



**House District 1 - Bowie, Franklin, Lamar & Red River counties
District & Capitol Report
85th Legislature - January 2017**

VanDeaver sworn in for second term. On January 10, I had the honor of being sworn in for a second term as your state representative to the 85th Texas Legislature. It is a privilege to serve in this position, and I look forward to working hard this session to represent everyone in House District 1.



Rep. VanDeaver swearing his oath of office on the House Floor.

Staff. This session, I am pleased to have a dedicated and hardworking staff at both of my offices in the District and at the Capitol. Feel free to reach out to any of my staff at either location if you have questions or need our help. My District Director, Bart Brock (bart.brock@house.texas.gov), is located at the District office in the Bowie County Courthouse in New Boston. My Capitol staff includes two veteran staff members from my freshman session in 2015, as well as three new staff members working on your behalf, and includes:

- Becky Calahan - Legislative Aide - rebekah.calahan@house.texas.gov
- Trish Conratt - Chief of Staff - trish.conratt@house.texas.gov
- Ethan Head - Legislative Intern - ethan.head@house.texas.gov
- Nicholas McDowell - Legislative Intern - nicholas.mcdowell@house.texas.gov
- Madison Stewart - Legislative Director - madison.stewart@house.texas.gov



Not only do I have experienced Capitol staffers in Conratt and Stewart, I am pleased to have staff members new to the Capitol who can bring new perspectives, energies and insights to the legislative process. Calahan is a graduate student at the Bush School of Government at Texas A&M University, while Head and McDowell are undergraduate students at the University of Texas at Austin. McDowell grew up in Texarkana, so I am glad to have a staff person who knows House District 1 very well.

Pictured Top l-r: Ethan Head, Madison Stewart, Trish Conratt, Becky Calahan, Nicholas McDowell. Bottom: Rep. VanDeaver

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State budget. The only bill that any Texas legislature has to pass is the state budget for the next biennium. Prior to each session, the comptroller is required to issue the state's Biennial Review Estimate (BRE), which Comptroller Glen Hegar released the day before the session convened. Hegar told lawmakers they will have \$104.9 billion in general state revenue, which is almost \$3 billion less than available (\$107.7 billion) in 2015. Though not good news, Hegar reminded lawmakers that our state's economy is much more diverse than previous downturns, and he has projected moderate growth in years to come. This news just confirms that our legislature's philosophy of conservative planning and budgeting has served our state well and will be especially important this year.

My office is here to help. I thank each of you for letting me serve you as your state representative. Please contact either the District office (903-628-0361) or Capitol office (512-463-0692) if there is anything you think we can do to help you.

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