



GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

March 2015

Dear Friends,

I want to thank everyone who made it out to our Legislative Forum in District 137 on March 7th. We had a great turnout with nearly 70 people in attendance and discussed policy issues such as education, child welfare, public safety, and civil liberties.

We were also privileged to have Representative Sylvester Turner join us to talk about the budget. Representative Turner is the Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and one of the most senior members in the House.

There were some questions from residents about management districts, so we invited the management firm for the Greater Sharpstown Management District to be there as a resource. I'm happy to report that they will be providing opportunities for residents to learn more at information sessions in the coming weeks [see our "District News & Community Announcements" section below for more info].

We received a lot of positive feedback about the event from constituents, and we look forward to hosting another forum for our community once the legislative session finally adjourns. In the meantime, we look forward to keeping you informed through our bimonthly e-newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact our office with your comments, concerns, or inquiries.

Sincerely,

Gene Wu



Office Contact Info:

District137.Wu@house.state.tx.us
<http://www.house.state.tx.us/>

Capitol Address:

Room E2.810
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0492
(512) 463-1182 Fax

District Address:

6500 Rookin, Building C
Houston, TX 77074
(713)271-3900
(713)271-3902 Fax

UPDATES FROM THE LEGE - RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

On March 9, 2015 we welcomed The Soliz Family to the Capitol to honor the lives of their loved ones with memorial resolutions HR 179 and HR 221. The resolutions were enrolled with the name of every House member added as signers thereof, and the House adjourned in their memory. It was my privilege to share this special day with my constituents.



UPDATES FROM THE LEGE - FLOOR ACTION

There are 140 days in each regular session and we are now past the halfway point. The bill filing deadline was Friday, March 13, 2015 and some 6,431 bills, joint or concurrent resolutions have been filed in the Texas House and Senate this 84th Legislative Session. There is a lot of work to be done!

While the Texas House of Representatives has been hearing bills in our respective committees for the past month, my colleagues and I started hearing bills on the House floor last week. HB 10 (S. Thompson) strengthens our efforts to combat human trafficking and prostitution, especially the trafficking of children. HB 11 (D. Bonnen) deals with border security measures to enhance law enforcement efforts and the duties of the Texas Department of Public Safety on the border. Both bills received bipartisan support, were voted out of the House, and will now be considered by the Senate.

This week we spent 5 hours debating HB 80, our Texting-While-Driving Ban. I am proud to be a Joint Author on this piece of legislation along with Rep. Tom Craddick (R-District 82), Rep. Byron Cook (R-District 8), Rep. Eddie Lucio III (D-District 38), and Rep. Patricia Harless (R-District 126). HB 80 would improve the safety of our state's roadways and send a clear message to motorists that texting while driving is dangerous. The ban would also simplify the current patchwork of city ordinances across the state. HB 80 received bipartisan support, and will now be considered by the Senate.

Next week, we will consider the state budget, and vote on HB 1. Stay tuned!

UPDATES FROM THE LEGE - COMMITTEE LAND

In addition to public safety legislation, my office has been working hard on an agenda which focuses on improvements to our education, child welfare, and criminal justice systems. I am excited to report that of our

35 bills filed this session, 12 have already been heard in committee, and 3 have been reported favorably out of committee. For comparison, last session at this time we had filed 31 bills, with 5 having been heard in committee.

To improve our child welfare system, I authored HB 418 to protect child victims of human and sex trafficking. This bill would help rescue children by allowing law enforcement and Child Protective Services to immediately take suspected victims into protective custody and place them into care. HB 418 was reported favorably out of the House Human Services Committee.

This session I was honored to be reappointed to serve on the House Energy Resources Committee. I was also appointed to serve on the House County Affairs Committee. This week in Energy Resources, one of the bills we voted out of committee was HB 497, a bill that I authored to help get more overweight trucks off of roads and improve transportation safety. This legislation expands on a similar bill that I passed last session. After voting out two bills, we spent many hours discussing HB 40, a bill that tries to find a balance between local control and oil & gas, our largest economic driver in the state. The debate was lively and informative, and I look forward to working with Chairman Darby to help draft a bill that will be satisfactory for all stakeholders.

If you would like to keep up with bill movement and track legislation, please visit www.legis.state.tx.us.

DISTRICT NEWS & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Greater Sharpstown Management District hosted their annual **March on Crime Luncheon** on March 18th in appreciation of our law enforcement officers and community leaders who keep us safe from harm. The keynote speaker was Dr. Rita Watkins, the Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT). She delivered a moving speech about the virtues and characteristics of the guardians in our society.



Dr. Watkins' teaching and research has concentrated in the areas of cultural diversity issues, leadership development, interpersonal communication, conflict resolution, investigative techniques, diverse workplaces, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and post critical response.

HELP CLEAN UP SHENANDOAH

Keep Houston Beautiful and the Shenandoah
Civic Association invite you

Second Annual Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday March 28th

10 AM - 2 PM

Meet at the corner of Moonmist Dr. at Mullins
Dr. at 10AM. Bring your own gloves, tools,
wheel barrow, broom, saw, truck, etc!

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 101

Thursday, April 16, 2015

6:00pm - 7:30pm

Sharpstown Community Center

6600 Harbor Town Dr

Houston, TX 77036

Learn about the projects and services
provided by a management district.