



# CAPITOL UPDATES

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REP. TERRI  
LEO-WILSON

## ABOUT REP. LEO-WILSON

Terri Leo-Wilson graduated Summa Cum Laude with undergraduate degrees in Elementary and Special Education, and received a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Texas A&M University Commerce. She is retired having been a Teacher, Case Manager, and Department Administrator for middle school students with special needs in Texas public schools. Terri was elected to three terms on the State Board of Education.

Terri has a wealth of leadership experience in bringing people together in healthy discourse and has been frequently called upon to speak on educational issues and grassroots politics. Terri and her husband Dave have five children and four grandchildren.



## State Representative Terri Leo-Wilson Files Resolution to Designate Texas Christian Heritage Week

(Austin, TX) - State Representative Terri Leo-Wilson filed a bill demonstrating her commitment to the values of House District 23, Texas, and America. That bill is House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 29, a bill to designate the second to last week in April as Texas Christian Heritage Week.

While the United States observes no official religion, any clear-eyed reading of history will find that the foundational American values of fairness, justice, liberty, and responsibility have their roots deep in Christianity. Founding fathers such as Washington, Adams, and Madison relied on their devout faiths for wisdom and comfort throughout their lives, as do millions of Americans today.

These are the reasons several states, including Louisiana, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin observe Christian Heritage Week, and why Texas issued a gubernatorial proclamation to do so in 1992. However, in the 31 years since, Texas has not once formally observed the week.

As a woman of deep faith herself, Rep. Leo-Wilson knows how vital Christianity is and has been to the citizens and leaders of our nation. That's why she's filing HCR 29 - it's long past time for the great state of Texas to once again recognize and celebrate the contributions of our hereditary faith.



## Texas House Files Budget for Fiscal Biennium 2023-2024



(Austin, TX) - On Wednesday the 17th, the Texas House of Representatives introduced House Bill 1, the proposed state budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal biennium. This budget would appropriate \$288.7 billion, with a record \$130.1 billion in general revenue spending.

This marks only the beginning of the long process necessary to pass the session's one constitutionally mandated piece of legislation. General Appropriations Bills - more commonly known as the state budget - are introduced by the House and Senate at the start of the legislative session based on an assessment of the Legislative Appropriation Requests state agencies submit over the interim, as well as the Comptroller's Biennial Revenue Estimate.

Comptroller Glenn Hagar's Revenue Estimate for 2023-24 includes room for \$188.4 billion in general revenue spending, so even with the largest spending appropriation in Texas history, this budget still stays well within the bounds of fiscal responsibility.

Some of the highlights of the \$130.1 billion in general spending proposed by HB 1 include:

- \$15 billion for property tax relief through appraisal reform
- \$4.6 billion to secure the Texas-Mexico border.
- \$38.4 billion to fully fund Texas' public education system
- \$600 million to school safety equipment and measures, in addition to the \$400 million directed toward school safety in 2022
- \$55 million toward new cybersecurity initiative to protect the information of students in our public education system
- \$20 million to the Alternatives to Abortion program

Of course, these items are only the tip of the iceberg that is the state budget. However, these and other spending priorities represent a good first step toward using the taxpayers' dollars in a responsible and helpful manner. Rep. Leo-Wilson will be on high alert for any waste or misappropriation as HB 1 works its way through the House, and she looks forward to putting the People's money back to work for them.

# Rep. Leo-Wilson Capitol Staff

Serving House District 23



## Saul Mendoza, Chief of Staff

Saul will be working his 7th Legislative Session under the pink dome. He previously worked for former State Representatives James White and Jim Landroop. During this tenure, he has served as Chief of Staff for 7 years passing a variety of legislative bills focused on criminal justice and law enforcement reforms. Additionally, Saul has worked on the campaigns of Governor Greg Abbott and former Senator Konni Burton.

He is able to call two towns home; Lufkin, TX & Ucareo, Mich., and is a proud graduate of the University of Texas. Saul looks forward to leading Rep. Leo-Wilson's team this session.

## Jaren Tankersley, Legislative Director

A lifelong conservative and sixth-generation Texan, Jaren's excited to spend the 88th session working for a champion of liberty like Rep. Leo-Wilson. Before coming to the Capitol, Jaren worked at RedRock Strategies, writing fundraising copy for conservative candidates across the country. He studied at the University of Texas at Austin, during which time he interned at the Texas Public Policy Foundation and the Texas House office of Rep. John Smithee.



## Nathan Comeaux, Senior Intern

Nathan Comeaux is from Dallas, Texas and is a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin studying Business Honors, Finance, and Plan II Honors. He has always been interested in the political system and has worked as a poll worker during three federal elections. Nathan is a member of Beta Upsilon Chi (BYX) and enjoys being a part of the UT community. He can't wait to help Rep. Leo-Wilson serve her constituents this session.

## Andrew McKiernan, Intern

Andrew is a first-year student at the University of Texas studying Government. Prior to moving to Texas due to his father's military service, Andrew attended high school in Massachusetts. While in Massachusetts, he worked for a state representative during the 2020 election cycle.

Currently, Andrew is the Secretary for the College Republicans at Texas and is heavily involved within the UT Austin community.

Andrew is excited to work for Rep. Leo-Wilson and is ready to support those of Texas House District 23.



## Zach Shamban, Intern

Zach Shamban is from Fulshear, Texas and is a first-year business student at the University of Texas McCombs School of Business. During his time at Fulshear High School, Zach spent a year serving as the varsity baseball team's team manager and volunteered at Reigning Strength Therapeutic Horsemanship. At the University of Texas, Zach is a member of organizations such as The University Securities and Investment Team, YoungLife, Ignite Texas, and fraternity Beta Upsilon Chi (BYX).

### Contact your HD 23 Office

(512) 463-0502

Physical Address:  
1100 Congress Ave.  
E2.720  
Austin, TX 78701

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768



Rep. Terri Leo-Wilson  
[Terri.Leo-Wilson@house.texas.gov](mailto:Terri.Leo-Wilson@house.texas.gov)

Saul Mendoza, Chief of Staff  
[saul.mendoza@house.texas.gov](mailto:saul.mendoza@house.texas.gov)

Jaren Tankersley, Legislative Director  
[jaren.tankersley@house.texas.gov](mailto:jaren.tankersley@house.texas.gov)

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