

SAM HARLESS

State Representative District 126
November 2020 Newsletter



Texas House of Representatives



District 126

**News
and
Information**



Elections

Local and state elections are all decided and while challenges to the presidential election continue, the Texas Legislature is making preparations for the 87th Session to begin in January 2021. We are starting to get a glimpse of the restrictions to be placed on general operations of the Texas House of Representatives to accommodate a session under COVID. We will likely see some limitations on persons to be permitted on the House floor, the galley, and surrounding areas. They are still working out the details for the operation of things like committee hearings, but there is a strong desire to keep the

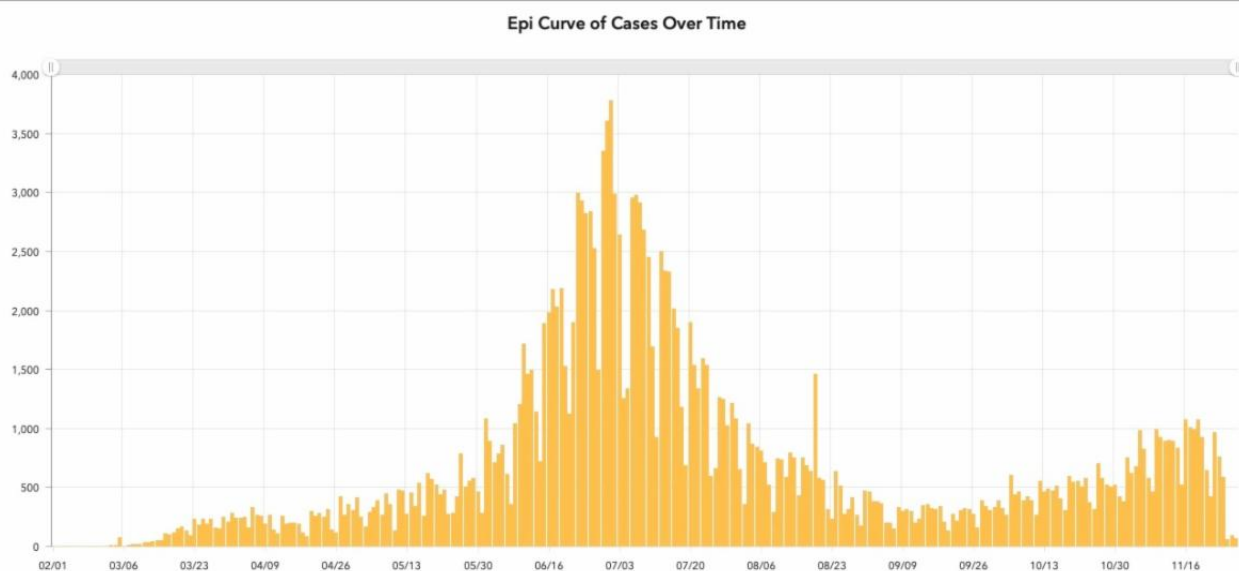
hearings in the Texas House open to allow for public testimony, as in years past. We will update here and on Facebook as news becomes available.

Also a note on our Capitol office change. We have moved up one floor to E1-402 effective December 10th. Our Capitol phone number remains the same 512-463-0496.

