

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



November 6, 2015

Friends,

After the conclusion of a legislative session, multiple amendments to Texas's constitution are normally proposed. Since its adoption in 1876, Texans have amended our constitution more than 400 times.

November 3rd was Election Day in Texas and statewide measures aimed at cutting property taxes, boosting funding for road projects, and protecting Texans' right to hunt and fish were all approved. In total, there were seven amendments to the constitution all related to measures passed during the 84th legislative session. All seven propositions passed with at least 66 percent of the vote.

By voting to lower property taxes, to invest in transportation infrastructure, and to constitutionally guarantee the right to hunt and fish, Texans are creating an even better place to live.

Interim Charges

Earlier this week, House Speaker Joe Straus assigned interim charges to committees formally launching preparations for the legislative session that will begin in January 2017. Interim charges are research projects that the Speaker asks House committees to investigate and potentially address in the upcoming session.

Among the issues highlighted in the House's interim charges are: economic growth, education, government transparency, water, and emergency preparedness.

As Chair of the Economic & Small Business Development Committee and as a member of the House Ways & Means Committee, I am excited to study the regulatory and tax hurdles that prevent the growth of small businesses and consider ways to encourage small business development. The committee will also evaluate the state's competitiveness with other states in recruiting and cultivating high-growth, high-tech industries. The Economic Development

Committee will also join with the Committee on Energy Resources to study the impact of declining oil prices on the Texas economy.

House committees will hold hearings in the months ahead and report their findings shortly before the start of the 85th Legislature in January 2017.

“These charges address the opportunities and challenges that come with rapid growth in our population,” Speaker Straus said. “Texas is a dynamic state with a diverse economy, and we need to be prepared to act on a range of key issues when we meet again. These charges will prepare the House for another productive session in 2017.”

State Internet Policy Conference

I recently had the opportunity to attend the State Internet Policy Conference in Silicon Valley. I joined with legislators across the country to discuss and learn about potential issues impacting technology businesses and internet policy. Of particular interest were discussions involving technology in the classroom. Technology evolves rapidly and it is important to utilize the appropriate tools to teach our youth in the most efficient way possible and to prepare them for the high tech work force. I had the opportunity to attend a panel on internet security and privacy as well. As we are doing more and more online, it is important to craft policy and to be informed about ways to protect citizens in this ever changing area.



Writing on the Facebook Wall on our tour of the Facebook Campus at the State Internet Policy Conference

Around the District

Last month, I was happy to participate in several legislative updates with groups from our area. I spoke to the Richardson Optimist Club giving them a brief overview of the past legislative session, and I joined 4 of my colleagues on a panel to discuss the past and future legislative sessions at the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce. I was honored to speak at the Civil Air Patrol Air Force Association meeting. I appreciated the opportunity to share my legislative experiences with these civic-minded groups.

National Night Out took place early in October and I know that many of you were out with your neighbors celebrating. I joined members of the Richardson Police Department and visited many of my friends in the Canyon Creek, Duck Creek, and SpringPark neighborhoods. I was also glad to join my colleague Rep. Cindy Burkett and the Rowlett City Council at the groundbreaking of the new Village of Rowlett development. This is just one of the many new developments that are taking place within Rowlett and I could not be more excited for them!



I joined my colleagues Rep. Jeff Leach and Rep. Linda Koop along with members of the Richardson City Council and Police Department in the annual National Night Out Celebration

The Garland Boards & Commissions Dinner took place in October and I was excited to be there to thank all of the outgoing board members for their service to their city and to welcome all of the incoming members. I also enjoyed attending the annual Garland Association for Hispanic Affairs (GAFHA) banquet where the association, among other activities, presents scholarships to local high school students to help them attend college. The Camelot neighborhood in Garland had their cook-off two weeks ago, and I was happy to be invited and visit with my neighbors. Weaver Elementary School in GISD celebrated their 50th anniversary last month and showcased their new

Mandarin language program. I spoke at the ceremony and celebrated with current and former students, teachers, and parents.



I was honored to take part in Weaver Elementary's 50th Anniversary Celebration

I spoke at the Republic of China (in Taiwan) Double Tenth Celebration held in Richardson. I was able to attend at the 32nd Annual Mallon Awards this year hosted by the World Affairs Council. I was also able to participate in the Technology and Transfer Conference that took place in Grand Prairie. Lastly, I was honored to be invited to attend the TexProtects Banquet that benefits protecting children from abuse and neglect in our area.

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.