



BRIAN BIRDWELL

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BIRDWELL ANNOUNCES STAFF UPDATES IN ADVANCE OF SUNSET HEARINGS, 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AUSTIN—State Senator Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) published an updated personnel list Tuesday, welcoming three new members to his Capitol staff in advance of the first meeting of the Sunset Advisory Commission and the 2019 legislative session.

“I’ve been blessed to keep so many great team members on board while serving in the Texas Senate, and I’m proud of the exciting professional steps being taken by some of our veteran staff,” Birdwell said. “I believe my team has a great track record of working hard for the citizens of Senate District 22, and that’s something we’re excited about continuing with these new hires.”

Office Manager and Scheduler Wynn Baker is a lifelong resident of Frisco, a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University, and brings a diverse background of campaign and administrative management experience to her new role. Baker replaces Liz Liddell (née Sanchez), who served in that capacity for more than five years and is leaving the Capitol to start her own small business.

Jarred Shaffer has been promoted to Senior Policy Analyst after the departure of Senior Policy Analyst Matt Cope, who now serves as a higher education advisor to Governor Greg Abbott. Shaffer joined Senator Birdwell’s staff in late 2016 after previously working for the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Supporting Senator Birdwell on the policy team are two additional new hires, Policy Analysts Gatlin Moncla and Katrina Smith. A Texas A&M University graduate hailing from Beaumont, Moncla has worked with numerous members of the Texas House of Representatives while also enjoying opportunities to work and study internationally. Smith is a native of Denton County, a recent graduate of the University of North Texas, and worked on policy in the Texas Senate during the 84th and 85th legislative sessions.

All other members of Senator Birdwell’s staff remain in their current roles, including Chief of Staff Ben Stratmann, Legislative Director Anna Barnett, and District Managers Suzy DeArmond (Ellis, Hood, Johnson, Somervell and Tarrant Counties) and Shelly Verlander (Bosque, Falls, Hill, McLennan and Navarro Counties).

Sunset Advisory Commission hearings begin March 19, 2018 and will continue through January 2019. For more information, please visit www.sunset.texas.gov. The 86th session of the Texas Legislature begins January 8, 2019. For more information, please visit www.legis.state.tx.us.

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Brian Birdwell is a native Texan, decorated military veteran, lifelong conservative Republican, survivor of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, and a proud husband, father and grandfather. He currently represents the counties of Bosque, Ellis, Falls, Hill, Hood, Johnson, McLennan, Navarro, Somervell and Tarrant [partial] in Senate District 22.