

# CAPITOL UPDATES

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## 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.



## Entergy and Rep. Leo-Wilson to Host Town Hall Regarding Bolivar Peninsula Power Outages

(Austin, TX) - Entergy Texas in coordination with State Representative Terri Leo-Wilson will hold a town hall discussion regarding power outages that recently impacted residents of the Bolivar Peninsula. Rep. Leo-Wilson puts a high stock in answering the questions and concerns of her constituents and encourages any constituents to join her at this important meeting.

"Residents of the Bolivar Peninsula deserve to voice their concerns about the recent power outages they have been experiencing. I am excited to participate in this important meeting that promotes public accountability. I welcome all concerned citizens, especially Entergy customers, to attend," stated Rep. Leo-Wilson.



Entergy Town Hall
February 10, 2023 at 5:00pm
Jose's Cantina
1021 TX-87
Crystal Beach, TX 77650



### Rep. Leo-Wilson Files Public Education Reform Bills



(Austin, TX) – State Representative Terri Leo-Wilson has filed three major pieces of her public education legislative package. As a three-time elected State Board of Education (SBOE) member and former public educator, Rep. Leo-Wilson's knowledge of the public education system has guided her to file these much needed reforms.

## <u>House Bill 1804: Instructional Materials</u> <u>Adopted by the SBOE</u>

HB 1804 creates several new criteria for the instructional materials approved by the SBOE each year. Among these are:

- Presenting a scientific theory in an objective education manner,
- Presenting violence in the context of the causes and consequences of the violence and not for unwholesome excitement or sensationalism,
- Presenting positive aspects of the U.S. and its heritage,
- Presenting contrasting viewpoints regarding significant political or social movements in history in a balanced and factual manner,

- Treating all groups fairly and avoiding biases or stereotypes while also reflecting positive contributions of all individuals and groups to the American way of life,
- Including information needed to develop mutual respect and understanding among all persons.

Additionally it prohibits instructional materials based on critical race theory, works that condone civil disorder, social strife, or disregard to the law, works that contain blatantly offensive language or illustrations, works that encourage lifestyles not accepted by the standards of society, or works that are authored by an employee of the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

The SBOE will have final say on the adoption of these instructional materials based on the content presented by the publishers. (Cont.)



#### Rep. Leo-Wilson Files Public Education Reform Bills (Cont.)





## <u>House Bill 1822: Review of Advanced</u> <u>Placement Courses by the SBOE</u>

HB 1822 gives the SBOE authority to review any advanced placement course offered in the state. AP courses will have to be compliant with state law and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) adopted by the board. Otherwise, Texas public and charter schools will be unable to offer the AP course as part of their curriculum.

# <u>House Bill 1837: Appointment of Experts</u> to TEKS Writing Committees

HB 1837 gives the SBOE members the opportunity to appoint expert members to any TEKS writing committee established by the TEA. This ensures that each elected member with jurisdiction to adopt the TEKS has a say throughout the process of writing educational content standards.

"These are common-sense bills that will ensure that the SBOE regains its constitutional jurisdiction. Elected board members are beholden to the voters unlike bureaucratic state agency employees," said Rep. Leo-Wilson. "Parents know what's best for their children's educational needs and it is important that we empower their elected SBOE representatives, not textbook publishers who are beholden to other interests."



# New Staffers for Rep. Leo-Wilson

Serving House District 23



## Susan Leblanc, District Director

#### **Chambers County**

Susan LeBlanc graduated Summa Cum Laude from McNeese State University with a degree in Home Economics and Business. She began her life-long career as a school nutrition director at Lumberton ISD in 1990 and joined Barbers Hill ISD in 1992 where she retired after 29 years of service. Her passion was feeding children and she along with an amazing group of lunch ladies pioneered a lunch program for secondary students that was known across the state as being the best. She enjoyed show-casing the talents of her staff through many catering events for the district. Susan also created school gardens for elementary students and taught hundreds of second graders how to be Junior Master Gardeners.

A registered Republican all her life, Susan has sought to make a difference within her community by being involved in the local and state Republican party and various civic organizations. She and her husband, Tim who is also retired from Barbers Hill ISD have one son, Andrew. Susan looks forward to helping Representative Leo-Wilson serve her constituents that elected her as their conservative representative.

## Kaitlyn Pasierb, Legislative Intern

Katelyn Pasierb is from Burleson, Texas and is a Junior at the University of Texas at Austin studying Microbiology Honors and Philosophy as a UT Austin Polymath Scholar. She has explored her interest in politics through working on Senator Cornyn's campaign, working as a Senior Page during three Texas Republican Conventions, and, most recently, working on Governor Abbott's re-election campaign and inaugural committee. Outside of politics, she actively follows her interest in medicine and law as the Vice President of Global Medical Brigades at the University of Texas at Austin. After graduating, she hopes to attend law school. She is excited to join Representative Leo-Wilson's team and is ready to support the constituents of Texas House District 23!



#### Contact your HD 23 Office

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