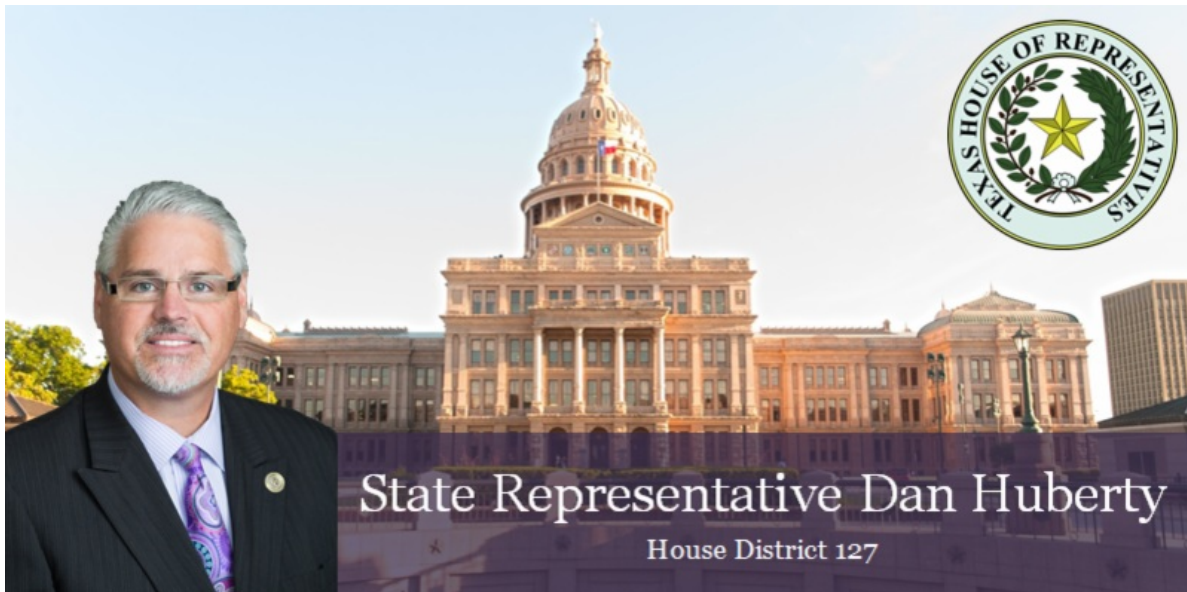


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July 14, 2017

Dear Fellow Texan,

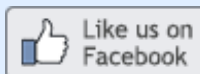
Thank you for subscribing to my newsletter. This edition contains information about the upcoming Special Session that will begin on Tuesday, July 18, 2017.

You can watch the Texas House online at: <http://www.house.texas.gov/video-audio/>

Read more about the Special Session Call and the possible Supplemental Call, as well as, filed bills in the following newsletter. 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?

### Governor Abbott Officially Calls Special Session

On Monday, July 10th, Governor Greg Abbott officially filed the proclamation to call the Texas Legislature back for a Special Session. This first proclamation outlined the subjects for the upcoming special session.

This includes the extension of the expiration dates for the following agencies:

- The Texas Medical Board, The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists,
- The Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists,
- The Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, and
- The Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners.

## Special Session Supplemental Call

Earlier this week, Governor Abbott issued a statement saying, "As soon as the Texas Senate passes bills to extend the expiration dates of these agencies, [I] will immediately issue a supplemental proclamation adding all previously announced items to the call."

The draft of the supplemental proclamation includes 19 other items for the legislature to address, including:

- Legislation to increase the average salary and benefits of Texas teachers; and legislation to provide a more flexible and rewarding salary and benefit system for Texas teachers
- Legislation establishing a statewide commission to study and recommend improvements to the current public school finance system.
- Legislation to empower parents of children with special needs or educational disadvantages to choose an educational provider that is best for their child.
- Legislation reforming the laws governing ad valorem property taxes.
- Legislation using population growth and inflation to establish a spending limit for state government.
- Legislation using population growth and inflation to establish a spending limit for political subdivisions.
- Legislation protecting the private property rights of land owners from political subdivision rules, regulations, or ordinances that interfere with, delay, or restrict private property owners' ability to use or enjoy their property.
- Legislation expediting the issuance of permits by political subdivisions and reforming the laws governing the issuance of permits by political subdivisions.
- Legislation preventing political subdivisions from imposing on private property additional or enhanced regulations that did not exist at the time the property was acquired.
- Legislation reforming the authority of municipalities to annex territory, to exert control over territory, or to regulate the use of annexed land or land in a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction.
- Legislation preempting local regulation of the use of hand-held mobile communication devices while driving.
- Legislation regarding the use of multi-occupancy showers, locker rooms, restrooms, and changing rooms.
- Legislation prohibiting state or local government entities from deducting labor union or employee organization membership fees or dues from the wages of public employees.
- Legislation prohibiting financial transactions between a governmental entity and an abortion provider or affiliate of the abortion provider.
- Legislation restricting health plan and health benefit plan coverage for abortions.
- Legislation strengthening the laws applicable to the reporting of abortions and abortion complications to the Department of State Health Services.
- Legislation enhancing patient protections contained in the procedures and requirements for do-not-resuscitate orders.
- Legislation enhancing the detection, prosecution, and elimination of mail-in ballot fraud.
- Legislation continuing the operation and expanding the duties of the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force to ensure action is taken to reduce the maternal mortality rate in Texas.
- Legislation adjusting the scheduling of Sunset Commission review of state agencies.

