



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JAMES WHITE

CORRECTIONS - CHAIR
INTERNATIONAL TRADE &
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

DISTRICT 19
HARDIN, JASPER
NEWTON, POLK, TYLER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Contact: Saul Mendoza
(512) 463-0490

86th Texas Legislature Convenes, Romans 13:1
- Weekly Legislative Update 1/11/19 -

Isaiah 33:22 "For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king."

(Austin, TX) - Beginning this journey in public service in 2010, I started from the simple origin that every Texan is made in the image of God, and thus, being elected to serve God's people comes with a high degree of expectations and responsibility. I love everyone in Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Polk, and Tyler counties. I am very grateful to the voters for allowing me to serve again in one of the most storied deliberative bodies in modern history: the Texas House of Representatives.

As directed by the Texas Government Code 301.001, the Texas Legislature begins its regular session on the second Tuesday in January of each odd-numbered year. Therefore, on Tuesday, January 8th, I was humbled to once again take the oath to uphold the constitutions of Texas and the United States and serve the citizens in Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Polk, and Tyler counties. As I took the oath, four great Southeast Texans joined on the House floor: Billy Bohannon and his wife, Anna Bohannon of Jasper County, Yancy Williams, and his son Yancy Williams Jr. of Polk County. As an Army Veteran, I always try to invite military veterans from the district to the House floor on the first day. Billy and Yancy are highly decorated veterans of the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. Additionally, Ivanhoe Mayor Cathy Bennett made a visit to my new office located in room 4N.5 in the Capitol building. I love the high energy of Mayor Bennett. She fights hard for her city.

My floor desk assignment is Desk 77. In each desk in the Texas House, is a Christian Holy Bible. The front and back covers are blue with the Texas State Seal embossed on the front. In the front of the Bible, the member can find out which Texas legislators sat at that particular desk in past sessions, the counties they represented, and a scripture that inspired them through the session. Then at the next available blank entry, the current member has an opportunity to write his/her name, the House District he or she serves, the session number, and a scripture that will inspire him or her throughout the session. After prayerful consideration, I chose **Isaiah 33:22 "For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king."** For earthly government officials, this is reminder that although our fellow citizens have elected us to



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serve in three different branches of government, the power truly lies with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. However, this scripture does come with obligation or responsibility.

Isaiah 33:22 also reminds us that our governmental heritage is Biblical and that the government is a foundational institution along with the family and the church. This scripture represents the three governmental powers: legislative, executive, and judicial. All power in the universe originates with God, then flows to the people. Then the people establish a government with a constitution that outlines the powers of the branches of government. No one is above the law: the Constitution. Then the people or the sovereigns, that is, the rulers elect their representatives and for a temporary period loan their power to their elected representatives to achieve the common good. At the end of that temporary period, the people take back their power in the form of elections: God – the Constitution – the People – the Government.

Your Texas Constitution limits the regular session of the Legislature for 140 days. Article III, Section 9 of the Texas Constitution mandates that the members of the Texas House elect a speaker. The state constitution states that **every** member of the House is a candidate. Unless changed by a constitutional amendment, House members cannot eliminate or restrict a nomination of a member for House speaker. On the first day of the session, the members of Texas House select the Speaker or its presiding officer. This session I proudly joined all of my colleagues to unanimously select Rep. Dennis Bonnen of Angleton.

I am always proud to welcome East Texans to their State Capitol. During the first week of the session, my staff and I devoted quality time to a group of students and teachers from Colmesneil High School. Julius Mabry, the UIL State Qualifier, represented the Bulldogs at the State UIL Congress competition at the University of Texas. Kudos to Colmesneil teacher Jimmy Smith. He does a phenomenal job preparing students to compete at the highest level.

Woodville High School also featured two Eagles as State Qualifiers in UIL Congress: Penny Brackin and Drake Broom. Their teacher Cathy Dentremon is a remarkable educator and it was a pleasure discussing House parliamentary procedure with her and her students.

Christopher Johnson represented the West Hardin Oilers at the UIL Congress State competition. Sandra Peek is an outstanding teacher who has truly shaped a strong educational foundation not only Christopher but all her students.

