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Representative Dan Huberty



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83rd Legislative Session

It has been a very busy week at the Texas Capitol Building. After a year and a half away from the "Pink Dome", the State Senators, Representatives, Members-Elect and staff have descended upon the Capitol building, for at least the next 140 days.

On Tuesday, January 8, the members of the 83rd Legislature were sworn-in to serve for the upcoming session. I am honored to be able to continue to represent the interests of House District 127 in Austin for the next 140 days.

The Speaker of the House, Joe Straus, and Governor Rick Perry, spoke to all the people gathered on the House Floor and they had very similar messages: we must fix what is broken. We all realize it will be a very busy time as we attempt to tackle the many issues that Texas is facing today, but we are prepared to address these problems head on and work to improve life for all Texans.

Thus far, the legislation that has been filed by members in both chambers covers the full gamut of Texas codes. I have also filed several pieces of legislation, which I will touch on later in this newsletter. As always, our team's main goal is to serve and effectively represent our constituents. We look forward to working with you on tackling the critical challenges facing our fast-growing state.

Please take the time to read through our newsletter. If you would like to learn more about any of the items listed in this newsletter, 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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83rd Legislative Session - Opening Day

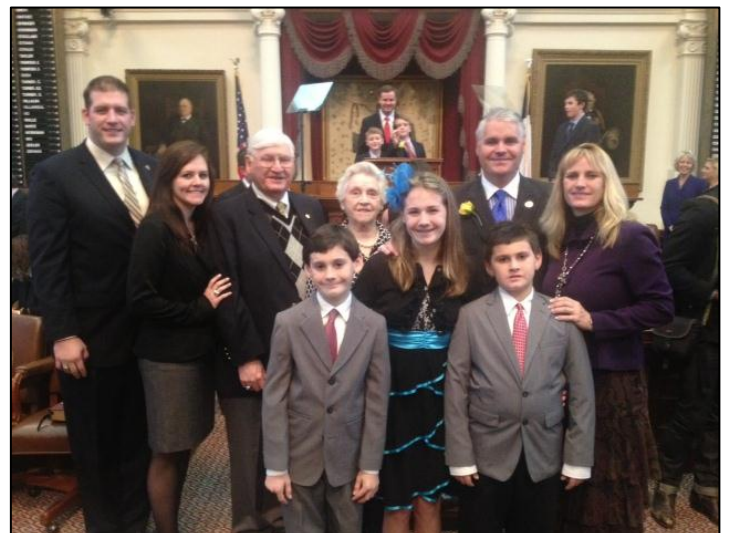
The Texas Capitol was teeming with State Senators, Representatives, Members-Elect, families, friends and constituents. Representative Huberty was honored to be accompanied to the floor by his wife, Janet; children, Brianna, Ryan and Dylan; parents, Dick and Maureen Huberty, cousin Thomas Huberty and his girlfriend, Audi Clyde; and constituents Donald & Gayle Sampley. A large group of constituents also made the trek to Austin to view the swearing-in ceremonies. Similar to last session, Representative Huberty's office was open for visitors and even had a lithograph for anyone who came by to sign in support. The day seemed to pass by very quickly, with Speaker of the House Joe Straus getting re-elected to serve as the leader of the Chamber. Governor Perry also stopped by to speak to the members, their families, visitors and all those watching from the Gallery, a television or live streaming on a computer.



Rep. Huberty's daughter, Brianna, pinning a Yellow Rose boutonniere on his lapel



Rep. Huberty with his parents, Dick & Maureen Huberty and his cousin, Thomas Huberty with girlfriend Audi Clyde



Rep. Huberty with his family on the House Floor

Updated Capitol and District Office Information

The staff has been very busy over the last few months, as Representative Huberty's increase in seniority allowed him to move to a new and larger office space. Team Huberty can now be found in E2.722 in the Capitol building. Here is that contact information:

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Legislative Director

Legislative Aide

Legislative Aide

Legislative Intern

Legislative Intern

During this Session, the District Office will only be open when Representative Huberty is in the District. Staff will be present on weekdays when he is present. Still, there will be no lack in constituent service. This team is available to help with issues both small and large. Please feel free to contact the District Office at:

District Office:

Phone: 281-360-9410

District Address:

4501 Magnolia Cove, Suite 201, Kingwood, Texas 77345

Texas Public Policy Foundation 2013 Orientation

This year, Representative Huberty was asked to speak on a panel at the annual Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation. The panel addressed "Improving Efficiency and Local Control in Public Education". He spoke alongside the Dr. Thomas Wallis, Superintendent - Bryan ISD and Doug Rodgers, ATPE. James Golsan of TPPF served as the moderator. It was a successful and educational event for all.



You can learn more about the Texas Public Policy Foundation, their annual Policy Orientation, or the panel that Representative Huberty spoke on at their website: www.TexasPolicy.com.

Legislative Update

As the first week of the 83rd Legislative Session comes to a close, Senators and Representatives have already been working late into the night. The biggest change between this session and last session is that most of us who were lost for the first week, already know their way around the building. It also feels different because I have built dozens of relationships over the last two years with my fellow members. My challenge, like so many in the building, is to get to know all of the new freshman members. We are thrilled to welcome them to Austin and to the frenzied world of Texas politics. With the beginning of session, hundreds of bills have already been filed in both chambers. In the House, the numbers are up in the 400's and in the Senate, they are still in the 100's. I have filed four bills, three of which were bills that I authored last session that simply did not have enough time in the 140-day calendar to pass through both chambers and get to Governor Perry.

The first piece of legislation I filed is House Bill 222 (HB 222). It relates to the Public Education Grant (PEG), which allows students to transfer out of a school or district if it receives an Academically Unacceptable rating for the previous three years. My bill changes that slightly to reward a school or district if they work to immediately improve their rating the next year to Academically Acceptable, or higher.

Next we filed, House Bill 223 (HB 223) that would allow School Board Trustees and Superintendents to carry a concealed weapon, only if they have a valid Concealed Handgun License, during official School Board meetings. Other elected officials, including members of the legislature, are permitted to carry their concealed handgun while performing legislative duties. We should afford our School Board Trustees and Superintendents that same freedom. As a former trustee myself, there were many times when our meetings became heated and would go late into the night. I believe it is every American's right to be able to protect themselves, and this bill makes the necessary clarification in Texas law to include Trustees and Superintendents.

Then we filed House Bill 224 (HB 224), which is a new bill for me. I arose out of hours of public testimony during our Public Education interim hearings regarding the new STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) exams. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has currently suspended a provision in law that would require 15% of a student's final high school grade to come from their EOC exam grades. My bill eliminates this part of the statute completely. We heard from parents, teachers, school districts, and superintendents about this and my colleagues and I are united in removing this unnecessary and burdensome provision.

Just yesterday, I filed House Bill 462 (HB 462) which would continue to strengthen the education curriculum in our state and keep control of curriculum standards at the State level, rather than fall into the hands of the federal government.

I am excited about the months to come and the new relationships we will all form. As always, I encourage you to keep in contact with our office about issues that are important to you. Hearing from our constituents is a vital part of this entire process.

