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Representative Dan Huberty



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Happy Halloween!

Greetings, everyone.

The harvest season is upon us and with it, All Hallows Eve, or Halloween. The fun holiday where children, young and old, get to play dress-up and pretend to be their favorite superhero or princess. It's a great time for communities to come together and celebrate the "summer's end" and the close of the harvest season. In our community, there are plenty of "Fall Festivals" and celebrations you can attend to celebrate Halloween. They will be listed in the Upcoming Events section below.

Late October also marks the beginning of Early Voting for the November 8th Election Day. It actually began on Monday, October 24 and will continue through Sunday, October 30. In Humble, Early Voting is held at the Octavia Fields Branch Library, next to the Humble Civic Center. In Kingwood, the new Kingwood Branch Library on Ben's Branch Drive is open. On the east side of Lake Houston, you can go by the Crosby ISD Administration Building on Runneburg Road. And in Channelview, you can Early Vote at the North Channel Branch Library on Wallisville Road.

All Texas residents will be voting on the proposed Texas Constitutional Amendments. These are listed below. City of Houston residents will also be voting for all City positions.

Please take the time to read through this newsletter. If you have questions, please contact my staff at either the District Office, 281-360-9410, or the Capitol Office, 512-463-0520. And remember you can always contact me through the House website at www.house.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty
State Representative- District 127

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Constitutional Amendments

Here is a list of the propositions you will find on your ballot when you go to vote on November 8, 2011.

If you live in the City of Houston, you will have additional items on your ballot. To view those, visit www.HarrisVotes.org and enter your home address to get a copy of your ballot. Early Voting locations and times are also available on that website.

- Proposition 1
 - The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran.
- Proposition 2
 - The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$6 billion at any time outstanding.
- Proposition 3
 - The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds of the State of Texas to finance education loans to students.
- Proposition 4
 - The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a county to issue bonds or notes to finance the development or redevelopment of an unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted area and to pledge for repayment of the bonds or notes increases in ad valorem taxes imposed by the county on property in the area. The amendment does not provide authority for increasing ad valorem tax rates.
- Proposition 5
 - The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to allow cities or counties to enter into interlocal contracts with other cities or counties without the imposition of a tax or the provision of a sinking fund.
- Proposition 6
 - The constitutional amendment clarifying references to the permanent school fund, allowing the General Land Office to distribute revenue from permanent school fund land or other properties to the available school fund to provide additional funding for public education, and providing for an increase in the market value of the permanent school fund for the purpose of allowing increased distributions from the available school fund.
- Proposition 7
 - The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.
- Proposition 8
 - The constitutional amendment providing for the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of open-space land devoted to water-stewardship purposed on the basis of its productive capacity.
- Proposition 9
 - The constitutional amendment authorizing the governor to grant a pardon to a person who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervision.
- Proposition 10
 - The constitutional amendment to change the length of the unexpired term that causes the automatic resignation of certain elected county or district officeholders if they become candidates for another office.

You can read more about these amendments, including supporting and opposing points, and how they made it onto the November ballot from the Texas Legislative Council: http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/const_amends.htm.

Interim Study Charges

After each regular session, the legislature goes into an interim which allows the members and committees time to research and study topics to prepare for the next session. During this time, the Speaker of the House assigns a list of issues to each standing committee that they will then host hearings for and study. This list was announced on October 20th, and the Capitol is buzzing with activity. The topics that my two committees will study range from charter schools to inefficiencies in the public utilities regulations.

The House Committee on Public Education has been assigned a number of issues. First on the list is to conduct a review of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and make recommendations. I was recently appointed to the UIL Advisory Council by Speaker Straus, and I am eager to bring what I learn from that council to my fellow House Education Committee members. A major issue I dealt with during session was delaying the implementation of the statewide STAAR test. While many bills were filed, including my H.B. 2509, we were never able to get them voted out of the House. On that point, however, Speaker Straus has asked us to study the major state and local impacts of the implementation of this new assessment test, and make any recommendations on the computation of scores, level of rigor, and how the STAAR test supports postsecondary readiness for our students. We've also been assigned the task of evaluating the charter school system in Texas, including a review of student outcomes as compared to traditional schools, identify best practices, and make recommendations. Another crucial piece of the education realm are the Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs (DAEPs) and Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs (JJAEPs)- two programs which we have been tasked with reviewing during the interim. Lastly, my fellow committee members and I will be studying and reviewing educational best practices in Texas and other states, as well as the educational agencies in this state so as to make recommendations to further the excellence of our public schools.

The House Committee on State Affairs has also been assigned topics to study in depth. As I said during the session, this committee deals with a variety of issues and our interim study charges are no exception. We will be looking at the adequacy of resources in our electric market and federal and state interventions in the marketplace that could potentially have negative effects in the future. We'll study electric co-ops, including provider access and reducing unnecessary costs and delays to those customers. We will be joining the House Committee on Government Efficiency & Reform to look at areas of potential privatization of state services and examine state agency rulemaking in order to improve a higher level of service and efficiency for Texas. Another joint assignment is with the House Committee on Technology, with whom we'll be examining methods of cloud computing technology to streamline agency operations and, again, generate greater efficiency.

I very much look forward to getting to work on these assignments with my fellow members and developing possible legislation for the next regular session.

Electronics Recycling

The City of Houston's Solid Waste Management Department and CompuCycle have partnered to provide a electronics recycling drop-off site once-a-month in Kingwood. On the First Saturday of every month, from 9 AM to 3 PM, you can bring your electronics to the Kingwood Metro Transit Center at 3210 West Lake Houston Parkway. Recycling electronics keeps potentially harmful materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead and cathode ray tubes out of the waste stream and the environment.