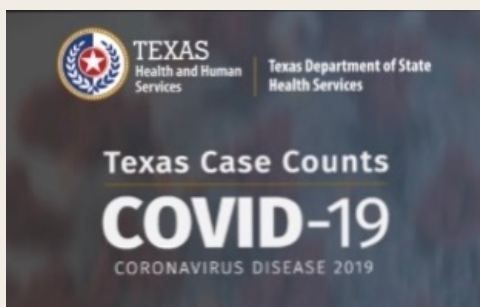
COVID's Continuing Impact On Texas

COVID STATS & INFO

COVID Cases Reported In Harris County

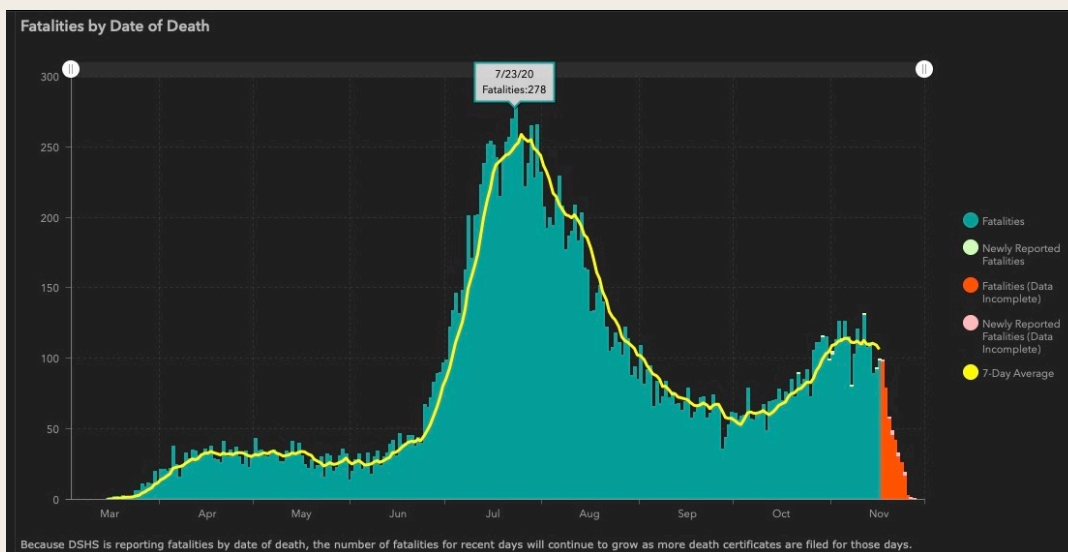
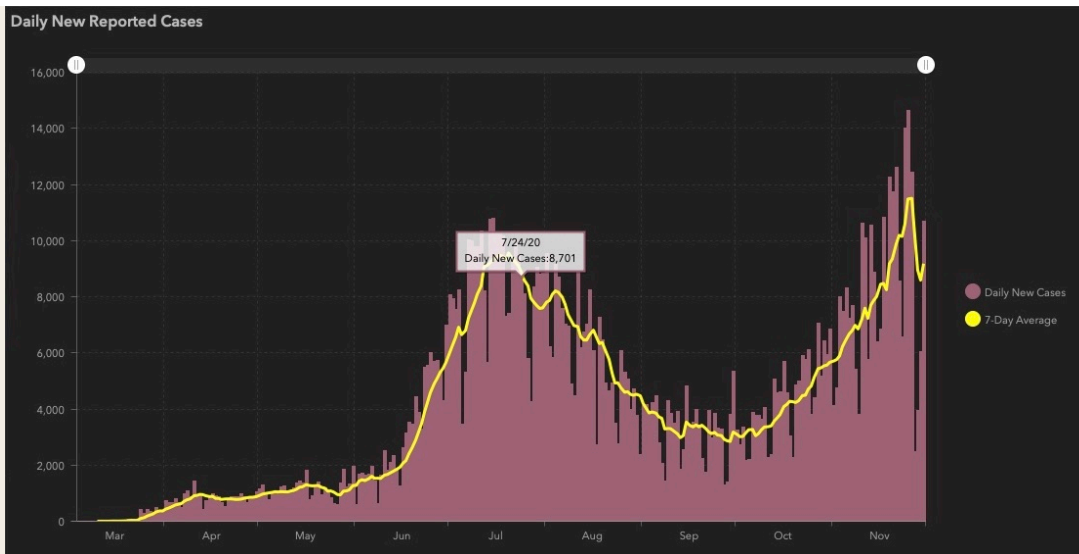


The chart above provides a reflection of COVID-19 cases reported for all of Harris County by the last day of the month. It should be noted there will be occasional time lags or delays in reporting that can affect total numbers. These charts can be found at the Harris County Dashboard www.readyharris.org



Texas COVID Cases Statewide

The two charts below come from the [Texas Covid Dashboard](#) and reflect the recent uptick in daily reported cases statewide along with the trend in fatalities.



November continues to show an uptick in the number of positive cases statewide and a slow but steady decline in the fatality rate. Texas has now exceeded the **1 million** mark in positive cases and over **21,000** fatalities, the trend for reported daily positive cases in Harris County showed increases through the middle of the month while fatalities locally and statewide has slowed. Hospitalizations statewide have been on the rise with hotspots in metropolitan areas of the state. Harris County continues to lead the state in total cases.

