

SAM HARLESS

**State Representative District 126
December 2019 Newsletter**



Texas House of Representatives



District 126

**News
and
Information**



END OF YEAR ONE

December, Christmas, and New Years comes on us quickly it seems, and it also signals the end of my first year in Office as your State Representative in District 126. I have been a part of this community for many years and it is such a privilege to now represent it and your interests at the State Legislature. It affords me a tremendous opportunity to act as a liaison to local, state, and federal agencies for the myriad of issues that confront our community on a daily basis. As we all work together improving the quality of life in North Harris County, we have much work to do, yet so much to be thankful for. **Sam Harless, State Representative**

Coming In Next Month's Issue

A Review of the Status of Fireworks in Harris County

We get a few email and/or phone requests for the status of fireworks in

Harris County, so next month we will do a deep dive into fireworks in the unincorporated section of Harris County and hope to answer most if not all your questions about fireworks use for our area.

Around The District



Darcy Mingoia Retires

Darcy Mingoia has been a fixture in the Cy-Fair area for many years and her dedication to the community is unquestionable. She retired as a trustee from the Cy-Fair ISD Board this month and I was happy to provide her with a proclamation from Governor Greg Abbott commemorating the occasion and her service to the students and the school district.



Cindy Doyle Retires

Cindy Doyle's contributions to the Spring/Klein area have been numerous. She was recognized this month on the occasion of her retirement by the Spring ISD Board.



I had the opportunity to attend and add my congratulations and appreciation for her service and commitment to the success of the students of Klein ISD.



KLEIN ISD Foundation



Klein Education Foundation Distributes Grants

I was honored to accompany the Directors and Staff of the Klein ISD Education Foundation as they distributed over \$56,000 in grants to individual campuses across the District for innovative programs that motivate and benefit the students and the district. This community



level interest goes a long way to provide additional support for the public education reforms instituted by the legislature this year in House Bill 3.

We have some of the best school districts in the state. Ones we can be very proud of.

[Klein ISD Education Foundation](#)

News On Affordable Housing Action At The County Level

During the first part of December, Commissioner's Court took action to remove the input that constituents have historically provided to state legislators from consideration for tax credits in low income housing applications at the four percent(4%) level. State law still requires that input for applications at the nine percent (9%) but long standing policy for Commissioners Court, required a letter of support from State Representatives from the affected area. We have heard from a number of people in the community regarding this issue this year and will be watching to see what affect it has (if any) for our area. Please know that our Commissioner, Jack Cagle fought to retain that input and to continue to work with local legislators, but was outvoted on the measure.

TEXAS HOUSE INTERIM CHARGES

COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

1. Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rule-making and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including select legislation.
2. Receive an update on the 2020 electric reliability forecasts announced by ERCOT and review operational successes and issues from the summer of 2019. The Committee will receive invited testimony from the PUC, ERCOT and other interested parties. Study the electric market to determine potential barriers in attracting sufficient energy supply; examine the obstacles and/or incentives for the development and deployment of new energy supply technology and peak system energy demand management technology; evaluate opportunities for competitive development of energy supply microgrids and the potential for enhancing reliability by transitioning municipally owned utilities to focus on transmission and distribution functions. Examine the enhancement of retail customers' energy supply management capability through promotion of greater retail price transparency. Examine and make recommendations concerning the build-out of necessary infrastructure to support the increased proliferation of electric vehicles, considering impacts to consumers.
3. Study the regulation and use of unmanned aircraft in Texas, including the appropriate use of drone technology in responding to and recovering from a natural disaster. Examine opportunities for public and private sector

utilization of this emerging technology while ensuring privacy protections for individuals.

4. Study how governmental entities use public funds for political lobbying purposes. Examine what types of governmental entities use public funds for lobbying purposes. Make recommendations to protect taxpayers from paying for lobbyists who may not represent the taxpayers' interests.
5. Examine whether adequate ethics laws, including reporting requirements, exist relating to legislator solicitation of non-state funds, including lobby and corporate funds, used to sponsor both national and international travel for junkets and so-called "fact-finding" trips. Make recommendations for potential statutory changes relating to transparency or prohibitions.
6. Monitor the State Auditor's review of agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Chair shall seek input and periodic briefings on completed audits for the 2019 and 2020 fiscal years and bring forth pertinent issues for full committee consideration.

COMMITTEE ON LICENSING & ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1. Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rule-making and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including select legislation.
2. Study efforts by the TABC to combat human trafficking at all licensed locations. Make recommendations to increase the TABC's ability to rescue victims and successfully prosecute more criminals, including recommending harsher penalties for permit holders that have been identified as participating in human trafficking, and to make regulatory or statutory changes needed to prevent human trafficking in this state.
3. Examine "control label" products and their impact on the three-tier system and alcoholic beverage industry in the state. Make recommendations to regulate control label products in a way that promotes economic growth, benefits the consumer, and stabilizes the three-tier system.
4. Evaluate the Texas wine industry and the current labeling requirements associated with the use of "Texas" as an appellation. Determine if current regulations and permitting rules are adequate to support the industry's development.
5. Monitor the State Auditor's review of agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Chair shall seek input and periodic briefings on completed audits for the 2019 and 2020 fiscal years and bring forth pertinent issues for full committee consideration.

2019 Interim Charges

In The District

**Greater Tomball Area
Chamber of Commerce**

**Transportation and Mobility
Committee**
2nd Tuesday of each month



Meeting Location:
29201 Quinn Rd.
Tomball, Texas 77375
Upstairs Conference Room

Tomball Government Affairs
Committee

**Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce
Transportation\Government Affairs
Committee**



The committee meets the 1st Thursday of each month to discuss governmental issues that confront their Cy-Fair area. They meet at the Chamber offices located at 8711 Highway 6 North, Ste. 120 Houston, TX 77095.

Cy-Fair Chamber Website



**Houston NW Chamber
Public Safety Forum**

Visit the Houston NW Chamber
Website

Public Safety Forum Meeting:
4th Thursday each month
8:30 am - 9:30 am
Champions Emergency Services
District
12730 Champion Forest Dr.
Houston, TX 77066

Visit our House of Representative Website:

Contact Us

Capitol Office Phone - 512-463-0496

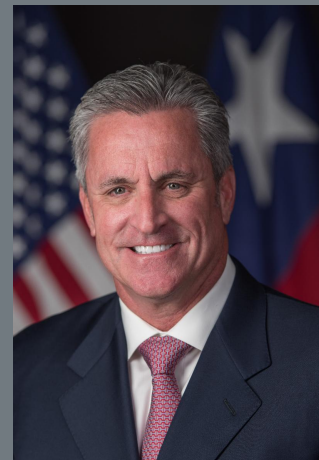
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