



# TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

*James White*

*House District 19  
Jasper, Newton, Hardin, Polk, Tyler*

CORRECTIONS  
CHAIR

REDISTRICTING

JUDICIARY &  
CIVIL JURISPRUDENCE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, May 15, 2019

**Contact:** Saul Mendoza  
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### **Texas House Passes Border Security Legislation; Legislative Accomplishments of the House**

- Weekly Legislative Update 5/10/19 -

(Austin, TX) - I joined my Texas House colleagues in voting for House Bill 4306 to further invest in border security efforts to protect Texans.

House Bill 4306 addresses the key issues facing the border by creating the Border Security Enhancement Fund, managed by the Governor, to organize the state's border security efforts. The bill also initiates a pilot program in Webb and Maverick counties to study what works best to protect our border from narcotics, human trafficking, and illegal entries. The findings of the pilot program will create a framework which will eventually be implemented in other border counties.

The Texas House has made it clear since the beginning of session that they are focused on securing the border. In addition to House Bill 4306, the House recently passed House Bill 1, the state budget for the 2020-21 biennium, which included \$800 million in border security funding.

- The Governor's Office is appropriated \$55.8 million to provide grants to support local law enforcement and prosecutors, and fund other border security activities.
- \$671 million is appropriated to DPS to fund DPS personnel and equipment engaged in border security activities. In addition, \$8.6 million is provided for a new Tactical Training Facility in Cameron County and \$500,000 for staff at the Texas Transnational Intelligence Center.
- \$29 million is appropriated to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for game wardens engaged in border security-related initiatives.
- \$6.9 million is provided to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) for border security and special investigations agents.

The State of Texas is already spending hundreds of millions every biennium on border security. With House Bill 4306, we are further investing in solutions to increase the effectiveness of our border security efforts to protect not only Texans, but the United States.



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On Thursday, May 9th, the Texas House faced a major deadline. This was the last day that we could hear any bills that originated in the House of Representatives. The Texas House has passed countless bills that deliver meaningful conservative victories for Texans.

- **Bringing Transparency to the Property Tax System:** The Texas House passed a bill to make the property tax system more transparent and accountable to taxpayers. For too long, big government has kept its citizens in the dark, taking every opportunity to raise property taxes without your consent. That ends with SB 2, the Texas Taxpayer Transparency Act. The fact that cities and counties oppose this bill tells you everything you need to know. Property owners should not be RENTING their land from the city. We need serious reform that prevents cities from raising property taxes without voter approval.
- **Standing Up for the Right to Bear Arms:** The Texas House is standing up for your Second Amendment rights by passing several bills to protect Texans when carrying in public places, while evacuating or returning to areas affected by natural disasters, and who keep firearms in their residence (owned or lease). Not only are we strengthening the ability for law-abiding gun owners to carry, we're expanding the Second Amendment rights of Texas business owners and retired peace officers this session.
- **Protecting Texas Communities:** The Texas House passed a fiscally responsible budget that works with other legislation to create the Border Security Infrastructure Enhancement Fund and Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council. These bills provide critical funding to make the Texas-Mexico border more secure and crack down on trans-national crime.
- **Free Expression on College Campuses:** Colleges across the country will stop at nothing to silence conservative students for exercising their First Amendment right to free speech. Universities should not be able to threaten the constitutional rights of students simply because they don't agree, and the Texas House has passed legislation to stop it. We proudly passed legislation that PROTECTS an individual's right to speak and assemble freely on a college campus.
- **Banning Unconstitutional Red Light Cameras:** In a move that finally answers the outcries of Texans across this great state, the House of Representatives has passed a bill to ban the use of red light cameras. No longer can cities use these unconstitutional forms of law enforcement to pad their pockets and increase revenue. I'm proud to have voted for this bill that reins in overreaching government!
- **Reducing Local Control that Limits Free Enterprise:** From cutting red tape in city permitting processes to defending young entrepreneurs' lemonade stands, the Texas



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House is making certain that local governments do not impose unnecessary regulations on free enterprise!

- **Defending the Most Vulnerable:** The Texas House has fought to defend life this session by fully funding alternatives to abortion -- including resources for pregnant women and adoptive families -- and passing the Infant Born Alive Protection Act! This legislation requires physicians to treat babies who survive botched abortions with the highest degree of medical care in an effort to save their lives. I am proud to have supported and passed legislation to protect the sanctity of life this session!
- **Making Texas More Resilient in Natural Disasters:** Whether a tornado, hurricane, wildfire or flood - Texas should be prepared to respond to natural disasters. The Texas House has passed a series of bills to help Texans recover from disasters and make our state more resilient in the face of future emergencies.
- **Supporting Texas Law Enforcement:** Texas continues to Back the Blue! The House passed legislation to create a student loan repayment assistance program for future peace officers! We must make sure we attract our best and brightest to a career in law enforcement and enable them to provide for their families as they make sacrifices to protect our safety.
- **Prohibiting a Texas Income Tax:** The Texas House just passed a constitutional amendment giving YOU the power to ban a state income tax in Texas! I'm proud to support this legislation protecting taxpayers, encouraging economic expansion, & making sure you keep more of your hard-earned dollars!

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](mailto:saul.mendoza@house.texas.gov).

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