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Greetings, Texans! My colleagues and I are spending time this year preparing for the next legislative session, which will begin in January 2021. My goal with this newsletter is to keep you informed about our work in Austin as well as share highlights and important information about District 8 with you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



AROUND THE STATE

SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION

In January, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick appointed me to serve on the Sunset Advisory Commission. Members of the Commission are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House and include five senators, five representatives, and two members of the public.

The Texas Legislature created the Sunset process in 1977 to review the need for and the effectiveness of state agencies and their programs. If an agency and its programs are no longer deemed relevant, then the process of Sunset is to recommend abolishing the agency or transferring its functions to another agency with related functions. If an agency and its programs are deemed relevant, then Sunset recommendations will include opportunities for making them more effective and more efficient. Most agencies are reviewed every 12 years.

I am incredibly honored to have an opportunity to serve my fellow Texans on the Sunset Advisory Commission as we work to maximize excellence, efficiency and effectiveness in our state government.

To better understand this process or to review a list of agencies we will consider in preparation of the 87th legislative session, please visit <https://www.sunset.texas.gov>.

I will provide updates about how the public can participate in the Sunset process in a future newsletter.

Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee and Water and Rural Affairs Committee joint committee hearing



On January 22, the Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee, of which I am a committee member, and the Senate Water and Rural Affairs Committee met jointly for a committee hearing to discuss the future water supply of Texas and the groundwater regulatory framework in Texas. Both of these topics are very important to our state to ensure we have an adequate supply of fresh, clean water for drinking and municipal use and also a supply for commercial use.

In the 1950s, Texas experienced what has been called the "drought of record." This drought occurred statewide over a series of years. In response, the legislature created the Texas Water Development Board to develop a state water plan and begin investing in critical infrastructure to meet future water needs. Since then, the state water plan has changed from a top down approach to a bottom up approach to allow regions of Texas to estimate population changes, evaluate current and future municipal, agriculture, and commercial uses and

determine water projects that can be used to meet those demands. The state water plan is updated every five years by the Texas Water Development Board working with the local Regional Water Planning Groups. The voters have also approved constitutional amendments, as passed by the legislature, to allow for financing of water infrastructure and supply projects that are included in the state water plan.

For the purposes of the state water plan, the population of Texas and the projected annual water use are projected for fifty years out so the regions can determine projects that are important to meeting the regional water needs. The state water plan must also consider water conservation, expanded use of existing supplies, new supplies, reuse of wastewater, interbasin transfers of surface water, desalination, and aquifer storage and recovery.

The recent committee hearing in January was very informative about the water planning process and how the legislature sets the policies and funding mechanisms in place that govern the water planning process. With North Texas' population continuing to grow, our water planning for future water use, future water supply, and future water conservation is very important.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

EARLY VOTING BEGINS THIS MONTH

Early voting for the **March 3, 2020 Primary Election** runs from Tuesday, February 18, 2020 through Friday, February 28, 2020. The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Friday, February 21, 2020 (received not postmarked).



For more information about voting locations, dates and times in **Collin County**, please visit

https://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election_information/Pages/default.aspx.

For more information about voting locations, dates and times in **Dallas County**, please visit <https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/>.

Texas - open for business

Texas Association of Business honored me with the Fighter for Free Enterprise Award. I will continue to champion legislation to increase employment opportunities for Texans, grow our economy, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and keep our state Texas-strong.



From left to right - TAB Chair-elect Brint Ryan, TAB Board Chairman Becky Redman, Texas State Senator Angela Paxton, TAB Board Member Brett Graham, and TAB President and CEO Jeff Moseley

DRIVER LICENSE RENEWAL

Several of you have contacted me about the unacceptable wait times at your local Driver License Office. I, too, have experienced this frustration and am committed to work towards resolving this issue.

Last legislative session, my colleagues and I allocated an additional \$200 million to the Texas Department of Public Safety to provide relief to Texans seeking or renewing a driver license. I along with other members of the Collin County delegation recently sent a letter to DPS to better understand how they are utilizing these resources, since the problem of long wait times has not been resolved. I have also requested an interim study to explore efficiency options to provide quality customer service in driver license offices across Texas.

The Department of Public Safety shared with me statistics for Senate District 8 showing that 40% of the individuals who renew their driver license can do so online at www.texas.gov in only 5-10 minutes and a few clicks of a mouse.

So, before waiting in line, please check online to see if you are able to renew your driver license, change the address on your driver license, replace a lost or stolen card, or view and change your emergency contacts.

Visit <http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/renewal.htm> or call **1-866-DL RENEW (1-866-357-3639)** to see if you are eligible to renew online or by telephone.

WYLIE I.S.D.

Wylie I.S.D. leaders provided a legislative overview on the impact of House Bill (HB) 3 from the 86th Texas Legislature in 2019. HB 3 is a sweeping, historic school finance bill that provides more money for Texas classrooms, increases teacher compensation, reduces recapture and cuts local property taxes for Texas taxpayers. We also discussed needs to review in preparation of the 87th Legislative Session.



From left to right - Wylie I.S.D. Board President Matt Atkins, Texas State Senator Angela Paxton, Texas State Representative Candy Noble, Wylie I.S.D. Board Vice-President Heather Leggett, Wylie I.S.D. Board Member Stacie Smith and Wylie I.S.D. Superintendent David Vincent

Bridge to adoption

Watermark Church announces collaboration with Texas Child Protective Services (CPS) to place 500 children in forever families through adoption through the Bridge to Adoption program on Sunday, February 23, 2020.

Bridge to Adoption features more than 25 children representing the thousands waiting to be adopted from across our state to prospective adoptive families.

Everyone attending this event needs to register. Families who are currently licensed should submit their home study to nakithia.thomas@dfps.state.tx.us to help expedite the staffing process for children. Families considering adoption who are not already licensed are welcome to attend and will participate in an orientation with child placing agencies to initiate the process.

To view children waiting to be adopted, visit the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange at adoptchildren.org or AdoptUSKids at adoptuskids.org. For more questions regarding the adoption match event, visit

<https://www.watermark.org/events/3444-bridge-to-adoption> or email bridgetoadoptions@watermark.org.

Congratulations to leadership prep school

In honor of National School Choice week, I spoke with the students at Leadership Prep School in Frisco about the importance of making good choices and learning from every choice made. Congratulations to LPS on the school's 10 year anniversary!

