

Donna Campbell

Highlights of the 84th Legislature



From the Senator's Desk...



Dear Fellow Texan,

There is no greater time to prepare for the next legislative session than right now. I have learned that the best ideas usually come from you and I want to hear about the issues that you feel are most important.

As the Chair of the Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee, we passed a number of laws that started with a simple phone call or email from a concerned citizen. These bills included strengthening employment opportunities for veterans, investing more resources in mental healthcare, and removing financial barriers for military families.

Last session, we boosted highway funding by \$4 billion, increased border security by \$800 million, and cut taxes by \$3.8 billion for families and small businesses. We strengthened our second amendment rights, improved accountability in our schools, and invested in our military bases. Next year we will have the opportunity to build on these successes.

I look forward to working hard to represent your values and to keep Texas strong. After all, we don't have another Texas to move to!

Thanks and God bless Texas,

Fact:

The Texas Senate voted 3909 times in 2015. Senator Campbell scored perfect attendance and never missed a vote.

Senator Campbell's 84th Session Committee Membership includes:
 Veteran Affairs & Military Installations — Chair
 Administration
 Education
 Health & Human Services
 Intergovernmental Relations



Senator Campbell is an emergency room physician, a woman of faith, and the proud mother of four daughters who represents the six counties which make up Senate District 25, stretching from San Antonio to Austin.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LEGISLATURE

CHAMPIONING TEXAS VETERANS

It is an honor to serve as the Chair of Veteran Affairs and Military Installations. We are indebted to our veterans for protecting our freedom and defending the values we hold dear as a nation.

During the 84th Legislature, we were successful in achieving many priorities for our veterans and military families. It was an honor to join Governor Abbott at VFW Post 76 in San Antonio, the oldest VFW hall in Texas, as he signed critical bills into law that started in our senate committee. In fact, we were able to pass 55 of 73 bills introduced in Senate Veteran Affairs and Military Installations, an extraordinary rate of success.

Additionally, I authored a number of bills that reached the governor's desk, including the elimination of occupational license fees for service members and the expansion of electronic ballots for Texans serving in combat areas overseas. With your support, we also strengthened education and employment opportunities for



Senator Campbell briefs members of the press on property tax relief.

veterans and removed some of the financial barriers that penalize military families from starting a business or owning a home.

INVESTING IN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Texas has some of the finest military installations in the nation, and it has been my privilege to meet the outstanding men and women serving our nation at these facilities. We have gained invaluable knowledge of the challenges these installations face by touring facilities as diverse as Fort Hood, Lackland

AFB, Randolph AFB, NAS Kingsville, and the Corpus Christi Army Depot.

The benefits of our military bases cannot be overstated. They employ over 255,000 Texans, and the economic impact to Central Texas and the San Antonio area is roughly \$27 billion. It is imperative that we protect these investments and build on the critical role they play in our communities.

Working with Governor Abbott, we allocated \$30 million to the Texas Military Preparedness



Dedicating the newly rebuilt Fischer Store Rd. Bridge with Lt. Governor Dan Patrick after flooding in Wimberley.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LEGISLATURE



Bill signing ceremony on pro-life legislation with Governor Greg Abbott and sponsors of HB3994.

Commission's Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) program in the last budget. This program assists defense communities to improve the military value of our installations and prevent future closures impacted by Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

FLOOD RECOVERY

Many Texans were deeply affected by the 2015 Memorial Day weekend floods, and they took a heavy toll on residents of Hays and Comal Counties. Wimberley saw some of the worst damage as the Blanco River reached a record crest of more than 40 feet, washing away bridges and destroying homes.

Fortunately, the strength of these storms paled in comparison to the strength of our communities. Less than a year after the flooding, Texans gathered in the Hill Country outside of Wimberley to reopen the new Fischer Store Road Bridge on February 26th. Working together at all levels of government, we were able to rebuild this critical infrastructure and reconnect neighbors in under nine months.

Special thanks go to Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, the Hays County Commissioners Court,

and TxDOT for their extraordinary hard work. We all joined together in the ribbon cutting ceremony to reopen the bridge this year, which also honored our very dedicated first responders.

New rainwater and river gauges are being installed upstream to give residents more time to evacuate in the future and potentially save lives.

FUNDING OUR HIGHWAYS AND REMOVING TOLLS

When I joined the Legislature in 2013, our highways were underfunded and the maintenance of our roads was a decade or more behind. The state's increasing reliance on toll roads was unacceptable and the miles of incomplete highway projects were too numerous to count.

Today, the future looks much brighter for Texas drivers. Over the past two legislative sessions, we have created new funding mechanisms for our highways, resulting in an additional \$4 billion a year to pay for new lanes and add capacity to our state's 196,000 miles of highways. Voters overwhelmingly approved this funding through ballot propositions in 2014 and

2015, none of which can be used to build toll roads.

Across Central Texas, this new funding has enabled local metropolitan planning organizations to redesign projects without relying on tolls. In fact, in San Antonio it has led to the complete elimination of toll lanes from expansions to U.S. 281 and I-10.

Good roads are essential to a thriving economy. We must continue to fund and build highways that allow our families to move safely and freely while rejecting costly rail and transit boondoggles that funnel resources away from our roads.