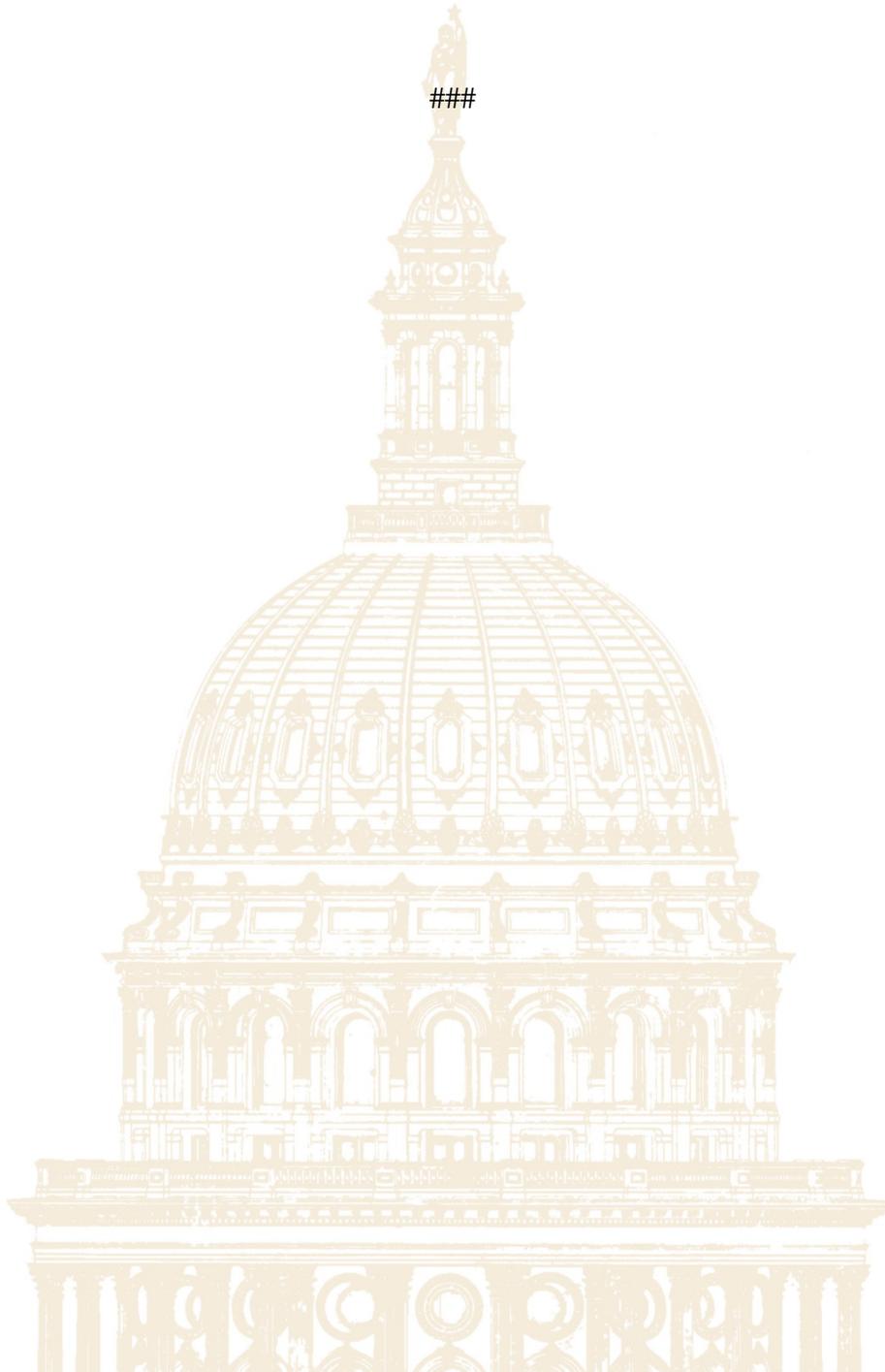
The Capitol of Texas belongs to you and visiting the Capitol during the biennial legislative session is a great experience. To assist in arranging your visit please call Saul Mendoza, my Chief of Staff, at (512) 463-0490. Or, you can email him at saul.mendoza@house.texas.gov.



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