

DISTRICT 150 SURVEY



Your opinion is very important and will help guide me on policy next session. Please fill out the survey, fold the paper into thirds with the mailing label facing outward, then tape it shut and drop it in the mail with a stamp. You may also email your answers to District150.Swanson@house.texas.gov.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Do you agree or disagree with the following?

1. The Legislature should implement parental school choice, a system wherein school funding follows the child so that parents may use state funds to place their child in a public or private school, or for homeschool curriculum.

___ Strongly Agree ___ Agree ___ Not Sure ___ Disagree ___ Strongly Disagree

2. The state should pass legislation further protecting property owners from individuals (squatters) illegally occupying their property.

___ Strongly Agree ___ Agree ___ Not Sure ___ Disagree ___ Strongly Disagree

3. The state should pass laws to prohibit hostile nations from owning land/property in Texas.

___ Strongly Agree ___ Agree ___ Not Sure ___ Disagree ___ Strongly Disagree

4. The state should ban biological males from being allowed to be housed in women-only prisons or juvenile girls' facilities.

___ Strongly Agree ___ Agree ___ Not Sure ___ Disagree ___ Strongly Disagree

5. The state should prohibit local governments from using taxpayer money for lobbying.

___ Strongly Agree ___ Agree ___ Not Sure ___ Disagree ___ Strongly Disagree

6. The state should prioritize Texas homeownership for individuals and families rather than give tax breaks to venture capital firms.

___ Strongly Agree ___ Agree ___ Not Sure ___ Disagree ___ Strongly Disagree

7. The state should pass laws to allow election fraud cases to be prosecuted outside of the county in which they occur to remove any conflicts of interest. This would make it more difficult to commit election fraud.

___ Strongly Agree ___ Agree ___ Not Sure ___ Disagree ___ Strongly Disagree

8. The state should prioritize border security through the continued construction of a border wall and increased law enforcement presence.

___ Strongly Agree ___ Agree ___ Not Sure ___ Disagree ___ Strongly Disagree

9. The Legislature should give elected State Representatives greater authority to halt government-subsidized, low-income housing projects.

___ Strongly Agree ___ Agree ___ Not Sure ___ Disagree ___ Strongly Disagree

10. The state should abolish local property taxes in favor of a consumption tax system.

___ Strongly Agree ___ Agree ___ Not Sure ___ Disagree ___ Strongly Disagree

CUT HERE TO OPEN MAILING LABEL



State Representative ★ District 150 VALOREE SWANSON

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Committees: Corrections • Elections

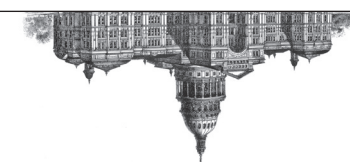
2024 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM REPORT

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VALOREE SWANSON
State Representative



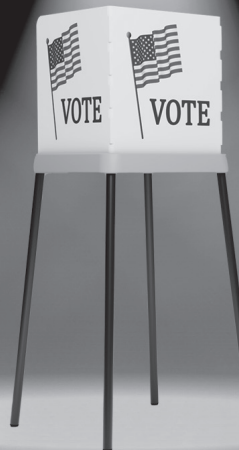
ELECTION DAY – TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 5

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE
MONDAY | OCTOBER 7, 2024

EARLY VOTING BEGINS
MONDAY | OCTOBER 21, 2024

LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR A MAIL-IN BALLOT
FRIDAY | OCTOBER 25, 2024

EARLY VOTING ENDS
FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 1, 2024

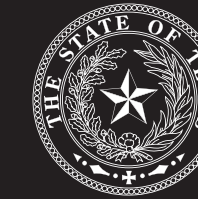


POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. UNTIL
7:00 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY.

Need help finding a polling location near you? You can find early voting locations and election day polling booths on harrisvotes.com or call my office at (281) 257-4222.

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VALOREE SWANSON



NORTHERN HARRIS COUNTY • DISTRICT 150

2024 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM REPORT



Dear District 150 Constituent,

I am truly honored to represent you in the Texas House of Representatives!

The last twelve months have proven to be as eventful as any in Texas legislative history, with four special sessions following the 88th Legislative Session, an ongoing legal fight over the border, massive revisions to Title IX, and a contentious election season. It is my goal to keep you as updated as possible.

