



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEWAYNE BURNS

*House District 58
Bosque and Johnson Counties*

STATE OF TEXAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

Dear Friends,

Hello and Happy New Year. I hope you are doing well and that the holiday season was filled with blessings for you and your family. As 2019 begins, we are enthusiastic about the start of the 86th Legislative Session. Pre-filing of bills began on November 12, reflecting months, and even years in some cases, of work on legislation that the Texas House will be considering this session. During the last session, well over 6,000 bills were filed and over 1,000 were signed into law. The 2019 workload appears to be just as intense.

There are several key issues which will dominate the headlines during this year's legislative session, but none more so than public school finance. We have had a broken funding system for schools for decades and it is my sincere hope that we will work together to address the issue once and for all. We cannot continue to kick the can down the road. Our students, teachers, parents, and administrators are counting on the legislature to come together this year to appropriately and adequately fund Texas schools.

One of the legislature's primary duties is to adopt a state budget for the biennium. During my first two sessions in office we passed conservative, balanced budgets while keeping expenditures under the constitutional spending cap. The Legislature will work to help deliver another conservative budget in 2019 as well. According to the Texas Comptroller, our state's economy has grown, and sales tax revenue for fiscal year 2018 was up 10.5 percent over fiscal year 2017. Our robust Texas economy created 350,000 new jobs last year, so we have a responsibility in the legislature to preserve that economic momentum going forward.

Thanks to each of you who took the time to reach out and let me know your thoughts as to what priorities are important to you, for Johnson and Bosque Counties, as well as for the state as a whole. Your input is essential when it comes to serving you as your state representative.

Also, thank you to everyone who lifts up in prayer, and works with, my office to improve our community. As always, my staff and I stand ready to serve you in any way we can. Best wishes for a peaceful, productive and prosperous New Year.

God bless,



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COMMITTEES

NATURAL RESOURCES



HOMELAND SECURITY
& PUBLIC SAFETY



RULES
& RESOLUTIONS

Upcoming 86th Session

The 86th meeting of the Texas Legislature gets underway on January 8th, 2019. This session we will start with the election of a new Speaker of the House for the first time since I took office in 2015. The result of new leadership for the House could result in a vastly different landscape in terms of committee chairs, committee assignments, and the speed at which bills move through the legislative process.

In addition to State wide priorities like public school finance, border security, and property tax reform, our primary focus will be on the pieces of legislation which my office has authored. My focus continues to be what is in the best interest of the families of Bosque and Johnson Counties, and I believe that my legislative package will provide meaningful change on several key issues. Here are a few examples:

Unfunded Mandates

This session, we will again be filing a House Joint Resolution that will end unfunded mandates from the state to counties and municipalities. Unfunded mandates come in the form of directives to local governments that require some form of revenue expenditure. While the state often passes laws and regulations that require money to implement, many times they do not allocate sufficient funding to pay for these mandates. This places the burden on local government to provide the funds needed to meet state directives. While sometimes unintentional, these unfunded mandates often require local governments to raise taxes to cover expenses. The bill will address this issue by requiring the state to allocate sufficient funds for all mandates imposed on local governments. This will also be a crucial tool in reducing property taxes which unfairly burden homeowners, farmers, and ranchers across the state. If we are to get serious about true property tax reform, eliminating unfunded mandates must be a part of the equation. Last session this bill passed the House, but it never got a hearing in the Senate.

Eminent Domain Reform

During the last legislative session, there were countless man-hours spent trying to craft meaningful eminent domain reform language to protect property owners. Unfortunately, the clock ran out on us before we were able to put together legislation to address abuses in the system without hamstringing the construction of important infrastructure we need for our growing state. This session we will propose solutions and significant changes to address bad-faith initial offers, a lack of transparency and strengthen the rights of property owners.

Child Safety Zones

Much like a city can designate a child-safety zone free from sexual predators around places where children congregate, such as a school, county commissioners should have the ability to designate the same "safe zones" outside of the city limits. I will be filing legislation to allow our local elected officials to create safe zones for places like ag barns and other facilities in rural areas where our kids spend a great deal of time.

