



## Representative Dan Huberty



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## Committee Assignments

After several days of resolutions and welcoming groups to the Capitol building, we got down to business on Thursday. Speaker Straus announced committee assignments for all members. I am proud to announce that I have been reappointed to both the Public Education and State Affairs committees, which I served on last session. I consider this reappointment to be a confirmation that I served these committees well.

These committees also served me very well last session. My time on Public Education greatly increased my knowledge regarding our schools. Even though I was already informed on the subject, this committee offered a wealth of data and information that was very important in our decision-making process last session. By learning about the issues that school districts across the state are facing and having my Humble ISD background to compare those to, I feel we made some great strides. This session, I hope to not only learn more from districts, teachers, students, parents and my fellow committee members, but to again represent my community to the best of my ability.

Similarly, my time on State Affairs has offered me a great opportunity to learn about a bevy of different topics and issues. I feel I have made some very important decisions for and on behalf of my constituents, and many other Texans. I look forward to what this next session with State Affairs may offer, as we never know what may come across our desks.

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](http://www.house.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty  
State Representative - District 127

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## Representative Huberty Files House Bill 866 for Student Testing Relief

State Representative Dan Huberty filed House Bill 866, which will alleviate the overly burdensome yearly state assessment tests in elementary and middle school grade levels 3 - 8. The legislation allows high-performing students to "test out" of subsequent STAAR tests in a particular subject by performing well on the test in the third or fifth grade. Not only would this greatly reduce testing for certain students, but it would allow our educators and administrators to focus on those students who do not perform well on the tests and may require more attention.

"We need to ensure high-performing students are able to focus on learning and furthering their education, rather than spending time on tests we already know they will pass. This legislation will allow teachers to focus on the students who are behind their grade level, have test anxiety, or are not performing well on these tests, for any reason," Representative Huberty explained.

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, states are required to test students on an annual basis. Therefore, House Bill 866 directs the Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency to seek a waiver from any federal provision where a conflict may arise from the implementation of this legislation.

"I believe we can reduce testing while maintaining the highest accountability standards in the country. The purpose of testing every year is to ensure every child is learning and improving along with their grade. We do not need to be testing for the sake of testing. It is important for these tests to serve as a real gauge of our students' educational achievements and confirm that our public education system is providing every student with a great education. House Bill 866 will help us reach that goal," Representative Huberty added.

House Bill 866 is one of several pieces of education-related legislation filed by Representative Huberty for the 83rd Session. In his second term representing District 127, Huberty remains dedicated to addressing the many issues and challenges that lie ahead for his constituents and all Texans.

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## Straus Names House Committees

Speaker Joe Straus (San Antonio) on Thursday appointed Members of the Texas House to 38 standing committees and three select committees for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature. "Throughout this process, I considered Members' individual expertise and strengths to address our state's challenges, and to ensure the House committees reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of Texas," Straus said. "These appointments will allow every Member of the Texas House to make a meaningful contribution to the serious work of this legislative session."

In addition to the committees approved by Members in the House rules, Straus is creating three select committees: The Committee on Criminal Procedure Reform, the Committee on Federalism and Fiscal Responsibility, and the Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations. Over the last several months, Straus has highlighted a number of priorities that will fuel private-sector growth, including education, water, transportation and an improved capacity for manufacturing. He has also worked with Members over the last year to make the state budget more transparent and accountable to taxpayers.

"All of the committee appointments highlight the House's strong mix of experienced leaders and newer Members who are ready to take on greater responsibility," Straus said. "After traveling around the state to visit with Members before the session and talking to them over the last few weeks, I am very encouraged that the House is ready to tackle the serious challenges our state faces."

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## Governor Perry's 2013 State of the State

On Tuesday, January 28, Governor Rick Perry gave his 2013 State of the State Address. Both chambers, the Texas House and Senate, joined together in the House chamber for the gubernatorial update on what will now be considered Texas's emergency items. Governor Perry called for an increase in funding to public and higher education, along with an improved quality of education opportunities so students may complete a four-year degree without a staggering debt burden. He called for tax relief and received rousing applause. Governor Perry also encouraged legislators to keep government spending low and even suggested using the Economic Stabilization Fund, or rainy day fund, for a one-time investment in infrastructure, specifically the state water plan. He covered many other issues, but emphasized his top three priorities a: public education, infrastructure and tax relief.

