

From: [Representative Angie Button](#)
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ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas House of Representatives



January 18, 2019

Friends,

The inaugural ceremonies took place this week in Austin. Greg Abbott was sworn in to serve his second term as our Governor. As he addressed the crowd, he made a pledge to better fund the state's public schools while reining in property taxes in Texas. I could not agree more with the Governor on this and look forward to passing meaningful school finance and property tax reform.

Budget

Texas is a big state and preparing our biennial budget is a big task. The budget process begins during the year prior to each legislative session.

Each state agency prepares a legislative appropriations request (LAR). These LARs list the

funding each agency feels it needs to operate. These LARs are then sent to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Comptroller.

At the start of the legislative session, the Comptroller issues his biennial revenue estimate (BRE), a careful estimate of the funds likely to be available from taxes and other revenue sources over the next two years. The BRE serves as a cap on legislative spending for this period. Then, using all available information, the House and the Senate work separately with LBB using the agencies' requests to prioritize spending and to draft their budget recommendations. The House and the Senate released their recommendations this week.

In the House, we proposed \$7 billion in new state funds for public schools. The Senate version recommends an increase in state funds for public education by approximately \$4.3 billion.

The two chambers took a different approach to funding these reforms. The Senate proposed a large withdrawal from the state savings account, the Economic Stabilization Fund, to pay for leftover bills from last session while the House recommended more modest spending from the state savings account for future expenses.

These proposals serve as a starting point for debate. While we still have a long way to go, I am pleased that the Senate agrees with the House that we must increase the state's share of public school funding.

I would love to hear more from you on what the state's spending priorities should be. For a copy of the proposed budgets, you can visit http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Legislative_Session.aspx.



Tania Ware and Franklin Ortega made the trip from Rowlett to Austin last week.



Philip, Kristen, and Sarah Cook came by the capitol on their trip to Austin earlier this week. It was wonderful to see friendly faces from home.

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.texas.gov