



TONI ROSE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 110



85TH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 110

Dear Constituents of House District 110:

January of this year launched the beginning of the 85th Legislative Session burdened with a budget shortfall looming over our state. Each state agency had been instructed to prepare a 4% budget cut as well as a second budget with a 10% cut. With not only the budget shortfall but also issues related to the Dallas Police and Fire Pension, school finance, as well as CPS and foster care reform, we were in for a bumpy ride!

This session, I was appointed back to the Human Services Committee and two new committees: the Appropriations Committee, which writes the state budget, and the Calendars Committee, which can prevent bills from being considered before the Texas House of Representatives. I also continue to serve on the Health and Human Services Transition Oversight Committee which monitors and guides our state's transformation of the delivery of human services to Texans in need.

Of all the accomplishments this session, I am most proud of working with state leaders in restoring \$40 million for mental healthcare funding and securing another \$8.1 million to prevent North Texans, who currently receive mental health services and medication, from being removed from the rolls.

In addition, I was able to secure \$2 million dollars for emergency response services benefiting North Texas and another \$1 million dollars to bring high speed internet to libraries all across the state. These accomplishments are even more surprising when considering that our state faced a massive budget shortfall and, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, we were tasked with cutting the budgets of every state agency in Texas.

The opportunity to work on your behalf in seeking legislative solutions for some of the most pressing problems we face has been the greatest reward. Texas is now reconnecting foster care children with relatives by allowing those relatives to receive the monthly state payments that would otherwise go to foster parents. This change in state law will have a lasting and positive impact on families in District 110.

Representing District 110 at our State's Capitol is truly an honor. I appreciate everyone who contacted the office to voice their opinions, concerns, and ideas on ways we can make the state of Texas a better place. In the spirit of unity, let us continue working together to move our great state forward through the legislative process.

If you would like more information about how to get involved, do not hesitate to give us a call at (214) 371-3300 or email me at district110.rose@house.texas.gov. As your representative I will continue to work to improve District 110 and the great state of Texas.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to serve as your State Representative!

Yours for a better Texas,

Toni Rose
State Representative
District 110

★ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ★

Since 1876, Texans have approved 491 amendments to our state constitution, with 179 amendments defeated by voters. These changes impact the future of Texas and determine how the state spends your tax dollars.

The next constitutional amendment election will take place on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. At that time, you will have the opportunity to cast your vote for or against seven proposed amendments that were passed during the 85th Legislative Session.

Below, you'll find the language for each of the amendments. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed amendments, feel free to call (214) 371-3300 or send an email to district110.rose@house.texas.gov.

BALLOT LANGUAGE

Proposition 1: HJR 21

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization for less than the market value of the residence homestead and harmonizing certain related provisions of the Texas Constitution.

Proposition 2: SJR 60

The constitutional amendment to establish a lower amount for expenses that can be charged to a borrower and removing certain financing expense limitations for a home equity loan, establishing certain authorized lenders to make a home equity loan, changing certain options for the refinancing of home equity loans, changing the threshold for an advance of a home equity line of credit, and allowing home equity loans on agricultural homesteads.

Proposition 3: SJR 34

The constitutional amendment limiting the service of certain officeholders appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate after the expiration of the person's term of office.

Proposition 4: SJR 6

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to require a court to provide notice to the attorney general of a challenge to the constitutionality of a state statute and authorizing the legislature to prescribe a waiting period before the court may enter a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional.

Proposition 5: HJR 100

The constitutional amendment on professional sports team charitable foundations conducting charitable raffles.

Proposition 6: SJR 1

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

Proposition 7: HJR 37

The constitutional amendment relating to legislative authority to permit credit unions and other financial institutions to award prizes by lot to promote savings.

More detailed arguments for and against the constitutional amendments on the November 7, 2017 ballot are available online at www.tlc.texas.gov/const_amends.

★ POINT OF ORDER ★

On May 9th, 2017, Representative Rose raised a Point of Order which identified a flaw in a House Bill 731, preventing further consideration of the bill. House Bill 731 by Representative Bohac would have amended the Penal Code to create the third degree felony "Offense of Intimidation by a Gang Member" for a person who is a member of a criminal street gang and who, with the intent to cause another person to perform or to omit the performance of any act, communicates to the other person, directly or indirectly, by any means:

