



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BEN BUMGARNER
House District 63

STATE OF TEXAS
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



88TH SESSION UPDATE

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and high spirits. It is a pleasure to represent you and our community in Denton County.

As you may know, the Texas Legislature meets for 140 days, each odd numbered year for the State's regular legislature session. The Legislature finished the regular session in late May and has since met multiple times for Special Sessions.



The Texas House of Representatives worked hard during the 88th Legislative Session on a wide range of policies including: reducing homeowners' property taxes, fighting the fentanyl crisis, protecting Texas children from abusive content online, & continuing to make the State of Texas the best place to live in the nation.

In June and July of 2023, the Legislature was called back to Austin by Governor Abbott to pass property tax relief. During the second called special session, the legislature passed legislation to apply over \$18 billion of property tax relief to Texans by increasing the homestead exemption, compressing tax rates, and limiting appraisal caps.

In this newsletter, there is a summary of some of the most important legislation the regular session, a high level view of the Texas Legislative process, and what issues my office can help assist you with. On the last page of this newsletter, there is a constituent survey, I encourage you to fill it out and send it back to my office. Your input helps me better represent you as your State Represent you.

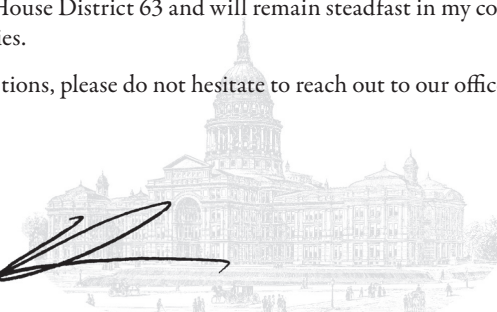
The staff for House District 63 and myself are still hard at work meeting with constituents, reviewing legislation passed during the 88th Session, and representing your values and interests in Austin. Please know that it is a great honor and privilege to serve as your Representative for House District 63 and will remain steadfast in my commitment to serving your priorities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office.

God bless you all!

Sincerely,

Ben Bumgarner
 Texas State Representative, District 63



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 DEFENSE &
 VETERANS' AFFAIRS
 INTERNATIONAL
 RELATIONS & ECONOMIC
 DEVELOPMENT

REPRESENTATIVE BEN BUMGARNER

THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

The Texas Legislature is made up of 150 house members and 31 senators that represent all 254 counties in the State of Texas. The Texas Legislature meets once every two years for 140 days during regular sessions and meet in 30 day increments when the Governor calls a special session. During this 88th Regular Legislative Session, the House of Representatives and Senate made history by filing a total of 8,406 bills. Only 1,246 of the bills passed to the Governor.

THE STATE BUDGET

Each legislative session, there is only one piece of legislation that must pass: the state budget for the next biennium. Before the 88th Legislative Session, the State Comptroller projected that the Legislature we would have about \$188.23 billion of revenue to appropriate. Unlike the federal government, the Texas Constitution requires the budget to be balanced and also includes a spending cap.

The Legislature passed a budget for the 2023-2024 biennium that reflects the state's commitment to providing better opportunities to all Texans. The state budget appropriates a historic amount of funds into public education, border security, foster care, retired teachers, and public health. The budget also includes the largest property tax relief in the state's history, providing \$17.6 billion in relief in the form of increased homestead exemptions and tax compression.

Ensuring funding for border security is paramount to safeguarding our state's integrity and well-being of our communities. This is why the budget plan provides \$5,105.7 million between thirteen state agencies all working together to ensure a secure and safe border.

HOUSE COMMITTEES AND INTERIM HEARINGS

At the beginning of each Regular Session, the Speaker of the House assigns each member to committees. I was fortunate to be placed on the House Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee and the International Relations & Economic Development Committee.

The Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee is given jurisdiction over all manners relating to the relations between the State of Texas and the federal government involving defense, emergency preparedness, and veteran issues.

The International Relations & Economic Development Committee is given jurisdiction over all manners pertaining to the relations between the State of Texas and other nations, including matters related to trade relations and international trade zones.

During session, bills must go through a house committee and each bill is open to public comment in-person and online. After a bill is heard in committee, the bill must receive a favorable vote from the members to proceed. If voted out favorably, the bill will have the opportunity to be debated on the House Floor and move onto the Senate.

During the interim, each committee studies interim charges, researches possible legislation for the next session, and monitors the implementation of legislation that passed through the committee.



Rep. Bumgarner listening to public testimony during an International Relations & Economic Development hearing.

I encourage you to check Capitol.Texas.gov to view committee postings, watch hearings live, or watch previous hearings. You may see an issue you are particularly passionate about and wish to share your input and expertise.

REPRESENTATIVE BEN BUMGARNER

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

House Committee Assignments

- Defense & Veterans' Affairs
- International Relations & Economic Development

Legislative Snapshot

- House Resolutions Filed: 10
- House Bills Filed: 16
- Committee Hearings: 20
- Bills Signed into Law: 3



Representative Bumgarner sitting at his desk on the floor.

15 BILLS AUTHORED AND SUPPORTED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE BEN BUMGARNER THAT ARE NOW LAW

HB 3 amends the Education Code to introduce provisions concerning the development, implementation, and funding of public school safety and security requirements in Texas.

HB 6 increases the penalty for dealing fentanyl when consumption results in death.

HB 12 increases post-partum maternal healthcare to 12 months and gives new mother the resources they need for their child to thrive.

HB 17 reigns in prosecutors who refuse to enforce the laws that we have in this state.

