

# Giovanni's Journal

A publication of Texas State Representative Giovanni Capriglione

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This summer, our family took a long road trip and visited several state capitols (we visited nine in July). It turned out to be a great way to study our nation's history.

*"Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language." - Henry James*

## Dear Neighbors,

I hope you are continuing to have a great summer! Even though we may be in the dog days of summer, we are excited to see so much feedback from all of you. As you can imagine, much of the interest seems to revolve around immigration, border security, and requests for information. In this month's journal, we focused on those items.

Later this month, I'll be attending our Government Efficiency and Reform committee meeting. I'm also honored to be working on my appointment to the Legislative Committee to Review the Texas Lottery & Texas Lottery Commission. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve you in the Texas House. *Rep. Giovanni Capriglione*

## Update On Texas Border Security & Immigration

According to data from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), tens of thousands of undocumented youth have poured across the Texas border in the last eight months.

On July 18, Governor Rick Perry gave a speech from the State Capitol in which he authorized the deployment of National Guard troops to the Rio Grande Valley. The troops will be integrated with additional DPS agents sent earlier this year to continue Operation Strong Safety, which focuses on reducing criminal activity in the region and securing the border. By adding National Guard troops, Texas will be able to significantly increase efforts to reduce criminal activity.

DPS agents will have been authorized to remain at the border until January. At that

time, they will assess progress and make necessary changes as deemed by leadership and the Legislature. Texas has already seen results from Operation Strong Safety.

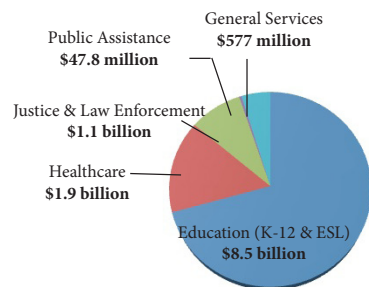
From week one to week three of operations, apprehensions of illegal activity have dropped by 36 percent, from more than 6,600 per week to 4,200 per week in Texas.

As of now, DPS is still in the process of compiling statistics on the current operation, and this information will be released at the appropriate time in the near future. The National Guard troops and DPS will work in tandem in the border regions in the coming

months. DPS is working in concert with the State Legislature to determine what metrics will be used to assess the effectiveness of Operation Strong Safety surge operations.

Our office will continue to provide updates and details as they become available to us for release.

### Total Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on Texans



Total: \$12.1 billion per year

Source: "The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on Texans" published by the Federation for American Immigration Reform

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# Constituent Resources

(Continued from previous newsletter)

# 1

## TEXAS VETERANS PORTAL

Texas.gov's veteran website, [veterans.portal.texas.gov](http://veterans.portal.texas.gov), is a resource for veterans and their families. The portal includes information from several government agencies for assistance, services, and benefits.

Use **Texas Veterans Portal** to:

- Learn about benefit programs
- Download forms and access online services
- Find community resources, like support networks and local organizations
- Connect with supporting agencies like the *Texas Veterans Commission* and *Texas Workforce Commission*

# 2

## VOTE TEXAS

Texas' Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) released the [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov) website in 2012 to help voters determine where, when, and how to vote. VoteTexas is also available as a smartphone app.

Use **VoteTexas** to:

- View ballots
- Set reminders for key election dates
- Find voting locations
- Download a voter registration application
- Receive answers to voting related questions and FAQs

## Capriglione To Review Lottery

Representative Capriglione was appointed by Texas House Speaker Joe Straus to the Legislative Committee to Review the Texas Lottery and Texas Lottery Commission. The committee was created last year by the passage of House Bill 2197 following a discussion about the Texas Lottery. The committee will study charitable bingo and the distribution of its revenue, as well as the potential impact of eliminating the lottery.

The committee comprises five members each from the House and Senate.

The committee will report their research and suggestions to the Legislature by December 1.

## H.B. 2305 Combines Vehicle Registration & Inspection Stickers

In the 83rd legislative session, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2305, which eliminates the inspection sticker requirement for vehicles. The vehicle inspection and registration stickers will switch to a single sticker system. The vehicle inspection itself will remain a requirement, but now vehicle owners will have to get their inspection within 90 days before renewing their registration. At the time of registration, drivers have to provide proof of inspection, and will receive a sticker validating the vehicle was registered and inspected.

By switching to this single sticker system, and eliminating the need for a separate inspection sticker, the new system will reduce inspection certificate fraud, and save Texas nearly \$2 million.

Vehicle owners with non-synchronous inspection and registration dates will need to take care of those requirements in a closer time frame. However, many will receive a grace period of a few months during the transition.

H.B. 2305 and the single sticker system will go into effect March 2015.

## August Events in District 98

- **August 8-10. Tax Free Weekend.** General merchandise will be tax-free in Texas. This applies to many items priced under \$100. Among the items exempt from sales tax are clothing, footwear, school supplies, and backpacks, including layaway items. Savings will add up to about \$8 for every \$100 spent.
- **August 9.** Southlake Women's Club **School Supply Sale** at Carroll High School from 7 a.m.- 4 p.m. Visit [www.southlakewomensclub.org](http://www.southlakewomensclub.org) for prices.
- **August 9.** Southlake's **Concert in the Park** featuring *Zack King*. Southlake Town Square, 7:30-9 p.m.
- **August 16.** Keller's **Concert Series** featuring *Killdares* and the *Josh Weathers Band*. Bring your dog (on a leash) for doggie pools, photo booths, and treats. Food trucks and vendors will be selling snacks. Bear Creek Park at 8 p.m.
- **August 25. First day of school** for Carroll, Keller, and Grapevine Colleyville ISDs.
- **August 26. First day of school** for Northwest ISD.
- **August 29.** Grapevine's **Country Concert Blast** featuring *Justin Mason* at the Vineyard Campground & Cabins. Bring your family, food, drinks, chairs, and enjoy the live music and fireworks over Lake Grapevine. Event is 6-9:45 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person, or \$20 per vehicle (cash only). Tickets are limited and must be reserved in advance. Call 817-939-3641 or visit [vineyardscampground.com](http://vineyardscampground.com) to reserve.
- **If you have a community event you'd like to share for our next newsletter, please email [courtney.roberts@house.state.tx.us](mailto:courtney.roberts@house.state.tx.us).**



Giovanni's Journal is an official publication of State Representative Giovanni Capriglione, Texas House of Representatives District 98



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