

Texas House of Representatives



Lyle Larson

State Representative - District 122

What's new in District 122

Howdy! We hope you're enjoying the fall season with school, football and hunting season in full swing! Team Larson spent September meeting with various individuals and organizations, including Dr. Ferrier and staff of Texas A&M San Antonio, the San Pedro Hills Women's Club and the Hill Country Alliance. I spoke at several events this month, including the Texas Association of Groundwater Districts, the 22nd Annual Continuing Legal Education International Water Law Conference and the Texas Tribune Festival. We look forward to a busy October and hope to see you around the district!

First Meeting of the District 122 Superintendents

Earlier this month, my office organized a meeting of the superintendents from the four school districts that overlap Texas House District 122: Boerne, Comal, Northside, and Northeast ISDs. The Honorable Rob Eissler, Chairman of the House Public Education Committee, traveled from Houston to attend the meeting and participated in the discussion with the superintendents about education funding in Texas, school choice, testing and accountability measures, current education lawsuits and what to expect from the 83rd Legislative Session. In his presentation, Chairman Eissler spoke extensively on the complicated subject of public school funding, pointing out some of the inequalities and problems with following the antiquated formulas that dictate how money is appropriated.



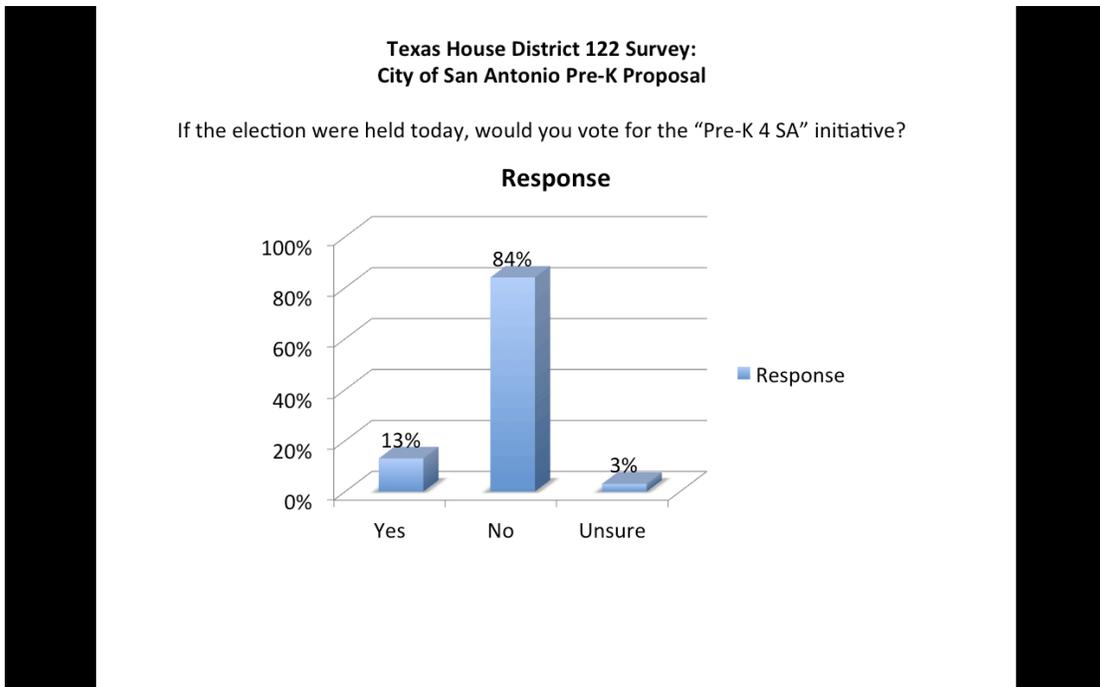
With Chairman Eissler, Dr. Stelmazewski, Dr. Gottary and Dr. Woods

Dr. Woods, Dr. Gottardy, Dr. Stelmazewski and Dr. Kim are doing excellent work leading their respective school districts and we look forward to working with them to ensure our children receive the highest quality education and are equipped with the skills necessary to succeed in their future. We have agreed to hold another meeting in December to discuss issues affecting each district that will be addressed in the 83rd Legislative Session.

The latest on the Pre-K tax initiative

We've received correspondence from many of you requesting information about organized efforts to oppose the pre-k tax proposal. Our office has learned that there are several grassroots groups that are working together to get their message out before early voting begins October 22nd. The San Antonio Tea Party has produced a website in an effort to provide voters with information: satp-prek4sa.us. For those of you who support the proposal, you may find information on the effort [here](#).

In last month's newsletter, we included a poll intended to gauge the opinion of residents of District 122 on this issue. The survey is unscientific, however, it records only one vote per valid email address entered. We asked: "If the election were held today, would you vote for the "Pre-K 4 SA" initiative?" 84 percent of respondents said no, while only 13 percent said yes and 3 percent said they were unsure.



We will continue to stay involved in the discussions about this proposal. In the coming weeks, I will participate in a debate on the proposal with San Antonio City Councilman

Diego Bernal on the Jack Riccardi Show on 550 KTSA. Once confirmed, we will post the date and time on our Facebook page.