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## TXDoT Approves State Highway 99

The Texas Transportation Commission met Thursday and approved the option to develop, finance, construct and operate State Highway 99. Approval of the department's determination to exercise its option to develop, construct, finance and operate the portion of SH 99 (Grand Parkway) in Liberty County, authorize Segments H, I-1, and I-2 of Grand Parkway, in Harris, Montgomery, Liberty, and Chambers Counties, with DEVELOP authority; and authorize the Grand Parkway Transportation Corporation (GPTC) to finance any pre-development costs up to \$300 million and enter into or assume any agreements related to the pre-development costs being financed on any future segments ([http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/adm/2013/documents/minute\\_orders/jan31/8a.pdf](http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/adm/2013/documents/minute_orders/jan31/8a.pdf))

Background for this issue: on December 18, 2012, the Liberty County Commissioners Court rescinded its September 22, 2009 action to exercise Liberty County's option to develop, construct, and operate the portion of the Grand Parkway project in Liberty County. Pursuant to Transportation Code, §373.055, the Liberty County Commissioners Court further waived and declined to exercise Liberty County's option to develop, construct, finance and operate the portion of the Grand Parkway project in Liberty County. As a result, the department has 60 days after that date to decide whether it will exercise its option to develop, construct, finance and operate that project, pursuant to Transportation Code §373.053. The state will benefit from the development of Segments H, I-1 and I-2 and the payment of pre-development costs by GPTC relating to any future segments of the Grand Parkway.

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## Important Legislative Dates for the 83rd Session

**Friday, March 8, 2013 (60th day):** Deadline for filing bills and joint resolutions other than local bills, emergency appropriations, and bills that have been declared an emergency by the governor [House Rule 8, Sec. 8; Senate Rule 7.07(b); Senate Rule 10.01 subjects joint resolutions to the rules governing proceedings on bills]

**Monday, April 15, 2013 (98th day):** First day that a senator may place five bills or resolutions on the Intent Calendar [Senate Rule 5.14(a)]

**Monday, May 6, 2013 (119th day):** Last day for house committees to report house bills and house joint resolutions [relates to House Rule 6, Sec. 16(a), requiring 36-hour layout of daily calendars prior to consideration, and House Rule 8, Sec. 13(b), the deadline for consideration]

**Thursday, May 9, 2013 (122nd day):** Last day for house to consider house bills and joint resolutions on second reading on Daily or Supplemental Calendar [House Rule 8, Sec. 13(b)]

**Monday, May 27, 2013 (140th day) - Regular Session Ends:** Last day of 83rd Regular Session; corrections only in house and senate [Sec. 24(b), Art. III, Texas Constitution]

**Sunday, June 16, 2013 (20th day following final adjournment of Regular Session):** Last day governor can sign or veto bills passed during the regular session [Section 14, Art. IV, Texas Constitution]

**Monday, August 26, 2013 (91st day following final adjournment of Regular Session):** Date that bills without specific effective dates (that could not be effective immediately) become law

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## FamilyTime Women of Achievement Hearts of Gold Gala

Representative Huberty was honored to give the invocation at FamilyTime's annual Women of Achievement gala on Saturday, January 26th, at the Sheraton North Houston. The ballroom was packed with past Women of Achievement and the families and friends of the newest additions to the group: the 2012 Women of Achievement. After his introduction by news anchor Erik Barrajas, Representative Huberty joined him on stage and gave a heartfelt prayer to begin the evening's festivities.

Here is a list of the 2012 recipients: Jennifer Summer - The Arts; Cheri Huber - Business; Geralyn Sullivan - Education; Tammy Harris - Entrepreneur; Jan York - Community Activist; Susan Bullick - Human Services; Michaelae Oberbroeckling - Medical; Amanda Rossen - Homemaker; Marlene Frazier - Women's Advocate; Casey Christman & Amanda Martin - Visionary; Kim Maxey - Volunteer; Michele Dykstra - Special Recognition and Linda Prator - Spirit of FamilyTime. Representative Huberty congratulates all of the new honorees and thanks all previous recipients for their continued service and commitment to our community.



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### Upcoming Events

#### Friday, February 1st

- 4 PM Humble ISD Education Foundation BBQ Cook-Off**  
Humble Civic Center - 8233 Will Clayton Parkway  
[Details available here.](#)

#### Saturday, February 2nd

- 7 AM Lake Houston YMCA Bridgefest**  
Lake Houston YMCA - 2420 West Lake Houston Parkway  
[Details available here.](#)
- 12 PM Humble ISD Education Foundation BBQ Cook-Off**  
Humble Civic Center  
[Details available here.](#)

#### Friday, February 8th

- 12 PM Humble ISD FFA Buyer's Luncheon**  
Humble Civic Center - 8233 Will Clayton Parkway  
[Details available here.](#)
- 1 PM Humble ISD FFA Livestock Auction**  
Humble Civic Arena - 8233 Will Clayton Parkway  
[Details available here.](#)
- 5:30 PM Humble ISD Rodeo and Concert**  
Humble Civic Arena - 8233 Will Clayton Parkway  
[Details available here.](#)
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