



*State Representative*  
**JOHN RANEY**  
*District 14 • Capitol Update*

The State of Texas  
House of Representatives



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Howdy!

The first day of the 86th Legislative Session was a unique one in that we elected our new House Speaker, Rep. Dennis Bonnen of Angleton, and declared public education funding as the number one priority for the Texas House. We stuck to that goal and I am proud to say we passed what is truly a transformational measure that addresses teacher pay, per-student funding, mental health access, school safety, and reduction of recapture of tax revenue from local school districts, to name a few.

I proudly serve on the House Committee on Transportation and House Committee on International Relations and Economic Development. Both committees are extremely important to our community. Identified as one of the top legislative priorities by the BCS Chamber of Commerce, transportation continues to be a major concern for Bryan-College Station. As our community continues to grow, it is vital that our infrastructure keeps up with our population. I look forward to being a part of that solution. With the expansion of the bio-corridor and the continued influence of Texas A&M, Bryan-College Station is attracting domestic and international business. Diversification of the employment market is not only vital to this community, but to our great state.

Within this newsletter, you will find information on major accomplishments of the 86th Legislative Session and legislation I was proud to author and pass this session. This was certainly a session with victories for all Texans!

I encourage you to reach out and contact either the Capitol or District office if we can be of service to you, and to share your thoughts and concerns.

As we transition into the legislative interim, I look forward spending more time at home and with you in our community. Serving you is a true blessing. Thank you for again placing your trust in me to represent you.

Sincerely,

John Raney  
State Representative, House District 14



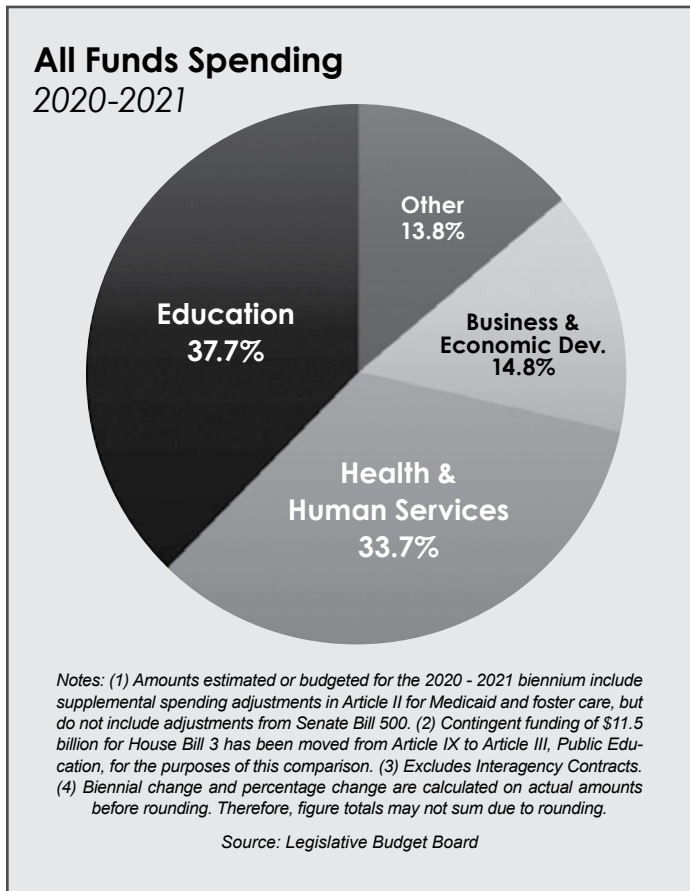
— COMMITTEES —

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • TRANSPORTATION



## BUDGET

The most important bill, and the only bill that must be passed according to the Texas Constitution each session, is the budget bill, House Bill 1. House Bill 1 appropriates \$118.9 billion in General Revenue and \$250.7 billion in total All Funds. While meeting many of our state's needs, the budget remains well under the state's four spending limits—the debt limit, welfare spending limit, pay-as-you-go limit, and the spending limit.



## EDUCATION AND TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

One of our biggest accomplishments of the 86th Legislative session was passing sweeping school finance reform by investing \$4.5 billion in education reforms, \$2 billion in dynamic pay raises for educators, and reducing recapture by 47%. Recognizing the incredibly difficult and important job our teachers perform, we funded a \$2,000 average 13th check for retired teachers, and invested in their pension to make it actuarially sound.

