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Greetings, Texans! Spring will prove to be a busy season for me with Senate committee hearings. The Senate Redistricting Committee will begin hosting hearings across the state to receive input from constituents, businesses, and community leaders from communities across Texas. The Sunset Advisory Commission will begin hosting hearings as we review 24 state agencies that are scheduled to undergo the sunset process in 2020-2021. Additionally, the Senate Education Committee, the Business and Commerce Committee, and Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee will all meet these next couple of months. 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.



STATE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coronavirus Updates

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is in constant communication with the United States Center for Disease Control and sharing the latest news about the coronavirus situation in Texas on their website at <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

[March Primary Election Results](#)



Election Day for the primary elections in Texas was Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

For election results in Collin County, please visit

https://www.collincountytexas.gov/elections/election_results/Pages/default.aspx

For election results in Dallas County, please visit

<https://www.dallascountytexas.gov/election-results-and-maps/election-results/>

For statewide election results, please visit

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml>

[U.S. Census Day is April 1 - Be Counted!](#)

Every ten years, the United States Constitution requires a census of its population through the United States Census Bureau. As the second largest state in the country, Texas plays a large role in ensuring that this decennial census is counted accurately to properly direct resources back into our state and local communities and ensure proper representation for Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. April 1, 2020 is census day, so look for information from the United States Census Bureau in the mail, online, or in person. For additional information, go to <https://2020census.gov/>.

Reasons for the Census:

1. The distribution of federal funds and grants, which totals \$675 billion annually, is based on population-based formulas. This accounts for highway funding, Medicaid funding, education funding, just to name a few. A 1% difference could result in a difference up to \$300 million annually.
2. Between 2000 and 2010, Texas increased in population by 4 million people statewide. Texas is projected to increase in population by another 3.5 million people between 2010 and 2020. With the increase in population comes the increase in Congressional representation. Texas is poised to gain additional Congressional members with other states losing Congressmen because of declining population (the actual number will not be known until January 2021). The Texas Legislature has the legal responsibility and authority to draw Congressional, legislative, state judiciary, and state board of education districts based on the 2020 census results to ensure fair representation.
3. The population and socio-economic data taken from the census is used by businesses to make decisions to locate new facilities and expand economic opportunity. The data is used by local, state, and federal officials to develop policies and infrastructure that impact our local communities.

Many cities, counties, school districts, non-profits, and communities are partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau in forming complete count committees to ensure our communities in North Texas are accurately counted.

HUMAN DIGNITY

Treasured Vessels Foundation



Congratulations to Alicia Bush, founder of the Treasured Vessels Foundation, on their ribbon cutting event last month in Frisco. This incredible organization serves as a residential community in North Texas operating a clinically therapeutic aftercare program for survivors of domestic sex trafficking.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE

[McKinney Chamber of Commerce](#)



I enjoyed speaking to the McKinney Chamber of Commerce Government and Legislative Issues Committee. I always enjoy listening to business and community leaders and appreciate the opportunity to represent and serve all of you.

Texas Instruments - Richardson



After considering locations worldwide, Texas Instruments made the right choice expanding its operations in Richardson to manufacture their chips that are designed and built here in North Texas and distributed all over the world. Particularly impressive is their support for K-16 education. I look forward to better understanding the workforce needs of our high tech companies to ensure we are educating our children to meet the demands for talent in the Information Age.

[Gearbox Software - Frisco](#)



The video game market is an approximate \$150 billion industry, and it is growing. I was honored to receive a tour of Gearbox Software in Frisco from their VP of Strategic Operations, Aaron Thibault to discuss strategies for developing homegrown talent to meet the future workforce needs for growing companies like theirs.

Wylie ISD - Smith Elementary - Capitol in Austin



A group of fourth grade students from Smith Elementary in Wylie visited my Capitol office in February to learn about our state government.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE WRAP-UP

Senate Business and Commerce Committee



On February 6, the Senate Business and Commerce Committee, of which I am a committee member, met to assess the electricity market in Texas. Unlike the rest of the contiguous United States that falls either into the Eastern Interconnection or Western Interconnection, our state is unique in that the majority of Texas falls into its own Interconnected System referred to as the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). ERCOT manages the flow of electric power to more than 26 million Texas customers representing 90% of Texas' electric load.

In order to safeguard grid reliability and synchronize communication, two pieces of legislation I supported were passed last session and their implementation discussed during the committee hearing. First is Senate Bill 475 which created the Texas Electric Grid Security Council to act as an advisory body to facilitate the best security practices and directly coordinate with state and federal entities. Additionally, Senate Bill 936 established a cybersecurity monitor to identify grid vulnerabilities and monitor best practices and preparedness in cybersecurity.

[Sunset Advisory Commission](#)

In January, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick appointed me to serve on the Sunset Advisory Commission. I am honored to serve in this capacity as we work to identify areas where state agencies can operate more effectively and efficiently.

The Texas Sunset Advisory Commission was created by the Legislature in 1977 to make state government more efficient, more accountable, and more effective. Each agency is set to be abolished in statute unless the Legislature affirmatively continues the agency, which is unique to Texas compared to other states and the federal government. Legislation resulting from the reviews that Sunset has performed has resulted in abolishing 92 state agencies and an estimated \$1 billion of state and federal cost savings and revenue gains.

In 2020-2021, there are 24 agencies undergoing a review. The public is encouraged to participate in the process through contacting my office or the Sunset Advisory Commission directly at <https://www.sunset.texas.gov/input-form> to provide comments. Public input is greatly appreciated as the people most impacted by a government agency will have the most in-depth perspective on identifying problems and ways to make state government more effective.

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>.