

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



January 23, 2015

Friends,

The 84th legislature is well underway. The House has spent the week organizing as we wait for both the House and the Senate to make committee assignments. Please be sure to communicate your thoughts on issues that are important to you. My staff and I are eager to hear from you. You can always email me directly at Angie.Button@house.state.tx.us or contact any member of my staff with your questions or concerns.

Amanda Willard, Chief of Staff - Amanda.Willard@house.state.tx.us

Victoria Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff/Scheduler - Victoria.Smith@house.state.tx.us

Austin Hood, Legislative Aide/District Director - Austin.Hood@house.state.tx.us

Jason Chang, Legislative Intern - Jason.Chang@house.state.tx.us

Pam Stoneham, Community Liaison - District12.Button@house.state.tx.us

The Inauguration of Our New Governor and Lt. Governor

On Tuesday, Greg Abbott and Dan Patrick were sworn in as our 48th Governor and 42nd Lt. Governor at a ceremony at the state capitol. I was proud to be present for this historic event and to witness an important piece of history. Governor Abbott's speech focused on the future of our great state, "We must seek higher ground that will continue to elevate Texas, not just as a leader in this nation, but as a leader in this world. Because as goes Texas, so goes America, and as goes America, so goes the world." I am excited to help this vision of a brighter future for Texas become a reality!



I enjoyed watching the Inauguration Ceremony with my colleague Chairman Larry Phillips from Sherman and my husband Darcy.



I was excited to see Dick and Diane Reed of Richardson in my office after the Inauguration ceremony.

Your State Budget

The House wasted no time getting to work as we made the base budget available late last week. The two-year, \$202.4 billion base 2016-17 budget covers our growing state's basic needs while leaving \$13 billion in the state coffers. The base budget serves as a starting point in the budget negotiation process.

“This plan proves that the Texas House remains serious about fiscal discipline,” Speaker Straus said in a statement. “We are able to hold spending in check while addressing some very important challenges related to our rapid growth.”

The House budget would put \$396.8 million towards border security, enough to continue funding of the state's border surge which launched last summer. The state maintains public education funding at current per-student levels while accounting for expected growth of about 84,000 students annually.

The budget allots \$62 million for the Texas Enterprise Fund and the Emerging Technology Fund. The funding is expected to be enough for the programs to address the state's current obligations. In light of widespread concerns that oversight of the funds is lacking, the funding for both is contingent on legislation to increase transparency and accountability. The Interim Committee on Economic Development Incentives, which I was honored to chair, worked on this matter over the interim and will be filing legislation to ensure the funds are transparent.

The proposed budget also goes further to end diversions and finds new funding for \$1.2 billion in spending that currently is paid out of the gas tax but is not directly related to transportation. We have been working to undo diversions for some time and this budget, as proposed, should finish the job.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. Please continue to communicate your views on issues that are important to you.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Button

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail Angie.Button@house.state.tx.us.