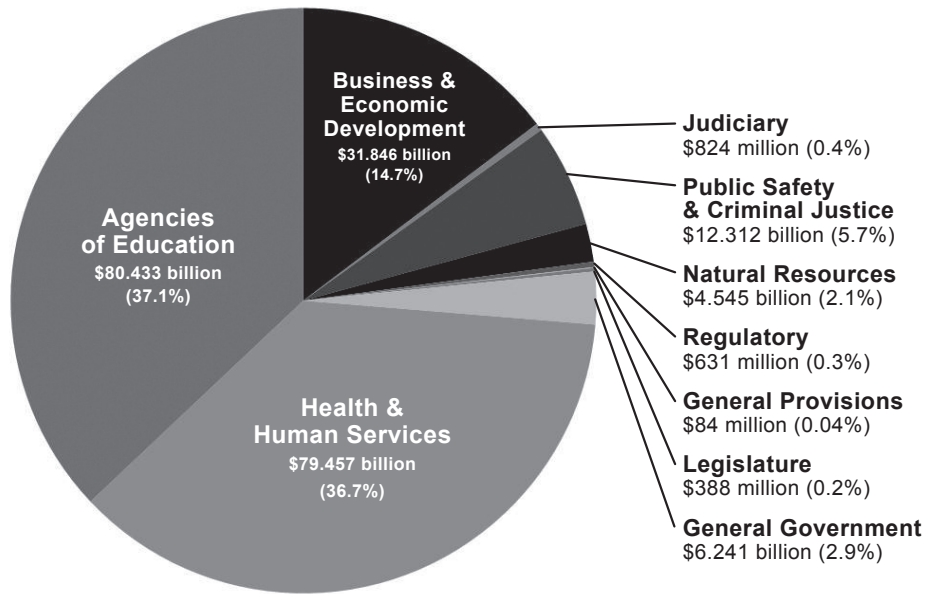
- a threat to inflict bodily injury on the person threatened or any other person,
- damage or destroy property,
- subject any person to physical confinement or restraint,
- or commit an offense punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or any higher category of offense.

This session, Representative Toni Rose was appointed to serve as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which sets the budget for the State of Texas. Working alongside leaders from across the entire state, she played a role in crafting Texas' \$216.8 billion dollar budget.

During the budget writing process, Rep. Rose served on the subcommittee that specifically wrote the budgets for Texas' most critical services such as the budgets for: the Attorney General's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, Employees Retirement System, Veteran's Commission and Office of the Governor.

2018-19 All Funds

Total: \$216.758 billion



Health & Human Services

As one of the large slices of the state budget, Human Services are receiving a total of \$79.4 billion dollars over the next two years. The Department of Family and Protective Services is funded at \$4.1 billion and the Department of State Health Services was funded at \$1.5 billion, a loss of almost \$4.1 billion as some of the functions of the agency is absorbed into the Health and Human Services Commission which saw an increase of \$1.2 billion dollars when compared to the state budget of two years ago.

Education

During the Regular Session, Texas funded Public Education at \$59.9 billion and Higher Education at \$20.5 billion dollars for the next two years. During the Special Session, we passed House Bill 21, relating to public school funding. Although the House of Representatives' version had earmarked an additional \$1.8 billion in spending for public schools and healthcare costs for retired teachers, the Senate amended the bill which now provides an additional \$212 million for the Teacher's Retirement System but only \$351 million for public schools, with \$120 million of those dollars set aside for new facilities for charter schools and traditional public schools.

The bill also creates a grant program of \$150 million to offset the loss of an important state aid program for rural school districts, \$41 million to remove an existing financial penalty for small school districts and the Senate added \$40 million for an autism and dyslexia grant program for public schools.

Criminal Justice

Funding of \$6.6 billion in All Funds is provided for the incarceration, probation, and parole of adult offenders in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, which includes housing, security, classification, food and necessities, healthcare, and treatment services. Funding for Correctional Managed Health Care totals \$1.1 billion, which represents a \$70.4 million decrease from the 2016-17 biennial funding level. Funding includes \$800 million in state funds for border security.

Transportation

The Department of Transportation is funded at \$26.6 billion; of which \$23 billion is provided for highway planning and design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and maintenance and preservation: this includes \$9.7 billion for maintenance and preservation of the existing transportation system; \$4.5 billion for construction and highway improvements; \$4.8 billion for constructing, maintaining, and acquiring rights-of-way for non-tolled public roadways; \$2.3 billion for transportation system planning, design, and management; and \$1.7 billion for right-of-way acquisition.

Teacher Retirement and Health Benefits

Facing a 1 billion dollar shortfall, the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) funding was increased by \$416.7 million, which provides for an increase of the statutorily required state contribution to TRS-Care from 1.0 percent to 1.25 percent of public education payroll. The amount includes an increase of and for a onetime appropriation of \$183 million in additional funds to cover the remainder of the projected TRS-Care shortfall for the 2018-19 biennium. TRS is projected to have a \$200 million budget shortfall in 2021 and it's important that the state continues to take steps to protect our working and retired teachers.

