



JULIE JOHNSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 115



Summer 2022 Legislative Update

Dear Neighbor,

As we quickly go through the 87th Interim and approach the next legislative session, I wanted to share with you a few updates, information, and resources that are important to House District 115.

In 2021, the Legislature conducted its 87th Legislative Session and three additional special sessions coming to a conclusion in October. Since then the Texas House of Representatives has assigned charges to all committees to study and hear testimony. Numerous committee hearings have taken place and will continue through the year. Additionally, new committees have been established to look more deeply into health care reform, criminal justice reform, and youth health. If you are interested in learning more about each committee's charges, hearings, or providing testimony, you can visit house.texas.gov or reach out to our office.

When the next legislative session begins in January 2023, the character of our state and how we respond to the conditions of the last few years will be a top priority. The education of Texas children is one of the most important things the state does. Yet, today we are at an impasse on what our students should learn and how our teachers should teach. Many of the school districts in HD 115 are asking for input from citizens as they examine current policies and practices. Reach out to your mayor, city manager, and council member and let your voice be heard on these policies that directly affect us all. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the utmost importance of accessible, affordable health care. As such, this continues to be one of my top priorities in the Legislature and our team will continue to push to increase Texans' access to care.

Another issue that I, and many colleagues, will push to address is the continuation of mass shootings in Texas. On Tuesday, May 24, 19 beautiful children and 2 dedicated teachers were taken from this world in Uvalde, Texas. Our hearts break for the families of the victims and the entire Uvalde community. Unfortunately, our state has seen too many mass shootings and attacks in grocery stores, places of worship, and schools. This tragedy and others were preventable, and I will continue to fight to ensure that we do not see another one in the future.

Before the next session, there will be a midterm election this upcoming November. The Texas Legislature updated voting laws and went through the redistricting process in 2021, so it is important to check your voter registration, new districts, and vote-by-mail regulations. HD 115 went through some boundary changes as well. Our team welcomes you, and we look forward to getting to know all our new constituents in the coming months.

As we continue to navigate through this year, the HD 115 team wants to remind you that we are here to help. If you are in need of assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our 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 E. Johnson

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM UPDATE

INTERIM CHARGES

Earlier this year, Speaker Dade Phelan assigned interim charges for all House Committees to study for the remainder of the year. Each committee will hold hearings to study the assigned charges and compile a report at the end of the year with their findings and recommendations for the next session. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee and the Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee, Rep. Johnson will hear from experts and public testimony in those areas. The Appropriations Committee will focus on the implementation of various appropriations bills passed in the 87th session, revenue bonds to fund capital projects at public institutions of higher education, long-term capital needs of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, monitor funds from the Flood Infrastructure Fund, and review the use of federal funds by the Texas Education Agency and local school districts. The Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee will study solutions to improve judicial efficiency of the state court of appeals, evaluate the use and types of guardianships, study the operations of specialty courts, and review procedures relating to jury service eligibility.

In addition to the standing committees, two new committees were created to examine the state's criminal justice and health care systems. The Interim Study Committee on Criminal Justice Reform will monitor recent changes made to the state's bail system and examine policing, criminal procedure and due process,

transparency in the grand jury process, the appropriate age range for the juvenile justice system, and opportunities to reduce recidivism. The House Select Committee on Health Care Reform will study the costs of Texas Medicaid, monitor the implementation of current price transparency requirements, evaluate fiscal positive options to ensure Texans have access to health care, study ways to improve outreach to families with children eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, and examine the impact of delayed care on the state's health care delivery system.

After the tragic shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, Speaker Phelan established an investigative committee to conduct an examination into the circumstances surrounding the shooting. The committee possesses the power of subpoena and is authorized to conduct deposition and initiate discovery. The Select Committee on Youth Health & Safety and the Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee were also assigned additional joint interim charges on the issue. All interim charges can be viewed in detail on the Texas House of Representatives' website.

88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The next legislative session will begin on January 10, 2023, and our team is already preparing. Rep. Johnson has been meeting with constituents, local city officials, school districts, businesses, and advocates to better represent District 115. Many bills filed in session are a collaboration between members and individuals or organizations in their district. We would love to hear what issues are most important to you as we develop our legislative agenda.



