

# DISTRICT 150 SURVEY FOR UPCOMING SESSION

## Survey Instructions

Your opinion is very important and will help instruct me on policy next session. Please fill out the survey below and fold the paper into thirds, with the mailing label facing outward. Then, tape it shut and drop it in the mail with a stamp. I look forward to hearing from you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Should the legislature create revenue and spending caps on local governments?  YES  NO
2. Should the legislature work to abolish the property tax in favor of a consumption or sales tax?  YES  NO
3. Should the legislature prioritize flood mitigation in the 2019 session?  YES  NO
4. Should the legislature pass Constitutional Carry?  YES  NO
5. Should the legislature continue to supplement border security operations?  YES  NO
6. Should the legislature protect historical monuments from displacement and destruction?  YES  NO
7. Should the Rainy Day Fund be spent on emergencies only?  YES  NO
8. Should the legislature end taxpayer subsidies to private companies moving to Texas?  YES  NO
9. Should the legislature reduce the number and scope of occupational licenses?  YES  NO
10. Should the legislature take further steps to combat voter fraud?  YES  NO
11. Should all future taxpayer-funded roads be toll-free?  YES  NO
12. Should the legislature abolish the "Robin Hood" school finance system?  YES  NO
13. Should the legislature support school choice initiatives?  YES  NO
14. Should the legislature work to end elective abortion in Texas?  YES  NO
15. Should the legislature limit state spending growth to population plus inflation?  YES  NO



## State Representative ★ District 150 VALOREE SWANSON

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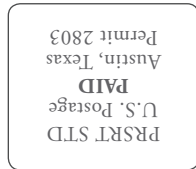


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**Committees: Elections, Human Services**

### 2018 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM UPDATE

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**VALOREE SWANSON**  
*State Representative*



## HELPFUL NUMBERS & WEBSITES

State Representative Valoree Swanson • District 150 • (512) 463-0572 • www.house.texas.gov

<b>Texas Dept. of Aging and Disability Services</b> ..... (800) 458-9858 www.dads.state.tx.us/index.cfm	<b>Texas Dept. of State Health Services (DSHS)</b> ..... (888) 963-7111 www.dshs.state.tx.us
<b>Texas Dept. of Agriculture</b> ..... (800) 835-5832 www.texasagriculture.gov	<b>Texas Dept. of Insurance</b> ..... (800) 252-3439 http://www.tdi.texas.gov/
<b>Office of the Attorney General</b> ..... www.oag.state.tx.us	<b>Texas Legislature</b> ..... www.capitol.texas.gov
<i>Child Support Enforcement</i> ..... (800) 252-8014	<b>Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.</b> ..... (800) 792-1112 www.tpwd.state.tx.us
<i>Consumer Protection</i> ..... (800) 621-0508	<b>Texas Dept. of Public Safety</b> ..... www.txdps.state.tx.us
<i>Crime Victims</i> ..... (800) 983-9933	<b>Texas Public Utility Commission</b> ..... (888) 782-8477
<i>Consumer Protection Hotline</i> ..... (800) 621-0508	..... http://www.puc.texas.gov/
<b>Texas Education Agency</b> ..... (512) 463-9734 www.tea.state.tx.us	<b>Texas Department of Transportation</b> ..... (800) 452-9292 www.dot.state.tx.us
<b>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)</b> ..... (512) 239-1000 www.tceq.state.tx.us	<b>Voting and Election Information</b> ..... (800) 252-8683
<b>Texas Dept. of Family and Protective Services</b> ..... (800) 252-5400 https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/	<b>Texas Workforce Commission</b> ..... (800) 832-2829 www.twc.state.tx.us
<b>Texas Health and Human Services Commission</b> ..... www.hhs.state.tx.us	

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## ★ VALOREE SWANSON



NORTHERN HARRIS COUNTY • DISTRICT 150



### 2018 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM UPDATE

Dear Constituent,

What an honor and privilege it is to represent the communities of House District 150 in the Texas Legislature! It is humbling to be entrusted with this wonderful responsibility. Thank you!

As you may know, the legislature will reconvene in January, so right now I am busy meeting with constituents and community leaders, going to interim committee hearings, and researching the issues in preparation for the next session. The purpose of this letter is to update you and gather your feedback.

Property tax reform has consistently been the top legislative priority for the constituents of District 150. Many grassroots leaders are fighting to abolish the system altogether in favor of a consumption-based tax. Unfortunately, Senator Paul Bettencourt's major property tax reform bill did not pass during session, but Governor Greg Abbott has promised to bring the issue back to the forefront in January.

