



Your District 45 Weekly Update

Hey y'all!

Keeping my constituents in the loop is of the utmost importance to me. Scroll through this week's newsletter to stay informed!

For a better Texas,

Erin Zwiener

State Representative -- District 45

Hays & Blanco Counties

Contact Us

Capitol Office:

Room E2.416

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910

Email: District45.Zwiener@house.texas.gov

Phone: (512) 463-0647

Fax: (512) 463-3573

Click [here](#) to sign up for our office newsletter!

The Main Story

Representative Erin Zwiener Files Three Elections Bills

Austin, TX -- In her freshman session, Rep. Erin Zwiener has filed three bills aimed at improving elections and ballot access in Texas. HB 2276 is a reaction to Hays County's difficulties during early voting in 2018, while the other two bills are common sense steps to make sure all who are eligible can vote without undue burden.

"Every eligible Texan deserves fair access to cast their ballot," said Rep. Zwiener. "Texas has one of the lowest rates of voter turnout in the nation. It's the legislature's job to remove superfluous barriers from voting."

[HB 2276](#) allows changes such as notices of additional temporary branch polling place locations, dates, and hours to be made available after early voting has begun.

"Hays County experienced some issues during the early voting period in 2018," said Rep. Zwiener. "The county worked quickly to correct them, but mandated that any changes—including simply adding more time—required public notice five days

before the start of early voting. The unnecessary notice almost prevented Hays County from extending polling times in response to historic voter turnout.”

[HB 1950](#) would allow Texas college students to vote with their state university student ID.

“When young Texans engage in the electoral process, they stay engaged for the rest of their lives,” said Rep. Zwiener. “Texas has one of the lowest rates of voter turnout in the nation. Let’s fix that by removing unnecessary barriers between our university students and the ballot box.”

[HB 2274](#) would extend the period in which a vote-by-mail application is considered valid from a single year to a full four years.

“This is a problem that made itself apparent when I was knocking on doors in my own election,” said Rep. Zwiener. “Many of our Texas seniors assume their vote-by-mail application is good for life and don’t realize they have to reapply each year. This causes confusion and leaves many of elderly voters, particularly those with mobility issues, unable to vote. Extending the window so people don’t have to reapply every year is a common sense fix.”

Get Involved

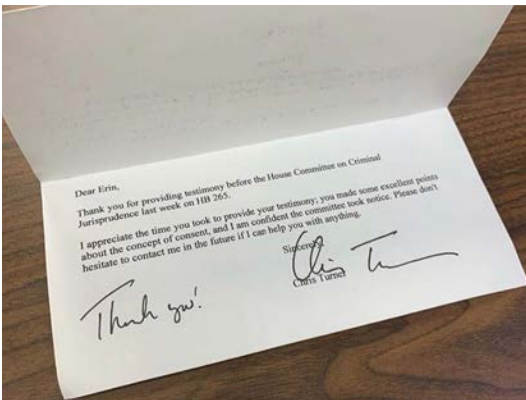
Thank you to everyone who signed up to join our Legislative Action Team! In case you missed the call to action, please read the message below!

As March approaches and more opportunities for constituent involvement in the policy-making process pop up, I want to make sure that your voice is being heard. **What are you passionate about? What issues affect your day-to-day**

life? What do you want to see happen this session?

Our **Legislative Action Team** is a place for you to share your answers to those questions with me. **Sign up to join the Action Team [here!](#)**

Recent Photos



Clockwise from top left: A few of the advocates who came to testify in favor of our sexual harassment bill, HB 2279; the Environmental Regulation Committee had a productive day Wednesday and voted out Rep. Celia Israel's coal rolling bill, HB 1212; joined some proud advocates at "All In For Equality" on the South Steps of the Capitol; and

reminiscing on a thank you note from Chairman Chris Turner thanking me for testifying in 2017.

In the Works

Representative Erin Zwiener Files Medicaid On Ramp for Young Adults

State Representative Erin Zwiener introduced a bill that would allow young Texans (up to age 26) to qualify for Medicaid. **House Bill 3591** would shrink the number of uninsured Texans and give young Texans coverage.

“One of the most popular provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act was allowing young adults to stay on their parents’ insurance until age 26,” said Rep. Zwiener. “But not all young Texans come from insured families. This bill will give those young people the same on-ramp to adulthood while they’re finding their place in the job market.”

HB 3591 is limited to young Texans who otherwise meet the federal guidelines for Medicaid coverage. Texas leads the nation with the highest rate of uninsured. Currently 450,881 Texans ages 19-26 are living without healthcare coverage, despite being one of the most affordable groups to insure.

“Many of the jobs that are available to young Texans don’t offer benefits,” said Rep. Zwiener. “With my bill we can make sure more Texans have the healthcare coverage they need.”

Providing preventive care will reduce future healthcare costs. This bill will be particularly important for former at risk youth, including former foster care children.



Upcoming Events

Texas Night Sky Festival

March 30th & 31st | 6:30pm-8:30pm

Dripping Springs Ranch Park

Click [here](#) to learn more!

For Your Information

Property Tax Renditions Deadline: **April 1st**

For questions or assistance call Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at 800-252-9121 or visit their website [here](#).

Recent Articles

[Freshman rep files bills to make voting more accessible in Texas](#)

[What the "wave of women" elected in 2018 looks like in the 2019 Texas Legislature](#)

[J. David Bamberger on Fifty Years of Coaxing His Blanco County Ranch Back to Life](#)