At the Metrocrest Services Keyholder Breakfast with CEO Tracy Eubanks



Volunteering at TXU Energy's Beat the Heat event at Irving Cares



Visit the Capitol

The State Capitol Building is open to the public all year, with the exception of major holidays. The Capitol's visiting hours are 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Professionally guided tours of the Capitol are available throughout visiting hours, free of charge.

HOUSE DISTRICT 115

During the interim, one of my favorite parts of being a state representative is meeting constituents in the district. Texas House District 115 encompasses the City of Coppell and parts of the City of Carrollton, Dallas, Farmers Branch, and Irving. After the redistricting process last year, District 115 will now include all of Addison. With so many vibrant cities, our district always has an event or activity to join. Our team shares as many as we can find, but we encourage everyone to see what is happening near you!

Addison: www.addisontexas.net/specialevents

Carrollton: www.cityofcarrollton.com/about-us/calendar/special-events

Coppell: www.coppelltx.gov/804/Special-Events

Dallas: www.dallascityhall.com/calendar/

Farmers Branch: www.farmersbranchtx.gov/556/Special-Events

Irving: www.cityofirving.org/1236/Special-Events

This year I have had so many great visits in and around the district, including at Polk Middle School, DFW Airport, Metrocrest Services, and the Toyota Motor North America Headquarters. These visits provide opportunities to see and learn first-hand what is happening in District 115, assess needs, and highlight successes. I would love the opportunity to meet with you or your organization and hear how I can better represent you in Austin.

REDISTRICTING CHANGES

Last year, the Legislature went through the redistricting process where all Texas House, Texas Senate, Congressional, and State Board of Education seats were redrawn to reflect Texas' increased population. While House District 115 remained relatively intact, many of our constituents will be in a different State Senate District and/or Congressional District. To check all of your district information at the local, state, and federal levels you can visit the Dallas County Elections' Office at www.dallascountyvotes.org. For more information on the redistricting process, you can visit The Texas Legislative Council at redistricting.capitol.texas.gov. As always, you can reach out to our team if you have any questions or need assistance.



Visit with the U.S. India Chamber of Commerce DFW for their Annual Women's Conference



Attending the Honors Breakfast at Polk Middle School with Principal O'Sullivan

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, please consider a food bank. Contact organizations directly to get involved.

Are You Registered to Vote?

Request a Voter Registration Application at:

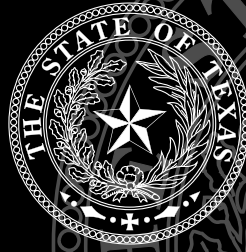
Dallas County Elections' Office www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-information/register-to-vote/
or Texas Secretary of State's Office <https://vrapp.sos.state.tx.us/index.asp>

Your voter registration application must be received in the Voter Registrar's office or postmarked at least 30 days before an election for you to be eligible to vote in that election.

JULIE JOHNSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 115

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE



HELPFUL NUMBERS

STATE AGENCIES

Secretary of State Voter Info: (800) 252-8683
Texas Workforce Commission
Unemployment and Workforce Solutions: (800) 939-6631
Dept. of Family & Protective Services
Abuse/Neglect Hotline: (800) 252-5400
Youth & Runaway Hotline: (800) 989-6884
Dept. of Public Safety
Driver's License: (512) 424-2600
Roadside Assistance: (800) 525-5555
Texas Veteran's Commission
Veteran's Hotline: (800) 252-8387
Crime Victims' Compensation Program: (800) 983-9933
Texas Crime Stoppers Hotline: (800) 252-8477
Public Utility Commission
Utility Complaints: (888) 782-8477
Medicaid: (800) 252-8263
Medicare: (800) 633-4227

LOCAL SERVICES

City of Carrollton: (972) 466-3000
City of Coppell: (972) 462-0022
City of Farmers Branch: (972) 247-3131
City of Irving: (972) 721-2600
Dallas County District Attorney: (214) 653-3600
Metrocrest Services: (972) 446-2100
RAICES Dallas: (214) 295-9554
Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas: (214) 748-1234
Genesis Women's Shelter & Support: (214) 389-7700
North Texas Food Bank: (214) 330-1396
Mosaic Family Services: (214) 821-5393
Dallas County Public Defender: (214) 653-3550
Texas Bar Referral Service: (800) 252-9690