



# GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



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## NEWSLETTER

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### New state laws like Open Carry take effect with the new year

For those licensed to carry a handgun, Open Carry is now allowed in Texas.

But you can still keep guns away from your property or business by posting a sign in compliance with the Texas Penal Code, Section 30.06 (to prohibit concealed carry) and Section 30.07 (to prohibit open carry).

If you are a non-profit in the district that would like to provide a safe and comfortable environment for your clients, contact our office and we will help you purchase a sign.

More information about gun laws:

- [DPS: New laws that impact guns](#)
- [HPD: Open Carry Information](#)

[Visit this link to see the 50 bills effective on January 1, 2016.](#)

**NOTICE**  
 PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

**NOTICE**  
 PURSUANT TO SEC. 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.

## 2016 City of Houston Inauguration Ceremony

On January 4th, I joined my fellow members from the Texas Legislature to celebrate the inauguration of our friend, former State Representative, and Houston's 62nd Mayor, Sylvester Turner. It was an honor to serve with him in the Texas House, and we look forward to working with the new administration to serve District 137, and our city.



## January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month

This month, both [President Barack Obama](#) and [Governor Greg Abbott](#) issued official proclamations to recognize January 2016 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against his/her will.

Since 2003, Texas has been a national leader in anti-trafficking laws. In the recent legislative session, we created more laws to build an effective legal framework toward the goal of eradication. I was proud to successfully pass one of those bills, HB 418, to protect child victims of trafficking. However, there is much work to be done. According to the Texas Attorney General, Houston has the highest number of trafficking victims in the nation, and Texas has the 2nd highest number of calls made to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

Each of us have a role to play in ending all forms of slavery. Awareness and education are important ways to increase detection and support efforts to combat human trafficking.

Explore these resources to learn more:

- [National Human Trafficking Resource Center - Texas](#)
- [Polaris Project](#)
- [Texas Attorney General - Human Trafficking](#)



## Three HISD High Schools in southwest Houston earn national ranking

Three high schools in southwest Houston are among the 32 HISD high schools that made it onto the [Washington Post's 2015 list of America's Most Challenging High Schools](#). Congratulations to **Sharpstown International School**, **Sharpstown High School**, and **Lee High School**!

Nearly three-quarters of the HISD's high schools received the prestigious distinction, which was granted to just 11 percent of schools across the country this year.



**Sharpstown International School** was also awarded a Silver Medal and named a [Best High School by U.S. News and World Report](#).

Congratulations to Principal Thuy Le-Thai, and the teachers and students at Sharpstown International School on an excellent year of achievement!

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## Sharpstown High School recognized by federal officials for promoting healthy communities

On January 15th Sharpstown High School welcomed the U.S. Departments of Education and Health & Human Services to their campus for a special announcement: [Healthy Students, Promising Futures](#), a toolkit with resources and best practices for school and health officials to connect health and education services to better support students.

Sharpstown High School was praised for building community partnerships and creating healthy initiatives to ensure that students have access to quality health care for a better chance at success in the classroom. Whether it's the Memorial Hermann school-based clinic — offering medical, dental, health care navigation, dietician and mental health services to students at Sharpstown and 10 other schools in the area — or on-campus health projects like a student-run grocery store and 10-minute mindfulness meditations, Sharpstown High School has a set a federally recognized standard.



[left to right]: *Sharpstown HS Principal Rob Gasparello, HISD Superintendent Terry Grier, acting U.S. Education Secretary John King, and acting U.S. Health & Human Services Deputy Secretary Mary Wakefield.*

Congratulations to Principal Rob Gasparello, teachers, and community partners for working together to put Sharpstown High School and southwest Houston on the national stage.

[Houston Public Media: With New Toolkit To Promote Healthy Communities, Feds Highlight Sharpstown High School](#)

## Honoring the Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King believed in a nation of freedom and justice for all, and encouraged all citizens to live up to the purpose and potential of America by applying the principles of nonviolence to make this country a better place to live.

