

Friends,

I hope that you and your loved ones are doing well given the events of the past few weeks. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all the men and women who endured the weather to make the needed maintenance and repairs to our most essential infrastructure. Without their hard work and dedication, roads would have remained frozen, and power and water would have taken much longer to restore.

I am very honored to be the representative of this district. During this time of crisis, I am proud to see neighbor helping neighbor, businesses stepping up to provide for those who are without, and our essential workers still working harder than ever.

Along with my fellow legislators, I am committed to getting answers for the catastrophic events that many Texans faced. We need to find the best solution for Texas to move forward so that we never experience another situation like this again.





Left photo: Delivering Crazy Water to those in Mineral Wells who did not have water. Right photo: Mayor Regan Wallace Johnson, Steve Watson, and Representative Glenn Rogers

Since my last newsletter, I have had the opportunity to meet with numerous state agencies and organization representatives. On Tuesday, February 9th, I had the honor of meeting with Governor Abbott. He offered valuable advice to myself and my freshman peers for this unique session.

I was able to speak with Texas Department of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd to address the shortages of vaccines in rural areas, but especially House District 60. In an effort to bring more awareness to this shortage, I sent a letter to the Governor's Office, TDEM, DSHS, and the COVID-19 Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel explaining the situation regarding COVID-19 vaccine distribution to our rural counties.

I have also met with representatives from AT&T and Connected Nation to address the lack of rural connectivity throughout the district. I am committed to supporting meaningful broadband legislation, I and will see that HD 60 gets the infrastructure needed for quality internet. I have co-authored HB 1446 by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) that would establish a statewide broadband office, which would oversee the creation of a statewide broadband plan and update coverage maps.

I was also recently elected by my Republican peers to serve on the Texas Republican House Caucus Policy Committee. In this role, I will be able to engage in meaningful discussion with the committee on legislation that will be heard in the House Chamber. This honor will ensure that the concerns of House District 60, rural Texas, and conservatives are heard and represented.

Rural Texas faces different adversities than other parts of the state. The Rural Caucus is comprised of a group of legislators that have an interest in advocating for rural Texas. As a Vice-Chair of the Rural Caucus, my first action in this capacity was to propose a policy committee that would track and inform caucus members of legislation that affects rural Texas.



Governor Greg Abbott meeting with Republican freshman members

Recent Bills Filed

HB 1471

In 1992, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice was deeded a tract of land to build a Substance Abuse Treatment Facility in Stephens County. Currently, the facility sits on small portion of the deeded property. HB 1471 would transfer the unused land back to Stephens County for public use.

<u>HB 1554</u>

Currently, state law limits a municipal development district's funding of certain economic development projects to projects that are within the district's boundaries, even if the project outside of the district is determined to have a positive investment returns for the district. HB 1554 will allow a district to use money from its development project fund for a project located outside the district under certain conditions.

<u>HB 1831</u>

County and District Clerks are required to complete 20 hours of Continuing Education credits each year. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was difficult for this requirement to be met. HB 1831 will allow a clerk to carry over a maximum of 10 completed continuing education hours that exceed the number from the previous calendar year. This bill conforms with allowances made to other county elected officials in statute.

<u>HB 2277</u>

Currently, certain meatless and eggless products use deceiving advertising and marketing gimmicks that often mislead consumers. Texans deserve transparency, especially when it comes to their groceries. HB 2277 would require alternative protein products to accurately label the product so that the consumer knows that it is, in fact, not eggs or meat.

My Office

Our Capitol office in Austin is open Monday-Friday 8-5, and my staff and I are ready and available to hear from you! Currently, the Capitol is open to the public. Masks are required throughout the building, and there are free COVID-19 testing sites located at the north entrance. If you ever find yourself in Austin, call my office to set up a time to visit.

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