When Governor Abbott calls the Legislature back for a special session, he selects specific areas of policy that need attention. In these four special sessions, there were several policies put forth, including stopping the invasion at the border, preventing employers from mandating the Covid-19 vaccine, prioritizing students in educational funding, and lessening the financial burden of property taxes!

The Texas Legislature was successful in several of these ventures, such as passing **Senate Bills 3 (88[4])** and **4 (88[3])**, which strengthen our border, **Senate Bill 7**, which protects your medical freedom, and **Senate Bills 2 and 3** and **House Joint Resolution 2 (88[2])** which lower your property taxes! Some of the initiatives attempted during these sessions will continue into future sessions, such as allowing parents the freedom to choose their child's education.

Here are the priority bills passed during the 2023 Special Sessions:

- Lasting property tax relief (**SB2, SB3, and HJR2 88[2]**)
- Fighting human and drug trafficking by increasing the penalty for running a “stash house” (**SB4 88[3]**)
- More money for the border wall (**SB3 88[4]**)
- Creating a state crime for illegally crossing the border (**SB4 88[4]**)
- Prohibiting employers from mandating the Covid-19 vaccine (**SB7 88[4]**)

In January, the Legislature will convene for the 89th Legislative Session to tackle issues like school choice, teacher pay raises, protecting property owners from squatters, and continuing the economic growth Texas has seen so much of. I am excited to return to Austin to ensure all of these priorities are accomplished!

Please consider responding to the Legislative survey enclosed in this newsletter, which can be mailed or emailed. Your responses are valued for future legislative efforts.

Sincerely,

Valoree Swanson

Rep. Valoree Swanson



Rep. Swanson presenting Save Women's Sports on the House Floor



Rep. Swanson passing House Bill 44 (preventing Medicaid discrimination)

School Choice

Another piece of priority legislation during the multiple special sessions in 2023 was Education Savings Accounts, otherwise known as parental school choice. Education Savings Accounts would allow parents of school-aged children to apply for funds that could be used for educational expenses, such as tuition, textbooks, and other school-related activities for private schools and curriculum for home schools. In November 2023, a bill was heard that would enact each of these initiatives, but did not have the votes needed to pass.

Governor Abbott has made it clear he will continue to support this initiative. Based on the prospective membership of the Texas House of Representatives, it seems likely that this will pass in the 89th Legislative Session beginning in January 2025.

Texas Border & Senate Bill 4

One of the priority pieces of legislation we heard during the four special sessions in 2023 was Senate Bill 4 (88[4]), which I co-sponsored, that makes illegally crossing the border from Mexico to Texas a Class B Misdemeanor, and requires state judges to deport criminals convicted of this crime. Since passing in late 2023, SB 4 has been hotly contested in various courts. Included below is a timeline of the status of the law up until this point:

- December 18, 2023 - Governor Abbott signed Senate Bill 4, to go into effect on March 5, 2024.
- January 3, 2024 - The Justice Department sued Texas over SB4.
- February 29, 2024 - US District Judge David Ezra in Austin blocked SB4.
- Later on February 29, 2024 - Ken Paxton successfully appealed Ezra’s decision to US 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Between February 29, 2024 and March 19, 2024 - There were multiple attempts to block SB4 from going into effect to the point where the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.
- March 19, 2024 - US Supreme Court reversed order blocking SB4 from going into effect.
- Later on March 19, 2024 - US 5th Circuit Court of Appeals dissolved administrative stay that allowed SB4 to go into effect, placing the bill back on hold.
- At the time this is published, the law is on hold, being debated at the appellate level.

Low-Income Housing

For over a decade, a top priority for House District 150 has been to stop any and all low-income, government-subsidized housing. As you’ve come to expect, I have used the authority granted to State Representatives to put a halt to all proposed Section 42 9% low-income housing developments! I have also worked with constituents and local elected officials to try to stop projects State Representatives do not have direct control over.