Texas has convened a "Vaccine Allocation Panel", consisting of medical subject matter experts and legislators to develop and apply guiding principles for recommendations in allocating COVID vaccines across the state. Some of those principles may include finding equitable distribution methodologies. These recommendations from the EVAP have been sent to the Texas Commissioner of Health and approved. All this in preparation for the 1.4 million doses of the vaccine allocated and scheduled to arrive in Texas near the middle of December. According to news reports, nearly 6,500 health care and pharmacy technicians have registered to administer the vaccine by the end of November.

In District 126, we have now seen 127 reported deaths and 13,655 reported positive cases as of the end of November. We have also had 11,774 recovered cases in the District. While these are just statistics, remember these cases and fatalities are friends, neighbors, and loved ones.

To find a testing site near you, follow this link:

[COVID Testing Locations](#)

THREAT LEVEL SYSTEM

Harris County's Threat Level System, which can be found here: [READY HARRIS THREAT LEVEL](#), provides the current threat status to the County. Judge Hidalgo's executive order remains in place requiring businesses to have health and safety policies and to have their employees, customers, and visitors wear masks or face coverings. Executive Orders and other COVID related news for Harris County as well as the COVID Dashboard can always be found at www.readyharris.org.

Update on the County Threat Level System.

As of 12/04/2020, Harris County is no longer meeting any of the indicators set forth by Harris County Public Health and Judge Hidalgo that are needed to move from Threat Level Red down to Threat Level Orange. The following information was provided by HCPH.

Hospital Population Trends - INDICATOR NOT MET

- Requirement: Negative 14-day trends for COVID-19 hospital population.
- Current Status: COVID-19 General Population and ICU 14-day trends are positive with 95% confidence:

Hospital Usage - INDICATOR NOT MET

- Requirement: 14-day average of COVID-19 hospital population below 15%.
- Current Status: COVID-19 ICU 14-day average population is 18.5% of capacity.

New Cases: Trend - INDICATOR NOT MET

- Requirement: 14-day trend for new COVID-19 cases is negative.
- Current Status: 14-day trend of new cases is increasing by less than 1 case per day.

New Cases: Total - INDICATOR NOT MET

- Requirement: 14-day average of new cases in Harris County below 400.
- Current Status: 14-day average of new cases is 1,061 cases per day.

Positivity Rate - INDICATOR NOT MET

- Requirement: 14-day average of COVID-19 test positivity rate below 5%.
- Current Status: 14-day average of COVID-19 test positivity is 8.9%.

If people want to learn more about Judge Hidalgo and HCPH's benchmarks for a healthy community and metrics for their Threat Level System, they can visit: https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Portals/27/Documents/INFO_ReopeningStrategyPUBLIC-FULL-081120.pdf?ver=2020-08-12-134214-410.

As your State Representative, I continue to maintain contact with our county and state officials and provide you details and updates from those calls. I try to keep you posted on updates to news and announcements about local actions and state efforts to contain this virus and to provide the highlights so you aren't inundated and hope you find our information useful. Like many of you I am concerned about the growing restrictions on our lives and businesses and I hope it yields a continued improvement in the spread of the virus in the coming months.

Let me say again how proud I am to be chosen once again to represent the residents of House District 126. I will continue to work to make our business and communities better places to work and live.

Sam Harless, State Representative

Please follow my Facebook page for daily updates and new information at: www.Facebook.com/samharless126

or our Twitter Page at

<https://twitter.com/SamHarless126>

COVID-19 Resources

State of Texas Resources

Governor Abbott's Website for News

<https://gov.texas.gov/news>

Executive Orders (Proclamations)

<https://gov.texas.gov/news/category/proclamation>

Texas Unemployment Commission

District 126 has a population of 190,040 residents with an Unemployment Claim Count of 1,008 during the last thirty days.

DPS

The Department of Public Safety has continued a phased re-opening of Driver's License Offices, offered by appointment only. Appointments can be made here:

<https://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/appointments.htm>

DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles)

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) is open for most Regional Service Centers for in-person transactions by same-day or next-day appointment only. Appointments may be scheduled at www.TxDmv.gov/appointment. The temporary waiver of vehicle title and registration requirements remains in effect. TxDMV will notify the public when normal services have resumed. Texans will then have 60 days to complete any overdue vehicle title and registration transactions.

TEA (Texas Education Agency)

The Texas Education Agency now has a COVID-19 support page for student assessment for the STARR test with information about extensions. Here you can find guidance and resources organized by the following categories. Simply click on this link [TEA EXTENSION](#) to be taken directly to those resources below on the page. For questions, please email disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov.

