



SENATOR VAN TAYLOR

2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

BORDER SECURITY & STOPPING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

As a United States Marine, Van Taylor served on our U.S./ Mexico border and knows firsthand it is not secure. While the misguided policies of President Obama worsen the problem of illegal immigration, **Van helped author legislation to turn off the magnets that further attract illegal immigration and use any and all resources at our disposal to secure our border:**

- ✓ Authored and passed legislation giving state border personnel legal protection to defend themselves
- ✓ Authored and coauthored bills to repeal state incentives for illegal immigration, including in-state tuition and grant programs for those here illegally
- ✓ Coauthored and passed E-Verify for state agencies
- ✓ Voted to increase border security funding to over \$800 million



TRANSPORTATION

A core function of government, critical transportation infrastructure should be prioritized without additional tolls:

- ✓ **Authored Anti-Toll Package** to stop proliferation of new toll roads and begin the process to convert current toll roads into free lanes
- ✓ Coauthored and passed historic road funding including: \$1.3 billion by ending diversions from the Highway fund, \$2.5 billion from Proposition 1, and a minimum of \$5 billion if Proposition 7 passes in the Nov. election

EDUCATION



Our local school districts are truly the crown jewels of our communities. Believing our schools work best with local control, great teachers, and parental involvement, Van used his appointment to the Education Committee to

advance initiatives that remove unfunded mandates, provide additional financial flexibility for school districts, empower parents, offer choice and additional opportunities for families, increase transparency and accountability, as well as **fight all efforts to bring Common Core to Texas.**

FAMILY VALUES

A strong social conservative, Van Taylor is a trusted voice protecting life and defending traditional family values:

- ✓ Coauthored pro-life bills to strengthen parental notification and prohibit insurance companies from mandating abortion coverage
- ✓ Coauthored the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and Pastor Protection Act to prevent government from coercing individuals, businesses, or religious organizations into violating their sincerely held religious beliefs
- ✓ Coauthored American Law for American Courts to protect state and federal law from foreign influence



LIMIT THE SIZE AND REACH OF GOVERNMENT

Consistently recognized as a “taxpayer champion,” Van Taylor knows that while spending is the cause of big government, taxes and debt are the symptoms. In the Texas Senate, Van offered solutions to cut wasteful spending, lower taxes, and reduce government intrusion that strangles job creation and threatens personal liberty.

HISTORIC TAX CUTS

Property Tax Relief - With appraisal values skyrocketing across Texas, the Senate laid down a marker early in session that the Legislature must act to give families much needed property tax relief.



Throughout the budget debate the Senate stood firm and delivered to the people **\$1.2 billion in property tax relief** while also requiring local taxing authorities obtain a 60% vote in order to raise local taxes.

Beginning of the End for the Business Franchise Tax- Jobs come from small businesses, not big government. Instead of penalizing Texas businesses with stacks of paperwork and additional taxes, Texas should allow them to spend their time and resources doing what they do best – creating jobs. This session, the Legislature cut the franchise tax 25%, putting it on a path towards elimination.

A CONSERVATIVE BUDGET

The 2016-17 budget limits government growth below the rate of population and inflation and has been heralded by local leaders and trusted watchdog organizations. Included with \$3.8 billion in tax relief, this biennium budget provides \$800 million for border security, adds \$1.5 billion to the current education formula funding, is estimated to grow the Rainy Day Fund \$2.4 billion, and continues to eliminate previous accounting gimmicks.

STOP THE GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT

The more government spends, or expands its reach by intrusive and unnecessary regulations, the more freedom it takes away from the people it serves. Van authored legislation to strengthen Texas’ spending caps, require state agencies to provide detailed reports on how they could cut their budgets by 1%, 5%, and 10%, and rein in agency rules and regulations made contrary to legislative intent. **Additionally, Van was successful in blocking an amendment on the Senate floor that would have further implemented and expanded Obamacare in Texas.**

WORKING FOR YOU

The Declaration of Independence tells us our rights come from God, and we entrust those rights to government that “derives its just powers from the consent of the governed.” In order to stay engaged with those he serves, **Van maintains a 100% meeting policy with constituents.** Working with constituents, Van filed legislation ranging from efforts to stop human trafficking to safeguarding our children from sexual predators, honoring our veterans, combating the growing danger of synthetic drugs, protecting victims of domestic violence, increasing access to water, curbing lawsuit abuse, and increasing transparency of state and local governments. Additionally, Van carried Governor Abbott’s omnibus ethics reform package, centered on increasing transparency and terminating conflicts of interests of elected officials, as well as shining a light on the relationship between lobbyists and elected officials.