Mental Health

Behavioral health is funded at \$4 billion for non-Medicaid behavioral health services and related expenditures. The funding supports programs at 18 agencies and includes \$62.6 million for the biennium to address the current and projected waitlists for community mental health services for adults and children, \$69 million to provide grants to community entities for behavioral health services and expanded access to peer supports for individuals with mental illness, \$10.3 million to increase maximum security forensic bed capacity at the North Texas State Hospital – Vernon Campus, and \$24.8 million to maintain purchased inpatient bed capacity and state hospital bed capacity.

NORTH TEXAS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

Working with state leaders in recognizing a critical error in the funding for mental healthcare providers in the Dallas area, Rep. Rose pressed the Texas Legislature to correct a faulty budget calculation that would have resulted in a \$40 million budget shortfall and would have collapsed the mental health network in North Texas.

In addition, Rep. Rose secured another \$8.1 million to prevent North Texans, who currently receive mental health services and medication, from being denied access to assistance. This success was particularly impressive, considering that the budget writers were tasked with the unfortunate responsibility of making billions in cuts to the budget.



Representative Toni Rose shown with fellow lawmakers.

TEXAS TASK FORCE II

Texas Task Force II is an Urban Search and Rescue Team that provides support and relief in response to emergency disasters.

The Task Force has 27 participating agencies which covers 16 counties in North Texas and is capable of deploying a 70 member team for up to 14 days anywhere in the State of Texas. The team is capable of locating, rescuing and medically stabilizing victims of earthquakes, tornados, hurricanes, and

bomb and gas explosions. Deployments in the past include the West Fertilizer explosion, Lancaster/Garland/Rowlett tornadoes, floods in Blanco and Hays Counties and tropical storms and hurricanes such as Alex, Rita, Ike and Harvey. Rep. Rose secured \$2 million to save the jobs of those that protect our communities when we need them most.

TEXAS LIBRARIES

Local libraries, and the Texans that use them, deserve access to high-speed broadband. To do so, Rep. Rose wrote a budget rider, which is an amendment to the budget itself, to which the entire House of Representatives agreed. The budget rider will

provide \$1 million for the E-Rate program at the Texas State Library & Archives Commission by providing funding for a grant writing program to secure federal funds to pay for broadband access to public libraries throughout the state.

APRIL: MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

On April 6, 2017, expert panelists and survivors met at the Texas Capitol to discuss cancer health disparities in minority populations as related to studies, diagnosis and treatment.



Rep. Rose and Speaker Straus with staff from the Moncrief Cancer Institute and a cancer survivor.

This year, the Moncrief Cancer Institute supported Minority Cancer Awareness Month by rolling their custom built, 18 wheel Mobile Cancer Survivor Clinic from Fort Worth. Dr. Keith Argenbright, Director of Moncrief Cancer Institute, spoke on "Taking Cancer Care to the Streets".

Dr. Assal Rahimi, Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology at UT Southwestern, shared information on the latest equipment available in "Detecting Breast Cancer in 3D." UT Southwestern has one of only two machines in the country!

Dr. George Chang joined us on "The Changing Faces of Colorectal Cancer"; Dr. Rosanna Barrett, Director, Office of Minority Health and Health Equity, briefed us on "Bridging Health Equity across Communities"; Ms. De'Andreia Joseph, diagnosed with breast cancer at the young age of 17, shared her journey of "Discovery, Recovery to Survival".

We were also joined by an 18 foot tall "Inflatable Colon" named Seymour, loaned to us by UT Health Northeast, Tyler TX.

★ BILLS BY REPRESENTATIVE TONI ROSE ★

House Bill 4056

Because many schools are interested in adding evidence based practices to their staff training modules, Representative Rose worked to improve access to this information. House Bill 4056 helps to provide schools with the necessary resources to implement evidence based improvement programs that are geared toward supporting children with adverse childhood experiences and create a positive school climate.

House Bill 1288

To lease county owned property, counties use internal staff members to find leasing opportunities, lay the groundwork and ultimately close the deal. These staff members are often times county employees such as attorneys or engineers, not trained brokers.

House Bill 1288 ensures that those who know how to find, begin, and close leasing deals, such as third party brokers, are representing our counties, provides more efficiency to local governments and ensures we are not redirecting our county staffers to do jobs they are not experienced in.

