

Friends,

On Monday, September 20th, the legislature convened for the 3rd Special Session of the 87th Legislature. The COVID-19 Pandemic caused many disruptions and delays over the past year and a half. One of the subsequent delays was the 2020 Census. The Census is conducted every 10 years to obtain an updated survey of the population across the country, state, county, city, etc. This data is used to determine the representation of all Texans through a process most commonly referred to as Redistricting.

The state legislature is responsible for determining:

- Texas United States Congressional Districts
- Texas State Senate Districts
- Texas House of Representative Districts
- Texas State Board of Education Districts

The Redistricting Committee has held several hearings to collect public comments and testimony on the issue. In this redistricting process, rural Texas needs to be adequately represented. While the urban and suburban counties are seeing an increase in population, our small and rural communities need their voices to be heard. On Saturday, September 18th, over 20 House District 60 constituents testified before the committee to emphasize the importance of preserving the rural way of life through their representation.

"Rural Texas is farm land, ranch land, hunting land, and oil land; the needs of people in those areas are much different than the needs of people in the larger cities. For these communities, its vitally important that they have a representative who understands their issues. A representative who is willing to listen to their issues, and who understands them precisely because they are the same

issues that face their own community." - James King of Coleman



Left Photo: James King, Coleman Assistant City Manager, testifying before the House Committee on Redistricting. Right Photo: Diana Lopez of Coleman testifying before the House Committee on Redistricting.

3rd Special Session Agenda Items

Redistricting

Legislation relating to the apportionment of the State of Texas into districts used to elect members of the Texas House of Representatives, the Texas Senate, the State Board of Education, and the United States House of Representatives.

Federal Funding

Legislation providing appropriations from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Pub. L. No. 117-2.

Fair Play in Women's Sports

Legislation identical to Senate Bill 29 as passed by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, disallowing a student from competing in University Interscholastic League athletic competitions designated for the sex opposite to the student's sex at birth.

State and Local Government Vaccine Mandate Ban

Legislation regarding whether any state or local governmental entities in Texas can mandate that an individual receive a COVID-19 vaccine and, if so, what exemptions should apply to such mandate.

Dog Tethering Legislation

Legislation similar to Senate Bill 474 as passed by the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, but that addresses the concerns expressed in the governor's veto statement.





Photos from the House Appropriations Committee Meeting Left Photo: Representative Rogers calling out winning raffle tickets at the tribute concert for the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 in Early. Right Photo: Representative Rogers and DPS officer Bobby McGrath from Eastland.

In the District

While Austin sure keeps me busy, I always love to find time to make it back to my home in House District 60 to meet with the people I serve and solve the real issues facing your communities.

On September 8th, I had the honor of meeting some incredibly talented young ladies, the Lipan Lady Indians Basketball Team. This group of girls recently claimed the state championship title in basketball. After their victory, I passed HR 620 to congratulate and commend their efforts and dedication to their sport. I am very proud of those ladies and look forward to cheering them on next season!

Recently, I attended the 9/11 20th anniversary Tribute Concert at the Stagecoache in Early honoring our first responders, military, and veterans. It was a great evening of music, fellowship, and remembrance. I always enjoy my visits to Early, but this particular event will be one that I will remember for years to come. May we never forget the events of that day or the courageous men and women who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms.

Gorman ISD hosted an open house on September 21st for their new cosmetology program that is partnered with Ranger College. Congrats to Gorman ISD, Ranger College and the community for the new School of Cosmetology! This will be a great asset and will benefit many students. Good luck to the 5 young ladies participating in this inaugural program!

This past week, the Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce had their Leadership Mineral Wells Class 26 in Austin. They spent the day at the Capitol and met with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Historical Commission, and myself to discuss the concerns and needs of their community. I love seeing local folks stop by the office and visit the Capitol and get more involved on the local and state level. I am

looking forward to more chamber days in the future from all of the wonderful communities across the district.





Left Photo: Representative Rogers addressing Leadership Mineral Wells Class 26 at the Capitol.

Right Photo: Gorman ISD partnering with Ranger College for the new School of Cosmetology.

Second Special Session Priority Bills

HB 10 by Swanson

Relating to requiring public school students to compete in interscholastic athletic competitions based on biological sex.

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. If you ever find yourself in Austin, call my office to set up a time to visit.



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