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January 4, 2019

Thank you for subscribing to my e-newsletter. Below you will find updates from federal, state and local agencies on events from the past week and the week ahead.

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to spend some time with family and friends over the holiday season. Janet and I were pleased to have our oldest daughter, Brianna, back at home to make us whole and spend some quality time as a family. She heads back to Texas Tech soon and the boys will return to Atascocita High School next week.

My staff and I have been busy preparing for the upcoming 86th Legislative Session, which will commence next Tuesday, January 8, 2019. Opening Day of the Legislature is always an important time for members, but it also allows for special moments with family who attend to be by our sides as we take the Oath of Office. My parents, sister and brother-in-law will be joining Janet, Brianna and I at the Capitol next week and I look forward to having the with me.

The Opening Day Ceremonies in the Texas House and Senate are open to the public and can be viewed online, as well. Below, you will find more information on how you can attend and be a part of the 86th Session or simply watch from your computer.

While we are looking forward to getting started with the new session, I am proud to announce that the current House Public Education Committee has officially posted our Interim Report. I want to thank all of my committee members for their time and dedication as we addressed these important issues. The report is available online now and you can read more about that below.

Should you have questions regarding anything in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us directly using the information provided at the bottom of this email.

Sincerely,

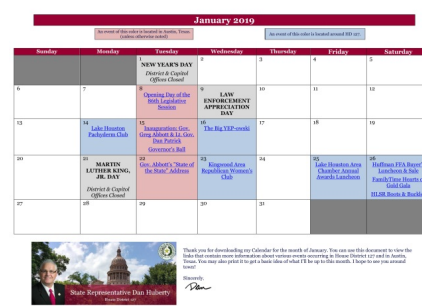


January 2019 Calendar

Download my January 2019 calendar by clicking the link below. This month is full of events in and around Texas that could be fun or useful to you and your family!

This new format allows you to save the document for printing or sending to your family members.

Keep watch for these updated calendars at the beginning of each month. Important local and legislative dates and events will be posted here.



[Click Here to View and Download This Month's Calendar!](#)

Updates from Austin

House Public Education Committee: Interim Report Released

Today, the Texas House Committee on Public Education released its Interim Report to the 86th Legislature. Speaker Joe Straus previously issued charges to the committee covering a wide range of topics including Hurricane Harvey Recovery, special education and school safety. The document contains a summary of issues discussed and testimony received during hearings over the last 18 months, as well as recommendations for possible policy and legislative changes. The Interim Report can be accessed online via the Texas House of Representatives website, or at <https://house.texas.gov/committees/reports/>.

Committee Chairman Dan Huberty thanked the members of the committee for their dedication and hard work saying, "the extraordinary events that occurred since the last session adjourned spurred members to delve deeply into what some may view as difficult topics without the time constraints of a legislative session."

The committee convened eight times and heard more than 48 hours of testimony on its 12 separate charges. "I appreciate the commitment given by these dedicated legislators to seek a better understanding of the issues facing our public education system and how we may best improve it for Texas students."

86th Legislative Session: Opening Day Ceremony

The Texas Legislature is set to convene for the 86th Session on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at the Texas Capitol in Austin, TX. The ceremonies in both the House and Senate Chambers are set commence at 12:00 PM.

Visitors wishing to view the House of Representatives Ceremony should obtain seating in the House Gallery on the third floor. Seating in the gallery is on a first come, first served basis. The gallery will open at approximately 10:30 AM.

The demand for seats is expected to be high and may exceed the seating capacity of the gallery on the third floor. Arrangements have been made for the proceedings to be broadcast via closed circuit television in the auditorium of the Capitol Extension (Room E1.004) and Committee rooms E2.010, E2.012, E2.014, and E2.016, all in the extension. The doors to the overflow viewing rooms will open at 9:30 a.m. on January 8, and will be available on a first come, first served basis. There are approximately 300 seats available in the auditorium and 96 in each of the committee rooms.

You can also view the proceedings online at: <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/>



86th Legislative Session: Honorary Page Program

All house members have the opportunity to host a certain number of honorary pages during the legislative session, through the Texas House Honorary Page Program at the Texas Capitol. Students, ages 8 to 18 years old, serve as honorary pages for one half-day shift and witness the legislative process from inside the Capitol walls. Honorary pages are granted floor access and have the opportunity to visit with Texas Representatives, meet the Speaker of the House and

learn the legislative process. In addition, honorary pages will work with the Sergeant-at-Arms office to assist with the delivery of messages and documents around the Capitol for members, as they are escorted with a Sergeant. For more details on how to apply, e-mail Representative Huberty at Dan.Huberty@house.texas.gov and ask specifically about the Honorary Page Program.

Gov. Abbott: Human Trafficking Prevention Month



Office of the Governor | Greg Abbott

Governor Greg Abbott proclaims January 2019, to be Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The concepts of freedom, justice, and the pursuit of happiness are intricately woven into the fabric of American culture. We may find it hard to fathom that we live in a world where people are deprived of these rights, a world where people are trafficked for labor or bought and sold in the sex trade. The heinous crime of human trafficking is not confined to some remote country; it is happening right here, and even children have become commodities for the pleasure of sexual predators and the profit of traffickers.

The State of Texas will not tolerate the inhumane practices carried out by coercive and manipulative criminals. We provide serious penalties for human traffickers, and we continuously look for ways to better serve the victims. Since the creation of the Child Sex Trafficking Team in my office, innovative and promising practices have been launched around the state. My team knows that a spirit of collaboration is critical in this endeavor, and I commend all those working toward a stronger and more coordinated response.

I thank our state's service providers, law enforcement officers, and prosecutors for their dedication to combating this terrible crime. I also applaud the faith communities, businesses, foundations, and other advocates who are stepping up to make a difference. I especially want to express my gratitude to the incredible survivors who share their voices and their stories to help others; their grit and resilience is a testament to the Texas spirit and a constant inspiration to us all.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the risks and indicators of human trafficking and to do their part in helping end this atrocity. The reality of this evil enterprise can be staggering, however Texans will not be overcome in the face of adversity. Together, we can protect the vulnerable, help victims find healing, and bring offenders to justice.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim January 2019, to be Human Trafficking Prevention Month - Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas

Updates from HD 127

SJRA: New Mass Notification System on Feb. 1st



On February 1, 2019 the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) will officially launch a new mass notification system, through the CivicReady platform: <https://sjra.regroup.com>

This mass communication tool allows SJRA to communicate quickly and efficiently via email, SMS, and/or voice calls depending on what you sign up for. In an effort to expedite the transition, the SJRA uploaded existing email addresses from Constant Contact to the new system. Unfortunately not all email addresses transferred correctly. If you'd like to receive communications, sign up at <https://sjra.regroup.com> and enter your contact information along with specific notification preferences. Modifications to the alerts can be made at any time

after you sign up.

If you receive an error message regarding an existing account, please do the following:

1. Click on the [Log In link](#) at the bottom of the screen; and
2. Click on the Forgot Password in the middle of the screen
 - You will receive an email with instructions on how to create a password to go along with your email address that has been uploaded.

The program will officially go live on February 1, 2019, and the old system will be discontinued.

Constituent Resources

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>

Live Updates

All of the relevant information our office has gathered during the week will be posted to our Facebook page. By "liking" us, you will stay up-to-date about important matters across the state that affect you and your family. Click below to find our page.



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