



State Representative Gary VanDeaver

December 2023 E-Newsletter

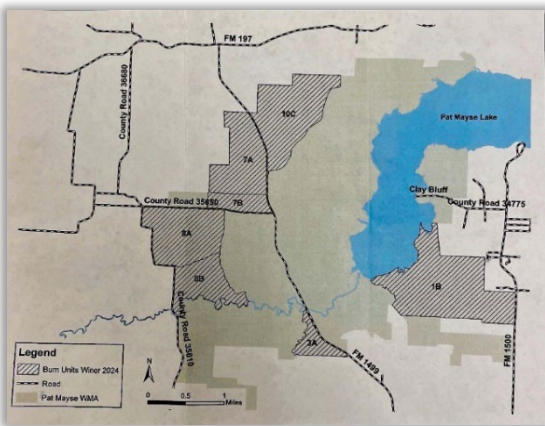


88th Legislature Report - House District 1 Bowie | Cass | Lamar | Morris | Red River

District Update

TWDB – Marvin Nichols Reservoir update. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) recently informed my office that its staff is currently reviewing all of the comments and materials submitted by December 1, for the Marvin Nichols Reservoir feasibility study. When the draft report is completed, it will be posted on the agency’s website (<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/>) for public comment prior to it being finalized. Thank you to everyone who submitted comments about the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir. My office will keep you updated on this effort throughout 2024 as the agency develops their report for submission to the governor and legislature in January 2025.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD). The TPWD has scheduled a prescribed burn for the Pat Mayse Wildlife Management Area (WMA) between January and March 2024. Prior to any fires actually taking place, the TPWD will notify city and county emergency services, local area fire departments and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). More information is available at the TPWD website: http://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/wildland_fire_management/.



Weather conditions may cause the specified dates to be changed contingent on conditions on the chosen dates. Landowners adjacent to the prescribed burn area have also been notified and public notices will be published in the *Paris News*.

The area on this map with the horizontal markings is the area of the prescribed burns scheduled early next year. Landowners adjacent to these areas have been notified by the TPWD that burns are scheduled in their areas from January to March 2024.

HD 1 resident joins staff. I am pleased to announce that Trip Davis from New Boston has joined my legislative staff and will be working in the District office in New Boston. Trip graduated from New Boston High School in 2017 and the University of Texas at Austin in 2019 with a BS Degree in Communication Studies. Trip began working at the Capitol in 2019, and he brings a lot of experience to my office. I am happy to have him back in the District combining his local knowledge with his legislative experiences to help serve the needs of House District 1. Please feel free to reach out to him at the District office at the Bowie County Courthouse. *Welcome aboard!*

"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."

State Update

Fourth special session adjourns. The fourth special session of the 88th legislature adjourned on December 5, and at this point, the governor has yet to call a fifth special session. There are still some issues that the governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives disagree about, but at this time, members have an opportunity to return home to their families and careers after being in session 246 days, which is the longest since Texas became a state in 1845.

Governor signs SB 4. This week Governor Abbott signed SB 4 (88th, 4th Called) that amends the Penal Code to create the Class B misdemeanor offense for illegal entry from a foreign nation for a person who is an alien and enters or attempts to enter Texas directly from a foreign nation at any location other than a lawful port of entry.

Comptroller's office Fiscal Notes. For almost 50 years the state comptroller's office has published its monthly newsletter called *Fiscal Notes* that is an excellent source of information relating to all things about the Texas economy and budget information. This month is no exception, and it can be found at:

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/2023/dec/session.php>. This edition takes a close look at how the legislature used its record surplus of almost \$33 billion when it went into regular session in January 2023. On Election Day (11/07/2023), voters approved several proposed constitutional amendments that in essence established endowment accounts from the excess revenue to start new or enhance state programs for such things as broadband, water, university research, historic relief from property taxes by increasing the homestead exemption, modernize and expand electric generating facilities and provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for certain retired school employees. These programs would not have been possible without the budget surplus, which the legislature prudently used to help Texans today and in the future. The use of these funds by the legislature was basically returning tax dollars to the taxpayers.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! My family and I wish you and your family a blessed Merry Christmas this year and hope all the best for you and your family in 2024!

My District and Capitol offices will be closed from December 22 to January 2. Please leave a voice mail, and my staff will contact you when they return to the office on January 2.

Contact Information

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 or the Capitol office if there is anything we can do to help you. Follow me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more updates!

District Office
Bowie County Courthouse
710 James Bowie Drive
New Boston, Texas 75570
(903) 628 - 0361

Capitol Office
Room E1.304
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
(512) 463 - 0692

**State Representative Gary
VanDeaver**
[Email Gary](mailto:gary.vandeaver@legis.state.tx.us)