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## Representative Dan Huberty



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### **Less than 30 Days**

With less than 30 days remaining in the 83rd legislative Session, the members of the Texas House are feverishly working to beat upcoming deadlines. Committees are meeting late into the night and bills are being referred to either the Calendars or Local & Consent committees hopeful for placement on the agenda.

Each calendar that comes from those committees is scoured by members, staff and constituents to see if their bill of interest will be heard on the House Floor before Thursday, May 9. That is the final day for a House Bill on the Daily or Supplemental Calendar to be considered in the Chamber on Second Reading. The next day marks the final opportunity for House bills to be heard on Second Reading from the Local & Consent calendar.

These deadlines mark important dates, as they decide the fate of many bills. In fact, many pieces of legislation can be pronounced "dead" prior to these days. Any bill that has not already been reported favorably from a committee has little chance to make it to the House Floor.

But the members of the legislature are creative. These deadlines may mark the death of their bill, but many of them will attempt to resurrect their legislation as amendments to be offered for addition to any bill covering the same topic. This unfortunately only lengthens the amount of time we will spend discussing the bills already set on a Calendar. In turn, this will effectively run out the clock on the majority of the bills set for debate later in the week.

Although this process may sound dismal, this is what makes the Texas Legislature different from those that function full-time. By only having 140 days to conduct the business of the state, members are effectively prevented from creating unnecessary or excessive laws. We are pushed to justify the purpose of any legislation and made to prove why it is essential to become law.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty  
State Representative- District 127

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## House Members Pass Legislation to Protect Second Amendment Rights

The Texas House of Representatives passed a number of legislative measures designed to protect the Second Amendment rights of Texas citizens and to enhance provisions of the Concealed Handgun License laws. Rep. Brandon Creighton (R – Conroe) said, “Few things are more sacred in the State of Texas than our constitutional right to bear arms. As the federal government continues to introduce measures that could infringe upon the Second Amendment, members of the Texas House Republican Caucus are fighting back.”

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of American citizens to keep and bear arms, and the most important aspect of this amendment is that the federal government may not seize a citizen’s firearm without cause. Recently, however, the federal government has considered enacting measures that challenge this protection based on questionable constitutional grounds. In response to the federal government’s actions, and because of a desire to protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners, the House passed the following bills today:

- The “Firearms Protection Act,” House Bill 1076, by Rep. Steve Toth (R – The Woodlands), seeks to proactively protect the Second Amendment rights of Texas citizens and the ability of our law enforcement officers to protect the public. The bill makes federal laws that restrict firearm ownership unenforceable within the state’s boundaries. Under House Bill 1076, any municipality, county, or special district trying to enforce a federal gun ban could face monetary withholdings by the state and possible misdemeanor charges.
- House Bill 1314, authored by Creighton, seeks to prevent the encroachment by the federal government on Second Amendment rights. The bill prevents the enforcement of federal laws that exceed the federal government’s constitutional authority by creating a new offense for the unlawful seizure of a firearm.
- The “Campus Carry Bill,” House Bill 972, by Rep. Allen Fletcher (R – Tomball) will allow concealed handgun license holders to carry on the premises of public institutions of higher education. The goal of HB 972 is to provide students, faculty, and visitors on educational campuses the Second Amendment protections that may be necessary in life-threatening situations. This bill promotes the right of individuals to protect themselves, along with their fellow students and co-workers.
- House Bills 47 and 48 are measures authored by Rep. Dan Flynn (R – Van) that provide a more efficient and effective concealed handgun licensing and renewal process for law-abiding Texans.
- House Bill 1304 by Rep. Kenneth Sheets (R – Dallas) seeks to remedy any ambiguity surrounding the proper concealment of a handgun by protecting a license holder from being penalized for accidentally displaying a handgun.

Rep. Dan Huberty (R – Humble) added, “Protecting the Second Amendment is paramount to the preservation of our freedoms. We have advanced the fight to protect the constitutional rights of all Texans by passing multiple measures that strengthen Second Amendment rights in our State. These measures further ensure the safety of Texans and their ability to protect themselves and their family.”

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## Record Turnout for Early Voting in Humble ISD & Lone Star College Election

The electorate is turning out on record numbers for early voting in the Humble ISD and Lone Star College Board of Trustee elections. This election also includes a proposed Bond Referendum for Lone Star College. Early Voting started on Monday, April 29, and continued through Friday, May 3. It will open again on Monday, May 6, and Tuesday May 7, from 7 AM - 7 PM.

Early Voting locations include:

- Humble City Hall/Council Chamber, 114 W. Higgins Street, Humble 77338
- Humble ISD Administration Building, 20200 Eastway Village Drive, Humble 77338
- Humble ISD Instructional Support Center (ISC), 4810 Magnolia Cove Drive, Kingwood 77345

Election Day will be Saturday, May 11, from 7 AM - 7 PM. Polling locations for this day will be separated by precincts and are listed on the Humble ISD website. That list also [can be viewed here.](#)

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## Humble ISD Honored as Finalist in H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards Program

Humble ISD was honored as a finalist in the Large District category of the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards Program in Austin on May 3. Humble ISD was among five large districts statewide in the running for the title of 2013 H-E-B Large District Winner and a cash prize of \$100,000, which went to Round Rock ISD. Other finalists in the Large District category included Lewisville ISD, McAllen ISD and Southwest ISD. There were 24 Large Districts honored as semifinalists.