Texas Tribune Festival Recap - The Future of Water Panel

Over the weekend, I had the opportunity to participate in the [2nd Annual Texas Tribune Festival](#), a weekend long policy discussion with over 100 speakers and panel participants on 6 different subjects: Race and Immigration, Law and Order, Trade and Transportation, Public and Higher Education, Energy and the Environment, and Health and Human Services. I participated in the first Energy and Environment panel of the day, called the Future of Water, along with Becky Motal of LCRA, Andy Sansom of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and Amy Hardberger, a law professor at St. Mary's University. We had a great discussion about the effects of the 2011 drought and how to drought proof our state using technologies such as desalination, aquifer storage and recovery, reuse and more aggressive conservation. We discussed strategies to make these solutions easier for the state to pursue, along with necessary policy changes, like creating uniformity in conservation, removing regulatory barriers from pursuing desalination and encouraging the construction of ASR facilities throughout the state in lieu of building additional surface water capacity. We discussed the need for looking at our state's water strategy from 30,000 feet, rather than approaching it in piecemeal fashion, and engaged in conversation about how to come up with a strategy that would include both local control and state involvement. We also talked about the need to get serious about funding additional water supply in our state and how the state could use \$1 billion of the rainy day fund to leverage water projects all over the state. The Texas Tribune recapped the discussion in a liveblog, which can be viewed [here](#). We hope you'll take a moment to read it and let us know what you think.



The Texas Tribune Festival Future of Water Panel

San Antonio Children's Hospital Update

Many of you are well aware of the efforts over the last few decades to secure a world class freestanding children's hospital in our community. Many of the hospital systems in San Antonio have expressed their interest in being the home of this facility. Methodist Healthcare System, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa and Vanguard (parent company of the Baptist Health System) each submitted proposals to the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio (UTHSCSA), vying to become partners with the institution to construct the facility and use it as a teaching hospital. Methodist and CHRISTUS are the two systems that currently have dedicated children's hospitals and CHRISTUS previously announced its intent to embark on a \$135 million renovation of its children's facility. The UTHSCSA spent the last several months reviewing the proposals and evaluating various factors, including potential location of the facility and the existence of a coordinate regional network that provides care to folks throughout our city.

As you have likely heard, earlier this month, UTHSCSA announced their decision to partner with the Baptist Health System and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for this project. [This article](#) in the San Antonio Express-News describes the details of the agreement. Over the course of the last few months, my office has worked to facilitate dialogues with the CEOs and board members of each of these hospital systems, UT Chancellor Cigarroa, UTHSCSA staff, and pediatric physicians throughout San Antonio to ensure that any potential pitfalls may be avoided and that our community's children remain the top priority in this process. During these discussions, several concerns were brought to light, including the problem of fracturing the pediatric personnel between three different children's hospitals, and other issues caused by triplication, highlighted in [this San Antonio Express-News piece](#). We will continue to work on this issue and hope to be helpful in addressing these concerns. This decision represents a great opportunity for our community to move forward together and continue to provide first class healthcare to our children.

Texas House Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee Info

At the last meeting of the CRT Committee, we were provided with some interesting facts about tourism in Texas and which of the tourist attractions are most popular among Texans and nonresidents. We thought you'd be interested to see the breakdown:

Top 5 Destination Attractions Visited by Texas Residents: (rankings % for each attraction):

- Alamo (31.16%)
- Galveston Island (26.11%)
- Hill Country (22.76%)
- San Marcos Outlet Malls (19.53%)
- Six Flags Over Texas (15.92%)

Top 5 Destination Attractions Visited by Non-Residents: (rankings % for each attraction):

- Alamo (39.71%)
- Paseo del Rio (River Walk) (17.32%)
- Fort Worth Zoo (15.41%)
- State Capitol (14.61%)
- Fort Worth Stockyards (13.34%)

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We're looking forward to the next meeting of the CRT Committee, when we'll discuss invasive aquatic species, drought and wildlife, oversight of the Alamo and an issue that has arisen with the Battleship Texas. Stay tuned for the time and date of this hearing if you're interested in watching it, or just wait for the recap in a subsequent newsletter!

Protecting the Edwards Aquifer

This week we had a great meeting with Dr. Francine Romero, Chair of the [City of San Antonio Conservation Advisory Board](#), which oversees the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. The board and sales tax were created in 2000 when voters approved Proposition 3, the "Park Development and Expansion Venue Project" and later approved Proposition 1, the "Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project," in 2005. Dr. Romero and other board members review maps of the recharge zone and provide recommendations to the San Antonio City Council for the purchase of conservation easements. The program has been incredibly successful in its mission to protect our aquifer and to date, over 97,000 acres of aquifer recharge have been protected since its inception. This land will be preserved into perpetuity, ensuring the health of our region's major water source. Dr. Romero and the members of the Conservation Advisory Board have done an excellent job and we look forward to working with them in the future.

Texas A&M San Antonio



Recently, we traveled to the Texas A&M San Antonio campus to tour the grounds and visit with Dr. Ferrier and her staff about the university. The university's leadership is working to create a curriculum focused on returning veterans to work after they have finished their military service. They have focused on cyber security, logistics and other fields that are in demand by employers in San Antonio to ensure its students will have

the best chance of becoming employed after graduation. Texas A&M San Antonio is experiencing incredible growth and plans to construct their main academic building in the coming year. We look forward to seeing great things from Texas A&M San Antonio!



At Texas A&M San Antonio

2012 Election Season

We're just weeks away from early voting and we'd like to get your thoughts on some races that will be decided this November. Please let us know where you stand on the Presidential and U.S. Congressional races in [this survey](#). Remember, the system only allows one vote per email address. We will share the results on Facebook and in the next newsletter.

As always, please feel free to contact me if I may ever be of assistance to you by phone at (210) 402-5402 or by email at lyle.larson@house.state.tx.us.

Best,

Lyle Larson