

# ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas  
House of Representatives



*August 10, 2015*

Friends,

## Voter ID

After six years and three legislative sessions of sharp debate and study, the Texas Legislature passed a law in 2011 that required voters to show a photo ID in order to vote. I supported this legislation.

Recently, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Texas voter ID law has a “discriminatory effect” that violates the federal Voting Rights Act, which prohibits racial discrimination in voting. The decision sent the case back to a lower court, which will decide how Texas should address this law. Governor Greg Abbott, with my full support, has vowed to continue to fight for the law.

## Transportation

Transportation is one of the most important issues facing our state. Transportation has an impact on our economy as well as our quality of life on a daily basis. Over the last several years, transportation has been a major priority in the Texas House.

Because of those efforts, I am hopeful that we will be able to improve our transportation infrastructure without depending on tolls. This past session, the House insisted that, for the first time in decades, we use the State Highway Fund entirely for transportation instead of diverting more than \$1 billion of that money to other programs every two years.

In the 2013 session, the Legislature proposed using some of the oil-and-gas revenue coming into our state Rainy Day Fund for transportation. Voters later gave that proposal overwhelming approval. Voters will have another opportunity to put dollars toward roads this fall, when you will consider a plan to dedicate a certain amount of state sales tax revenue to roads.

Together, these proposals potentially add \$5 billion annually for transportation around the state in a few years. While substantial, it is not enough to solve all of our transportation challenges or to

completely do away with tolls or traffic congestion. However it is definitely a large step in the right direction as we work to shift toward a pay-as-you-go approach, instead of tolls, when it makes sense.



**Discussing changes to the IH-635E proposal at the 635E Caucus Meeting along with my colleagues Rep. Kenneth Sheets (not pictured), Rep. Cindy Burkett, Sen. Bob Hall, and Sen. Don Huffines**

I attended the 635E Legislative Caucus meeting this past month. This legislative caucus, made up of Senators and Representatives whose districts cover a portion of IH-635E, meets once a month to discuss ongoing issues with the corridor and the best ways to advocate for the highway to be redone and expanded. This transportation corridor is vital to all of the communities along its route and I remain dedicated to assisting these communities as they look to improve upon the highway.

### **Around the District**

This past month, I was excited to have the opportunity to visit with many groups in the area to discuss and review the results of the 84th legislative session. I participated in a panel discussion with other area legislators at the Richardson Chamber's Legislative Wrap-Up, as well as at the joint Garland, Richardson and Mesquite Tea Parties meeting. I was happy to spend time with the Garland Chamber Legislative Affairs group and the MLS DFW Realtors group to go over this past session. If your group would like for me to come speak to them about this past legislative session, please contact my office.



**Discussing the 84th Legislative Session with my colleagues Sen. Don Huffines, Rep. Jeff Leach, and Rep. Kenneth Sheets at the Richardson Chamber Legislative Wrap-up**

July has been filled with meetings throughout HD 112. I enjoyed returning to the Sachse Chamber luncheon where they held their annual tri-mayor's lunch. It was good to see so many friendly faces at the Garland Chamber luncheon this past month as well. I was happy to attend a meet and greet for our Dallas County Constable Ray Nichols, which was designed to make this often overlooked yet very important county elected position more visible to everyone in our area.

The annual McDonald's/Southern News Group Education Event took place last week and I was grateful to be invited to speak to the participants again. The workshop is meant for college bound high school students that would like to work on their college entrance applications and to learn more about what they can expect when applying for college. The Miss Asian American Texas beauty pageant also took place on the same day, and I was honored to be asked to kick off the event with Richardson Mayor Paul Voelker.



**Pictured at the ribbon cutting for the McDonald's/Southern News Group Education Event**

On Friday, we held our 7th Annual Senior Awareness Day. This wonderful event brought hundreds of seniors to the Richardson Civic Center to have a great time with food and entertainment and to learn about products and services available to seniors. A special thanks to the Senior Awareness Day Planning Committee for all of their hard work in bringing this wonderful event together.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. Please contact me 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](mailto:Angie.Button@house.state.tx.us).