Another priority for constituents is ensuring fair and honest elections. As a member of the Elections Committee, I was able to help shepherd through legislation to increase penalties and toughen laws combating voter fraud, among other important reforms.

I also serve on the Human Services Committee. This committee has held several hearings since the end of session to gather information from stakeholders on how Texas can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Medicaid program for those who desperately need it without writing a blank check to government.

Over the course of the last year, I have also attended numerous hearings and meetings with Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Senator Ted Cruz, Congressman Michael McCaul, Harris County Commissioners, the County Judge, the Mayor of Houston, Harris County Flood Control, FEMA, the General Land Office, various utility districts and water authorities, as well as many fellow Representatives and State Senators to find effective solutions to better mitigate the severity of disasters like Hurricane Harvey.

In light of recent tragedies in so-called "gun-free" zones, I will be working with the governor and fellow legislators to find practical and effective methods of increasing school safety, while ensuring the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Texans are not infringed.



Most of the legislation passed last session is now fully enacted, including the reform of Child Protective Services, the lowering of the License-to-Carry fee, municipal annexation reform, and Convention of States legislation. Several high-profile laws, such as the ban on sanctuary cities and the ban on dismemberment abortions, are being litigated in the federal judiciary, and Attorney General Ken Paxton is fighting to ensure they are upheld.

I am excited to continue working for you to protect and expand liberty and economic opportunity for generations of Texans to come.

Sincerely,  
Rep. Valoree Swanson

**Human Services Committee**

The House Committee on Human Services has met several times during the Interim to discuss Interim Charges handed down by the Speaker of the House. Recently, we met to discuss the effectiveness of the Managed Care Organization (MCO) model. This model covers over 3 million Texans, nearly 85% of all those who are covered by Medicaid. The program covers foster children, the severely disabled, and the medically fragile. At some of our meetings, we have had as many as 145 citizens register to speak and deliver over 9 hours of testimony. We direct people who have been overlooked or underserved to the representatives of their MCO for swift resolution.

**School Safety**

The senseless, tragic attack on Santa Fe High School is a reminder of why the experiment with so-called “gun free” zones is a failure. Thankfully, in Texas, the law allows for local school boards to adopt 1 of 2 plans to allow teachers to defend themselves and their students. I urge constituents to contact local board members and ask them to adopt either the Guardian Plan, which allows them to anonymously designate specific staff to be armed, or the Marshal Plan, which allows staff members to become certified as armed School Marshals through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Since 2007, over 170 school boards in Texas have adopted these policies. We are also working with Gov. Abbott on finding ways to harden campuses to prevent criminal madmen from entering school facilities in the first place.



Rep. Swanson hearing public testimony in the Human Services Committee



Rep. Swanson meets with Constable Mark Herman and deputies

**New House Speaker**

Rep. Joe Straus (San Antonio) is retiring after serving 10 years as Speaker of the Texas House. His departure has led to several candidates from both parties announcing their intention to run. Representatives will vote for a new Speaker on the first day of the 2019 session. I will support a candidate who will fairly interpret and enforce the written rules of the House so that members -- not special interests -- control the outcome of legislation.

**Convention of States**

At the time of this publication, 12 states had already passed a resolution asking Congress to call a Convention of States. The purpose of the Convention is to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution aimed at restraining the federal government. Once Congress receives the necessary 34 individual state petitions, they can call the Convention. Texas has committed to sending a bipartisan delegation of state legislators, should the Convention be called. The resolution instructs our delegates to present amendments to “impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and to limit the terms of office of federal officials and members of Congress.” We continue to hear from COS activists all the time and are grateful for your enthusiastic participation in the legislative process!

