



GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 58

NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Friends,

This month is the Jewish new year and high holidays. L'Shanah Tovah to all who celebrate!

ALL Texans (12 years old and up) are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines are provided through the city, county, and many other providers.

Redistricting hearings will happen this month at the Texas legislature.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15th through October 15th.

Keep'em Safe Texas has tips for safe firearm storage.

HISD will host town halls this month for attending families.

If you would like to have an announcement featured in our newsletter, please contact us at district137.wu@house.texas.gov for information on submissions and deadlines.

It is an honor to serve and represent you.

Sincerely,



Rep. Wu and family ready for the first day of school! We hope all of our students and families in HD 137 had a smooth transition back to school, and are excited for a great year.

In this Issue...

- COVID-19 Vaccine Information
- TxLege Redistricting Hearings
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Keep'em Safe Texas
- HISD town halls

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

With the Delta variant surging, vaccination is more urgent than ever. Data shows that the Delta variant is different than past versions of the virus: it is much more contagious and people with breakthrough infections may spread it - even to those who have been vaccinated.

- Since COVID-19 vaccination began, nearly all Texas COVID-19 deaths are among people who are not fully vaccinated.
- Like any vaccine, COVID-19 vaccines cannot stop 100% of infections, but they do protect most people.
- While rare, breakthrough cases where fully vaccinated people get COVID-19 are expected, but fully vaccinated people are much less likely to get seriously sick.
- Full vaccination is the best defense against COVID-19 and its variants.
- Wearing a mask in indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status, helps protect you and everyone close to you.
- CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Learn more on the [CDC website](#). Click the image below to view a [map](#) of Houston Health Departments offering the vaccine.

Getting vaccinated is FREE and does not require ID, proof of residency, citizenship, or insurance.

People age 12 and older are eligible for FREE COVID-19 vaccination. Houston Health Department-affiliated vaccination sites are located across the city for walk-ins or appointments. Find nearby sites below or call 832-393-4220 for assistance.



Redistricting Hearings at the Texas Legislature

This month, the House Committee on Redistricting will hold hearings to take public testimony for upcoming redistricting process. Redistricting is done immediately following the completion of the census to ensure that representative districts have been updated or redrawn to account for the changes in population.

There will be 3 hearings held next week to take testimony from all parts of the state, and are scheduled for: 9/13(10am), 9/15(10am), 9/18(11am). The hearings can be live-streamed [here](#).

For those wishing to offer testimony, you may click [here](#) (instructions for Spanish speakers also included), or on the image below to get more information. Testimony can be offered in-person, or virtually, but all will need to pre-register.

If you have any questions or would like assistance registering, please contact my office for support:
district137.wu@house.texas.gov
(713) 271-3900

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

COMMITTEE: Redistricting
TIME & DATE: 10:00 AM, Monday, September 13, 2021
PLACE: Capitol Extension Auditorium, E1.004
CHAIR: Rep. Todd Hunter

The Committee will meet to hear public testimony regarding the 2020 U.S. Census data. The Committee will hear testimony about any area of the State.

The Committee will hear invited testimony from the State Demographer regarding the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau data.

The Committee also invites testimony from the public. **Members of the public who cannot attend the hearing in person may request to be invited to provide their testimony virtually by videoconference.**

A member of the public may request an invitation to provide testimony virtually by registering for an invitation in advance of the hearing at

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckcuyqrjsiH9DBd6h9PBwyEGD07WYuDo5b>

Registration for the hearing is now open and will close 48 hours prior to the start time of the hearing (10:00am on September 11, 2021). Once registration has closed, members of the public will no longer be able to register to be invited to testify at this hearing. However, members of the public may register to be invited to testify at any future hearing.

To provide testimony by videoconference, invited witnesses need access to a computer or other device with an Internet connection and audio/visual capability. If you do not have access to such a device, please visit your local library. Please note that you must remain visible and audible throughout your testimony. Information for completing the witness affirmation form and obtaining the videoconference link will be sent upon registration.

Interpretation assistance can be provided by request made at least 72 hours in advance of the hearing. Please contact committee staff at 512-463-9948 or TexasHouse.Redistricting@house.texas.gov.

To ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate, testimony from members of the public will be limited by the Chair.

The Chair will inform all participants at the start of the hearing the

September Is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month



September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Please see the resources below, or click on the pictures above to share these resources with your family, friends and contacts.

For mental health or substance use emergencies where your safety or the safety of others is at immediate risk, dial 9-1-1.

If you feel you are experiencing a mental health or substance use emergency but your safety or the safety of others is not at immediate risk, please contact:

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#): Dial 800-273-8255 (800-273-TALK)

[Veterans Crisis Line](#): Dial 800-273-8255, option 1

[24/7 Crisis Text Line](#): Text TX to 741741

[Texas 2-1-1](#): Dial 2-1-1, option 8

[24/7 Local Mental Health Authority Crisis Hotline](#) for substance use and other crisis services

[The Trevor Project](#) (LGBTQ suicide help): 866-488-7386 (text START to 6786780 or [chat online](#))

Non-Urgent Services

The first step when seeking help for non-emergency mental health or substance use challenges is to [find services in your area](#). You may call the referral line in your area for confidential help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please visit <https://mentalhealthtx.org/> for more information.

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans as we celebrate heritage rooted in all Latin American countries. From September 15 - October 15 we honor and highlight our district's Hispanic Heritage.

House District 137 is home to families from every corner of the Latin world, and takes immense pride in our abundance of Hispanic culture, music, food, and media. We are thankful for the rich contributions to our community, and look forward fostering a thriving and growing Hispanic community for generations to come!

For an in-depth look at Hispanic Heritage throughout our nation's history, please click the image below.



Keep'em Safe Texas

It's never a bad time for a reminder in firearm safety!

Please click on the images below for tips on how to safely store guns and ammunition. Safe storage helps to protect our families and loved ones, and is a great way to instill good habits and values in firearm safety to our youngsters.

SAFE GUN STORAGE CHECKLIST



SAFELY STORING FIREARMS IS THE DUTY OF EVERY GUN OWNER

Gun safety isn't just knowing how to handle a gun properly—it's also about keeping it from getting into the wrong hands. Whether you keep a gun in your car, home or somewhere else, safely storing it 24/7 is a must in order to protect our children, prevent avoidable injury, and keep our weapons out of the hands of criminals. Together, we can keep our fellow Texans safe!

THE 1-2-3s OF SAFE GUN STORAGE

1

Store unloaded and secured by using a trigger lock, biometric lock, gun case, strong box, gun cabinet or gun safe.

2

Store and lock ammunition safely.

3

Keep others from getting access to stored firearms 24/7. That includes family, friends, children, or other visitors.

ARE YOU PRACTICING SAFE GUN STORAGE? Make sure you can check ALL the boxes!

- Firearms are stored unloaded and locked using a firearm safe, lock box, trigger lock or cable lock.
- Ammunition is safely stored.
- Access to stored firearms is restricted from unauthorized persons (family, friends, children, contractors, repair personnel or uninvited persons) at all times – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, no matter where the firearm is located.
- All locking devices that use keys are in a place children and other unauthorized users are unaware of.
- I have read and understood the laws around my responsibility and liability, as the owner of the gun, should it be used by an unauthorized person such as a child.
- I have spoken to family members and trusted users asking them to use these safe storage steps. (Consider keeping this checklist near where you store your guns!)
- When my firearm is taken outside of my home (e.g., in a car), it must still be stored safely. Safe storage of firearms is practiced at all times.

A HIDDEN FIREARM IS NOT A SAFELY STORED FIREARM

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP KEEP 'EM SAFE, TEXAS!

SafeGunStorageTexas.com

LISTA DE VERIFICACIÓN PARA EL ALMACENAMIENTO SEGURO DE ARMAS



ALMACENAR DE MANERA SEGURA LAS ARMAS DE FUEGO ES EL DEBER DE TODO DUEÑO DE ARMAS

La seguridad con las armas de fuego no es simplemente saber manejar adecuadamente un arma, también es evitar que caiga en las manos equivocadas. Ya sea que tenga su arma en el carro, en la casa o en otro lugar, almacenarla de forma segura 24/7 es imperativo para proteger a sus hijos, evitar lesiones prevenibles y mantener nuestras armas fuera de las manos de criminales. ¡Juntos podemos mantener seguros a nuestros amigos texanos!

