



JULIE JOHNSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 115



Summer 2020 Legislative Update

Dear Neighbor,

As your state representative, I wanted to write and share important information with you about the resources our office can provide for you, your family, and all the neighbors in House District 115. For months, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted each and every one of us in different ways.

After being elected in 2018, I did not expect a public health crisis to become a cornerstone of my first term. Throughout all of this, our team has been committed to helping everyone in HD 115. The “Shelter-In-Place” order has not halted any of our work. HD 115 staff has been working remotely to ensure that every constituent has access to their state representative and has helped many of them during the COVID-19 crisis. We have also been proactively reaching out to you in the district to check in and offer our services to help in any way the office can. In our conversations, we have seen a wide range of needs in the district. From simple questions of how to use SNAP benefits, to connecting individuals with the Texas Workforce Commission to resolve unemployment claims, we have seen it all.

When the next legislative session begins in January 2021, how the state of Texas continues to respond and recover from the pandemic will be a top priority. The crisis has exposed critical gaps in our state’s infrastructure. We know that not everyone in our district could access emergency resources they needed during this crisis – whether that was due to a lack of access to testing and health care, difficulty processing and receiving small business loans, or timely responses to state agency requests on everything from rental assistance to unemployment benefits.

Additionally, in the next session the Legislature will be faced with the important process of redistricting. Members of the Texas House of Representatives will be charged with redrawing district lines for Texas House, Texas Senate, Texas State Board of Education, and Congressional seats based on the 2020 Census count. With so many important upcoming items, we need your voice and input to ensure that the priorities of HD 115 are addressed.

As we slowly move towards an opened Texas, I want to remind you that the HD 115 team is here to help. If you are in need of assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Capitol or District Office. As always, it is an honor and privilege to represent the residents of House District 115. I look forward to hearing from you and continuing to serve as your state representative.

Sincerely,

Julie Johnson
Julie E. Johnson



A NOTE ON RECENT PROTESTS IN REACTION TO POLICE BRUTALITY

We are at a pivotal moment in history. After years of unjust discrimination, the Black community has the attention and focus of the nation. Led by local leaders, activists, and organizations, we are seeing historic protests to advocate and fight for justice in House District 115 and across the nation. Many of the cities in House District 115 are asking for input from citizens as they examine the current policies and practices that have become harmful in our communities. Reach out to your mayor, city manager, and council member and let your voice be heard on these policies that directly affect us all. Your input at the local level is crucial to our work at the state level. The HD 115 team

has already heard from so many constituents and we encourage you to keep us informed of your priorities. We are committed to fighting alongside the proven champions of reform and justice in Austin every legislative session.

VOTE BY MAIL

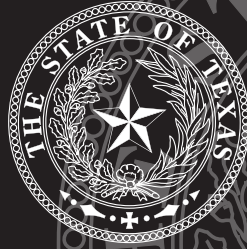
Now more than ever, it is critical for eligible voters to utilize the early vote by mail option. Texans that are eligible to vote early by mail must be: 65 years or older; disabled; out of the county on election day and during early voting; or be confined in jail, but otherwise available. To find more information and submit an application ballot by mail, visit the Texas Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.texas.gov or the Dallas County Elections’ website at www.dallascountyvotes.org.

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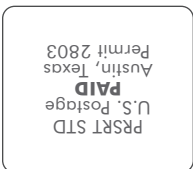


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★ LOOKING FOR WAYS ★ TO HELP?

Local food banks and pantries are seeking volunteers and monetary and food donations. Some organizations include: Metrocrest Services, Feeding Texas, North Texas Food Bank, and Meals on Wheels Texas local chapters. I myself have been honored to serve at Metrocrest Services by loading pallets of food alongside lots of great volunteers. If you are looking to impact your community at this trying time, please consider a food bank. Contact organizations directly to get involved.

HELPFUL NUMBERS FOR COVID-19 RESOURCES

Texas Department of State Health Services... 211 (Option 6) or
(877) 541-7905
Dallas County Health & Human Services.....(972) 692-2780
Metrocrest Services..... (972) 446-2100
North Texas Food Bank.....(214) 269-0906
American Red Cross, Dallas-Ft. Worth.....(214) 678-4800
North Texas Behavioral Health Authority
24/7 Mental Health Support Line.....1 (833) 251-7544
24/7 Crisis Hotline.....1 (866) 260-8000
Metrocare Services Coronavirus Support Line.....(214) 743-1215
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Foreclosure
Prevention
HOPE for Homeowners Hotline.....1(888) 995-4673
Genesis Women Shelter & Support(214) 946-4357