

# Giovanni's Journal

A publication of Texas State Representative Giovanni Capriglione

Vol. 1, Issue 4

October 2014

"Therefore, since brevity is the soul of wit and tediousness the limbs and outward flourishes..."

-William Shakespeare

## Dear friends,

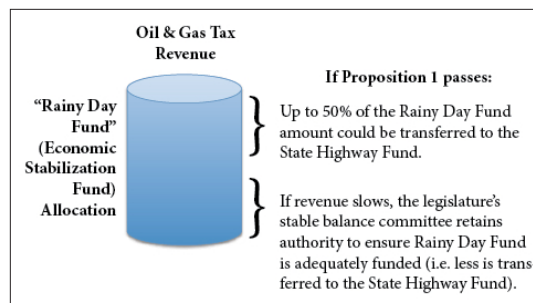
Like Shakespeare and Polonius, we just have too much to tell you – so we added a third page to this month's journal. In this journal, we discuss our work on international trade; together my chief of staff and I visited both the Canadian and Mexican borders. We also have links to important election information. On that note, I'd like to take a minute and talk about one of the most important choices on the ballot, Proposition 1. The ballot language for the proposition reads:

"The constitutional amendment providing for the use and dedication of certain money transferred to the state highway fund to assist in the completion of transportation construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation projects, not to include toll roads." If passed by the voters in the next election, up to 50 percent of oil and gas tax revenue could be used to fund transportation projects in Texas.

For additional information please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/TXDOT1>

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

*Rep. Giovanni Capriglione*



## Canadian Border, Ports & Rail Tour

Last month my Chief of Staff, Amanda Alongne, attended a conference in Vancouver, BC focusing on U.S./Canadian Border Security and International trade. Canada is a valuable trade partner for Texas, and understanding our relationship is important to me as a member of the International Trade and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

### Border Security

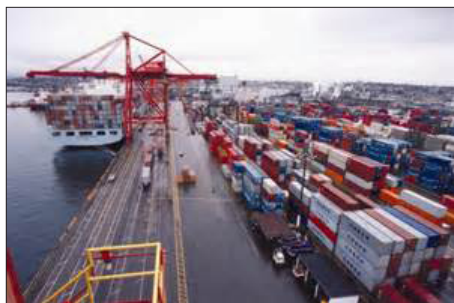
While there, Amanda met with Canadian Border Services Agency and toured several of the region's land, air and marine ports. She learned about enhanced techniques to detect drugs, explosives, agricultural haz-

ards, child pornography and immigration violations. Intelligence and information is readily shared between Canadian Border Services and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to reduce immigration fraud and ensure the safety of people and goods of both countries.

### Trade

The U.S. and Canada have over \$700 billion in bi-

lateral trade in goods and services annually. Canada is the state of Texas's #2 export market, and Texas sold over \$26 million worth of goods to Canadian companies last year including, petrol (*continued on Page 2*)



Rep. Giovanni Capriglione  
Texas House of Representatives  
District 98



### Capitol Address

*Physical:*

Texas Capitol Extension,  
Room E1.412

*Mailing:*

P.O. Box 2910  
Texas House of Representatives  
Austin, TX 78768  
512-463-0690

### District Office

*Physical:*

1100 Bear Creek Parkway  
Keller, TX 76248  
817-807-8010

*Mailing:*

P.O. Box 770  
Keller, TX 76244

# October Update On Mexico Border

## Trading Opportunities with Mexico

In September, The House Committee on International Trade & Intergovernmental affairs held a joint public hearing with the House Committee on Natural Resources in Edinburg, Texas. As part of our interim charges we examined opportunities and innovations to increase international trade and investment in Texas. We reviewed state and federal regulations to determine what can be done to ease tariff and non-tariff barriers in order to maximize trade flow. We also studied options to improve the physical infrastructure that facilitates international trade, considering both state and local investment opportunities. Specifically, we looked at the new Oil & Gas privatization laws in Mexico and how both sides would benefit from these new initiatives.

## Oil Privatization in Mexico

Historically in Mexico, oil & gas production, mineral rates and distribution have been under the ownership and management of the national oil company Petróleos Mexicano (PEMEX).

Under PEMEX, Mexico has seen oil production decline by nearly a third in the past decade. Recently, Mexico has begun the process of privatizing this sector. These changes will soon open 80 percent of prospective resources to competition, effectively ending the monopoly that began in 1934.



Photo Credit: City of Pharr

The Pharr International Bridge

Now available for investment, a swath of area cut up into "blocks" will be coming up to bid in the next year. Several domestic and international groups are expected to begin bidding to provide exploration, services, technology, and distribution. Most researchers expect a large amount of investment in the area; the number of jobs in Mexico could increase by over 500,000! The net result of this will be increased trading opportunities for Texas and Mexico. This could also have a positive side effect on our border security measures as Mexicans have less need to emigrate.

## Pharr International Bridge

I met with local officials in the City of Pharr and toured the Pharr International Bridge. The Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge serves as one of the most important ports on entry for the U.S.-Mexico border. The bridge handles commercial vehicles as well as passenger-operated vehicles. Gamma Rays and the Fast And Secure Trade program are implemented on the bridge which allows for a safe and expedited inspection of documents

and cargo, and limits crossing time on the U.S.-Mexican border. We reviewed current bottlenecks as multiple government agencies work together on inspecting and tracking import/export traffic. We hope that enacting certain changes can significantly improve cross-border trade.