EL 1-2-3 DEL ALMACENAMIENTO SEGURO DE ARMAS

1

Almacenar el arma descargada y asegurada utilizando un seguro de gatillo, seguro biométrico, un estuche, una caja fuerte, un armero o gabinete de armas.

2

Asegurar y almacenar las municiones.

3

Evitar 24/7 que otras personas tengan acceso a las armas de fuego almacenadas. Eso incluye a familiares, amigos, niños y otros visitantes.

¿USTED ALMACENA DE MANERA SEGURA SUS ARMAS? ¡ASEGÚRESE DE MARCAR TODAS LAS CASILLAS!

- Las armas de fuego se almacenan descargadas y aseguradas utilizando el seguro del arma, una caja de seguridad, el seguro de gatillo o un candado de cable.
- Las municiones están almacenadas de manera segura.
- El acceso a las armas almacenadas está restringido a las personas no autorizadas (familia, amigos, niños, contratistas, reparadores o personas no invitadas) en todo momento, las 24 horas del día, los siete días de la semana, sin importar en dónde esté el arma.
- Los niños y otras personas no autorizadas no saben en dónde están los dispositivos de seguridad ni las llaves.
- He leído y comprendido las leyes en torno a mi responsabilidad y mis obligaciones, como propietario del arma, si fuera utilizada por una persona no autorizada, como un niño.
- He comunicado a familiares y a personas de confianza que sigan estos pasos para el almacenamiento seguro. (Considere mantener esta lista de verificación cerca de donde usted guarda sus armas!)
- Cuando mi arma de fuego sale de la casa (p. ej., en un carro), debe seguir guardada de manera segura. Las armas de fuego deben almacenarse de forma segura todo el tiempo.

ESCONDER UN ARMA NO ES ALMACENARLA DE FORMA SEGURA

APRENDA MÁS SOBRE CÓMO PUEDE AYUDAR, ¡MANTENLAS SEGURAS, TEXAS!

SafeGunStorageTexas.com

© 2010-2020 Texas Department of Public Safety

HISD Town Hall Meetings

HISD will host a series of town hall meetings with our new superintendent to hear from parents and families. The meetings listed below are in-person, but there will be a virtual meeting held on September 20th - register [here](#) for the virtual meeting.

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



HISD SUPERINTENDENT MILLARD HOUSE II is hosting a series of community town hall meetings to listen to input from the community about the district's future and learn about key issues that are important to stakeholders.

9/15/21 | 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

BELLAIRE HS

5100 Maple, Bellaire, TX 77401
Trustee Sue Deigaard
District V

9/23/21 | 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

CHÁVEZ HS

8501 Howard, 77017
Trustee Daniela Hernandez
District III

10/01/21 | 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

SHARPSTOWN HS

7504 Bissonnet, 77074
Trustee Holly Maria Flynn Vilaseca
District VI

9/20/21 | 6:00 – 7:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://bit.ly/3kFvf2z>

9/27/21 | 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

CARNEGIE VANGUARD HS

1501 Taft, 77019
Trustee Judith Cruz
District VIII

10/04/21 | 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

LAMAR HS

3325 Westheimer, 77098
Trustee Anne Sung
District VII

9/22/21 | 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

HEIGHTS HS

413 East 13th, 77008
Trustee Elizabeth Santos
District I

9/28/21 | 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

WESTBURY HS

11911 Chimney Rock, 77035
Trustee Myrna Guidry
District IX

10/06/21 | 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

WASHINGTON HS

4204 Yale, 77018
Trustee Kathy Blueford-Daniels
District II

9/30/21 | 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

STERLING HS

11625 Martindale, 77048
Trustee Patricia Allen
District IV

Please note all dates and times are subject to change.

Visit HoustonISD.org/ListenAndLearn for the latest updates.