



**86th Legislature Report - House District 1**  
**Bowie, Franklin, Lamar & Red River counties**  
**July 2019**

**Around the District. Texas Historical Commission (THC) met in Paris.** The THC held its quarterly meeting in Paris on July 18 & 19, at the Paris City Hall. Commissioners, staff and



other interested parties attended committee meetings and the full commission meeting to hear and discuss key issues important to preserving our Texas history

and culture of all things that make Texas, Texas. I had the chance to visit with the commission members and staff, and I really appreciate their efforts to come to Northeast Texas. A special "thank you" to people in Paris for hosting the meeting and making everyone feel welcome.

**SWEPCO seeking approval for low-cost renewable energy.** Earlier this month, Southwestern Electric Power Co. (SWEPCO) announced plans to add 810 megawatts of wind energy by 2022, which is consistent with

the utility's long-term plan to increase its use of wind and solar power. The company has filed the required requests of state regulators in Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, and the proposal is also subject to federal review by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In its press release, SWEPCO stated that its long-term strategy calls for more than a third of the energy it produces for customers to be generated from wind and solar resources, which is estimated to save customers more than \$2 billion over the 30-year life expectancy of the wind facilities. The company expects to have these projects completed by the end of 2021.

**Town Hall meetings.** I am planning a series of Town Hall meetings across House District 1 during the second week of October. As plans are finalized, my office will be sure to keep you informed. The tentative schedule of the meetings is listed below:

- October 7 - Paris Junior College
- October 8 - Clarksville
- October 8 - Mount Vernon
- October 10 - Texarkana College

Please be sure to mark you calendar with these dates and watch your email for specific times and locations.

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***Around the Capitol. Sales Tax Holiday set for August 9-11.*** The state's annual sales tax holiday has been set for August 9 - 11, where certain items can be purchased without having to pay sales taxes. Texas law exempts sales tax being assessed during the "holiday" on certain items including clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced below \$100, which will save shoppers about \$8 for every \$100 they spend. State comptroller, Glenn Hegar, estimates that Texas shoppers will save an estimated \$102.2 million in state and local sales taxes this year. A list of eligible items that can be purchased tax free this year may be found at the comptroller's website at: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/98-490/>. As families prepare for the soon-to-start 2019-20 school year, the sales tax holiday can help your hard-earned dollars go a little further. The sales tax holiday has been an annual event since 1999.

***Texas Veterans Commission (TVC). Commemorative book available across Texas.*** The TVC has announced an initiative to honor over half a million Texans who served in Vietnam by providing them with a copy of a special Texas-limited edition Vietnam War 50th commemorative book compliments of Texas Governor Greg Abbott. The book: *A Time to Honor: Stories of Service, Duty, and Sacrifice* is available at various TVC offices around the state. Use this link to find the nearest location to you: [https://www.tvc.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Vietnam-Book-Pick-up-Sites.Web.pdf?utm\\_source=iContact&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=veterans-e-newsletter&utm\\_content=July+2019+E-Vets](https://www.tvc.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Vietnam-Book-Pick-up-Sites.Web.pdf?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=veterans-e-newsletter&utm_content=July+2019+E-Vets)

***TVC grants funded.*** The TVC also announced earlier this month that it has awarded almost \$24 million to 92 county and statewide

organizations to assist veterans during 2019-20. All House District 1 counties are included in the list of counties that are served by Lone Star Legal Aid that received \$300,000 in grant funding. For more information about its services, here is a link to their website: <http://www.lonestarlegal.org/>

***Social Media.*** Please follow me on both my Facebook and Twitter accounts!

***My office is here to help.*** I thank each of you for letting me serve you as your state representative. Please contact either the District office (903-628-0361) or Capitol office (512-463-0692) if there is anything you think we can do to help you.

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