



TONI ROSE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 110



88TH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 110

Dear Friends of District 110,

It remains an honor and a privilege to represent the communities of District 110! I am committed to seeking solutions to issues that impact everyday Texans.

The 2024-2025 biennium budget is \$321.3 billion, of which \$144 billion is from general revenue funds. A pleasant surprise is Texas' historic budget surplus: \$33 billion.

As Vice Chair of the Committee on Article II Appropriations, I'm proud to report the legislature appropriated \$11.6 billion for mental health services. This figure includes the \$2.2 billion for the construction of mental health hospitals and greater inpatient capacity. We also appropriated \$206 million for rate increases for items including pediatric services, private duty nursing, ambulances, and women's health-related surgeries.

Significant funding highlights of the 88th session include \$1.5 billion for broadband expansion, which will appear on the fall ballot as a voter-approved constitutional amendment; \$1.8 billion for state employee raises; and cost-of-living adjustments for the state's retired teachers.

I'm especially thrilled my three-session effort to extend postpartum Medicaid benefits was successful. Under HB 12, new Texas moms will receive comprehensive medical health coverage for 12 months to lower the alarming rate of deaths due to pregnancy-related complications.

Easing the pocketbooks of Texas homeowners by reducing their property tax bills was a high priority. During the second Special Session, lawmakers provided relief with an \$18 billion tax cut that increases the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000 and caps appraisal increases on non-homestead and commercial properties. Moreover homeowners 65 years of age and older, and disabled homeowners will see their homestead exemption rise to \$100,000. Texans will get to vote on this property tax reduction plan through a constitutional amendment, which will be on the ballot this November.

As we remain ready for a possible third Special Session, I am thankful for your ongoing support. It is a blessing to heed the call to servant-leadership! As always, our office remains ready to serve and assist.

Yours for a better Texas,

Toni Rose
State Representative
District 110



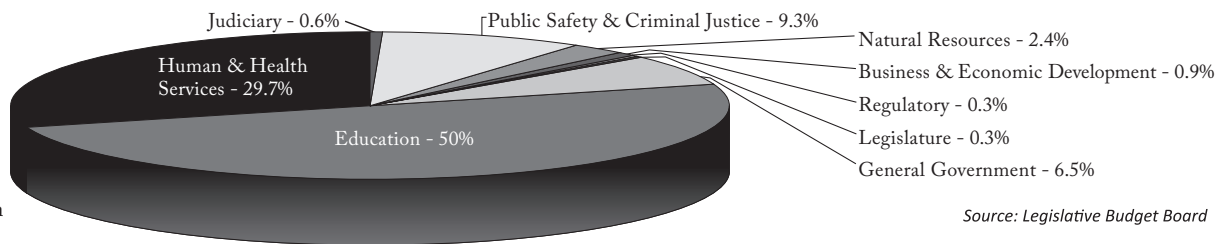
To commemorate the passage of her signature legislation, HB 12, Speaker Dade Phelan presents Representative Rose with a House gavel.

★ LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ★

BUDGET OVERVIEW

2024-25 General Revenue Funds

Total: \$144.13 billion



The 88th Regular Legislative Session started with a historic \$33 billion surplus. In the end, \$321.3 billion were appropriated, a 23% increase from the previous biennium. Investments were made in highway and water infrastructure, women's health, pay raises for state employees, and a cost of living adjustment for retired teachers. Below are a few of the highlights:

- \$11.6 billion in all funds for mental health services, including:
 - \$2.2 billion for the construction of mental health hospitals and additional inpatient capacity
 - Increases for hospital operations and community mental health grants
- \$1.8 billion for state employee raises
- \$1.5 billion for broadband expansion, subject to voter approval
- \$1 billion for water infrastructure, subject to voter approval
- \$5 billion for highway construction & improvement
- \$5 billion for a 13th check and a cost-of-living adjustment for retired teachers
- \$1 billion for new state parks, subject to voter approval
- \$2.4 billion for water infrastructure projects, subject to voter approval
- \$5 billion for dispatchable energy generation project loans, subject to voter approval
- \$219.7 million for Foster Care rate modernization
- \$206.8 million for rate increases for pediatric services, women's health-related surgeries, private duty nursing, and ambulances

REPRESENTATIVE ROSE'S BUDGET ITEMS

Representative Rose was honored to serve as Vice Chair of the Article II Subcommittee of the powerful Appropriations Committee. In this role, she influences how state funds are appropriated, not just in the Health and Human Services arena but throughout the budget. The following are priority items Representative Rose successfully included in the final budget.

North Texas Regional Law Enforcement Training Center

North Texas continues to be one of the fastest-growing regions in the country. This brings many advantages but also increases the demands on our police officers. To ensure police departments across the region can protect our growing communities, \$20 million was appropriated to help build a state-of-the-art law enforcement training center to be housed at the University of North Texas-Dallas.

