

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas House of Representatives



February 1, 2019

Friends,

Now that committee assignments have been made, committee chairs are organizing and preparing to meet. I spent several days this week visiting with the committee members serving on the Urban Affairs Committee to learn more about their priorities and interests. I look forward to working with my colleagues to make positive improvements in our regions.

Property Tax Reform Proposals

This week, HB 2 and SB 2 were filed. These identical bills were each filed in their respective chambers pushing to curb property tax growth by limiting how much money local governments can collect without voter approval. Currently, cities and counties can collect an additional 8 percent in revenues without directly involving voters in the decision. The new pair of bills would automatically trigger what is called a rollback election. What this means is, if voters do not approve the measure, the city or county would have to set a tax rate that only permits it to collect revenues from existing properties that are less than 2.5 percent more than the previous year.

In the proposed legislation, the rollback rate is also based on the appraised value of properties within a taxing unit's borders. Because of this, a city or county could approach the rollback election threshold if there is a significant increase in local property values without actually increasing its tax rate.

It is important to point out that the proposed legislation does not apply a cap to individual property tax bills so even with the cap in place, an individual's overall property tax bill could still increase. I would also like to note that in the House, this is a part of the overall proposed property tax reform initiatives.

Although this legislation is not about school finance, I assure you many of my House colleagues and I are very committed to school finance reform and relieving some of the reliance we currently have on local property taxes funding education.

While this legislation does have support in both chambers and the support of the Governor, it is not a done deal. I am pleased that we are starting the conversation on reducing the property tax burden so early this session and I am eager to hear from each of you on your thoughts as we weigh the merits of HB 2 and SB 2. If you would like to read the proposed language for yourself or be able to track where the legislation stands in the process, please visit: <https://capitol.texas.gov/>.

As always, I want to hear your opinion. Please feel free to email me anytime at Angie.Button@house.texas.gov. Each time a constituent contacts my office, their views are entered into our database. When I go to the floor to take a vote, I have the number of individuals from House District 112 right in front of me that would like for me to vote yes or no on any proposed legislation. This is a team effort and your comments matter to me and I cannot do my job without hearing from you.

Students from the District Visit the Capitol

On Tuesday, students from the University of Texas at Dallas came to visit the state capitol. These students are a part of the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program and are among the best and the brightest that the university has to offer. They were selected for this program because of their academic achievements and their records of community service and leadership. The McDermott Scholars Program helps these students to become more involved in their community, engage in pre-professional activities, and to travel to learn more about the state's culture. As a proud alumni from UTD, it was truly wonderful to get a chance to meet with these students.



Visiting with the UTD McDermott Scholars on their trip to the State Capitol.



Richland College Students, Thanh Cong Vu and Sam Mathew Samuel, met with me and my staff to discuss issues that were important to them and their fellow students.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Button

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail Angie.Button@house.texas.gov