The complete guidelines for business re-opening, with protocols and reopening dates can be found at the Department of State Health Services:

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx>

Texas Workforce Commission

The Texas Workforce Commission encourages unemployment claimants to utilize employment resources such as the Skills Enhancement Initiative and Workforce Solutions Centers. These employment services as well as state unemployment insurance and State Extended Benefits will continue after CARES Act funding expires on December 26, 2020.

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) continues to explore options to keep the 2021 tax rates as low as possible for Texas employers as Texas and the entire nation continue to deal with the economic disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more about 2021 tax rates in the press release.](#)

Nov. 20, 2020, Austin, TX – Texas' private sector added 136,300 jobs over the month, and the Texas unemployment rate fell to 6.9 percent in October from 8.3 percent in September. The Texas unemployment rate for October 2020 is in line with the National unemployment rate of 6.9 percent.

“The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) encourages individuals previously deemed monetarily ineligible for unemployment benefits to reapply online starting Sunday, April 5, 2020. This date marks the beginning of a new quarter and as such the base period for unemployment benefits and those previously ineligible may now qualify.”

TWC Website to Apply for Benefits: [TWC Unemployment Benefits](#)

TWC has a new Chat service on their website in the bottom right of the screen, called "Chat With Us". This new function will be able to answer most general questions from individual.

<https://www.twc.texas.gov>

Texas Workforce Claims For November

Week

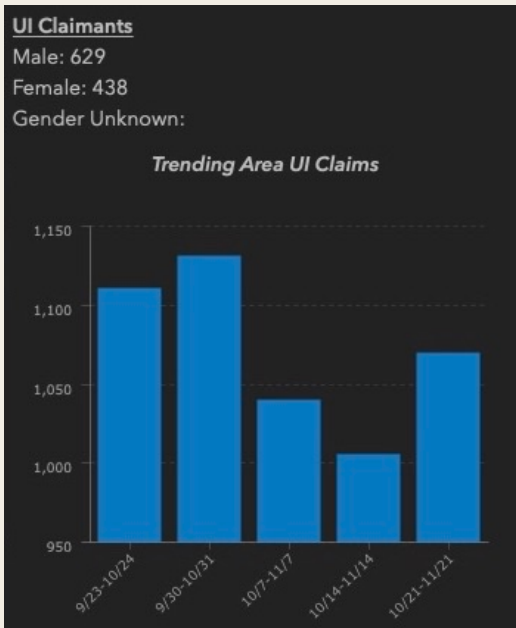
Starting Total Internet Telephone Other

11/7	32,422 *	29,500	14,600	61,700
11/14	38,060*	31,400	15,400	55,700
11/21	80,600	23,700	12,600	44,300
11/28	82,200	21,200	12,300	48,700

Unless indicated, numbers are estimates based on internal TWC data and are subject to revision.

* Official Department of Labor Data when available and TWC Estimates.

District 126 has a population of 190,040 residents with an Unemployment Claim Count of 1,070 during the last **thirty days**. Unemployment claims for our area have dropped and continues its downward trend.



Top 5 Unemployment Insurance Claim Industries for District 126

- Temporary help services
- Elementary and secondary schools
- Professional employer organizations
- Full-service restaurants
- Oil and gas field machinery and equipment

Harris County COVID Resources

Harris County and Harris Public Health has a lot of information available.

Harris County Public Health - [Harris Health Confirmed CoronaVirus Cases](#)

Harris Public Health Self Assessment Tool: [Self Assessment Tool](#)

Stay Home Order: <https://www.readyharris.org/stay-home>

Testing Sites

In Houston and Harris County, currently there are 6 testing FEMA supported sites with a capacity of 1,400 tests per day with enough supplies to last 20 more days. There are many times more tests being done by private labs outside the public testing sites.

Along with their two permanent and four mobile testing sites, Harris County has partnered with Walgreens to create two additional drive through testing sites. These sites are a partnership project and are managed by Walgreens and results are available within 24 hours. To find a location near you go here: [Harris County Testing Location Website](#)

ReadyHarris Website: <https://www.readyharris.org/#resources>

Harris County Fire Marshal hotline to report businesses who are in violation of the County and State COVID-19 health and safety policies - 832-839-6941

Precinct 4 Commissioner Community Assistance - [Pct 4 Community assistance](#)

People can sign up to receive emergency alerts from Harris County at: [Ready Harris Alert Signup](#).