## PRO-LIFE

In keeping with the principles of the House, we were able to pass the Texas Born-Alive Infant Protection Act which offers protections to babies who survive abortion by mandating that they receive the same care that a newborn would receive after birth. Senate Bill 22 was also signed into law, protecting taxpayers by defunding Planned Parenthood at the local level, ensuring no taxpayer dollars are used to fund abortion providers. Additionally, over \$60 million dollars have been dedicated for crisis pregnancy centers and the State's highly successful Alternatives to Abortion program.

## BORDER SECURITY

We maintained the 2018 -2019 levels of funding for border security efforts and added a \$7.5 million appropriation to DPS for Operation Draw Bridge cameras, four additional analysts for the Transnational Intelligence Center, and \$1.7 million in grants for border prosecution, border zone fire departments, and economic development.

## TRANSPORTATION

A total of \$86 million was given to TxDOT for building, construction, and deferred maintenance in addition to the \$6.1 billion allocated to TxDOT for non-tolled highway construction projects throughout the state.

## 2ND AMENDMENT

We passed legislation protecting law-abiding gun owners from being penalized for accidentally carrying in an establishment where guns are prohibited, restored the rights of tenants to own and keep firearms, prohibited "no firearms" clauses in leases, and allowed permit-less carry for those evacuating from and returning to a disaster area. Furthermore, we were able to pass legislation to ease firearm and ammunition storage requirements for foster parents, crack down on inconsistent, patchwork firearms ordinances at the local level, restored the rights of places of worship to decide whether licensed carry is permitted, and prohibited HOAs from restricting firearms.

## PROPERTY TAXES

With skyrocketing property taxes across the state threatening homeowners and renters, the Legislature stood up for taxpayers this session. The Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of 2019 gives taxpayers the tools to make informed decisions about their property taxes by improving communication between taxing districts and taxpayers, informing taxpayers of who has proposed a rate increase, by how much, and where to protest, increasing financial disclosures from taxing units, and empowering voters to stop higher property tax rates through an election. Texans will also see an added benefit of the passage of school finance reform when they get their property tax bill. With the passage of House Bill 3, school districts will no longer have to lean as heavily on property taxes to close the gap.



*Students from the "Read by 3rd" program participated in the Texas House of Representatives Honorary Page Program during the 86th Legislative Session.*

## ELECTION INTEGRITY

House Bill 831 clarifies how an individual may satisfy the continuous residency requirements for holding public office if they can confirm their intent to return to a residence after a temporary absence. With the passage of House Bill 1888, election polling places are now required to remain open at set locations throughout the early voting period which will prevent election officials from using temporary branch polling places to target certain populations on certain days or at specific times to the exclusion of others.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

House Bill 5 directs the Texas Department of Emergency Management to create a catastrophic debris management plan to improve debris removal for political subdivisions and

also creates the Wet Debris Study Group and the Work Group on Local Restrictions That Impede Disaster Recovery Efforts to study the best practices and common hindrances to the removal of debris following a disaster. Passing this legislation allows local communities to respond quicker to disasters and prepares the state for future debris crises. Through the passage of House Bill 6, a Disaster Recovery Task Force has been created within the Texas Department of Emergency Management to assist individuals with specialized assistance and communities with recovery and resiliency planning to speed up recovery. Following Hurricane Harvey, we learned recovery has been identified as the weakest phase of the emergency management cycle in Texas, and House Bill 6 looks to strengthen recovery functions and better utilize the resources available to this state.



## MY LEGISLATION



In addition to coauthoring the Legislature's top priorities, below are some of my bills that I am proud to say were passed:

- **SB 753** ends the practice of paying workers with disabilities wages that are less than the federal minimum wage. Some of these employees were being paid just pennies per hour by contractors through the taxpayer-funded program, Purchasing From People With Disabilities, administered by the Texas Workforce Commission.
- **SB 708** directs the Child Care Licensing Division to collect data regarding staff-to-child ratios and group size standards, as well as violations and serious injuries. The information collected would enable lawmakers and agency personnel to make well-informed, evidence-based policy decisions regarding the safety and well-being of children in Texas.
- **SB 37** prohibits the use of student loan default or breach of a student loan repayment or scholarship contract as a ground for refusal to grant or renew an occupational license or other disciplinary action in relation to an occupational license.
- **HB 643** allows the person for whom a disability placard is being requested to make an application or pick up a placard in the county in which they are seeking their medical treatment, if different than the county in which they normally reside.
- **SB 1056** clarifies that under the delegation of a physician, pharmacists have the authority to implement or modify a patient's non-dangerous drug therapy regardless of whether they practice in a hospital setting.
- **SB 1311** authorizes the electronic transmission of an invoice or notice of toll nonpayment by a toll project entity if the recipient opts in to receive the transmission electronically.
- **HB 884** designates a portion of Business State Highway 6 between its intersection with East Villa Maria Road and its intersection with Krenek Tap Road as the Carolyn and John David Crow Memorial Parkway.



