

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



March 27, 2015

Friends,

It has been a busy week in Austin. Today I am back in the district conducting two full days of roundtables with constituents from House District 112. I appreciate everyone taking time to meet with me and to express your concerns and priorities for making our state and region even better.

The State Budget

Next week, the House will hear HB 1, the budget bill.

As proposed, HB 1 lives within its means by staying beneath the constitutional spending limit and keeping overall growth at approximately two percent per year. The budget does not spend any of the projected \$11 billion balance of the Rainy Day Fund. It addresses the needs of our state in a thoughtful and conservative way while leaving room for meaningful tax relief.

This budget prioritizes the needs and demands of a state growing twice as fast as the rest of the country. This growth puts strain on our roads, classrooms, and hospitals. The proposed budget puts dollars toward a stressed transportation system and gives schools additional resources to educate a student population that grows by about 80,000 students every year. It also provides additional support to the colleges and universities that prepare young Texans to succeed in our fast-changing economy.

The House budget concentrates resources on improving public safety. It provides funding for hundreds of new state troopers in the border region to provide additional security. The budget funds the provisions of HB 11, which we passed last week to bring consistency and strength to our border-security efforts and to help law enforcement combat drug trafficking and human smuggling.

One of the House's top priorities over the last few years has been making the budget more transparent and HB 1 increases transparency in a number of ways. It ends diversions of our transportation dollars and uses all of the money in our state highway fund for transportation.

This budget does not just increase transparency; it reforms state government. Language in this budget would provide new oversight of contracts and purchases by state agencies and make it easier for legislative leaders to cancel contracts when problems arise. It ties funding for the investigation of public officials to reforms that will most likely move those investigations out of the Travis County District Attorney's office. This budget reforms our approach to economic development by eliminating the Emerging Technology Fund and requiring reforms to the administration of the Texas Enterprise Fund. As Chair of the Economic and Small Business Development Committee, I am working hard to ensure Texas regains its number one job creator status and that the programs in place are transparent and effective.

As proposed, HB 1 is responsible, sound, and appropriate for a growing state. It shows that the Texas House will continue to live within our means while also confronting the challenges that result from our economic success.



Discussing legislation on the House floor with Chairman of the State Affairs Committee, Byron Cook

Visitors from Home

On Thursday I spoke with leaders of the Rowlett community during their visit to the State Capitol. We discussed promoting small businesses in our local community. We also discussed the need for local governments to maintain local control, as they best know the needs of their communities. Our office was also pleased to visit with members of 4-H and members of the Catholic Coalition from the district on issues that are important to them. If you are planning a visit to the State Capitol, please let our office know and we would love to meet you.



Discussing the needs of our communities with Representative Jeff Leach of Collin County

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.