



House District 1 - Bowie, Franklin, Lamar & Red River counties
District & Capitol Interim Report
October 2015

Early voting continues. Tuesday, November 3, is the state's next general election where Texans can have their say on seven proposed constitutional amendments and numerous local propositions. Early voting continues through Friday, October 30. Here is a link to key voter information:

<http://www.votetexas.gov/events/early-voting-ends-9>, so be sure to either take the time to vote early before Friday or plan to go to the polls on November 3. Here is a link to information about the proposed constitutional amendments prepared by the Texas Legislative Council:

http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/const_amends.htm.



Red River Valley Egg Farm ribbon cutting with Rep. VanDeaver with other business, local & county officials including Judge L.D. Williamson & Mavor Vincent Lum.

Around HD 1. This last month, I have had the privilege to travel across House District 1 meeting with constituents, attending important local events and meeting with various groups. I have truly enjoyed all of these activities, which included the: CASA Anniversary Celebration; dedication of the English Cemetery as a Texas Historic Cemetery; the Region D Planning Group meeting on water; Texas Farm Bureau and Red River County Farm Bureau; Red River Valley Egg Farm ribbon cutting; and, the Bowie County Retired Teachers.

News from Austin. Over the last month, several state agencies made announcements about programs that affect or may be of interest to the residents of HD 1, including:

- *Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)* reminded drivers it was illegal to pass any school bus that is stopped and operating a visual signal. Violators face a \$1250 fine.
- *DPS* also announced that the Election Identification Certificates (EIC) needed by some Texans as proof of identification to be able to vote in the November elections are available at any of the local 220 Texas driver license offices. For more information go to: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm>. If you already have other forms of recognized ID in Texas such as a Texas driver's license; US passport; concealed handgun license; or US military ID with photo, you do not need an EIC to be able to vote.

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- *Office of Court Administration* commended Bowie County local officials and employees during its compliance audit of the county that found it is compliant with the Code of Criminal Procedure & the Texas Administrative Code.



- *Texas Historical Commission* is accepting applications through November 15, for subject markers, designated Historic Texas Cemeteries & Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks. The applications must first be submitted to the appropriate County Historical Commission (CHC) for review & comment; the CHC will then forward the applications for consideration. For more information see www.thc.state.tx.us/markers.

VanDeaver speaking with HD 1 constituents. Focus issue: water. As Texans, we relish the fact that Texas is a large and diverse state, rich in natural beauty and resources. Regions of south, central, and west Texas are blessed with valuable resources such as oil, coal, and wind. Northeast Texas is blessed with water! Of these valuable resources: oil, coal, wind, and water; only water is partially owned by the state of Texas. As such, the decisions concerning water are much more complicated than those dealing with the other resources.

In recognition of the unique life-giving quality and limited supply of water, the Texas Legislature adopted Senate Bill 1 (1997) to implement a comprehensive drought and water conservation, development, and management plan for Texas. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) was directed to designate regional water planning areas and require the development of state, regional, and local water management plans.

The process is designed to be a “grassroots” process so plans are developed from the ground up. Though slow and sometimes even ugly, the process is still the best method for dealing with water where the stakes are high and people are passionate. Over the past 15 years, some people became frustrated, tempers flared and harsh words exchanged. At times, the process seemed to have reached an impasse, such as the recent conflict between the Regions D and C water plans.

In October, I attended the regular meeting of the Region D planning group and was impressed with the professionalism and efficiency with which the meeting was conducted. I am also convinced that progress was made when the group approved the terms of a compromise reached through the TWDB-ordered mediation process between Regions D and C. The group also voted to allow Red River County and the city of Clarksville to study the best path forward to meet their pressing water needs. These actions confirmed my faith in a process that allows for local citizens to make decisions for their local area.

I still believe that the best solutions to most of the problems facing our great state should be sought at the most local level possible. As Mark Twain supposedly said: "whiskey is for drinking & water is for fighting," but fortunately, the state of Texas designed a process almost 20 years ago that recognizes the importance of local input and planning. I encourage your involvement to ensure local voices are heard concerning one of our most precious resources.

Thank you. I consider it an honor to serve as your state representative. If there is anything that my office can help you with, please contact either the District office (903-628-0361) or Capitol office (512-463-0692). To opt out of receiving future e-newsletters, please contact either office. *"The Texas House of Representatives is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. This newsletter is available in alternate forms upon request. Please call 1-800-241-1163."*