## MY BUDGET RIDERS



- A&M Equity Funding at \$55 million addresses a decade-long reduction in per-student general revenue funding and will narrow the gap in per-student funding for Texas' public research universities. Texas A&M has added 17,000 students since 2008, yet support for the success of these students has lagged. Increased funding will permit Texas A&M to provide additional academic support such as academic success services, advisors, and financial aid counselors that will enhance the success of these additional students. Furthermore, Texas A&M will hire additional faculty to provide more course sections that will enhance the ability of students to graduate on time and with less debt.
- Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) funding increase of \$4.17 million over the 2020-2021 biennium. Administered by The Higher Education Coordinating Board, the TASSP encourages and helps fund nominated/selected students who commit to becoming members of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, the Texas State Guard, the United States Coast Guard, or the United States Merchant Marine, or to become commissioned officers in any branch of the armed services of the United States. This translates to a \$10,000 scholarship per year for the student!
- Energy Efficiency Savings for State Facilities directs state agencies with a square footage of at least 100,000 square feet to provide all necessary information for the Energy Systems Laboratory at Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station or another qualified provider to remotely investigate possible energy efficiency cost savings to the state. Should efficiency savings of 10 percent or greater be determined, an on-site assessment and implementation plan would be required.
- Mobile STEM Laboratories provide education opportunities for students in disaster-stricken areas. The funding for this Texas Education Agency program will allow these labs to stay in Texas and serve communities and schools still recovering from disasters and will be present in the event should future disasters occur, providing continuity and stability for students.

**ANSWERING TO YOU!**

*I am accountable to you so please don't hesitate to ask questions, request assistance, or give feedback. Being accessible is a top priority of mine.*

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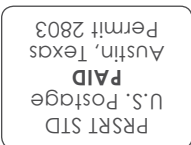


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**www.house.texas.gov/members/member-page/?district=14**

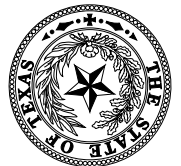
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN RANEY**

*86th Legislative Session Update • District 14*



Austin, Texas 78768-2910  
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**JOHN RANEY**  
*State Representative*



**GOVERNMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS**  
**State of Texas Helpful Numbers**

<b>Abuse/Neglect Hotline</b> .....	1-800-252-5400	<b>Human Services</b> .....	211
<b>Aging &amp; Disability Services</b> .....	1-512-438-3011	<b>Medicaid Hotline</b> .....	1-800-252-8263
<b>Assistive &amp; Rehabilitative Services</b> .....	1-800-628-5115	<b>Medicare Hotline</b> .....	1-800-633-4227
<b>Child Support Information</b> .....	1-800-252-8014	<b>Poison Center</b> .....	1-800-222-1222
<b>Children's Health Insurance Program</b> .....	211	<b>Roadside Assistance</b> .....	1-800-525-5555
<b>Consumer Rights &amp; Services</b> .....	1-800-458-9858	<b>State Bar Referral Service</b> .....	1-800-252-9690
<b>Crime Stoppers</b> .....	1-800-252-8477	<b>Substance Abuse Services</b> .....	1-877-966-3784
<b>Crime Victims Services</b> .....	1-800-983-9933	<b>Veterans Commission</b> .....	1-512-463-5538
<b>Drug &amp; Alcohol Abuse Hotline</b> .....	1-800-784-6776	<b>Workers Compensation</b> .....	1-800-372-7713
<b>Health Services</b> .....	1-888-963-7111	<b>Youth &amp; Runaway Hotline</b> .....	1-800-989-6884

**Online Resources**

The Texas Legislature – [www.capitol.texas.gov](http://www.capitol.texas.gov)  
 TexasOnline (*The Official Website of the State of Texas*) – [www.texasonline.com](http://www.texasonline.com)