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## Representative Dan Huberty



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### Week in Review

I write to you today after much reflection about the tragic events of this week. The loss of innocent life by those wishing to cause harm at the Boston Marathon and the now permanent absence of members of the West Volunteer Fire Department remind us of the fragility of life. It is easy to forget just how quickly life can change.

This is especially true in the fast-paced world of the Texas Legislature during the final days of a session. With less than 40 days to go before we adjourn Sine Die, time is only going to move faster. Very soon, we will begin debating bills on the floor of the House Chamber earlier in the morning and continue later into the night. We will also begin meeting on weekends. That is why it is so important for the members of this body to take every moment available to be with our families and friends when we return to our districts now.

Just as I have for the past 14 weeks of this session, I will return to District 127 this weekend to be with my family. We will be out and about at many of the fun spring events being hosted in our area and I hope to see you and your family there also. We live in a very special community where you never meet a stranger and a helping hand is never far away.

The Texas House is very similar, in that, we have a very strong sense of community. The members help each other whenever possible. In these final days of the session, it is even more critical that we work together to accomplish the business of the State of Texas.

I hope you will take a moment to read through this newsletter about all of the good work being done at your Texas Capitol. As always, please feel free to contact my office with any questions you may have regarding the 83rd Legislative Session. You can reach the Capitol Office at 512-463-0520, or my District Office at 281-360-9410.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty  
State Representative- District 127

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## West, TX - How can you help?

In response to the recent tragedy in West, Texas, Senator Brian Birdwell and Representative Kyle Kacal continue to voice their support for the affected families and their gratitude for all those involved in the recovery process. In addition, they are encouraging those that are interested in helping to focus on giving monetary donations as the community has received a surplus of supplies.

"I was so humbled to be able to spend a couple of days recently with our local officials and first responders who have done a masterful job of handling this tragic situation," said Birdwell. "This community has a great deal of work ahead of it, but I have absolutely no doubt that the citizens of West will continue to pull together—as Texans always do—and get their town back on track. In the meantime, it is imperative that we all continue to provide them with our prayers and our support."

"After spending time with the community of West throughout the end of last week, I continue to be amazed by the outpouring of support from all levels of local, state, and federal government," said Kacal. "With this being such a close-knit community, the level of organization and dedication to help this community recover is truly amazing. As we move forward to help those that have been affected, please know that the largest need at this point is financial donations for the families that have been impacted. Thank you for your continued support and prayers during this tragic time."

For information on the memorial service, how to make a financial donation or available volunteer opportunities, please see the following options below. For an extensive list of information on how you can help the victims of the tragedy in West, please visit [www.WithWest.com](http://www.WithWest.com). Additional donations via cash or check (made out to Victims of the West Explosion) can be sent to the following: Pointwest Bank, 200 Oak St., West, TX 76691 or State National Bank, 100 N. Main St., West, TX 76691. For information on how to volunteer your time for the recovery effort in West, please visit [www.vonlunteertx.org](http://www.vonlunteertx.org).

This update provided by State Representative Kyle Kacal (R-College Station) and State Senator Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury), who represent the City of West in House District 12 and Senate District 22, respectively.

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## Legislative Update

On Wednesday, the House passed Representative Huberty's HB 1035. Currently, elected officeholders and candidates for office are required to file personal financial statements and campaign finance reports, which must be delivered to the appropriate state or local authority by first-class mail or common carrier. Interested parties contend that a person required to file a statement or report should be given the option of delivering such documents by personal delivery or, if the authority with whom the reports are filed is capable of processing electronically filed documents, via e-filing. H.B. 1035 seeks to provide alternatives to the use of first-class mail or common carrier for the filing of certain personal financial statements and reports.

Please follow this bill and all Rep. Huberty's legislation via the Texas Legislature Online website, <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/>. You can track bills of interest online at [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us). There are two methods for creating a personal list of bills for tracking purposes. The bill list feature is accessible from the My TLO page. A bill alert system allows bill tracking with the added capability of receiving notification when actions change.

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## Candidate Forum for Humble ISD Board of Trustees Election Planned For April 22

The Lake Houston Area Chamber's Public Affairs Committee will host a candidate forum for Humble ISD Board of Trustees candidates at 6 pm, April 22 at the Student Conference Center at Lone Star College-Kingwood. Candidates vying for positions 1 through 6 have been invited to participate in the forum. Each candidate will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves and address the attendees as to their reasons for running. Following introductions, candidates will be available to meet and greet attendees one-on-one to answer questions. The forum is free to attend and open to the public. For more information, contact Jenna Armstrong at 281-446-2128 or email [jarmstrong@lakehouston.org](mailto:jarmstrong@lakehouston.org)

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## Governor's "Star of Texas" Awards

In 2003, the 78th Texas Legislature passed and Governor Perry signed House Bill 1937, creating the Star of Texas Awards to honor and commemorate selected first responders who made profound commitments while performing their duties as peace officers, firefighters and emergency medical first responders. HB 1937 also designated September 11th of every year as Texas First Responders Day. In 2005, amendments to the Star of Texas Awards statute (Texas Government Code Chapter 3106) expanded awards to include all peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders who were seriously injured or killed in the line of duty on or after September 1, 2003. In 2007 Governor Perry signed HB 1164 into law amending the Star of Texas Awards statute to include awards for federal law enforcement officers or special agents seriously injured or killed while performing duties in Texas while assisting a state or local law enforcement agency.

Three advisory committees (one for each category of first responder) that are appointed by the Governor review award nominations each year to ensure that they meet statutory criteria. The Star of Texas Awards honor all Texas peace officers and federal law enforcement officers or special agents acting in assistance to state or local law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders who were seriously injured or killed in the line of duty on or after September 1, 2003.

To be eligible for consideration for this year's awards, the critical incident must have occurred between September 1, 2008 and June 30, 2013, and the individual must not have previously received a Star of Texas Award. The Governor's Star of Texas Award Advisory Committees are currently accepting nominations for the 2013 awards. Nominations can be submitted online on the Governor's website at [http://www.governor.state.tx.us/star\\_of\\_texas](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/star_of_texas). The submission deadline is July 31, 2013.

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## Choose Life Grant Program

The Office of the Attorney General is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for the Choose Life Grant Program. Funded by the sale of Choose Life specialty license plates, the Choose Life Grant Program was established by the Texas Legislature to raise funds for the promotion of adoption in the State of Texas. To access the Request for Applications and the Application Kit, please visit the Texas Attorney General's website.



Grant contracts awarded under this Choose Life Grant Program Application Kit may be used to:

- provide for the material needs of pregnant women who are considering placing their children for adoption, including provision of clothing, housing, prenatal care, food, utilities, and transportation;
- provide for the needs of infants who are awaiting placement with adoptive parents;
- provide training and advertising relating to adoption;
- provide pre-adoption counseling; and
- provide post-adoption counseling.

Timeline:

- April 19, 2013 - Request for Applications (RFA) and Application Kit posted and available for the Choose Life Grant Program.
- May 17, 2013 - Applications due at 5:00 pm. Central Daylight Time (CDT). Specific submission instructions are in the Application Kit.
- July 2013 - OAG will notify Applicants of its decision regarding grant awards.

If you have any questions about the grant application process, email [grants@texasattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:grants@texasattorneygeneral.gov) or call (512) 936-1278.

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