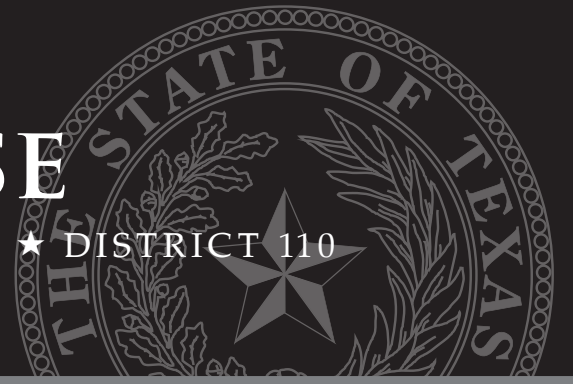




TONI ROSE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 110



2014 INTERIM NEWSLETTER

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 110

Dear Constituents of House District 110:

Several weeks ago I was sworn into my second term as State Representative for District 110. It is an honor and privilege to serve you once again. This session promises to be engaging as we get down to the business of implementing changes to improve the lives of all Texans in core areas.

This newsletter will give you a glimpse of issues that we plan to address during the 84th Legislative Session. During the interim, legislators across the state met to discuss and further research matters affecting House District 110 and Texans alike -- and now we will together bring that work into action.

Education, transportation and healthcare are sure to be among hot button agenda items. You are encouraged to view daily proceedings by visiting www.house.state.tx.us. On this site you may also see committee hearings and capitol events.

I appreciate the feedback received from House District 110 constituents at the town hall meetings this past fall. Your input, insight and concerns are very important to me. We understand that we are here to serve you and you are always encouraged to contact us for assistance. Thank you for the opportunity to serve District 110 and the great State of Texas.

Yours in service -- always,

Toni Rose
State Representative
District 110

★ SESSION INFORMATION ★

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

During the 83rd interim, the House Committee on Corrections was charged with examining issues related to providing better assistance and care for incarcerated individuals who have mental health illnesses; studying and reviewing all levels of our corrections facilities to make sure that the programs and policies in place are providing those incarcerated with vocational, education and rehabilitative services to equip them with the necessary tools to succeed once released and to prevent incarceration upon release. Over the course of six months, the Committee heard testimony and recommendations from correctional policy officials at state agencies as well as advocates who examine public policy and provide data concerning correctional facilities, officers and incarcerated individuals. These hearings and recommendations will provide guidance for legislators during the upcoming 84th legislative session.

The legislature will also look at raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years of age. This change would mean that 18 years of age would become the age in which a person may be charged as an adult for a criminal offense. Deciding whether to



The Joint Select Committee on Human Trafficking held one of several hearings to learn more about this issue in Dallas, TX on September 25, 2014.

raise the adult offender age requirement will involve listening to both sides of the arguments and making a decision that will best allow our youth to lead productive and quality lives for the good of all Texans.

EDUCATION

As the 84th Legislature prepares to address a wide-range of important topics including but not limited to providing quality health services, funding for transportation, water and other pressing items; the funding of our public education system will be one of the key issues facing the legislature. Currently, there is a school finance lawsuit that is making its way through the court system which seeks to challenge the current way that public schools are funded in Texas. The lawsuit has been appealed

to the Texas Supreme Court and is awaiting a decision by the Court. It is uncertain whether the case will be resolved in time for the Legislature to make definitive decisions regarding how our public schools are funded. Representative Rose will continue to fight to ensure that our students, teachers, and administrators are provided with the necessary tools to have the best opportunity to provide and receive a quality education.

HEALTHCARE

Texas has the highest rate of uninsured residents in the nation, with nearly a quarter of the state's population living without health insurance. For many residents, acquiring insurance can be both physically and economically burdensome for those individuals. During the 84th legislative session it is Representative Rose's hope that the topic of Medicaid Expansion will be an issue that is discussed by the legislature. You can be assured that she will continue to strongly support the expansion of Medicaid as she has done in the past. In addition to the expansion of Medicaid, the discussion of providing quality care for those with mental health illness will be a top

priority of Representative Rose this session. The legislature added approximately \$300 million to the 2014-15 biennium budget to provide more mental health services in the 83rd session. The decriminalization of mental health will be an important issue that the legislature must address this session as it relates to how people with mental health illness are treated in the criminal justice system. Moving toward providing quality mental health services instead of classifying persons with mental illness as criminals and jailing them at facilities that are not able to provide the necessary proper treatments will be a priority of Representative Rose's this session.

