



# State Representative GARY VANDEAVER

September 2024 E-Newsletter



HD 1

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

### District Update



*PEDC ribbon cutting celebration in Paris. Photo by PEDC.*

**Paris Economic Development Corporation (PEDC).** Earlier this month, Rep. VanDeaver participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the PEDC for the expansion of J. Eagan Street through the Northwest Industrial Park in Paris. A U.S. Department of Commerce \$1.3 million grant helped facilitate this work, which is so timely because of the industrial growth taking place in this part of Paris. PEDC's executive, Ms. Maureen Hammond, spoke at the ceremony and said that the grant and local matching funds have also allowed for upgrades in water and other infrastructure needs that will accommodate the Lionshead Specialty Tire and Wheel's new 120,000 square-foot facility scheduled to open in

the Industrial Park later this year. Many speakers praised the hard work being done by Paris officials in marketing the city's "open for business" attitudes and opportunities. Rep. VanDeaver said that he "has attended more ribbon cuttings and groundbreaking events the last two to three years in Paris than any other part of House District 1." VanDeaver went on to also congratulate and thank everyone for their hard work that will continue to benefit the city for years to come.

**Marvin Nichols comment period extended.** The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has agreed to extend its comment period from October 15 to October 28, to give people more time to submit their feedback about the draft feasibility review of the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir. The TWDB press statement says:

This feasibility review considered the implementation timeline, associated costs, land acquisition considerations, and the economic impact of the proposed project. A draft report regarding the findings of this feasibility review is now available for a 30-day public comment period, after which the TWDB Executive Administrator will finalize and submit the report to the Legislative Budget Board and Governor by January 5, 2025. Input must be emailed to [feasibility@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:feasibility@twdb.texas.gov) by **October 25, 2024**, at 11:59 p.m. CDT to be considered by the Executive Administrator. Visit the TWDB website for more information.

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## State Update

***Interim hearings wrapping up.*** Between regular legislative sessions, legislative committees are issued interim charges or homework with specific directives to take a deep dive into new concerns and challenges and continue looking at issues that were not fully resolved in the previous regular session. Committees are charged with making specific policy recommendations for consideration in the subsequent regular session. Issues that have been studied so far this interim include: property tax relief approved in 2023; study viability of eliminating property taxes by 2035; changes in the state's property casualty insurance market; Panhandle wildfires; border security measures; space exploration and the Texas space economy; the health of local governments and statewide pension systems; the state's growth and population trends; fentanyl poisoning; prosecution of reckless driving or racing on highways; financial assistance programs provided by the Texas Water Development Board; collection and use of consumer's personal data by certain businesses; and the list goes on and on. Committees will submit reports outlining possible solutions for consideration by the legislature in 2025. Use this link to Texas Legislature Online for more information: <https://capitol.texas.gov/>.

***SBOE discusses proposed instructional materials.*** At its September meeting, the State Board of Education (SBOE) spent time discussing and hearing public testimony about proposed instructional materials currently under development to comply with House Bill 1605 adopted in 2023, to strengthen the rigor of the instructional materials for our students. This bill restructured the instructional materials adoption process so more students and schools have access to high-quality instructional materials and provide more transparency for parents. The SBOE heard over eight hours of public testimony on K-5 mathematics, English and Spanish language arts & reading instructional materials. The board will vote at its November 2024 on the new materials. Here is a link to access reports and information about the review and adoption process: <https://sboe.texas.gov/imra>.

***Secretary of State reminds Texans about upcoming deadlines.*** In a newly released [advertisement](#), Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson reminds Texans that now is the time to make a plan to vote in the November 5 General Election. “My goal is to make sure every qualified Texan who wants to vote has all the information they need to cast a ballot,” Secretary Nelson says in the ad. “I encourage Texans to visit [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov), the state’s official online resource.” For official information, including registration and vote-by-mail deadlines, please visit [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov) or call 1-800-252-VOTE. Upcoming deadlines include the deadline to register: October 7; early voting runs from October 21 - November 1; and deadline to request a mail-in ballot: October 25.

## Contact Information

***Social Media.*** Please follow me on my Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts for more updates!

***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!

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