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January 20, 2017

Dear Fellow Texan,

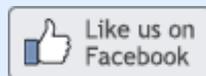
Thank you for subscribing to my newsletter. This edition contains important information about what is happening at the Texas Capitol during the second week of the 85th Legislative Session.

The House was closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We convened again on Tuesday and Wednesday to tend to legislative duties. Currently, we are adjourned until next Tuesday at 2 PM.

Take a look at this week's happenings below. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my staff at any time. Our contact information is listed at the bottom of this email.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty



## What's Going on in Austin?

### House Budget Prioritizes Public Education

The initial 2018-19 budget introduced by Texas House leadership Tuesday puts additional resources into public education, child protection services and mental health while only increasing state spending by less than 1 percent from the last year.

The House is committed to producing a budget that is fiscally conservative while also meeting our commitments and obligations as a state, such as child protection, education and border security.

Highlights of the initial House budget include:

- **Public Education:** Provides funding to pay for expected enrollment growth of 165,000 students over the next two years. In addition, it includes \$1.5 billion for public education that is contingent upon the passage of legislation that reduces recapture and improves equity in the school finance system.
- **Child Protection:** Provides \$268 million to bring stability to the CPS workforce and reduce employee turnover, including the higher salaries and additional employees at CPS that were approved in late 2016 and recommended by Governor Abbott.
- **Mental Health:** Increases funding for behavioral health by \$162 million. This increased funding would help eliminate wait lists for mental health services and would improve services for Veterans with PTSD. This also funds the priorities of the House Committee on Mental Health, which focuses on early intervention, judicial training, and increased capacity.
- **Border Security:** Provides the \$663 million necessary to maintain the border security initiatives approved by the 84th Legislature, specifically hundreds of new state troopers along the border.

The initial House plan appropriates \$108.9 billion in General Purpose Revenue. For all Funds (Dedicated Revenue, Federal and Other Funds), the total budget would be \$221.3 billion. It reduces funding for administrative costs and discretionary programs across state agencies. It also eliminates one-time funding provided by the last Legislature, such as completed capital and information technology projects. It also includes cost-containment efforts to reduce spending in Medicaid by \$100 million.

The House took the first step towards producing a balanced budget that reflects their priorities while not increasing taxes or using money from the Rainy Day Fund, which is projected to have a balance of \$11.9 billion at the end of the next budget cycle.

In the Senate plan, Finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson would spend \$103.6 billion in state general purpose revenue over the next two years. Proposed expenditures include \$2.65 billion for state public education to cover enrollment growth in public schools and \$32 million more for high-quality pre-k programs. Other key line items include \$260 million to improve Child Protective Services; \$1 billion to address state hospital and mental health facility needs and \$63 million to clear the waitlist for community mental health services. The bill has some spending cuts as well, such as a 1.5 percent across the board spending reduction for all non-public education related expenditures.

**You can read more about both budget plans via the Legislative Budget Board.**  
<http://www.lbb.state.tx.us>.

## Texas House Republican Caucus Re-elects Executive Board

Wednesday morning, the Texas House Republican Caucus (THRC) met to vote on an Executive Board. Members voted unanimously to re-elect the Executive Board of the House Republican Caucus for the 85th Legislative Session. Representative Tan Parker will serve as Chairman, Representative Cindy Burkett as Vice-Chairwoman, Representative John Raney as Secretary and Representative Dan Huberty as Treasurer.

Under the leadership of the Caucus Executive Board during the 84th Legislative Session, the Caucus made critical improvements in many areas, including the policy committee, messaging and communication, fundraising, and the addition of many new Member resources.

"I am honored and humbled to have been re-elected as Chairman of the THRC. Now that the Caucus is organized and ready, the real work begins. We will play a critical role this session, and I pledge to use my background in business and public service to advance our conservative Republican initiatives during the 85th Legislature," said Chairman Tan Parker.

The Executive Committee develops long-range strategies to ensure the success of Republican Members of the House, oversees policy and communication for the Caucus, and works to accomplish the purpose for which the Caucus exists.

"We have worked to build a more powerful, cohesive Caucus that would enhance our majority position and ensure the resources necessary for us to be a more effective organization, stated Treasurer Dan Huberty. "Reflecting on the last four years, I can confidently say we accomplished those goals but know we cannot rest on past success for our future. We have built a strong fiscal base and a solid team to help deliver our positive conservative message during the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session."

The THRC Executive Board looks forward to working together with all Caucus Members to promote conservative values and address the issues that we face as Texans.

**Visit the Texas House Republican Caucus website by clicking the photo below.**



THRC Treasurer Dan Huberty with THRC Chairman Tan Parker  
at the 2016 State GOP Convention

## Staff Spotlight: Molly Spratt - Legislative Director

Molly is a recent graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, and her Longhorn pride runs deep. During her undergraduate career, Molly earned two Bachelors of Arts in Linguistics and French, and was President of her sorority, Delta Gamma. Molly began working with Representative Huberty during the 83rd Legislative Session as a part-time intern, was promoted to Legislative Aide in March of 2014, and accepted her recent promotion to Legislative Director in October of 2016.

As Legislative Director, Molly's responsibilities include, compiling

Representative Huberty's legislative package, drafting legislation, advising on which bills to pursue, researching potential policy, and meeting with experts to best create laws to better the lives of all Texans. Molly also oversees the committees on which Rep. Huberty serves.

In her free time, Molly's hobbies include reading, enjoying the live music scene in Austin, and knitting!