Also, 2-1-1 is a resource hotline set up by Harris County. If someone is in need of resources fast they can call that number and they will be connected to resources in their community. They can also text CV19 to 888-777. This hotline is available 24/7.

City of Houston

Houston Public Health Dept - <https://houstonemergency.org/covid19/>

Federal Resources / Websites

CDC- Center for Disease Control: [CDC Coronavirus](#)

Small Business Administration: [SBA](#)

SBA Paycheck Protection Program - [Paycheck Protection Loans](#)
An SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed
(during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.)

FEMA Corona Response: [FEMA CoronaVirus](#)

Around The District

Our Schools and COVID

Fortunately, we haven't seen the dramatic spike in COVID cases associated with school reopening that was anticipated by some, largely as a result of the planning and preparation by each of our districts, their leadership, and superintendents. We should all be very thankful that they are monitoring the health and safety of our children.

Our School Districts are closely monitoring COVID cases in the staff and student population. You can see the COVID Campus Dashboards for each of our area districts here:

[Klein ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

[Cy-Fair ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

[Tomball ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

[Spring ISD COVID Dashboard](#)

In The District



Spring Volunteer Fire Department Food Drive

Due to COVID-19 there is a serious need for non-perishable food and toy donations, but the Spring Fire Department is really struggling to receive enough donations.

What is needed: Non-perishable food such as canned vegetables and canned meats, rice, beans, cereal and baby food are the most needed items at the food bank. They would also appreciate donations through December 13



for their Toys For Tots toy drive.

For more information please go to their Facebook Page:

[Spring Fire Department](#)

Emergency Services District 11 & Cypress Creek EMS Emergency Medical Service Conflicts in Our Community

By now some of you have heard of the friction between ESD 11 (Emergency Services District) and Cypress Creek EMS. This is a conflict that affects critical emergency medical services in our community and should be of interest to all of those living or working in our area. It is all of our best interests to ensure we have the best emergency medical services plan in place to serve our residents.

The short story is that ESD 11, as an elected body, has taken action to cancel the emergency services contract with Cypress Creek EMS. They have given 360 days notice, which will become effective within the next year. Cypress Creek EMS has been the primary EMS provider for many in our area since 1975 and some in our community may not be even be aware this issue exists.

We encourage you to make sure you are informed on the issues and have had an opportunity to provide your input.

Website for both entities are listed below. Each has information regarding their actions and positions on the issues.

ESD 11 - <https://esd11.com>

Cypress Creek EMS - <https://www.ccems.com>

Precinct 4 Commissioner Capital Project Status Update

(Our thanks to Pct 4 Commissioner Cagle's Office and Pamela Rocchi)

(There were no changes to the project status for November)

Boudreaux Road 3 between Old Boudreaux Lane and Gleannloch Forest Drive at SH 99

- Summary: Proposed improvements include widening Boudreaux Road to a 4-lane concrete pavement section with improved drainage accommodations and traffic signal installation/modification as warranted.
- Status: Pre-Planning Phase

- Construction Timeline: TBD
- Construction Cost: TBD

Bourgeois Road between Cutten Road and West Richey Road

- Summary: Proposed improvements include upgrading Bourgeois Road as a 2-lane concrete pavement section with improved drainage accommodations and traffic signal installation/modification as warranted.
- Status: Study Phase
- Construction Timeline: TBD
- Construction Cost: TBD

Cutten Road between Bavaria Drive and Cossey Road

- Summary: Proposed improvements include the extension of Cutten Road as a 4-lane concrete pavement section with improved drainage accommodations and traffic signal installation/modification as warranted.
- Status: Pre-Planning Phase
- Construction Timeline: TBD
- Construction Cost: TBD

Cypress North Houston Road between Jones Road and FM 1960

- Summary: Planned improvements include widening and extending Cypress North Houston Road (formerly Lou Edd Road) as a 4-lane concrete pavement section with improved drainage accommodations and traffic signal installations at Misty Moss Drive, Autumn Mills Drive, and FM 1960.
- Status: Design Phase
- Construction Timeline: Goal to advertise for construction purposes in early 2021 (barring any unforeseen circumstances).
- Construction Cost: TBD

Hollister Street 4 between Log Hollow Drive and Breen Drive

- Summary: Proposed improvements include extending Hollister Street as a 4-lane concrete pavement section with improved drainage accommodations and traffic signal installation/modification as warranted.
- Status: Pre-Planning Phase
- Construction Timeline: TBD
- Construction Cost: TBD

