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## Representative Dan Huberty



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### House Rules

Last week was a short week for the Texas Legislature. The House came together on Monday, January 14, to discuss the rules by which our chamber will be governed for the next 130 days.

Representative John Smithee of Amarillo authored House Resolution 4 (HR 4), which will dictate how the Texas House of Representatives will conduct business for the 83rd Legislative Session. Prior to the introduction of this resolution, the members had been working under the Rules of the previous Legislative Session, as was approved by the body on Opening Day. After nearly six hours of discussion and the introduction of 33 amendments, eleven amendments were added to the base bill. You can read HR 4 in full at [this link](#).

The House Members returned to the Chamber on Tuesday, January 15, to offer their condolences to the family of State Senator Mario Gallegos, who passed away in October. A Memorial Resolution, (HR 72), was introduced and read in full to the House Members and the members of his family who were present in the House Chamber. It was an emotional event that offered an opportunity for House Members to say farewell to our colleague and express our condolences to his family.

That day also marked the introduction of the Legislative Budget Board's "83rd Legislative Budget Estimates" and for the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees to file their respective Budget Bills. You can read more about this in the newsletter below.

The Texas House adjourned on Tuesday, to reconvene on Wednesday, January 23rd, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Please take the time to read through our newsletter. If you would like to learn more about any of the items listed here, contact my staff at the Capitol Office, 512-463-0520.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty  
State Representative - District 127

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## Members Back at Work

The previously-mentioned House and Senate budget bills were also filed in each respective Chamber on Tuesday. If you are interested, you can read Chairman Jim Pitts' House Appropriations Bill, HB 1, by [clicking here](#). Chairman Pitts said HB 1 is a starting point for the session-long budget process. It reflects the demands of a rapidly growing state, as well as the House's continued commitment to responsible fiscal leadership. "The filing of this budget will allow the House to formally begin a discussion about Texas' priorities," said Chairman Pitts, . "This bill recognizes the demands of population growth on public schools and Medicaid, and steadfastly maintains the House's commitment to fiscal discipline."

The Senate Finance Bill, SB 1, from Chairman Tommy Williams, can also be viewed online by [clicking here](#). Both bills were created and transmitted by the Legislative Budget Board, or LBB. The LBB is a permanent joint committee of the Texas Legislature that develops budget and policy recommendations for legislative appropriations, completes fiscal analyses for proposed legislation, and conducts evaluations and reviews to improve the efficiency and performance of state and local operations. You can read more about the committee at their website, [www.lbb.state.tx.us](http://www.lbb.state.tx.us).

Here is a brief summary produced by the LBB, of the proposed budget. The baseline appropriations for state government operations for the 2014–15 biennium total \$187.7 billion from all fund sources. The funding provides a \$2.2 billion, or 1.2 percent, decrease from the 2012–2013 biennial level. General Revenue Funds, including funds dedicated within the General Revenue Fund, total \$95.5 billion for the 2014–15 biennium, an increase of \$1.7 billion, or 1.8 percent, from the anticipated 2012–2013 biennial spending level. For the 2014–15 biennium, the funding includes the following key budget items:

### Health And Human Services

- \$56.2 billion in All Funds, including \$22.9 billion in General Revenue Funds and General Revenue–Dedicated Funds, is provided for the Texas Medicaid program.

### Public Education

- \$38.2 billion in All Funds and \$30.3 billion in General Revenue Funds and General Revenue–Dedicated Funds is provided for the Foundation School Program (FSP). This represents an increase of \$30.2 million in General Revenue Funds and \$285.8 million in All Funds. The total funding level for the FSP is estimated to be sufficient to fully fund the state's statutory obligation under the program and assumes a statutory change reversing the deferral of the August 2013 FSP payment enacted by the Eighty-second Legislature.
- General Revenue Funds for programs outside the FSP are increased by \$141.7 million, or 11.2 percent, compared to the 2012–13 biennium. Amounts include an increase of \$233.7 million to fund the Instructional Materials Allotment for which statute directs 50 percent of the distribution from the permanent School Fund to the Available School Fund each year. Additionally, funds supporting the Communities in Schools program, which provides services to students at risk of academic failure and dropout, are increased by \$12.3 million.

### Higher Education

- Higher Education is supported by \$15.6 billion in All Funds and \$13.5 billion in General Revenue Funds and General Revenue–Dedicated Funds. Included in this amount is an increase of \$56.6 million in General Revenue Funds for formula funding—the result of funding growth and maintaining the formula rates for the Instructions and Operations formulas for all institution types and most of the health related institutions' formulas.

### Criminal Justice

- \$5.0 billion in All Funds and \$4.8 billion in General Revenue Funds and General Revenue–Dedicated Funds is provided for the incarceration of adult offenders in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice which includes housing, security, classification, food and necessities, healthcare, and treatment services.

### Juvenile Justice

- \$598.2 million in All Funds and \$540.7 million in General Revenue Funds is provided to the Juvenile Justice Department for juvenile justice services.

### Border Security

- \$89.9 million in All Funds is provided for border security purposes at the Department of Public Safety, the Trusteed Programs Within the Office of the Governor, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This function includes funding provided explicitly for state and local border security initiatives.

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## Members Back at Work (continued from above)

### Transportation

- \$17.1 billion in All Funds is provided for transportation planning and design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and maintenance and preservation. The All Funds amount includes \$8.2 billion for maintenance and preservation of the existing transportation system (an increase of \$1.5 billion); \$6.6 billion for construction and highway improvements (an increase of \$1.2 billion); \$1.5 billion for transportation system planning, design, and management; and \$0.8 billion for right-of-way acquisition (a decrease of \$1.1 billion).

