes when possible. Every plant will follow strict environmental standards, public review, and scientific guidance. Desalination will be clean, safe, and responsible.

15. How does this plan help growing cities manage increasing water demand?

Cities cannot rely on aquifers forever. Desalination gives them a stable supply that keeps up with population growth. AWG and recycling programs reduce strain on pipes and treatment plants. The statewide system ensures that cities can expand without running into water shortages.

16. How does this initiative avoid the water shortages and infrastructure problems seen in other states?

Texas is acting early instead of waiting until rivers run dry. The plan reduces pressure on aquifers, adds new permanent supply, and builds resilience across all regions. Other states waited too long. Texas will not repeat that mistake.

18. How will this plan support Texas businesses that depend on stable and affordable water?

Businesses can grow with confidence when water supply is steady. This initiative prevents drought-related shutdowns, stabilizes long term costs, and keeps Texas attractive for manufacturing, tech, agriculture, logistics, and energy. Water reliability is economic reliability.

19. How will Texas build new water infrastructure without placing a financial burden on taxpayers?

Funding will come from existing infrastructure budgets, redirection of emergency spending, voter approved bonds, and phased construction. The goal is to invest responsibly and avoid unnecessary state debt. Every dollar spent builds long term value for Texans.

20. What are the very first steps you would take as governor to start building this statewide water system?

The first steps are to identify the most vulnerable communities, launch AWG and emergency hub deployments, organize a Water Resilience Task Force with engineers and rural leaders, and begin the groundwork for desalination planning. Immediate action will build

momentum and show Texans that water security is a top priority from Day 1.