“Being recognized by H-E-B, a longtime supporter of public education, and celebrating alongside other great educators in the State, was a very rewarding experience,” said Humble ISD Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo. “We were all very excited to be a part of this year’s Excellence in Education program.” To compete among the best in the State, Humble ISD submitted an application and essays to demonstrate the District’s commitment to academic excellence, student achievement, innovative learning, efficient use of resources and community involvement. Upon being named a Finalist, Humble ISD was visited by a panel of judges who gained further insight of District operations and programs, visited campuses and spoke with various leaders and members of the Humble ISD community.

Three Humble ISD teachers were also named statewide semifinalists, including Robin Pullen (Kingwood Park High School), Tanya Easley (Humble High School), and Josefina Salumunek, Special Ed. Facilitator. Robert Atteberry, Principal, Kingwood Middle School, was also named a semifinalist in the Secondary Principal category. Humble ISD was awarded a \$5,000 cash prize as a finalist, which went to fund Camp Nobis Est, a camp dedicated to helping elementary school students transition to middle school. H-E-B launched the Excellence in Education Awards Program in cooperation with the Texas Association of School Administrators in 2002 as a positive way to support public education in Texas by spotlighting best practices and celebrating the passion and creativity of Texas educators. Since the program’s inception, H-E-B has given nearly \$6 million, making it the state’s largest monetary award program dedicated to education.



Members of the Humble ISD Board of Trustees pause for a photo at the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards dinner in Austin with Rep. Dan Huberty. From left: Parliamentarian Robert Sitton, Vice President Brent Engalage, President Charles Cunningham, Keith Lapeze, & Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo

## Legislative Update

Representative Huberty's HB 2049, deals with cogeneration facilities. It would allow these facilities, which produce both steam and electricity, to sell to more than one customer in the competitive electricity markets in Texas. Allowing this flexibility would maximize operational efficiency of these facilities which would enhance the development of industrial growth. HB 2049 was reported favorably from the State Affairs committee and was heard on the House Floor on Friday, May 3. It now heads to the Senate.

Similarly, Representative Huberty has four bills authorizing Municipal Utility Districts # 422, 423, 504 and 505, located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Houston, be given power to undertake certain road projects. They were reported favorably from the Special Districts Committee and passed the House Chamber on Thursday, May 2.

## House Leaders Pass "Truth-in-Budgeting" Measures to Improve Budget Writing Process

With strong leadership and guidance from budget leaders Rep. John Otto (R – Dayton) and Rep. Drew Darby (R – San Angelo), the Texas House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed House Bill 6 & House Bill 7. The two measures call for an end to budget diversions and an improvement in the process of writing the state budget. When a new tax or fee is imposed, the public is often told that the funds will be dedicated toward a particular purpose. For the last two decades, lawmakers have reserved some of these collected funds so that the excess revenue can be used to certify the state budget. Certification of the budget is necessary to ensure that the state has enough revenue to cover all expenses in the budget.

House Bill 6 caps the amount of funds in these unspent dedicated accounts that may be used for budget certification. This cap begins the process of making the budget more transparent to taxpayers. House Bill 7 institutes a process to review the use of these funds to certify the budget and makes several account-specific reforms to reduce fees in order to align them with spending. Rep. Otto said, "These bills are a bold first step toward ending the practice of using dedicated funds for certification purposes and making our budget more transparent and accountable to taxpayers." Rep. Darby echoed the need for budget transparency and said, "These bills, along with the work of Chairman Jim Pitts and the House Appropriations Committee, lower fees and work toward a more honest and straightforward budget that brings excess revenues in line with conservative budgeting."

## Free Citizenship Application Workshops - May 18 & June 8

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, together with our New Americans Campaign partners will be hosting two free U.S. Citizenship application workshops. The program is nationally-recognized for immigrant legal assistance and has been in practice since 1988.

The first workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Centro Familiar Cristiano, 11000 Dairy Ashford Road on the corner of Dairy Ashford at Bellfort in Sugar Land. [Click here to see the flyer for this event.](#) The second will take place Saturday, June 8th, from 10 Am - 3 PM, at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 501 Tidwell Road, Houston, TX 77022. [The flyer for that event can be viewed by clicking here.](#) Volunteer opportunities area also available for both events. To learn more about how to get involved, [click here.](#) To register for either of the workshops or to volunteer to help, please call Catholic Charities at 713-874-6593.

Experienced attorneys will be on hand to screen for eligibility and will help attendees fill out applications for U.S. citizenship. Free study materials will be available for citizenship applicants to prepare for the exam. The Basic Requirements for Naturalization include: Lawful Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder); 18 years old or older; Five Years of Continuous Residence as a Permanent Resident (exception if Married to a U.S. Citizen (Three Years Continuous Residence) ); Physical Presence in U.S. for at least half of the Five (or Three) Year Period; Good Moral Character for the Five (or Three) Years; Be able to Pass English and U.S. History/Civics Exams and you must agree to take an Oath of Loyalty. (These are only the basic requirements; there may be others that you may need to meet to qualify for citizenship.) Catholic Charities' services persons of all faiths and populations.

## FamilyTime "Mothers Are Jewels" Luncheon

On Friday, May 3, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, sons and brothers gathered to celebrate "Mom". The Kingwood Country Club was overrun with supporters of FamilyTime Crisis and Counseling Services. This annual luncheon, only in its third year, allows for members of the community to express to their mothers how much they mean, while allowing FamilyTime to be highlighted as a resource for mothers. This year, the program featured local individuals and allowed them time to speak to their Mother's from the stage. First, Rick Alspaugh honored his mother, Sue. Next, Michal Clapp honored his mother, Carolyn. Lastly, Casey Christman was joined by her sisters, Paige Langley and Mandi Lutz, to honor their mother, Theo.

