



# GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 54

## NEWSLETTER

February 2021

Friends,

As we enter into March, I wanted to highlight some important events during the month of February.

February 12th was Lunar New Year. While I know some of our celebrations may look different this year, I hope you all enjoyed Lunar New Year and wish you all a prosperous year.

February marked Black History Month - a time to recognize the contributions of the Black community in our culture and history.

As we continue to battle this pandemic, I want to provide eligible constituents the resources to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine.

I would also like to raise caution regarding scams taking advantage of those trying to file for unemployment benefits through TWC.

February 26th was the State of Texas' Blood, Bone Marrow, and Organ Donation Day!

As most of you know, we are currently in session for the 87th legislature. I have been assigned to Appropriations as well as Juvenile Justice and Family Issues.

I hosted my first Legislative Townhall for this session detailing my legislative priorities.

Harris County and the City of Houston will be providing rental assistance to those financially impacted by the pandemic.

It is an honor to serve and represent you in the Texas Legislature. Please feel free to contact my office at any time.

Sincerely,



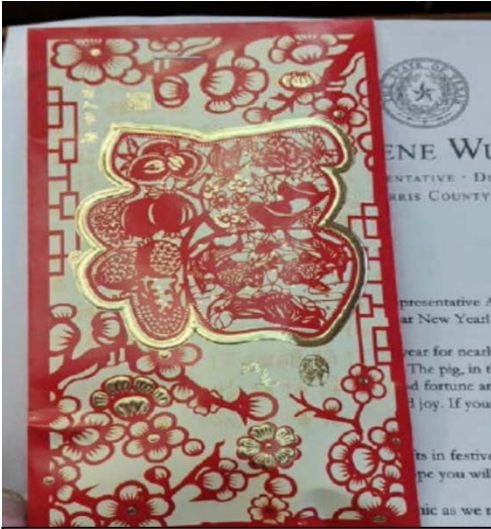
Representative Wu being sworn in on the first day of the 87th Legislative Session.

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# Lunar New Year

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Giving red envelopes filled with money is a Lunar New Year tradition to symbolize good wishes and good luck.

This February 12th was Lunar New Year and marks the beginning of the Year of the Ox. Lunar New Year, also called Spring Festival is typically celebrated in China and other Asian countries beginning with the first new moon of the lunar calendar.

The years of the Ox in the Chinese Horoscope are: 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2008, and 2021.

In the Chinese Zodiac, the Ox is very hardworking - many believe 2021 will be a year where hard work will be heavily rewarded!

# Black History Month

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The month of February commemorates Black History Month and the countless contributions of the Black community.

For this reason, I would like to highlight the Houston Museum of African American Culture whose mission is to collect, conserve and, exhibit African American culture and the African diaspora.

The HMAAC serves as a resource to preserve, promote and celebrate Black history within Houston. The museum is currently taking visitors by appointment only.



The Houston Museum of African American Culture  
Location: 4807 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas, 77004

## COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

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If you are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine (healthcare worker or 65+ years old), you may now schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine from Harris County Public Health (HCPH) or the City of Houston by clicking [here](#) as well as on the image to register.

I also encourage you to contact your primary care physician to schedule a vaccine appointment.

Although the vaccine is already here, it is imperative we still continue wearing our masks, washing our hands and social distancing in order to keep our communities safe.

## TWC Scam Warning

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There has recently been an influx of fraudsters posing as government officials.

If you are applying for unemployment please do not send sensitive information such as Social Security numbers, bank information, or driver's licenses in text messages. No state agency or legislative office will ever ask for that information through text messages or social media. In addition, be wary of clicking suspicious-looking links from unknown email addresses.

If you are approached with a suspicious message, click here to [report](#) or on the image.



