



## Capitol Update

2/18/2011

Please Visit the New District Home Page



[HD 101 Information](#)

You can track what's going on in Austin and learn how it affects Mesquite, Balch Springs and Sunnyvale



### Greetings!

The first month in Austin has sped by. The swearing in ceremony was on 1/11/11 and the Capitol was awash with the friends, family, and constituents of Members being sworn in. It was nice to see so many faces from our district. Thanks to all of those who took time out of their busy schedules to come down to Austin on that special day.

It has been a busy couple of weeks. As with anything new, there is a lot to learn, but I think that the office is off to a good start. In this newsletter (that we will send out at least monthly), I have included links to current legislation and all of our contact info. Please never hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns, or need help navigating the state bureaucracy.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

State Representative Cindy Burkett

### Burkett Opens District Office

**MESQUITE, TEXAS** - Representative Cindy Burkett officially opened her District 101 Office at 18601 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway, Suite 400 in Mesquite. In the spirit of saving tax payer



## Burkett Legislative Info

--Bills--

[Author](#)

[Co-Author](#)

--Committees--

[Elections](#)

[Criminal Jurisprudence](#)

### Please Stay in Touch

Cindy wants to hear from you. Please direct all written correspondence to:

Rep. Cindy Burkett  
PO Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

Also, you can reach her by email or over the phone:  
(512) 463-0464  
or  
(972) 603-6743

### Fort Hood Day!



Cindy was proud to spend a day with many Texans who are preparing to deploy overseas. Thank you, men and women at arms, for your sacrifice.

money, Burkett is temporarily sharing space in the District Office of State Senator Robert F. Deuell, M.D. until the end of the current legislative session. She anticipates opening an independent location by the beginning of the summer.

Representative Burkett's District Director, Sabrina Thomas (pictured above), will staff the office, which is scheduled to be open Monday thru Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM. Thomas is a longtime Mesquite resident and a former teacher in the Mesquite Independent School District at Berry Middle School. While she is attending to the district's needs, Thomas also is studying for the state bar exam.

Representative Burkett is excited about the establishment of this office for the purpose of serving the citizens of Mesquite, Balch Springs, and Sunnyvale, and she encourages all constituents to call or stop in to say hello. During the legislative session, Burkett is at home most weekends and is available for appointment. The District Office may be reached at (972) 603-6743.

From Press Release issued 2/11/2011

## State Budget

We knew coming into this legislative session that writing the state budget was going to be a challenge. When Comptroller Combs released her final numbers, the state was facing around a 27 billion dollar shortfall.



If you and I have had the chance to talk since the house leadership released the initial draft of the budget, then you have already heard me refer to the plan as a "shock and awe" budget. It is a first draft, and it will not be the version of the plan that the house passes later during the session.

Of course, one of the main areas of the budget we will need to address is education funding. When I talked with

members of the Mesquite Council of PTAs (pictured above), and in conversations with our local superintendents, I have expressed my commitment to correcting the current funding disparity that affects our local schools. Mesquite receives, on average, one of the lowest dollar amounts per pupil of any district in the Metroplex. I am currently working with the Equity Center and other members of the house to help craft a plan that makes sure districts that already do more with less are not disproportionately affected by the current shortfall.

## Stop By Any Time



Cindy met last month with local chiropractors...



And received a surprise visit from the Balch Springs "Rat Pack"!