Special Education Testing

I am a firm believer that any decisions that can be made at the local level should be made at the local level. This is particularly true when it comes to educating our children, especially those with learning disabilities or special needs. To that end, we will be filing legislation which will exempt special education children from federally-mandated assessments. No one knows what these kids need better than their parents and teachers, certainly not unaccountable bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

DUI Enforcement

As a member of the committee that deals with public safety issues, we are regularly reminded of the tragic consequences that can occur when people drive under the influence. Addressing this problem in Texas requires the engagement of more than just patrol officers, and in response to a request from one of our locally elected Justices of the Peace, we will be filing legislation to close a loophole that effects our District and empower Justices of the Peace to save valuable time for officers, preserve crucial evidence and better address DUI arrests.



Rep. Burns at At Valley Mills Elementary - Valley Mills, Texas.

Around The District

New Nursing Building At Southwestern Adventist University

There was a huge crowd gathered in Keene on September 26, 2018 for the grand opening of the Southwestern Adventist nursing building. I was pleased to have been asked to share some comments and some scripture as we dedicated this facility to both service and ministry.

Back to School in Clifton

As part of the “back to school” time of year, I love getting to speak to our educators. This year I had the opportunity to speak to teachers at Clifton Middle School. I appreciate the dedication and service of these educators to the kids in our community. Great things are happening there!

U.S. Polyco Facility Under Construction

Construction is now underway on a U.S. Polyco production facility in the west part of Johnson County. Once complete, it will provide high tech, cutting edge materials for the construction of high quality/impact resistant shingles, as well as a new asphalt product that exceeds the strength and longevity of current asphalt polymers while using up to 50% recycled tire rubber.

New Cleburne High School Tour

It was a great pleasure to take part in the Community Walkthrough Night at the new Cleburne High School. While still under construction, it looks like it’s going to be an excellent place for teaching and learning.

Grandview Zebras Win State Championship

With 22 ISD’s across District 58, there is an abundance of academic and athletic talent to acknowledge. As one great example, let’s offer congratulations to our own Grandview Zebras for recently earning the Class 3A, Div 1, State Football Championship. Giving the pre-game pep-talk and prayer was truly an honor.



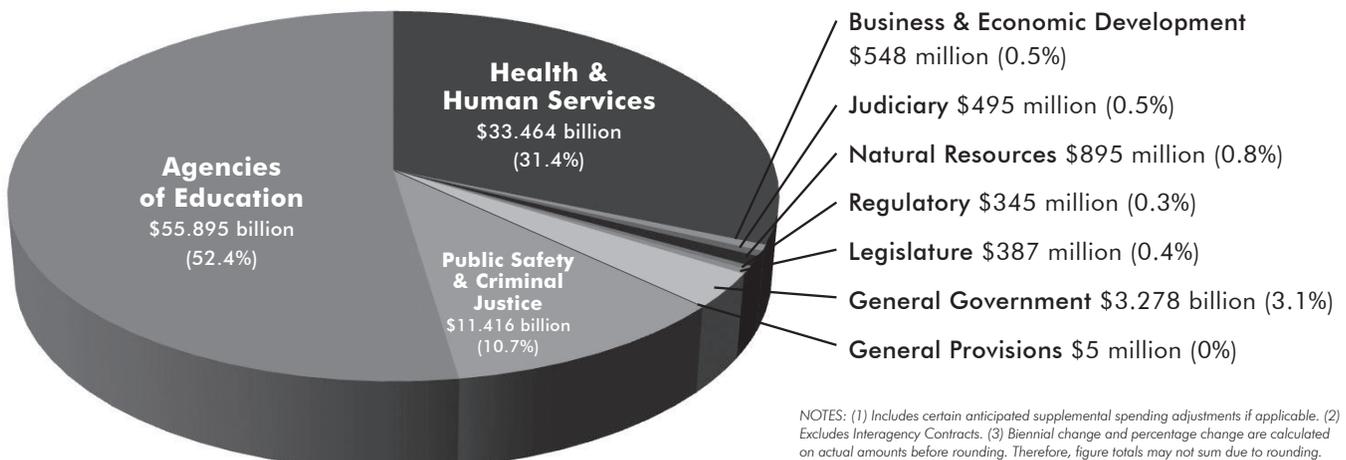
New Nursing Building at Southwestern Adventist University section.