## What's Happening in District 127?

### Humble ISD Legislative Committee Update

On Thursday, Representative Huberty provided an update on the 85th Legislative Session. Huberty provided information on the budget numbers presented by both chambers this week and how they spend the dollars differently.

"The only bill we are constitutionally required to pass during a legislative session is a balanced budget," Huberty stated. "Right now there is a large gap between the House and Senate biennial budget numbers. It is our job to field the testimony and make changes to certain items then come together and work out the differences. It is hard work, but we have done it every session, or special session and we will do that again."

Rep. Huberty also laid out the priorities for the House, along with his own personal priorities for the session. The House will be focusing on Public Education and the fixing the finance system. "The House will also be looking to restore funding for disabled children's in-home therapy services; to repair the foster care system and Child Protective Services (CPS); to improve the State's mental healthcare safety net and to ensure that the Federal Government takes the brunt of costs of Border Security," said Rep. Huberty.

While laying out his own personal legislative priorities, Rep. Huberty talked much about public education and the possible changes and corrections that can be made for improvement. After the Texas Supreme Court ruled in 2016 that the current public school finance system was constitutional but should be reviewed by the legislature, Huberty has been studying the many possibilities to fix that system. He presented this as his number one priority item.

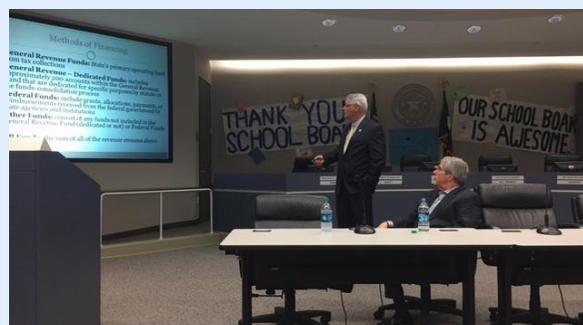
Rep. Huberty also discussed three specific bills he has already filed: **HB 966**, which would remove the expiration on Individual Graduation Committees (IGC) created by SB 149 in the 84th Session; **HB 357** would expand state-funded pre-k eligibility to the children of those who were severely injured or lost their life in the line of duty; and **HB 363**, which would prohibit the use of a monitoring system performance indicator based on the number or percentage of students receiving special education services.

At the close, Rep. Huberty and Dr. Guy Sconzo, the Executive Director of the Fast Growth School Coalition, took questions from the audience.

[Visit the Humble ISD Legislative Committee page by clicking here](#)



Presenting a resolution honoring the Humble ISD School Board in honor of School Board Appreciation Month



Rep. Huberty presenting to the Humble ISD Legislative Committee

The Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce's held their Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday at The Overlook in Atascocita, Texas. Rep. Huberty presented resolutions to all four award recipients and introduced Scott Brady as the 2016 Haden McKay, MD Citizen of the Year Award recipient.

As Rep. Huberty was the recipient of the 2015 Citizen of the Year award, he had the opportunity to speak about Brady before presenting him the plaque. After his acceptance speech concluded, Brady was presented with a Texas House Resolution from Rep. Huberty, a proclamation from Houston City Council Member Dave Martin, a proclamation from City of Humble Mayor Merle Aaron and a certificate from US Congressman Ted Poe.

Corinn Price was given the Chairman's Award for all of her work with the Chamber. Outgoing Board Chairman Robert Sitton chose her to bestow this honor after his year of service leading the Board of Directors.

The Rising Star Award was presented to Robyn Choiniere for her increased involvement in Chamber activities like The Ambassadors and the Total Resource Campaign. She also received a resolution from Rep. Huberty and a certificate from Cong. Poe.

Lastly, Dr. Guy Sconzo was given the Spirit of the Chamber Award. Rep. Huberty again presented a resolution. Council Member Martin also gave him a proclamation naming January 20, 2017, as Dr. Guy Sconzo Day in the City of Houston. Cong. Poe also provided a certificate.



Rep. Huberty with 2016 Citizen of the Year - Scott Brady



Rep. Huberty, Dr. Guy Sconzo & Council Member Martin

## Capitol Office Moved to E2.408

We have moved to a different office in the Capitol. We are now in E2.408. Make note of this in your contact list so that you can come see us when you visit.

## House District 127 Events

Do you want to know what Rep. Huberty and his supporters have been up to this month? Head over to his Facebook page! Give him a "like," and you'll never be out of the loop when it comes to updates, events, and photos.



# Upcoming Events

January 2017

See an event you're interested in? Click the links on each date to learn more about the event's details. Under each link, you can find R.S.V.P. information, exact times, locations, and much more.

This color box indicates an event in or near House District 127.

This color box indicates an event in Austin, Texas.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	9 <a href="#">Biennial Revenue Estimate</a>	10 <a href="#">85th Legislative Session Swearing-In Ceremony</a>	11 <a href="#">Border Security Press Conference</a>	12 <a href="#">Press Conference with Senator Kel Seliger</a>	13	14
15	16 <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	17	18	19 <a href="#">Humble ISD Legislative Committee Meeting</a>	20 <a href="#">Lake Houston Area Chamber Annual Awards Extravaganza</a>	21 <a href="#">FamilyTime "Hearts of Gold" Gala</a>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 <a href="#">Huffman FFA Livestock Show</a>  <a href="#">HLSR Humble/Kingwood Boots &amp; Buckles Ball</a>
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

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