### State Employee Retirement And Health Benefits

- \$743.6 million in All Funds is provided for state contributions to the Employees Retirement System (ERS) retirement program for general state employees.

### Teacher Retirement And Health Benefits

- \$3,135.0 million in All Funds and \$2,907.0 million in General Revenue Funds and General Revenue–Dedicated Funds is provided for the state contribution for retirement benefits through the Teacher Retirement System. Funding is sufficient for a 6.4 percent state retirement contribution rate for the 2014–15 biennium and matches the level of contribution provided by public education and higher education employees.

### Factors Affecting The State Budget

Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) appropriations for the 2014–15 biennium total \$58.1 billion in All Funds, representing 30.9 percent of the proposed state budget. Healthcare-related costs continue to be the state’s single largest budget driver. Other significant factors affecting the cost of state government include public and higher education enrollment, prison incarceration, and certain other health and human services programs. The major growth indicators from 2002 to 2012 are, as follows:

- Average daily attendance in public schools has increased by 20.2 percent.
- Higher education enrollment in general academic institutions has increased by 26.5 percent.
- Community college enrollment has grown by 63.9 percent.
- Average monthly caseload for the Children’s Health Insurance Program has increased by 21.9 percent.
- Average monthly caseload for Medicaid waiver clients has increased by 24.1 percent.
- Average monthly caseload for Medicaid clients (Acute Care and STAR+PLUS) has increased by 75.4 percent.
- Average monthly caseload for nursing home clients has decreased by 1.7 percent.
- Average inmate population in the Department of Criminal Justice has increased by 7.1 percent.
- Average residential population at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (formerly the Texas Youth Commission) has decreased by 360.4 percent.

These factors do not totally explain the growth in the budget. Other cost-related factors, such as medical inflation, can have an equal or greater effect on growth. To read the LBB’s Budget Summary in full, [click here to be directed to the document.](#)

## State Senator Mario Gallegos - Senate District 6 Update

State Senator Mario Gallegos represented Senate District 6 (SD 6), part of Houston, from 1995 until his passing in October 2012. He was honored by both the House and Senate Chambers this past week. State Representative Carol Alvarado authored and read HR 72 on the House floor, while his family watched from the dais. You can read the text of the resolution by clicking [here](#).

Senator Gallegos was running for re-election at the time of his passing. According to Texas Election law, his name remained on the ballot on Election Day because his passing was within 74 days of the election. Senator Gallegos was posthumously re-elected in the November election, with more than 70% of the votes. Also in accordance with Texas law, Governor Perry had to call a special election within 20 days to fill the vacancy in SD 6. Because the vacancy occurred within 60 days of the convening of the 83rd Legislature, the special election is an expedited election, which means it must be held on a Tuesday or Saturday between 21 and 45 days after the date the election is ordered.

On December 13, Governor Perry called for the Special Election to occur Jan. 26. The deadline for candidates to file applications with the Secretary of was December 27. The winner will serve a four-year term beginning next year. Early voting for the special election runs from Jan. 9 to January 22. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote in the special election, the Governor orders a runoff election. The runoff election must be held within 25 days of the Governor’s ordering the election on a Tuesday or Saturday.

## Kingwood Community Center Update

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department now offers free programs for senior citizens at the new Kingwood Community Center. All programs for seniors are offered free of charge, although some classes require participants to furnish their own materials or pay a supply fee. A Senior is considered any person over the age of 50. The program schedule is as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-10:00am Walking Club	9:00-10:00am Walking Club	9:00-10:00am Walking Club	9:00-10:00am Walking Club	9:00-10:00am Walking Club
9:00-10:00am Senior Chair Yoga		10:00-12:00pm Minor Board Games	1:00-3:00pm Bunko	
			2:00-3:00pm Line Dancing	
		6:00-9:00pm Bridge	6:00-9:00pm Bridge	
			6:00-9:00 Bingo Night	

For a printable version of the schedule, please [click here](#). If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Kingwood Community Center, 4102 Rustic Woods by phone at 281-348-2570.

## Kingwood Area Alumnae Panhellenic Association 2013 Collegian Scholarship Application

The Kingwood Area Alumnae Panhellenic Association (KAAPA) recently opened their annual Scholarship application process. The KAAPA grant is available to any active National Panhellenic Council collegiate sorority woman from the Kingwood, Texas, area. Applicants meet the following criteria to be eligible for consideration: cumulative GPA must be at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; must have been an active, initiated member for at least six months; must submit one letter of recommendation from a chapter advisor, officer, and/or fellow collegian, outlining your qualifications, academic performance, sorority involvement, campus activities, and financial need; must submit a letter describing in 150 words or less why you need this grant and the completed application and required letter must be submitted to Lisa Donoho at the following address, postmarked by Friday, February 15, 2013: Lisa Donoho, 2751 Longleaf Pines, Kingwood, TX 77339. The application can be accessed by contacting KAAPA Scholarship Chairman, Lisa Donoho, at 713-301-0336 or via email at [lisadonoho@gmail.com](mailto:lisadonoho@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

### Thursday, January 24

6 PM Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce Annual Chairman's Ball  
Houston Airport Marriott

### Friday, January 25

12 PM Huffman FFA Show and Auction  
Hargrave High School