Here is a list of accepted items: Personal computers, servers, keyboards, mice, laptops, game consoles, monitors, small kitchen appliances, memory chips, hubs and routers, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, projectors, rechargeable batteries, cable boxes, car batteries, telephones, cell phones, PDAs (personal digital assistants), tape drives, hard drives, cords, cables and cameras. In addition to electronics recycling, this location is also a drop-off site for common household recyclables such as paper, plastics, aluminum and glass. For more information see <http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org/>

Texas High School Aerospace Scholars Program

The Texas High School Aerospace Scholars Program (HAS) is now accepting online applications for 2011-2012. Texas high school juniors are eligible to apply.

Students complete web-based lessons and travel to Johnson Space Center (JSC) for a six-day on-site summer experience. At JSC students are divided into teams and work under the guidance of a NASA mentor, student mentor, and teacher to design a space exploration mission.

Through this experience, students will discover numerous career opportunities and are encouraged to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or STEM fields. NASA's Johnson Space Center is an excellent stage to present this unique experience to our nation's future workforce. Students may also receive a high school science elective credit toward graduation upon successful completion of the program.

Find out more at: <http://HAS.aerospacescholars.org>

Texas Consumer Health Assistance Program (CHAP) Insurance

The Texas Department of Insurance has been awarded a grant by the federal government to help the uninsured in Texas. Texas Consumer Health Assistance Program, or CHAP, helps people without health coverage at a time when they need it the most.

CHAP is a free resource for all Texans. They have counselors on the phone and information available online to help Texans with *any* health insurance questions – especially if they don't have coverage or have been denied coverage. For more information, call 1-855-TEX-CHAP (1-855-839-2427) or visit www.TexasHealthOptions.com.

Roy Lee Schulz Bridge Clean-Up Event

Several local groups have come together to help clear to debris that has collected under the Roy Lee Schulz bridge that connects Atascocita and Kingwood. On Saturday, November 5, and Saturday, November 12, from 6 AM to 6 PM, come out and help other community members by removing stumps, logs, trash and other items from the area.

The groups have partnered with the Texas Waterway Cleanup Program (a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) and the City of Houston to make this event happen. As the water level is very low, now is the time to get the riverbed cleared. For more information, [click here](#). If you would like to volunteer your time or services, donate food, water, or snacks, loan a tool or equipment, please contact Denise at kingwoodkayakandcanoe@yahoo.com or (281) 736-3203.

Memorial Hermann Ceiling Tiles

On Thursday, October 13, Dr. Guy Sconzo, several Humble ISD Trustees and I were given the opportunity to tour the Emergency Center at Memorial Hermann Northeast. Six middle and high schools in Humble ISD decorated ceiling tiles as art class projects for this area of the hospital. It was a neat project for the students and really brightened up the hospital for visitors.





With the Jr. ROTC and Atascocita Middle School cheerleaders

Atascocita Middle School Tiger Run 2011

Atascocita Middle School hosted a 5K/10K Run on Saturday, October 15. The course ran throughout the Walden neighborhood. As a participant and supporter, I was glad to see many of my neighbors out supporting the students. I may not have placed in the race, but it was a great event and we were happy to be a part of it. Thanks to the AMS Student Council and PTO for hosting this event.

H-GAC Clean Fleet Technologies Conference

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) hosted the Clean Fleet Technologies Conference at the Humble Civic Center on Wednesday, October 13. I honored to have the opportunity to speak about the advantages of natural gas and use of it in the so-called "Texas Triangle", which is made up of the interstates that connect Houston, San Antonio, Austin and the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex.

Later in the day, Texas Railroad Commissioner David Porter presented a check for \$2,925,184.30 in grant funding to Humble ISD. "We wanted to publicly acknowledge Humble ISD for all of their work in embracing clean fuel sources. Humble ISD was able to add 27 propane fueled school buses which will save the school district and the taxpayers money, reduce emissions and reduce dependency on foreign oil," Commissioner Porter said.

The grant money was given through a joint partnership of the Texas Railroad Commission, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas Parent Teacher Association. The school district is currently in the process of implementing the new buses into the regular rotation to replace buses, including some that have been in service for 22 years. They also plan to build a propane fueling station to save even more money.



Commissioner Porter presenting check to Humble ISD Trustee Charles Cunningham and others, including students

Lakeland Elementary

Last week, Dr. Guy Sconzo and I had the chance to speak to the second grade students at Lakeland Elementary in Humble. The school is in the process of applying to the International Baccalaureate program for children ages 3 - 12 and this was one step in that progression. The students asked great questions and I enjoyed getting to talk to them about my role as a State Representative and how that affects Humble ISD. Dr. Sconzo also discussed his role as a Superintendent and how that affects their school in particular. The goal was to get the students to think about organization, heirarchy and how this affects them as students.



Speaking to Lakeland Elementary Second Graders



Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 29th

- 10:00 AM - Kingwood School Parade
Starts at Creekwood Middle School
- 6:00 PM - Autumn's Dawn 1st Annual Gala
Kingwood Country Club

Wednesday, November 2nd

- 12:00 PM - Humble ISD Educational Foundation Charity Golf Tournament
Kingwood Country Club

Saturday, November 5th

- 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM - Bridge Clean-Up hosted by Kingwood Kayak and Canoe Rentals
Meet to help clear debris from under the bridge from Kingwood to Atascocita
- 5:30 PM - Creekwood Veteran's Day Service-Learning Project
Creekwood Middle School
- 6:00 PM - Village Learning and Achievement Center Charity Gala
The Houston Club

Tuesday, November 8th

- 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM - ELECTION DAY