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**Dear Friends,**

Republicans in the Texas House continue to pass strong conservative legislation that reflects our values and honors our commitments. House Republicans are tackling critical issues by passing common sense solutions that will provide long lasting results. We'll continue to utilize this time to make sure that Texas remains the best state to live, work, and raise a family and I appreciate all the support and input I've been getting from across HD 10.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The Texas House is making transportation infrastructure funding a top priority by passing [House Bill 13](#) and [House Bill 20](#). Beginning in 2018, [HB 13](#) will allocate an additional \$3 billion in dedicated sales tax to transportation each year. Funding based on the sales tax, instead of the sales tax on motor vehicles, is a more inclusive approach that does not disincentive Texans for purchasing a vehicle.



[HB 20](#) aims to increase the transparency of transportation spending by providing a framework to ensure that funds for transportation are objectively administered. The

bill requires [TxDOT](#) to develop and implement, with the Commission's approval, a performance-based planning and programming process to provide the legislature with indicators that quantify and qualify progress toward attaining department goals and objectives.

## **ARTICLE V CONVENTION OF STATES**

On Friday, the House passed [House Joint Resolution 79](#) which calls upon Congress to authorize a Convention of the States for the purposes of proposing amendments to the Constitution upon the application of two-thirds of the several states. The amendment would address the federal government's budget deficit and demands more fiscal restraint. Support for calling such a convention has been building in Texas and around the United States for decades. There are several initiatives gathering steam around the country to call for a Convention of the States. With the passage of this resolution, the state of Texas is demanding that the federal government balances the budget or call a convention of the states for the purpose of adding an amendment to the constitution imposing fiscal restraints on the federal government.

## **HOUSE BUDGET REFORM**

In 1991, the legislature passed a "funds consolidation" bill, which allowed unspent balances of dedicated revenue, labeled available money by the Comptroller, to be diverted to other areas of the budget. Over time, these funds were became a quick-fix to justify spending during touch economic periods when the budget was strained. As is the case with most government spending, the legislature quickly became reliant on these fees.

Over the past few years, the House has taken steps to return fiscal discipline to the budgetary process. Representative Drew Darby's [House Joint Resolution 111](#), which received unanimous support late last month, would further this effort to reduce the Lone Star State's reliance on money that has accumulated in so-called general revenue-dedicated accounts. This proposed amendment to the Texas Constitution would not only help keep spending in check, but it would bring needed transparency to the budget process. It will allow us to have a more honest conversation about how much money is available to spend on tax cuts, programs and other projects Texans plan on addressing.

## **CLAIM IT TEXAS .COM**

One in four Texans has unclaimed property from forgotten bank accounts, uncashed checks, security deposits and utility refunds. There is currently about \$3.4 billion in property that has not been claimed, and approximately \$586 million in shared property that has been partially claimed and paid to some of the owners. It's never too late to make a claim, and the Texas Comptroller's office is committed to ensuring hardworking Texans don't lose a penny.

Reclaim what you are owed! In 2014, the state returned more than \$200 million to its owners. Find out what you may have been missing by searching the Comptroller's unclaimed property database at <http://comptroller.texas.gov/up/>.



### **GET INVOLVED & STAY CONNECTED!**

You can reach our Austin office at (512) 463-0516 and our District Office at (972) 938-9392. You can always shoot an email to [district10.wray@house.state.tx.us](mailto:district10.wray@house.state.tx.us) too!

For more regular updates, "like" the HD 10 District [Facebook](#) Page and follow the HD 10 [Twitter](#) account.

God Bless you and God Bless Texas!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Wray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative John Wray

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