Home Care Attendant Wages

Home care attendants provide a wide range of services to seniors and people with disabilities, allowing them to stay in their community and lead independent lives. The physically and emotionally demanding nature of this work, combined with wages that have not kept pace with inflation, has led to a staggering 150% turnover rate in the industry. An additional \$773 million over the original budget was allocated, bringing the total to \$2 billion, to increase wages from \$8.11 to \$10.60 an hour.

Free School Breakfasts

Over the next biennium, \$6.6 million was allocated to provide complimentary breakfast to all children who qualify for reduced-price school meals. This will ensure that 70,000 children start their school days with a nutritious meal that enables them to focus and learn at their highest levels.

Southern Gateway Park

The legislature appropriated \$10 million to complete the Southern Gateway Park. The park will span I-35E between Ewing and Marsalis avenues and reconnects historic Oak Cliff. The Southern Gateway Park and the Judge Charles R. Rose Community Park, for which Representative Rose secured funding during the previous legislative session, are part of the continuing effort to bring usable green spaces back to southern Dallas. The park is projected to open in late 2024.

Texas Behavioral Health Center at UT Southwestern

An additional \$102 million was appropriated to construct the Texas Behavioral Health Center at UT Southwestern. The funds for this critical mental health facility were needed because of rising construction costs due to inflation. The Center, slated to open in 2025, will help fill the need for more inpatient psychiatric beds in North Texas.

Local Mental Health Authority Funding

Local mental health authorities (LMHAs) are one of the pillars of our mental health system in Texas. But like so many others LMHAs are struggling to maintain proper staffing levels. This session, the legislature began to address that by appropriating \$120 million for LMHAs, including an additional \$24 million to address staffing shortages.

Reentry Programs

\$5 million was appropriated to provide services to people reentering society from incarceration. The funds will go to non-profits, faith-based organizations, and community groups, primarily in Dallas and Houston, to help individuals get their lives on track and stay out of the criminal justice system.

Healthy Community Collaborative

The Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) program is a public/private partnership to provide services for people experiencing homelessness and mental illness. \$8 million was appropriated to continue the expansion of the program into all areas of the state.

NEW LAWS AUTHORED BY REPRESENTATIVE ROSE

House Bill 12

Pregnancy and childbirth can cause many complications for women, including postpartum depression and hypertension which can lead to death. These risks are even more prominent for black women, who are more than twice as likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than the national average for all women.

In Texas, the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee has routinely stated that around 90% of maternal deaths in the state are preventable. It also states the best way to lower the maternal mortality rate is to provide a full year of comprehensive medical care postpartum. HB 12 accomplishes that by extending Medicaid for qualified women from two months to 12 months postpartum.

House Bill 728

It is estimated that by 2050 one out of every five Texans will be age 65 or older. To ensure the state is prepared to care for this growing population, the legislature passed House Bill 728.

HB 728 creates the Statewide Interagency Aging Services Coordinating Council. The council will bring together state agencies and academic experts to create five-year statewide strategic plans for the care of our 65+ population.

House Bill 1184

Recidivism is an important performance measure for justice agencies and is critical in evaluating program outcomes. To study recidivism, researchers must access criminal history data. At the federal level, criminal history data is stored in the National Crime Information Center, and in Texas, this information is stored in the Texas Crime Information Center. Currently, only research that is funded entirely with state funds can do bulk data pulls from these databases. This forces many of our specialty courts and academics, to do costly and time-intensive individual record pulls. One Dallas area specialty court researcher spent more than two days accessing just 25 records.

HB 1184 allows researchers utilizing any government funds to do bulk data pulls from the National Crime Information Center or the Texas Crime Information Center. This ensures that government funds are being used in the most efficient manner possible when doing criminal history research.

House Bill 1488

HB 1488 seeks to improve care by requiring more sickle cell-focused education for providers in medical school and graduate education courses, ensuring that Medicaid providers are following national guidelines, and requiring the Texas Education Agency to collaborate with community-based organizations to provide sickle cell information to school staff so that children with sickle cell are handled properly. House Bill 1488 also adds to the membership of the Sickle Cell Task Force to increase its effectiveness.

House Bill 2802

Currently, Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) can only text beneficiaries with important renewal and eligibility information if the beneficiary consented in multiple places on their application. House Bill 2802 simplifies this process by allowing beneficiaries to opt out of being texted rather than requiring them to opt in.

House Bill 3550

Prescribed pediatric extended care centers (PPECCs) provide advantages for families that would choose to have their medically complex children cared for in that setting. PPECCs are group settings that do not require the presence of a parent, affording them the opportunity to work and the child the opportunity to learn and interact with other children that they may otherwise not have. Additionally, PPECCs can be staffed with one nurse for every three children, rather than the one-to-one ratio required for private duty nursing, which can help alleviate the severe nursing shortage Texas is experiencing.