A SECURE BORDER

A state cannot effectively govern itself without governing its borders. With the federal government failing to do its part, the Legislature stepped up and allocated an additional \$800 million to address border security last session. This includes hiring and training new DPS troopers, purchasing surveillance aircraft, and building a state-of-the-art transnational intelligence center. Texas has added 2,000 night vision cameras along the border to detect cartel activity and those crossing

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LEGISLATURE

illegally. These cameras allow law enforcement to intercept those who willfully violate our nation's laws, with the total number of cameras along the border now numbering close to 4,000.

Additionally, we have sent troops from the Texas National Guard to assist in border security, and we continue to ask Washington, D.C. to do more to reimburse us for stepping up to fulfill what is the federal government's role.

Texas citizens demand nothing less than a secure border. This means not only addressing enforcement issues, but ending programs that reward illegal immigration such as sanctuary cities and strengthening e-verify programs.

SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10-24. As professionals interacting with students on a daily basis, our teachers are in a unique position to spot behavioral changes among these students. That's why we passed two pieces of legislation last session to help prevent suicide among our youth.

Authored with the assistance of the Childers family in memory of their loving son Jonathan, the Jason Flatt Act encourages educators to

engage in suicide prevention training and help detect early warning signs. Another senate bill we passed builds on these efforts by requiring suicide prevention, substance abuse, and mental health awareness training for those pursuing their teacher certification.

These type of programs have had a noticeable impact in other states, and I hope our efforts will help save young lives in Texas from what is a preventable tragedy.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Last session, the state allocated \$209 billion to meet our needs over the 2016-17 biennium, passing a conservative budget that kept spending below population growth plus inflation and billions unspent. This fiscally responsible approach means we will go into the next biennium's budget talks in decent shape even with lower oil prices.

The Texas economy is diverse and it remains strong based on evaluations by the State Comptroller's office - with overall job growth still on the rise. While it may take some flexibility, there is no reason to believe we will not be able to fund all our essential budget needs next session.

84TH LEGISLATURE VAMI BILLS PASSED

Veteran, Military & Border Bills by Agency

TVC

- SB660
- SB805
- SB832
- SB1308
- SB1879
- HB19
- HB867
- HB1338
- HB1584
- HB1762
- HB3710
- HB3996

HHCS

- SB55
- SB169
- SB1304
- SB1305
- SB1928
- HB19
- HB3404

DPS

- SB1308
- HB11
- HB12
- HB229
- HB1814
- HB2604

TMPC

- SB318
- SB503
- SB1358
- HB1133

ERS

- HB437
- HB445
- HB3307

TWC

- SB806

TX Military

- SB850
- SB1824
- HB11
- HB577
- HB1133
- HB1598
- HB2108
- HB2123
- HB2965

STATEWIDE

SB389, SB664, SB805, SB807, SB833, SB835, SB918, SB961, SB1049, SB1307, SB1309, SCR33
HB194, HB992, HB1338, HB1481, HB2014, HB3307, HB3547

MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS & INSTALLATIONS

- SB318
- SB1358
- HB1640
- SB503
- SCR37
- HB1814
- SB1115
- HB115
- HB2232

COUNTY & LOCAL

- SB1463
- SB1474
- SB2055
- HB115
- HB583
- HB906
- HB1237
- HB1640
- HB2232
- HB2913
- HB3729
- HB3996

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LEGISLATURE



Senator Campbell recognizes outstanding students as part of school choice week on the Capitol steps.

PROTECTING TAXPAYERS

Two issues at the top of everyone's list for 2017 are property tax reform and school finance. Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick has made property tax reform a priority and appointed a Select Committee on Property Tax Reform and Relief, which has been meeting across the state to hear from home and property owners.

School finance is still in the courts, but we are expecting a decision in 2016. We have a very real and exciting opportunity to improve our public schools through parental engagement and expanded school choice, as well as explore ways to keep more local dollars in the community.

Additionally, annexation reform is a key policy area in which many of us are working on solutions to protect the rights of property owners and prevent Texans from being annexed against their will.

HONORING EXTRAORDINARY TEXANS

One of the greatest privileges of being in the Legislature is honoring the many annual achievements of extraordinary Texans. If there is an individual, organization, or business that you feel deserves special recognition, let our office know and we will consider them for an honorary proclamation or resolution in 2017.

PAGE FOR A DAY PROGRAM

Among the unique opportunities available for district students is the Texas Senate Page for a Day Program. During the legislative session, students between 6 and 18 can serve as an Honorary Page as the Senate conducts its regular order of business. Shifts are three hours and can be arranged by contacting our Capitol office. It is a great way for students to see the inner workings of government up close!



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (TASSP)

The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program assists students interested in becoming members of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, the Texas State Guard, the United States Coast Guard, or becoming commissioned officers in a branch of the U.S. armed services. Each state senator may appoint one student to receive a conditional scholarship. Graduating seniors with a college ready score on the SAT or ACT should contact my office now to apply.



Donna Campbell

SENATOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
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I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please don't hesitate to contact us with your comments and feedback. I am here to work for you and serve your interests. In addition to our Capitol office, you may contact or visit one of our district offices in San Antonio or New Braunfels. I know these issues are as important to you as they are to me. Let's keep Texas strong and our families free and prosperous!

Handwritten signature of Donna Campbell.

CONTACT SENATOR CAMPBELL



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