HB 246 creates a pilot program to enhance the surveillance of ballot counting processes.

HB 900 creates a process to ensure sexually explicit materials and books are not in school libraries.

HB 1217 standardizes early voting hours to ensure voting hours are uniform across the state.

HB 3579 provides the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) with another tool to combat human trafficking at licensed massage establishments by authorizing the Executive Director of TDLR to issue an emergency order halting all business from continuing if law enforcement believes the business is human trafficking.

HB 4615 adds military servicemembers Department of Defense identification number to the items exempt from being disclosed to the public.

HB 5260 repeals the requirement for multiple state agencies to assist the Office of Fleet Management to develop an annual management plan, allowing the Comptroller's Office to increase efficiency and cut red tape.

SB 12 bans commercial businesses from hosting sexually oriented performances in front of children.

SB 14 bans gender modification surgeries and treatments on children.

SB 1403 authorizes the Governor to create an interstate compact for border security, allowing participating states' law enforcement agencies to share resources and intelligence for border enforcement.

SB 1900 declares drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations.

REPRESENTATIVE BEN BUMGARNER

HOW OUR OFFICE CAN ASSIST YOU

Resolutions & Certificates of Achievements

To commemorate special events such as an anniversary, retirement, or any type of milestone, our office can craft a Resolution meant to mark the special occasion.

Assistance with State Agencies

If you have any issue with a state agency, our office can help you communicate with the agency. This includes agencies like the Department of Licensing and Regulation, Department of Motor Vehicles, Texas Workforce Commission, etc. Our staff can happily guide you to the appropriate state agency and work with you to resolve any questions that you may have.

Legislative Ideas

The office is always open and eager to receive phone calls from constituents who want to share their ideas for potential legislation. Your input and insights play a vital role in shaping policies that best reflect the needs and aspirations of our community. If you have any idea for legislation, no matter how big or small, our office would be happy to look into it.

Connection to Local Community Resources

Our office takes pride in its ability to connect constituents with a network of local community resources tailored to their needs, ensuring access to vital services and support. We're here to help you navigate and tap into the resources available in our community.

Honorary Page Program

During each Legislative Session, House Representatives may appoint students between the ages of 8-18 to serve as an Honorary Page in the Chamber of the Texas House of Representatives. Page participants will be entrusted with performing various duties on the Texas House Floor while Members are in session. We encourage you to contact us if you would like to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Capitol Tours

A trip to Austin is not complete without a tour of the State Capital Complex. If you find yourself in the city, our Capitol office can arrange a tour where you can learn about the rich history of our beautiful State Capital.

Internships

If you are interested in being part of the legislative process, would like to learn more about the office, or are a student looking for internship credit hours, our office offers flexible internship opportunities.



Representative Bumgarner speaking with Secretary of State, Jane Nelson at the Texas Capitol.



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REP BEN BUMGARNER
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE



DISTRICT 63 SURVEY FOR UPCOMING SESSION

Constituent Survey



Your opinion is important and will help me prepare for the next legislative session. Please fill out the survey, cut on the dash line, fold on the dotted line, seal at the top, and mail back to my Capitol office at: PO Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78768, or scan/take a picture of the completed survey and email to District63.Bumgarner@house.texas.gov.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please list the following policy issues in the order you find the more important to the least important:

1
FOLD ON
DOTTED LINE.

- ____ K-12 Education Funding
- ____ Election Integrity
- ____ Border Security
- ____ Power Grid & Utilities
- ____ Natural Disaster Preparedness
- ____ Healthcare
- ____ Veterans' Benefits
- ____ Other (_____)

Do you agree or disagree with the following propositions? Please check one per question.

1. The State should ensure parents have full autonomy of their child's education and curriculum.
 Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree
2. The State should eliminate the use of electronic voting machines and require the use of paper ballot voting and hand counts.
 Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree
3. The State should continue prioritizing border security through the construction of a border wall along the Texas-Mexico Border.
 Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree
4. The State should prohibit the use of taxpayer money for lobbying purposes.
 Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree
5. The State should ban vaccine mandates as a condition of employment by private businesses.
 Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree
6. The State Should abolish local property taxes in favor of a consumption tax system.
 Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

2
FOLD ON
DOTTED LINE.





State Representative ★ House District 63

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*Committees: Defense & Veterans' Affairs,
International Relations & Economic Development*

2023 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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HELPFUL NUMBERS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE BEN BUMGARNER • DISTRICT 63 • (512) 463-0688

Dept. of Agriculture.....	(800) 835-5832	Dept. of Transportation.....	(800) 558-9368
Attorney General	(800) 252-8011	Veterans Commission.....	(512) 463-6564
Comptroller of Public Accounts	(800) 531-5441	Workforce Commission.....	(512) 463-2222
Dept. of Criminal Justice	(512) 463.9988	State Senator Springer.....	(512) 463-0130
Texas Education Agency	(512) 463-9734	State Senator Parker	(512) 463-0112
Dept. of Family and Protective Services	(512) 438-4800	Congressman Burgess.....	(940) 497-5031
Dept. of Motor Vehicles	(888) 368-4689	Senator John Cornyn	(972) 239-1310
Dept. of Licensing & Regulation.....	(800) 803-9202	Senator Ted Cruz.....	(214) 599-8749
Public Utility Commission.....	(512) 936-7000	Denton County.....	(940) 349-4670
Dept. of Public Safety	(512) 424-2000	Metrocrest Services.....	(972) 446-2100
Texas Secretary of State	(512) 463-5555	N. Texas Tollway Authority	(972) 818-6682