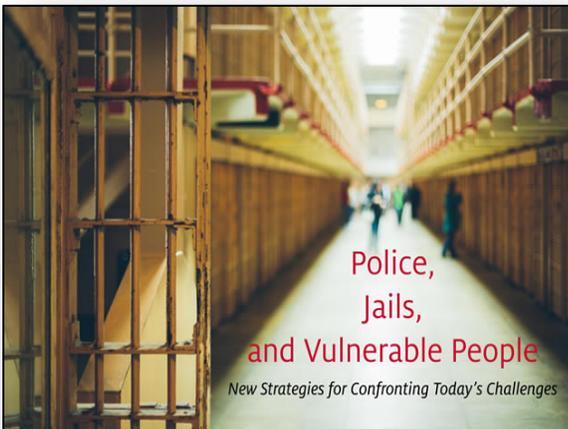
January 18th not only commemorated the life of America's most important civil rights leader, MLK Day has become a national day of service, transforming Dr. King's life and teachings into community action.

In the words of Dr. King: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"



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## University of Houston Law Center Symposium: "Police, Jails, and Vulnerable People - New Strategies for Confronting Today's Challenges"



On January 22nd, the Criminal Justice Institute and the Health Law & Policy Institute at the University of Houston Law Center hosted a symposium in collaboration with the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

The symposium focused on best practices in policing, pretrial diversion and detention, and jail safety, particularly as they relate to persons with vulnerabilities such as physical and mental health issues.

Improving the criminal justice system has been a top priority of our office, and I was honored to participate in a Texas Legislative roundtable discussion along with Rep. Garnet Coleman and other members.

Here is a look at some of the work we've already done:

- Passed HB 326 to allow law enforcement to obtain a search warrant via phone or email, allowing them to combat crime faster.
- Joint-authored HB 2150 to reform Texas' grand jury system, ending the corrupt "pick-a-pal" process to ensure a fairer grand jury selection.
- Carried HB 325 to lower the penalties for prosecuting marijuana cases, to reduce jail populations and court dockets involving those that pose no risk to society.
- Brought an amendment to SB 1630 to raise the age of juveniles and stop the routine prosecution of 17-year-olds as adults.

We will continue to build on this work by analyzing policy reforms to fix our state's bail/bond system and fine payment programs, and end debtors' prisons.

## HOUSTON CENSUS 2016: Test Run to 2020



A test run of the 2020 Census will take place in Houston beginning April 2016 in fifteen targeted zip codes in West Houston.

For the first time nationwide, the Census will allow people to fill out the decennial survey using the Internet. For this test-run, respondents will have the option to respond in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean. Workers will be equipped with mobile devices instead of the age-old pen and paper for non-response follow-up operations.

The dress rehearsal in Houston will allow the agency to evaluate the Internet response option and the feasibility of equipping field workers with mobile devices. These new options are predicted to cut costs and be easier to complete for many users.

### The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring

Approximately 500 residents of West Houston and outlying neighborhoods will be hired as field staff to support Houston Census 2016. The majority will work as enumerators, earning \$22.25 hourly. A few may also be employed as office staff, earning \$16.75 hourly or Field Operations Supervisors, earning \$25.25 hourly.

All Field Staff must live in one of the following zip codes: 77024, 77036, 77040, 77041, 77042, 77043, 77055, 77056, 77057, 77063, 77077, 77079, 77080, 77082, 77092, 77074, 77081, 77072, 77094, 77099, 77005, 77007, 77008, 77018, 77019, 77025, 77027, 77030, 77031, 77035, 77046, 77064, 77065, 77071, 77083, 77084, 77086, 77088, 77091, 77096, 77098, 77401, 77477, 77478, 77498

### HOW TO APPLY

Call the pre-employment test line, 1-800-361-6891, to schedule a pre-employment test. Enumerators must have an email address, valid driver's license, access to a vehicle and a telephone. Field positions require evening and weekend work. All staff must be at least 18 years old and U.S. Citizens to apply.

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### A message from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles: "Two Steps, One Sticker"



Beginning on March 1, 2016, the transition year ends, and vehicles will have one convenient expiration date for inspection and registration. Here is what Texans need to do from that point forward: Take a look at the date on your vehicle registration sticker and then follow the two steps.

**Step 1:** Pass a vehicle inspection no earlier than 90 days prior to your registration expiration and retain your vehicle inspection report. To find your nearest inspection station, visit the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) [website](#).

**Step 2:** After your vehicle passes inspection, renew your registration [online](#), by mail or in person at your county tax office, and your inspection status will be verified electronically.

For more information, visit [www.TwoStepsOneSticker.com](http://www.TwoStepsOneSticker.com).