Senate Bill 331 (House Sponsor: Rep. Rose)

In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed a bill granting temporary approval to historically black private colleges and universities that previously participated in the tuition equalization grant

(TEG) program, but had lost accredited status. Senate Bill 331 extends TEG funding for Paul Quinn College - located in District 110, and other private HBCU's. Along with other available grants, TEG funding allows qualifying Paul Quinn students to earn a 4 year college degree with under \$10,000 in student debt!

Senate Bill 584 (House Sponsor: Rep. Rose)

Last session, Texas joined much of the country in addressing the opioid epidemic by passing a bill that allowed a doctor to prescribe naloxone to the family and friends of persons on opioids. Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids, including extreme drowsiness, slowed breathing and loss of consciousness. SB 584 requires the Texas Medical Board to establish guidelines to address prescribing an opioid antagonist any time an opioid is prescribed when a patient is at a high risk of overdose.

Senate Bill 879 (House Sponsor: Rep. Rose)

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) reports that kinship placements experience fewer disruptions, better outcomes for children, and shorter lengths of stay compared to the traditional foster care system. Senate Bill 879 allows DFPS to consider a kinship placement with an individual, who has been convicted of a non-violent offense, if placement with that individual would be in the child's best interest.

MORE BILLS BY REP. ROSE

House Bill 4 (Co-Authored with Rep. Burkett)

Instructs the Department of Family and Protective Services to actively search for relatives of children who have been placed in foster care and provides monetary assistance to the relative of a child who cares for them.

House Bill 7 (Joint Authored with Rep. Wu)

Requires the Department of Family and Protective Services and the courts to spend more time evaluating risk, weighing the best interest of the child and looking for kinship placement throughout the child's time in custody of the state.

House Bill 10 (Joint Authored with Rep. Price)

Requires greater access to and better benefits for persons with mental health conditions and substance use disorders.

House Bill 2025 (Joint Authored with Rep. Y. Davis)

Requires certain long-term care facilities that provide care to persons with Alzheimer's disease to maintain staff who have been trained to work with Alzheimer's patients.

House Bill 3130 (Joint Authored with Rep. Parker)

Establishes an educational and vocational training pilot program for certain state jail felony defendants.

Senate Bill 1326 (Co. Sponsor with Sen. Zaffirini)

Improves procedures regarding criminal defendants with a mental illness or an intellectual disability in need of mental restoration services.

★ SPECIAL SESSION UPDATE ★

The 30-day Special Session was called to pass what is known as a "Sunset Bill" and came to a close with a total of twelve bills sent to Governor Abbott's desk, all of which have been signed into law. A few of the highly debated bills that passed into law were:

- *House Bill 21 (discussed under the Budget Education section)*
- *House Bill 214 amends the Insurance Code to prohibit qualified health plans from covering abortions not necessitated by a medical emergency and will require women to pay separate abortion insurance coverage in addition to paying for healthcare insurance coverage.*
- *Senate Bill 5 establishes new and enhanced criminal penalties for mail ballot fraud, with additional enhancements when involving the elderly if convicted.*
- *Senate Bill 17 extends the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force until September 1, 2023, allowing the Task Force to continue evaluating the trends, rates, and disparities in Texas women's pregnancy related deaths; including the economic status of the mother and best practices in other states.*
- *Senate Bill 20 renews the Texas Medical Board, which regulates medical doctors' license to practice in the State of Texas.*

TONI ROSE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 110

CAPITOL OFFICE:

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
(512) 463-0664
(512) 463-0476 Fax
Capitol Extension: E2.310

district110.rose@house.texas.gov
www.house.texas.gov

DISTRICT OFFICES:

Dallas Office
3730 S. Lancaster Road, Suite 140
Dallas, Texas 75216
(214) 371-3300
(214) 371-3304 Fax

Balch Springs Office
12450 Elam Road
Balch Springs, Texas 75180
(214) 371-3300
(214) 371-3304 Fax

*Committees: Appropriations, Calendars, Human Services,
Health & Human Services Transition Legislative Oversight*



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TONI ROSE
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910



★ DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETINGS SCHEDULED ★

Representative Rose will host two town hall meetings to hear from constituents on State issues and share the results of the 85th Legislative Session and Special Session. During the town hall meetings constituents will be given an opportunity to share ideas and concerns that can be addressed on a state-wide level to improve the lives of all Texans. While the town halls are open to all residents of District 110, those planning to attend are encouraged to RSVP by calling (214) 371-3300 to ensure enough materials are available.

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

6-7:30 p.m.

Eastfield College Pleasant Grove Campus
Community Room
802 S. Buckner Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75217

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

6-7:30 p.m.

Highland Hills Branch Library
6200 Bonnie View Road
Dallas, Texas 75241