HB 3550 will reduce regulations for PPECCs, while maintaining a strong regulatory framework, to encourage the growth of these centers empowering families to choose what is right for them.



Representative Rose casts her vote for House Bill 12 on the House Floor.



Representative Rose, fellow lawmakers, and activists celebrate the signing of House Bill 12.

NEW LAWS SPONSORED BY REPRESENTATIVE ROSE IN THE HOUSE



Representative Rose welcomes the 2022 5A State Champion South Oak Cliff High School Football Team.

Senate Bill 182

In January 2022, allegations of abuse by employees surfaced at The Refuge, a foster care facility for child victims of sex trafficking in Bastrop, Texas. During the investigation, it became clear that other employees of The Refuge were aware of the alleged abuse but had not reported it to their supervisors or law enforcement.

Senate Bill 182 makes it a crime for employees or contractors of the Department of Family and Protective Services not to report crimes perpetrated by a colleague against a person receiving services. An amendment that Representative Rose passed on the House floor ensures employees or contractors reporting crimes under this legislation are protected from retaliation by their employers.

Senate Bill 186 & Senate Bill 189

In September 2020, an investigation into an unlicensed group home in Houston revealed deplorable conditions. There were 37 sick and elderly people crammed into a three-bed, one-bath home. Many of these people had insects crawling on them, and one had an open wound on his abdomen that required immediate medical attention.

Further investigation revealed that many people in the home had been released from local hospitals into this unlicensed home and that this is a common occurrence throughout the state. It was also discovered that the owner of the property knew the home was being operated in this manner.

Senate Bill 186 prohibits hospitals from releasing patients to unlicensed group or boarding home facilities with two exceptions. Hospitals may discharge a patient to an unlicensed facility if there are no licensed facilities in the county or the patient voluntarily elects to go to an unlicensed home.

Senate Bill 189 makes it a crime for a property owner where an unlicensed group home is being operated not to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation they have knowledge of in the facility.

Senate Bill 867

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, roughly 88,000 college-age Texans use cocaine in a year, and nearly 3,000 use heroin in a year. Cocaine and heroin are the two drugs most likely to be diluted with fentanyl and have led to a tragic number of overdose deaths.

To combat these overdoses, Senate Bill 867 adds institutions of higher education to the list of institutions the Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission can send opioid antagonists.

Senate Bill 1327

There are 635 communities across Texas considered childcare deserts, meaning there is three times the number of children under age six than the capacity of childcare providers in the area. This shortage of childcare providers means it is extremely difficult for many parents to find childcare, and when they do find a childcare provider, it is very expensive. One significant challenge for childcare centers is recruiting and retaining qualified childcare directors.

Senate Bill 1327 aims to address this staffing shortage by allowing directors to serve in an interim capacity for a 12-month period while they finish their education requirements. This will be especially advantageous for new childcare facilities that are often located in childcare deserts.

Senate Bill 1525

Due to the nature of Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services cases, Texas Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) attorneys are continually subject to harassment and verbal/physical threats. DFPS attorneys' duties in court make them particularly susceptible to harassment and threats due to the nature of their work.

Senate Bill 1525 allows attorneys for the Department of Family and Protective Services to keep their home addresses private on public appraisal records.



Representative Rose and Representative Bowers welcome Mayor Carrie Gordon, City Councilmembers, and other representatives of the city of Balch Springs to the Capitol.

★ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ★

Proposition 1 – HJR 126: “The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.”

Proposition 2 – SJR 64: “The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility.”

Proposition 3 – HJR 132: “The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.”

Proposition 4 – HJR 2: from the second special session “The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts.”

Proposition 5 – HJR 3: “The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy.”

Proposition 6 – SJR 75: “The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.”

Proposition 7 – SJR 93: “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.”

Proposition 8 – HJR 125: “The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.”

Proposition 9 – HJR 2, regular session: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.”

Proposition 10 – SJR 87: “The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain.”

Proposition 11 – SJR 32: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.”

Proposition 12 – HJR 134: “The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County.”

Proposition 13 – HJR 107: “The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.”

Proposition 14 – SJR 74: “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.”

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Representative Rose, Representative Bowers, and Speaker Phelan pictured with the leadership of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated: International President Elsie Cooke-Holmes, Southwest Regional Director Crystal Barker, State Coordinator Karen Dourseau, State Facilitator Jade McGhee, and State Social Action Coordinator Sharon Watkins Jones.



One of the joys of every session is meeting with constituents and advocates from across the state. Representative Rose poses with her Texas Sorors from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. during the sorority's Red and White Day at the Capitol.