HUMAN SERVICES

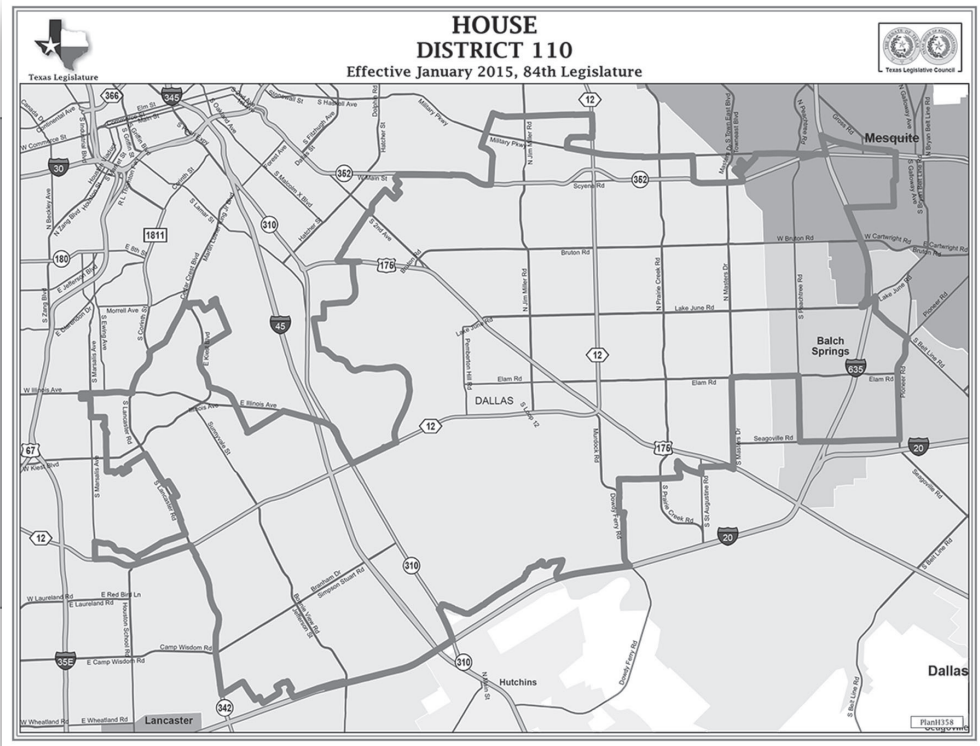
During the 83rd interim session, the House Committee on Human Services, of which Representative Rose is a member of, set forth to study several aspects of the foster care system, including its redesign and how contracts are obtained for services for children in state custody. A wide range of stakeholders and advocates were called to provide testimony regarding this and additional issues during a series of committee hearings held in Austin.

After a series of deaths related to abuse and neglect in foster home care were reported, recommendations were given that emphasize safety, decision-making, and foster placements within the child's

own community. Changes to the system include paying providers based on performance rather than basing it on a child's need, thus removing the provider's incentive to unnecessarily retain a child for a higher level of service. The agency that works to protect these children, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), is currently under a review procedure called the Sunset Process. Over the course of the past year, DFPS has undergone an exhaustive review process that looks at ways to address current problems and has been provided with recommendations to make the agency a more efficient and effective organization to serve our children and families.

NEW DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The new House District 110 boundaries became effective January 2015. Welcome to the district!



VISITING THE CAPITOL

The State Capitol is open to the public year round with the exception of major holidays. Free guided tours are offered Monday through Friday 8:30 am- 4:30 pm; 9:30 am- 4:30 pm Saturdays and Noon to 3:30 pm on Sundays. Tour reservations for groups of 10 or more can be made by contacting the Capitol Visitors Center at 512.305.8400.

HONORARY PAGE PROGRAM

During the 84th Legislative Session, each House of Representatives member has the opportunity to host Honorary Pages through the Texas House Honorary Page Program at the Texas Capitol.

Eight to 18 years old students may serve as honorary pages for a half workday shift (8:30 am-12:00 pm or 1:30 pm- 5:00 pm) and witness the legislative process from inside the Capitol. Honorary Pages are

granted floor access and work with the Sergeant-at-Arms office to assist with the delivery of messages and documents around the Capitol. Honorary Pages will also have the opportunity to speak with Representatives and meet the Speaker of the House.

If you or someone you know is interested in being an Honorary Page during the 84th Legislative Session, please contact our offices for more details.



State Representative Rose having dialogue with constituents at one of two Fall "Town Hall Tour 2014" meetings.

★ DISTRICT NEWS ★

Exciting things are happening in District 110! In these past few months, we have seen much development around the district, providing places for community members to both gather and grow.

HIGHLAND HILLS BRANCH LIBRARY GRAND OPENING

Representative Rose attended the grand opening of the Highland Hills Branch Library on October 18. The new, state-of-the-art library will also double as a community resource center for residents of District 110 and surrounding communities. Face-painting, photo-booth pictures and folk entertainers served as entertainment for the little ones and an informational fair was provided for the adults. Even Representative Rose joined in the fun.



Representative Rose enjoyed photo booth fun at the Highland Hills library opening day activities.



John Runyon Elementary students were amazed by all the facts the representative shared about the state of Texas.

CAREER DAY AT JOHN RUNYON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fourth and fifth grade students at John Runyon Elementary school hosted Representative Rose at their career day on November 7. Representative Rose shared the importance of civic engagement with students and encouraged them to get active within their school's student council. The students were excited to learn about the role of a state legislator and made a promise to remain engaged in their communities.

ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Love and Grace Community Church in Balch Springs, under the leadership of Pastor Derek Lewis, hosted a Domestic Violence Workshop in October. Held at the Balch Springs community center, Representative Rose provided the welcome and informed participants about legislation that will address the important topic of domestic violence. Representatives from state offices and law enforcement agencies provided eye-opening presentations that presented the audience with difficult, but powerful images to go along with the stories of domestic violence and how to overcome these hardships with resources.