Veteran’s Day Tribute

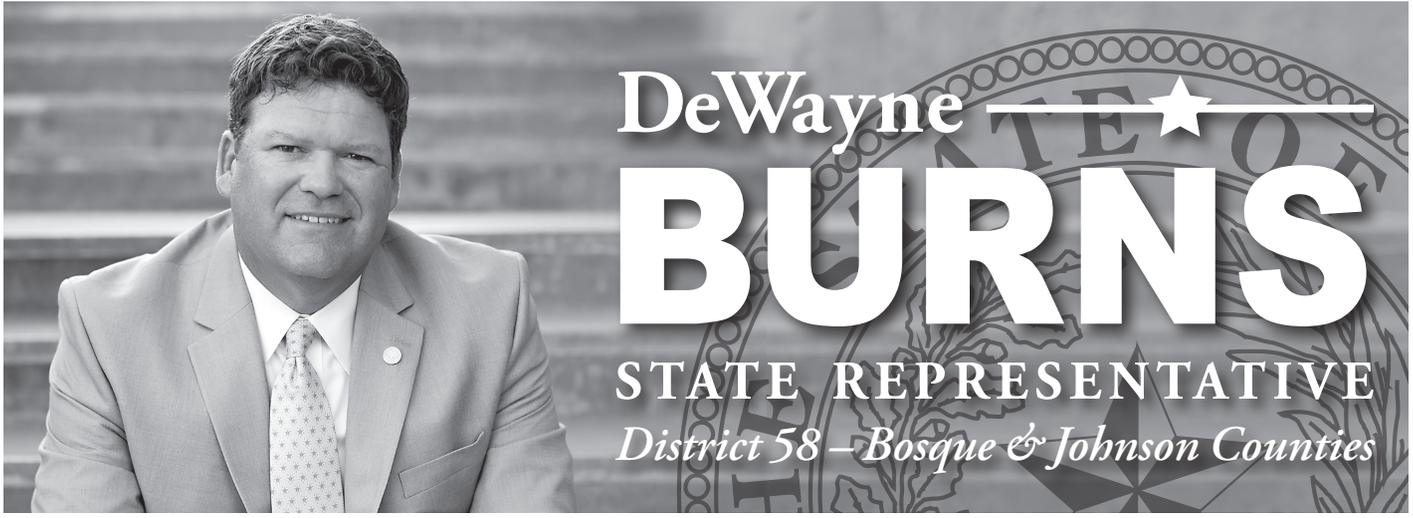
Several Veteran’s Day celebrations took place in District 58 and I was asked to give the invocation at the Bosque Valley DAR “Tribute to Our Veterans”, offer a keynote address at the American Legion Post 50 celebration and attend as a special guest for the Burleson ISD festivities, just to name a few. It is always inspiring to see our community celebrate this day and I was proud to be a part of it.

2018-19 GENERAL REVENUE

Total: \$106.727 billion



NOTES: (1) Includes certain anticipated supplemental spending adjustments if applicable. (2) Excludes Interagency Contracts. (3) Biennial change and percentage change are calculated on actual amounts before rounding. Therefore, figure totals may not sum due to rounding.



DeWayne 
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 STATE REPRESENTATIVE
District 58 – Bosque & Johnson Counties

86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

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Want to stay updated on what's happening in Austin? Follow me on Facebook.

★ HELPFUL NUMBERS ★

- Aging & Disability Services, TX Dept. 512-438-3011
- Child, Disabled & Elder Abuse Hotline..... 800-252-5400
- Child Support Info & Payment Inquiry..... 800-252-8014
- Consumer Protection 800-621-0508
- Crime Victims' Services 800-983-9933
- Environmental Quality, TX Commission on 512-239-1000
- Housing & Community Affairs, TX Dept. 512-475-3800
- Income Assistance & Food Assistance..... 877-787-8999
- Injured Workers' Hotline 800-252-7031
- Legal Referral Service, State Bar 800-252-9690
- Medicaid 800-252-8263
- Medicare 800-633-4227
- Nursing Home Complaints & Info 800-458-9858
- Public Safety, TX Dept. 512-424-2000
- Roadside Emergency 800-525-5555
- Workforce Commission (Unemployment)..... 800-939-6631