Hufsmith-Kohrville Road 2 between Hollow Glen Lane and Ezekiel Road

- Summary: Planned improvements include widening Hufsmith-Kohrville Road as a 4-lane concrete pavement section with improved drainage accommodations and traffic signal installations at Lacey Road and Ezekiel Road.
- Status: Design Phase
- Construction Timeline: Goal to advertise for construction purposes in early 2021 (barring any unforeseen circumstances).
- Construction Cost: TBD

Hufsmith-Kohrville Road 3 between Ezekiel Road and Holderrieth Road

- Summary: Planned improvements include widening Hufsmith-Kohrville Road as a 4-lane concrete pavement section with improved drainage accommodations and traffic signal installation at Woodland Shore Drive.
- Status: Design Phase
- Construction Timeline: TBD
- Construction Cost: TBD

Fairbanks North Houston Road at Terrace Brook Drive

- Summary: Planned traffic signalization of intersection as warranted.
- Status: Design Phase
- Construction Timeline: **Goal to begin construction in first quarter of 2021** (barring any unforeseen circumstances).
- Construction Cost: TBD

Stuebner Airline Road at Oakwood Glen Boulevard

- Summary: Modernize existing traffic signal with pedestrian push button components and ADA-accessible ramps.
- Status: Design Phase
- Construction Timeline: Goal to begin construction in **January 2021** (barring any unforeseen circumstances).
- Estimated Construction Cost: \$65,000

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality 4 joint participation project with Texas Department of Transportation

Phase 4-1C – North Eldridge Parkway corridor between Clay Road and FM 1960, and between Grant Road and Spring Cypress Road

- Summary: Construction was recently completed for the project on September 30, 2020. Improvements included installation of new traffic signal systems, battery back-up installation for existing traffic signal systems, extension and installation of turn lanes, and installation of fiber optic interconnection system along the North Eldridge Parkway corridor.
- Status: Complete
- Construction Timeline: April 8, 2019 – September 30, 2020
- Construction Cost: \$4,415,329

Phase 4-2D – SH 249 corridor between Antoine Drive and Spring Cypress Road, and FM 529 corridor between Greenhouse Road and North Eldridge Parkway

- Summary: Planned improvements include installation of additional turn lanes, turn lane extensions, and median modifications along the SH 249 and FM 529 corridors.
- Status: Construction Phase
- Construction Timeline: August 2019 – March 2022
- Construction Cost: \$3,618,458

Phase 4-2E – Beltway 8 corridor between West Gulf Bank Road and T.C. Jester Boulevard

- Summary: Planned improvements include installation of additional turn lanes, turn lane extensions, and median modifications along the Beltway 8 corridor.
- Status: Construction Phase
- Construction Timeline: August 2019 – March 2022
- Construction Cost: \$3,000,244

Phase 4-2F – SH 6 corridor between West Little York Road and West Road, and FM 1960 corridor between Fallbrook Drive and Kenswick Drive

- Summary: Planned improvements include installation of additional turn lanes, turn lane extensions, and median modifications along the SH 6 and FM 1960 corridors.
- Status: Construction Phase
- Construction Timeline: August 2019 – March 2022
- Construction Cost: \$2,000,868



**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

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

[Houston NW Chamber Website](#)

[Visit our House of Representative Website:](#)

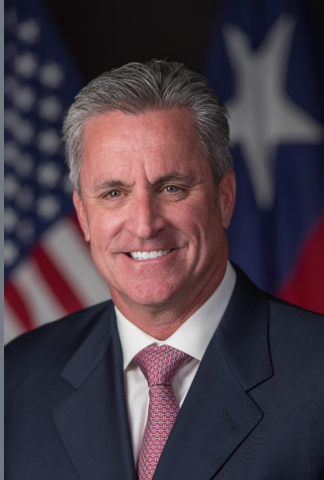
Contact Us

Capitol Office Phone - 512-463-0496
District Office Phone - 281-251-0194
District Office Address - 6630 Cypresswood Dr #150
Spring, Tx 77379

Ron Hickman
Chief of Staff
[Email Ron](#)

Ashley Hyten
Legislative Director
[Email Ashley](#)

James Cook
District Director
[Email James](#)



[Email Sam](#)



State Rep Sam Harless | P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by district126.harless@house.texas.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!