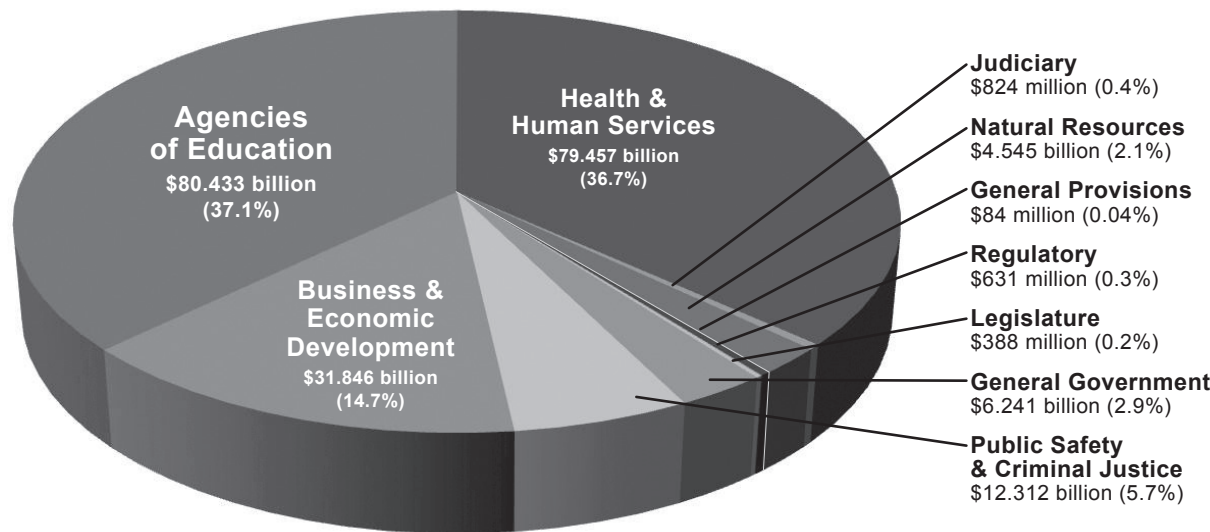
**New Constable’s Office**

House District 150 is unique in that it is comprised almost entirely of unincorporated county territory. This means virtually no access to municipal police protection, reinforcing the importance of our sheriff and constable’s offices. Constable Mark Herman made headlines last year when his office busted a 38-member prostitution ring run out of motels in our district! It has been a pleasure working with these offices, and they have always come through when needed. The new office sits in the heart of the district and will help the constables continue to reduce crime in the community.

**State Budget**

The Texas Legislature passed a balanced budget that allocates \$800 million to border security to compensate for the lack of sufficient effort by the U.S. Congress. The healthcare program for retired teachers (TRS-Care) was saved from collapse by an infusion of over \$1 billion, and the retirement fund itself continues to grow stronger. I voted to cut excessive spending and keep the state’s savings account, or “Rainy Day Fund,” at a balance of almost \$10 billion, money which is available for post-Harvey disaster relief and flood mitigation.

**2018-19 All Funds  
Total: \$216.758 billion**



NOTES: (1) Includes certain anticipated supplemental spending adjustments if applicable. (2) Excludes Interagency Contracts. (3) Biennial change and percentage change are calculated on actual amounts before rounding. Therefore, figure totals may not sum due to rounding.

**Hurricane Harvey**

The worst rain event in the history of the United States struck the Texas coastline on August 25th, 2017. In the midst of this massive natural disaster, residents and volunteers from across Texas and Louisiana banded together in a way that is uniquely American. Support and supplies streamed into Texas from across the country, and a renewed sense of patriotism emerged from the chaos. My husband and I helped to clear fallen trees, muck houses that experienced flooding damage, helped hurricane victims get FEMA assistance, and went door to door throughout House District 150’s flooded neighborhoods to disseminate information on debris pickup, FEMA locations, rebuilding permits, and helpful phone numbers.



Rep. Swanson and Superintendent Bret Champion working at a KISD shelter



Rep. Swanson presiding over House proceedings



Rep. Swanson discussing legislation with Rep. James White

**Low-Income Housing**

I have worked tirelessly through session and the interim to protect the property values of District 150. Due to a lack of community support for subsidized housing projects, I have successfully opposed all attempts to bring these developments into our district over the course of the last year. I also helped stop legislation in the House which would have stripped Representatives of their right to have input in the low-income housing development process in their own districts.

**Pearl Fincher Student Awards**

In May, I attended the awards ceremony and reception for the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts Student Art Contest at the Forum at Cypress Creek Christian Church and Community Center. It was a day of celebration, with 30 winning students’ art displayed in the lobby of the Forum. Their artwork was also displayed at the Lone Star College - Tomball Art Gallery. This year, the Pearl partnered with 7 area school districts, 3 private schools, and 5 homeschool families. I was privileged to present them each with certificates from the State of Texas recognizing their achievement!

**Pro-life Victories**

In 2013, the legislature passed a ban on abortions after 20 weeks, the point at which pre-born babies can feel pain. Last session, the legislature continued passing many more pieces of pro-life legislation, including SB 11, which reformed the “Do-Not-Resuscitate” process to give patients and families more control, and SB 8, which is a ban on barbaric dismemberment abortions. I look forward to building on these pro-life victories next session!



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