We thank you for your feedback from the previous newsletter. Through your responses, we are better able to identify community needs and develop programs to address topics that you want to learn more about within the district. Stay tuned for upcoming community events that will be hosted through our district offices this spring.

DALLAS SENIOR SOURCE

One of the great resources for older adults in Dallas is The Senior Source. The District office has been asked to partner with the organization to assist our seniors to help maintain and improve their lives. One important concern for seniors is financial services and protection against fraud. To combat this prevalent issue, The Senior Source has partnered with the Dallas County probate courts and the

Dallas District Attorney's office to launch the Elder Financial Safety Center, which provides seniors with assistance to guard against fraud and financial exploitation. If you would like more information on the Elder Financial Safety Center and the other services it offers, please contact them at: 214-525-6130 or efsc@theseniorsource.org.

DISTRICT 110 TOWN HALL MEETINGS RECAP

Representative Rose hosted a town hall meeting at the Tommie Allen Recreation Center on October 16th and another on October 23rd at the Balch Springs Civic Center. Questions and concerns related to issues in District 110 and topics to be addressed during the 84th legislative session were discussed. Thank you again to those in attendance at the town halls. Your input has helped Representative Rose make the best decisions possible on the issues that are most important to the constituents of District 110 and all Texans.

★ THE ROLE OF A STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★

State Representatives are elected by the people of Texas to speak on their behalf. Each of the 150 Representatives serves a 2-year term and represents about 167,000 residents. They meet every other year to discuss new laws. The 84th Legislation of the Texas House of Representatives will convene on January 13, 2015 and meet for 140 days, ending on June 1, 2015. During session, Representatives spend countless hours researching and writing bills, serving on committees, meeting with constituents, hearing testimony on varied issues and preparing for House debates. The primary goal is to serve constituents and the Capitol and District offices are here to help you.

- If you are having difficulty working with a state agency, please let us help to ensure your voice is heard and your matter is addressed promptly.
- If you have an idea to improve state government or a concern regarding current legislation, contact the Capitol office to determine the feasibility of new legislation or amendments.
- If you are visiting Austin as an individual or with a group, contact our office in advance to arrange a tour of the Texas Capitol and the Visitor Center. Constituents are always encouraged to visit both the Capitol and District offices.

INTERIM SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

During the interim Representative Rose was appointed to serve on two House Select Committees. The **Human Trafficking Committee**, established in the 2011 legislative session and renewed by the Legislature last year, is charged with studying ways to combat this crime and identify services available to victims. An estimated 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the United States each year, and the number of U.S. citizens trafficked within the country is estimated to be even higher. Given its size and proximity to a major international border, Texas is often a focal point for human trafficking activity.

The House Select Committee on **Child Protection** is charged with studying the incidence of abuse and neglect fatalities in Texas and making recommendations to protect children. The select committee will also partner with the public members of the Protect our Kids Commission, which the Legislature created in 2013. The commission will study the rate of child abuse and neglect fatalities and recommend strategies to prevent and reduce them. Representative Rose also serves on the Corrections and Human Services Committees.



Representative Rose listens to testimony during interim committee hearing.

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

Introduction

Bills are introduced on the House floor by the member who wrote the bill. A brief description of the bill is read out loud in the chamber. The bill is then assigned to a committee.

Committee

In committee, members listen to testimony from the public, discuss issues relating to the bill, and then decide whether to move it on to the House floor for debate.

Floor Action

Bills are debated on the House floor. Changes can be made to the bill if a majority of the members agree. Members vote; if a majority are in favor, the bill goes to the Senate chamber for approval.

Sign the Bill

If both the Senate and the House vote in favor of a bill, it goes to the Governor's office for his signature, officially making the bill a Texas law.

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 110

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Committees: Corrections, Human Services, Human Trafficking, Child Protection

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DO YOU HAVE THE 211?

Get help and answers with 211, your link to local and state services. Call 211 for help on the following:

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) - Helps low-income families buy food they need for good health.

MBCC (Medicaid for Breast and Cervical Cancer) - Coverage for uninsured women in need of treatment for breast or cervical cancer.

TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) - Providing limited cash assistance to needy dependent children and parents with whom they live. One-time grant available to grandparents of children receiving TANF.

TNEP (Texas Nurse-Family Partnership) - A nurse home visitation program improving the health of first-time parents (must be enrolled by 28th week of pregnancy).

CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) - Providing medical coverage to children up to 19 that are not already insured.

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Health & Humans Services Commission 877-541-7905
Department of Aging & Disability Services (DADS) 800-458-9858
Department of Assistive & Rehabilitation Services (DARS) 800-628-5115
Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS) 800-720-7777
Attorney General 800-252-8011

Texas Education Agency (TEA) 512-463-9734
Texas Department of Insurance 800-252-3439
State Bar of Texas 800-633-6630
Texas Workforce Commission 800-558-8321
Texas Department of Public Safety 512-424-2600