

# The Austin Report

March 24, 2025

E-Newsletter

## RESPONSIVE REPRESENTATION

*By Senator West*

The halfway point is fast approaching of the 89th Legislative Session. As a servant leader who believes in responsive representation, I do and will continue to seek the input of my constituents on issues and proposed legislation that will impact their lives. I will reach out in-person, virtually, and through survey.

Recently, I held a town hall meeting in the Lakewood/White Rock area of the district as the first Town Hall Meeting (THM) I hosted in a year long series of THMs set for the district. The room was standing room only.

I provided an update of the good, bad, and ugly things going on in Austin including bills I'm sponsoring to enhance childcare, allowing less lethal in response to gun laws, etc. I also spoke on the Governor's emergency issues, Property Tax Relief, vouchers, the proposed budget, the DEI ban, and the teacher pay raise bill.

There were quite a few current and retired teachers in the audience with lively discussion and many poignant questions.



Senator West at Town Hall Meeting.

I also hosted two recent surveys in the last two weeks. I am deeply appreciative of your involvement and feedback, and I wanted to take a moment to inform you of the reasons why I proposed those surveys in the first place.

When the Senate Committee on Education K-16 considered Senate Bill 10 (requiring the 10 Commandments in all classrooms) and Senate Bill 13 (imposing restrictions on school library book collections), I was not sure what my constituents felt about these measures. As a result, I abstained from voting on S.B. 10 in committee, and voted in favor of advancing S.B. 13 to the full Senate so we could further debate the measure. Following these votes, I wanted to hear from you, and so I put out those two surveys for you to submit feedback.



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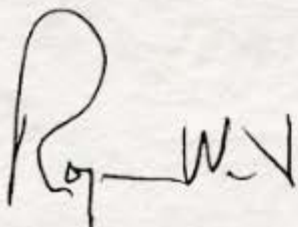
Following the overwhelmingly negative response to both pieces of legislation from hundreds of respondents, I heard your voice and acted accordingly. I voted against both S.B. 10 and S.B. 13 on the floor of the Senate, because of your feedback and opposition to these measures.

I believe strongly in responsive representation. Thank you again to all of you who took the time to complete the survey and participate in the democratic process. Because of you, my vote was changed.

And lastly, many constituents have visited my office, called, and left messages, and sent emails regarding your concerns. In the last few weeks, I was visited by members of the Best Southwest Chamber Partnership, Leadership Southwest, National Panhellenic Council including my fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, and UNT Dallas students.

Please continue to remain involved as we approach the halfway point of the 89th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature. There are many critical bills ahead, and I continue to need your input and insight.

Thank you, and God Bless.



UNT Dallas students visiting the Capitol.



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity visiting the Capitol



Best SW Chamber Partnership & Leadership Southwest at the Capitol.

**Office of State Senator**

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