# Canadian Ports & Rail Cont'd

and LT oil, natural gas, civilian aircraft parts, and machinery for vehicles, gas drilling and electronics. Texas imported \$14.6 million worth of goods from Canada last year, which included crude oil, cellular phones, telecommunication systems, television parts, petroleum, silver, and benzene.



Canada also provides the shortest direct route to Asia via ship. Amanda traveled to Prince Rupert, BC - an important port in Canada which provides Canada's most ef-

ficient bulk terminal and grain terminal as well as a container terminal that offers a high-velocity gateway for transpacific container trade with Asia. She met with the Port Authority and Border Services and watched cargo go through various types of inspections that detect counterfeit goods, drugs, weapons, and agricultural pests.

Since the 19th century, the United States has relied on railroads for transportation of goods. Amanda met with a number of rail

companies to discuss safety standards and toured their operations at several ports including Delta Port (BNSF- Coal) and Port Metro Vancouver (CN & CP- Container). Rail has proved to be one of the key modes of transportation for not only moving goods across North America, but also moving goods to ports so they can be sold to other markets.

The relationship between the United States and Canada has allowed both countries to prosper through trade, while also maintaining a high level of security at the border and ports. I hope that through continued efforts, Texas can establish a similar relationship with Mexico.

# Tarrant County Elections

*Election Day, November 4*

Before voting:

- Make sure to bring a photo ID if voting in person. A list of acceptable IDs can be found at [tcweb.tarrantcounty.com/evote/cwp/view.asp?a=771&q=489576](http://tcweb.tarrantcounty.com/evote/cwp/view.asp?a=771&q=489576).
- Check the list of polling locations in your area.
- Register to vote by October 6, if not already registered.
- Get the answers to many voting related FAQs on [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov).

**TO DETERMINE WHICH RACES YOU**

**ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN**, check the district information on your voter registration certificate, or look up your districts using this online voter database: <https://gisit.tarrantcounty.com/VoterLookup/>.

**ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS** can be found at [tcweb.tarrantcounty.com/evote/lib/evote/2014/nov4/precinct\\_by\\_precinct.pdf](http://tcweb.tarrantcounty.com/evote/lib/evote/2014/nov4/precinct_by_precinct.pdf). Arrive with your photo ID between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to cast your ballot.

If you prefer to vote in the general

election prior to November 4, **EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS AND HOURS** can be found at [tcweb.tarrantcounty.com/evote/lib/evote/2014/nov4/sched\\_14\\_nov\\_.pdf](http://tcweb.tarrantcounty.com/evote/lib/evote/2014/nov4/sched_14_nov_.pdf). Early voting is open to all registered voters. Early voting is October 20-31, and times vary.

A **SAMPLE BALLOT** can be viewed at [tcweb.tarrantcounty.com/evote/lib/evote/2014/nov4/sample\\_ballots/tc\\_sample.pdf](http://tcweb.tarrantcounty.com/evote/lib/evote/2014/nov4/sample_ballots/tc_sample.pdf). This general election sample ballot includes all of the races and candidates throughout Tarrant County.

## October Events in District 98

- *Oct. 11.* Southlake's **Haunted Family Campout** in Bob Jones Park. Event lasts 4 p.m. Saturday until 9 a.m. Sunday. Cost is \$25 per campsite (for two campers), and \$10 for each additional camper. In addition to campout activities, there will be a haunted trail, prizes for the spookiest campsite and best costumes. Sign up at [apm.activecommunities.com/southlake](http://apm.activecommunities.com/southlake), or call 817-748-8019.
- *Oct. 4, 11 & 18.* Grapevine's **Sunset Concert Series** featuring the Quibble Brothers, Hale Baskin & Her Jazz Addiction, and Midnight River Choir, respectively. This free series takes place the first three Saturdays of October at the Botanical Gardens at Heritage Park from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. No pets or glass are allowed, but bringing your own food and beverages is permitted.
- *Oct. 16.* Greater Keller Chamber of Commerce's **Wine & Jazz** from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Keller Town Hall. Admission is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members.
- *Oct. 18.* Westlake's 4th Annual **Classic Car Show** at the Solana Health Club 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- *Oct. 22.* City of Southlake's **free American Heart Association CPR Training** at DPS West, 2100 W. Southlake Blvd. from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Register with [rburt@ci.southlake.tx.us](mailto:rburt@ci.southlake.tx.us) or call 817-748-8349.
- *Oct. 24.* Grapevine's **The GrapeYard-Frightfully Fun Family Entertainment** from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Meadowmere Park. Tickets are limited, and must be purchased at [playgrapevinereg.com](http://playgrapevinereg.com). The event is free for Grapevine residents, and \$10 per person for non-residents.
- *Oct. 25.* Southlake's **Monster Mash** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy dancing, games, snacks, door prizes, and wear your best family-friendly costume. Cost is \$10 per person. Sign up at [apm.activecommunities.com/southlake](http://apm.activecommunities.com/southlake) or call 817-748-8019.
- *Oct. 25.* Keller's **Haunted Trails** from 7-9 p.m. at Bear Creek Park Greenbelt. Event is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Groups will head down the Greenbelt through a variety of scare stations, followed by hayrides.
- *Oct. 26.* **Spooky Kooky Keller Kastle** at Johnson Road Park from 2-5 p.m. This free event is designed for children 10 and under. The playground will be transformed into a spooky castle, with candy and carnival games. Costumes are encouraged.
- **If you have a community event you'd like to appear in 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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