

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



April 2, 2015

Friends,

I would like to wish each of you a very happy Easter. My office will be closed on Friday so my staff and I can spend the holiday with our families.

Earlier this week, the House heard HB 1. After 17 hours of debate, the Budget bill passed the House. The Texas House budget dramatically reforms state government by increasing transparency and addressing the needs of our growing state, all while staying below the constitutional spending cap. HB 1 leaves a projected \$11 billion in the Rainy Day Fund and leaves plenty of room for tax relief with \$8.4 billion left unspent. The details of the tax relief will be determined by the House Ways and Means Committee, on which I have the honor of serving as a member. HB 1 invests significant resources in public schools, boosts formula funding for higher education, invests general revenue in transportation, and promotes border security and public safety. Additionally, HB 1 accomplishes this by limiting overall spending growth to less than what is necessary to account for population and inflation increases. HB 1 now heads to the Texas Senate.

Economic Development Reform

Texas is not a leader in job creation by pure luck. Along with many pro-business policies, Texas offers a variety of incentive programs to help bring jobs and economic growth to our state. However, the state will not stay on top without effort. Today, I laid my economic development reform package, HB 26, HB 27, and HB 28, before the House Economic and Small Business Development Committee. This work begins with the efforts started by the Select Committee on Economic Development Incentives that I chaired during the interim. It reflects a major effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our incentive programs and appeals more to our rural communities and small businesses, all while remaining attractive to major employers.

Constituent Roundtables

Last weekend, I held the first set of Constituent Roundtables of 2015. I was happy to be back in the district and enjoyed getting to work with so many friends in the community on issues before the state legislature.

The Roundtables focus on a variety of different topics and bring together those involved with the industry, local leaders, and concerned citizens to voice their opinions on each issue. Roundtables are open to the public with the only stipulation that you must either live or work in House District 112.

The Energy Roundtable discussed the current status of our state's oil and natural gas production, the viability of wind and other renewable energy in our state, and the ongoing discussion about the Denton fracking ban. At the Education Roundtable, I had a very productive conversation with local-area teachers, administrators, parents, and professionals about increased Pre-K funding, reviewing elementary and middle school testing standards, school vouchers, and school accountability. The Transportation Roundtable spoke about increased funding for the Texas Department of Transportation, the end of funding diversions, and the anti-toll road legislation going through the committee process currently. Lastly, at the Business and Economic Development Roundtable, we talked about the future of the Texas Enterprise Fund, certifications required for some professions, and a variety of workforce development bills.

I appreciate everyone that came out on Friday and Saturday of last week to give me their input on legislation that is currently making its way through the state legislative process. If you have any thoughts on the current issues facing the state or would like to get involved with my roundtables, please let me know.



Pictured with members of the Education Roundtable hosted at the Richland College - Garland Campus



Happy to have a large turnout for our Seniors Roundtable

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.