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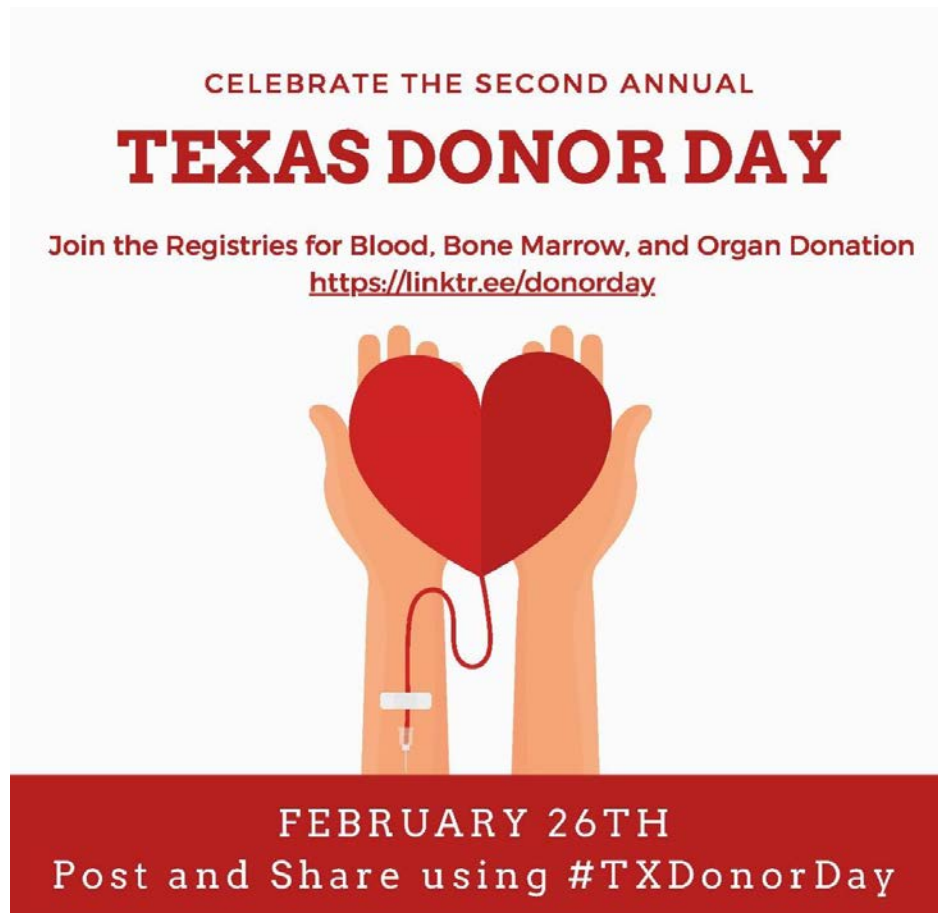
## Donor Day

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During Texas' 86th Legislative Session, I worked alongside many of you to pass HCR 42, establishing February 26th as Blood, Bone Marrow and Organ Donation Registration Day in the State of Texas.

This effort was inspired by Dr. Anh Nguyen Reiss, a distinguished physician who spent her career serving Southwest Houston. Dr. Reiss passed away on February 26, 2016 from a pre-leukemic condition that required a bone marrow transplant. After Dr. Reiss was unable to find a viable donor, she dedicated the final years of her life to spreading awareness for the need of donors - especially in minority and immigrant communities who are underrepresented in life-saving donor registries.

Help us commemorate this day by clicking this [link](#) or the image below to register to be a Blood, Bone Marrow, and Organ donor. Please share the graphic below to your networks and on social media with the hashtag #TXdonorday.



## Committee Assignments

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I have been chosen by the Speaker of the House to serve on House Committee on Appropriations, and the House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues.

This will be my third term serving on Appropriations, where I will serve on the subcommittee for Article III, which oversees our state's education funding. As a first-time member of the Juvenile Justice and Family Issues committee, I look forward to bringing my years of professional experience representing children in the judicial system to tackle the most pressing issues facing Texas children and families.

Click [link](#) or on the image if you would like to see the full list of committee assignments.

## Legislative Townhall

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On January 30, 2021 I hosted my first virtual townhall of the year to kick off the beginning of the 87th legislative session. This townhall discussed my legislative priorities and filed bills. We also explained how to use [Texas Legislature Online \(TLO\)](#) as a resource in order to stay updated on the progress of our bills.

Thank you to the engaged residents of District 137 who were able to attend the townhall. If you were unable to attend our zoom meeting, we have posted a recording on our [YouTube](#). Click the link or image to watch.

In our next virtual townhall meeting, we will be discussing the budget. Please check your emails for any updates on our next townhall.



# Rental Assistance

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The City of Houston and Harris County are partnering together with the Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program to aid with rent and utilities.

This program will provide \$159 million to renters experiencing housing instability due to the impacts of COVID-19. Those whose household income is at or below 80% of Area Median Family Income will be qualified for this program. Landlords interested in registering their property will need to enroll their property and agree to the terms of agreement. Applications are currently open.

If you have any questions, call the rental assistance hotline at 832-402-7568 or visit the Houston-Harris County Emergency Assistance Program website by clicking the image below. The hotline is open from 9am-6pm Monday-Friday and 10am-2pm on Saturday.

Click here to apply if you are a [renter](#).

Click here to apply if you are a [landlord](#).