**View a draft of the supplemental proclamation that Governor Abbott intends to issue once Sunset legislation passes in the Senate [by clicking here.](#)**

## Special Session Legislative Statistics

Currently, members of the House have filed 124 bills, whereas members of the Senate have only filed 24 bills. More pieces of legislation are expected to be filed once members return to Austin next week.

85 Legislature - 1st Called Session 2017										
Status	HB	HCR	HJR	HR	SB	SCR	SJR	SR	Total HB & SB	Total
Introduced	124	3	13	9	24	1	1	0	148	175
Passed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vetoed	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0

## Constituent Resources

### Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program Nominations Reopen

Nominations for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) reopened on June 19, 2017, for the 2017-2018 academic year. Nominations had previously been suspended in order to verify the total amount of funding appropriated for the next biennium in Senate Bill 1, 85th Texas Legislature.

The TASSP provides a unique opportunity to assist students in becoming members of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, the Texas State Guard, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Merchant Marine, or commissioned officers in any branch of the armed services of the United States.

Given the decrease in appropriated funding, and the legislative intent to fund both new and renewal awards, the FY18 TASSP annual amount will be \$4,000 for both new and renewal awards. As was done in FY17, any unexpended funds will be assessed mid-year to determine whether the annual award can be increased for FY18.

**If you are interested in a TASSP nomination, please send your resume and a Letter of Interest to [district127.huberty@house.texas.gov](mailto:district127.huberty@house.texas.gov).**

**[Click here to view more information regarding TASSP.](#)**

### TEA: Majority of Texas Students Pass STAAR End-of-Course Exams

A majority of Texas students were successful in completing the five State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) end-of-course exams, according to statewide results released today by the Texas Education Agency. The results reflect passing rates for the spring 2017 administration of STAAR.

In statewide results for the 2016-2017 school year for all testers, Texas students posted the highest statewide passing rates - above 90 percent - in U.S. History. Results for all students tested for 2016-2017 are as follows:

Course	2016-2017
Algebra I	82%
Biology	85%
U.S. History	92%
English I	60%
English II	62%

Texas students are required to pass five STAAR end-of-course exams - Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History - to receive a high school diploma. However, a student who failed an end-of-course assessment for no more than two courses may also receive a Texas high school diploma if the student has qualified to graduate by way of an Individual Graduation Committee determination.

Results are available from your local school districts and charters. To review state-level reports, visit the Texas Education Agency website at <http://tea.texas.gov/staar/rpt/sum/>.

### SBOE: Help Develop the Long-Range Plan for Public Education

Would you like to help establish long-term goals for the Texas public schools? The State Board of Education is now accepting nominations from those who would like to serve on a Long-Range Plan Steering Committee.

The 18-member committee will be composed of five State Board of Education members, including the board chair and the chair of the Committee on School Initiatives; one representative each from the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce Commission; and 10 stakeholders to be nominated by the remaining board members.

State Board members serving on the committee are:

- Donna Bahorich, R-Houston, the SBOE chair
- Barbara Cargill, R-The Woodlands, chair of the board's Committee on School Initiatives
- Marty Rowley, R-Amarillo
- Tom Maynard, R-Florence
- Georgina Pérez, D-El Paso

The 10 public stakeholders may be educators, parents, business and industry representatives or students. They will represent public schools of various sizes and regions. Board members are looking for nominees with broad backgrounds and experiences.

To nominate yourself or others, please complete this form: <https://form.jotform.com/71943948557170>. The nomination deadline is Aug. 4.

The 10 board members who are not themselves serving on the steering committee will review the nominations and recommend three stakeholders each. The five SBOE members serving on the steering committee will select the 10 stakeholder representatives from the recommended nominees.

The steering committee will meet approximately five times in Austin throughout the 2017-2018 school year to draft recommended long-range priorities for public education. The first meeting will occur in mid-September.

Also informing this work will be results from a survey and comments obtained during 10 SBOE-hosted public meetings held around the state.

The guiding principles to be followed in developing the long-range plan are:

- Addressing the most pressing issues facing public education in Texas;
- Conveying one consistent vision on statewide priorities;
- Outlining clearly the board's role in supporting the priorities;
- Considering stakeholder input;
- Containing specific targets and processes to assess progress; and
- Appropriately balancing depth and coverage with fiscal responsibility.

Assisting the board during this second phase of the Long-Range Plan development are the Texas Education Agency staff and the Texas Comprehensive Center at the American Institutes for Research.

The tentative schedule calls for the board to adopt a new Long-Range Plan for Public Education at its September 2018 meeting.

## Need Assistance?

Our office is always ready to assist you. Call or email us and we will do our best to help. Many State Agencies also have hotlines or citizen assistance offices to assist you. That contact information is available at this link, in alphabetical order:

<http://www.lrl.texas.gov/genInfo/stateAgencies.cfm>

## House District 127 Events

Do you want to know what Rep. Huberty has 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

July 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 <b>Independence Day</b>	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 <b>85(1): Special Session Begins</b>	19	20	21	22 <b>National Day of the Cowboy</b>
23 <b>National Parent's Day</b>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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