

# Giovanni's Journal

A publication of Texas State Representative Giovanni Capriglione

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September 2014

## Dear friends,

Our committee on Government Efficiency and Reform is all about taking care of your dollars and cents. At the end of August, our committee reviewed a variety of topics: ways of reducing public construction costs, developing cross-agency innovative techniques to bring about more efficiencies and using technology to increase transparency, while simplifying the Public Information Act.

Later this month, I'll be headed to south Texas for a joint meeting with the Energy Resource committee. In our next journal, we will be providing a summary of the recent court opinion on public education finance.

In this issue, we focused on some new laws going into effect on September 1, 2014. Don't forget to check out page two - our new rollout of social media - another way of providing you with relevant information.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve you in the Texas House.

*Rep. Giovanni Capriglione*

## Changes In Texas Law & Policy

The following bills had sections going into effect September 1, 2014.

**House Bill 5** relates to public school accountability, including assessment, and curriculum requirements, and providing a criminal penalty. Sections 36 (a) and 78 (b) take effect Sept. 1, 2014. *Students must receive a satisfactory score on end-of-course assessments.* This does not require a student to indicate preparedness for a higher education institution.

**House Bill 2305** relates to motor vehicle inspections, creating an offense, and changing the collection method for certain fees. Section 548.104 (d) takes effect Sept. 1, 2014. *This section indicates what may not pass for vehicle inspection, such as a carburetion using liquified gas alone, or interchangeably with another fuel (unless verified), a sun-screening device (unless exempt), or a compressed natural gas container (unless certain conditions are met.)*

**Senate Bill 1158** relates to higher education for veterans and their families. Subchapter F, chapter 434, as added by Section 5 of this Act takes effect Sept. 1, 2014. *This*

*subchapter establishes the Veteran Education Excellence Recognition Award Network, and the criteria for receiving recognition from the commission.* The network recognizes higher education institutions for excellence in providing education and related services to veterans.

**Senate Bill 1458** relates to the contributions to, benefits from, and the administration of systems and programs administered by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. This Act takes effect Sept. 1, 2014, except Sections 2, 5, and 11, which took effect Sept. 1, 2013. *These sections relate to the one-time cost-of-living adjustment, and the rate of member contributions for each member of the retirement system.*

**Senate Bill 1459** relates to the powers of, duties of, contributions to, and benefits from the systems and programs administered by the Employees Retirement System of Texas. Sections 23 and 25 take effect Sept. 1, 2014. *These sections relate to the eligible start dates of insurance, and the insured's benefits of a state contribution for coverage based on their eligible service credit.*

*"Take care of your cents:  
Dollars will take care of  
themselves."*

*-Thomas Jefferson*

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# Constituent Resources

(continued from previous newsletters)

**1 POWER TO CHOOSE**  
[Powertochoose.org](http://Powertochoose.org) is the official and impartial electric choice website of the Public Utility Commission (PUC) of Texas. Enter your ZIP code, and filter by usage, plan types, and/or contract length to find the best electric plan for you.

The website also includes suggested questions to ask, information about buying renewable power, and plan options.

*The PUC recently revoked the license of Proton Energy, if you were a customer, PUC advises using [powertochoose.org](http://powertochoose.org) or call toll-free at 1-866-797-4839 to find a new electric provider.*

**2 PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  
With the Public Utility Commission's (PUC) website, [www.puc.texas.gov](http://www.puc.texas.gov), you can check charges on your electric bills, find resources on how to save energy, get the facts about electricity and telephone services, and register for the Texas "Do Not Call" List and/or the "Electric No Call" List.

You can register a residential, wireless, or business number on whichever list via internet, phone, or mail. Online registration at [www.texasnocall.com](http://www.texasnocall.com) is free. There are several exceptions to the "Do Not Call" list, which can be found at [www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/phone.nocall.aspx](http://www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/phone.nocall.aspx).

## Stay Connected On Social Media

For updates, information, relevant news, and the latest in Texas politics, follow Representative Capriglione's social media channels.

New information is regularly posted, and it is a great way to stay up to date with Representative Capriglione.

His Facebook and Twitter are:



[www.facebook.com/RepGiovanni](http://www.facebook.com/RepGiovanni)



[www.twitter.com/@RepGiovanni](http://www.twitter.com/@RepGiovanni)

## September Events in District 98

- **September 6. Annual Keller Proud Trash Bash** at Bear Creek Park, 9-11 a.m. Check in at 9 a.m. at the Bear Creek Park Pavilion, 400 Bear Creek Park. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m. The event is free, but pre-registration is recommended.
- **September 6. ItalianCarFest** presented by Boardwalk Ferrari Maserati at Grapevine's Historic Nash Farm from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The event is free and open to all ages.
- **September 11-14. Grapevine's 28th Annual GrapeFest** will have something for the whole family with artisans, games and rides, and wine events featuring wines from Texas, Washington, and Italy, and more. Admission is free on September 11, and on September 12 until 5 p.m. To avoid lines, buy tickets online at [www.grapevinetexasusa.com/grapefest-2014](http://www.grapevinetexasusa.com/grapefest-2014).
- **September 11. Financial Planning with Mark Seebeck** at Colleyville Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Ages 18 and up are welcome. For details, call 817-503-1155.
- **September 13. Keller Recycling Day** for hazardous waste, electronic waste, and shredding. Drop-off will be from 9-11 a.m. in the parking lot of the Keller Municipal Service Center at 151 Bear Creek Parkway West. Free to Keller residents, and proof of residence is required. For more information, please call the City Manager's Office at 817-743-4000.
- **September 13. Southlake's Concert in the Park** series featuring Acoustic Shade. Come out to Rustin/Family Park in Southlake Town Square from 7:30-9 p.m.
- **September 25. Colleyville's Coffee With A Cop**, 8:30 a.m. at 5605 Colleyville Boulevard, in the Market Street coffee shop. Talk about community issues and build relationships over a cup of coffee.
- **September 27. P.O.W.E.R. Women's Self Defense** at Colleyville Advanced Martial Arts Family Center, starting at 9:30 a.m. For ages 14 and up.
- **September 27. Keller's 4th Annual Music Festival "Rock the Park"**. From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., come out to Bear Creek Park for live entertainment, sand volleyball tournaments, food trucks, fireworks, and family friendly activities. For more information, visit [www.kellerrockthepark.com](http://www.kellerrockthepark.com).
- **If you have a community event you'd like to appear in next month's 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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