



DON HUFFINES

STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 16

Hello Patriots!

While the 85th Legislative Session convenes on January 10, 2017, Senators and Representatives may “pre-file” legislation beginning in November. I have selected bills that I plan to pre-file so we can start the conversation early on a few core priorities.

One of my top priorities for the next legislative session will be to repeal an annual mandate that affects almost every Texan - the Vehicle Inspection Tax. The research overwhelmingly concludes that there are no safety benefits derived from mandating passenger safety inspections. Without any safety benefits, this mandate is worse than a chore: it's a tax predicated on a false promise. Every year, this tax costs Texans \$267 million, and consumes over 9 million hours of our most precious resource: our time. The federal government stopped requiring the inspections in 1976. Texas is 1 of only 16 states to continue levying this needless tax. We must end this outdated program to save Texans time and money.

I will also pre-file legislation to create term limits for all elected officials in Texas: statewide elected officials, the Texas Legislature, judges, local officials, and even certain appointed state officers. Too many people holding office for too long can lead to stale leadership, and I believe that limited time in office will help keep elected officials focused on the job they were actually elected to do: make and execute good public policy for the people of Texas. Texans deserve elected officials who are more interested in serving their constituents than simply focusing all of their efforts on getting re-elected. Establishing term limits in Texas has been and will remain one of my top priorities during the 85th Legislative Session.

I took a decisive stand in the 84th Legislature to call for the elimination of a job-killing tax: the franchise tax on Texas businesses. Commonly known as the “margin tax”, this gross receipts tax on businesses’ total revenue consistently stifles Texas’ full economic potential. Phasing out the margin tax will benefit each and every Texan with an economic surge that will create tens of thousands of new jobs and put billions of dollars back in the pockets of Texans from every economic background. Under new leadership in the 2015 84th Session, it truly was a new day in the Texas Senate when we passed a significant 25 percent margin tax cut. However, the 25 percent rate cut cannot be viewed as a stand-alone, one time victory. It was just the first step toward phasing-out the margin tax until it has been completely eliminated. We can do so in the 85th Legislature, even despite predictions of a tight budget. I know that we can find a way.

Please know that these are just some of my priorities as your state Senator. I have many more ideas that I will share with you in the near future, and I need you to share your ideas with me. It is my job to be your representative in Austin. I work for you and not the government. I don't accept any pay, per diem, or benefits such as health care or retirement. I don't even accept travel reimbursements. That means I'm not beholden to state government. Instead, I truly work for my constituents. Please don't hesitate to contact my Dallas office at (214) 239-6131 and share your thoughts.

In Liberty and Your Employee,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Huffines".

Don Huffines

CAPITOL OFFICE

EI.608 • P.O. BOX 12068 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512) 463-0116
don.huffines@senate.texas.gov

DISTRICT OFFICE

8222 DOUGLAS AVENUE, STE. 675 • DALLAS, TEXAS 75225
(214) 239-6131
don.huffines@senate.texas.gov

About Don Huffines:



As a fifth generation Texan, my family has a strong legacy of hard work and faith in God. My wife of 28 years, Mary Catherine, and I have raised four sons and one daughter. As your state Senator in Austin, I serve as Vice Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, and as a member of the Education, Business & Commerce, and Administration Committees. I work for you, the taxpayers, and not the government. I do not accept the state salary, pension, or any other benefits or payments.

To fully experience liberty, we must have a virtuous society. Instead of turning to government for answers or solutions, I believe in you and the power of the individual to solve most of our issues. By working together, everything is possible. Texas' greatest days are yet to dawn, and our future is limitless. God bless Texas!

DISTRICT OFFICE OPEN HOUSES

Please join me on the **first Friday** or **third Tuesday** of each month!

*No appointment needed. Just stop by my district office at
8222 Douglas Avenue - Suite 675, Dallas, TX 75225*

FIRST FRIDAYS
8:30 - 10:30am

AUG. 5 | SEP. 2 | OCT. 7 | NOV. 4 | DEC. 2

THIRD TUESDAYS
4:30 - 6:30pm

AUG. 16 | SEP. 20 | OCT. 18 | NOV. 15

As your employee, I want to make sure that you are aware of the services available to you through our Senate website,

www.huffines.senate.state.tx.us:

- Inquiries, Information, and Casework
- Flag Purchases
- Certificates of Recognition
- Honorary or Memorial Resolutions
- Schedule an Appointment
- Information on State Agencies