Overview of the various types of low-income housing programs:

- Section 8 – Section 8 is a federal voucher program. Vouchers are given to individuals to pay rent in any type of HUD-approved housing. This is a federal program not controlled by the State.
- TDHCA Housing – Texas Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA) administers two different low-income housing programs, one of which State Representatives have input in:
 - 4% Program – this program provides housing subsidies through private activity bonds managed by TDHCA. Representatives have no influence over this program, only County Commissioners or City Council Members do.
 - 9% Program – this program administers massive federal tax credits to build housing projects based on a competitive scoring system. State Representatives may write letters of opposition to these projects, halting their approval.
- Public Facilities Corporations – PFCs are a legal tool that allows housing authorities to give 100% tax breaks to existing apartment complexes under the pretense of affordable housing, without notification or approval from any elected officials, thus throwing the tax burden onto single-family homeowners. This Session, we cracked down on this out-of-control scheme by passing HB 2071 (88R) to stop more apartments from becoming tax-exempt as well as penalties and potential loss of exemptions for current complexes that abuse this tax break.
- Private Development – Housing ventures that are funded entirely with private capital, whether low-income or luxury, cannot be stopped by elected officials if they follow the law. All apartments currently built or proposed in District 150 fall into this category.

Property Tax Relief

In the second special session of 2023, the Legislature came together on a sweeping package to provide the largest property tax cut in the history of Texas for homeowners and small businesses. We also reformed appraisal review boards to better represent the taxpayers. On your November 2023 ballot, a constitutional amendment was presented that confirmed these changes. Proposition 4 passed with EIGHTY-THREE PERCENT voting for this!

I believe in the dream of home ownership and fought for increased homestead exemptions to deliver the greatest possible tax relief to Texas homeowners.

SB 2, SB 3, and HJR 2 - the three bills composing the relief package - deliver the following pro-taxpayer reforms:

- \$7 billion in state money for increased funding of school district operations to lower or “compress” tax rates on property owners.
- \$100,000 exemption from school Maintenance & Operations (M&O) taxes on homesteads for homeowners under 65 and \$110,000 exemption for those over 65. These exemptions, combined with compressed tax rates, will provide a \$1,371 or 41.5% savings on an average homeowner’s M&O tax bill.
- Increased the exemption from franchise taxes for businesses of \$1 million total revenue to \$2.4 million, exempting roughly 67,000 small businesses from paying franchise taxes.
- Three-year pilot program creating a 20% cap on annual increases in the appraised value of non-homestead properties, such as rental homes or businesses, valued under \$5 million.
- Added three elected, nonpartisan members of appraisal review boards in counties of 75,000 or more to give you more control over appraisals. This was one of the priority races for the May 4, 2024 election.
- Increased state funding to ensure that school districts are adequately funded to offset potential revenue losses.



Rep. Swanson conferring with Rep. Schaefer and Rep. Slawson

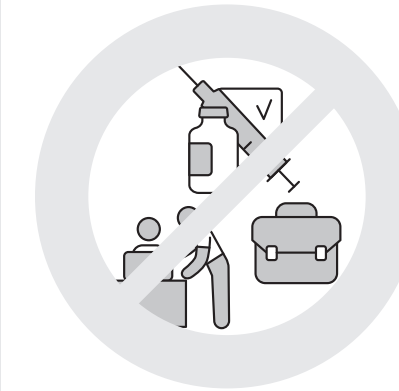
Fairness in Women’s Sports

In back-to-back Legislative Sessions, I passed Save Girls’ Sports (HB 25, 87[3]) and Save Women’s Sports (SB 15, 88R)! Save Girls’ Sports prohibited men from competing in sports designated specifically as “female only” at the K-12 level, while Save Women’s Sports focused on this protection at the collegiate level! Both bills passed with majority support, particularly from female athletes across Texas and across the country!

Texas has seen an uproar in support for this legislation as the president recently attempted to revise Title IX to include sexual identity under the protections provided against sex-based discrimination. These revisions would likely see male students allowed in female bathrooms, locker rooms, and other women’s spaces. Over half of the members of the Texas House of Representatives joined me in writing letters regarding this subject, including letters to the president, Governor Abbott, and the Texas Education Agency requesting that these rules be ignored. As a result of these letters, at the time this is published, a federal court has blocked these revisions in Texas!



Rep. Swanson discussing policy with Sen. Middleton



Vaccine Mandate Ban

In the third special session of 2023, The Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 7 (88[3]), which I co-authored, that banned Covid-19 vaccine mandates by private employers. This has been a huge priority since 2020, and it passed with overwhelming, bipartisan support! Now, neither private nor government employers will be able to threaten employment for individuals who refuse to take the Covid-19 vaccine!



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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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