



# Pete's Periódico

## *Looking Ahead to Session*

by Sen. Pete Flores, Senate District 19

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My name is Peter P. Flores and I am your newly elected Texas State Senator for District 19. In the case you haven't heard, I was elected in a special election earlier this fall and I'm excited to represent you in the upcoming Texas legislative session beginning on January 8, 2019. We only meet for 140 days every other year – that means we have a lot to do and a short time to do it.

It is a distinct honor to serve as your Texas Senator. Public service is a part of my DNA: after attending Laredo Junior College then graduating from Texas A&M University, I was admitted to the Game Warden Academy. I went on to serve the state of Texas as a Game Warden for 27 years, rising to the rank of Colonel and honorably retiring in 2012.

In my years as a Game Warden, I protected more miles of rivers, borders, farm lands than I could count. Like all peace officers, we don't serve for recognition or payback. We serve out of duty and respect of Texas and its safety.

I finished my tour as a Game Warden in Austin as Director of Law Enforcement, overseeing the entire Texas force, its budget, and its legislative priorities. In this role, I gained valuable experience in leadership, management, and how our government truly works. I fought for funding for the men and women serving across Texas, making friends on both sides of the aisle.

But the most important lesson I learned as a Game Warden was this: I can only do as much as the community allows. The same is true for the Texas Senate.

My job here is to serve you, the people of Senate District 19. Our district is the 2nd largest senate district in Texas – larger than 12 U.S. states. You could fit the entire state of Maine in Senate District 19 (if you shaped it right).

I represent over 830,000 Texans from San Antonio to Ft. Stockton; Del Rio to Pecos; Carrizo Springs to Alpine. I represent 51 public school districts, 45 cities, 17 counties, and over 460 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border. While our zip codes don't match, our values do.

We all want job opportunities and economic growth. We all want less government in our way and more money in our pocket. We all want the freedom to provide for our families and pursue our dreams and goals.

That's why the issues I plan to focus on are the ones that affect all of us: property taxes, infrastructure, education, public safety. Addressing these issues are my legislative priorities, though that will be partly shaped by which committees I am selected to serve on.

Moving forward, look for more regular columns like this one giving you updates on what's going on in Austin. I encourage you to follow my accounts on Facebook and Twitter too for daily updates. Visit our office in the Capitol when you can – otherwise, we will have offices opening up across the district very soon.

I cannot promise which issues the Texas Senate will solve, but I can promise that I will fight for you. You're my boss; I work for you. Serving in the Texas Senate is the greatest privilege of my life. I am thankful for the Texans that elected me to this position.

We have a lot of work to do. Let's get started.

*Sen. Pete Flores is a Republican Texas Senator representing Senate District 19.*