



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

Terri Leo Wilson, State Representative
District 23 | Galveston and Chambers Counties

88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Dear Friend and Neighbor,

It is an honor to serve House District 23. Serving as a member of the committees on Pensions, Investments, & Financial Services and Juvenile Justice & Family Issues, I consistently strive to fight and represent our strong Gulf Coast community interests and values. As a freshman legislator, I learned a lot this session and built strong relationships with many of my colleagues. The Legislature is truly a marathon and not a sprint in which I was able to balance learning the system and still moving pieces of legislation that support our district.

This newsletter will focus on the legislative efforts of the 88th Legislative Session. The Legislature met in Austin to pass strong commonsense legislation aimed toward supercharging our economy, lowering tax rates, protecting vulnerable children, and increasing governmental transparency. Additionally, the Legislature took a strong stance to pass a fiscally responsible and balanced budget. This budget funds our schools and promotes higher academic achievement. It also funds our efforts to secure the border that will help our local law enforcement keep our coastal communities safe.

During the interim, I plan to meet with and listen to constituents like yourself, community leaders, local elected officials, teachers and school administrators, farmers and ranchers, pastors, doctors and nurses, small business owners, and families regarding the needs and concerns that face our coastal communities. These are issues that the Legislature must address in order to ensure a bright and prosperous future for Texas.

It is a blessing to serve Texans in Galveston and Chambers counties. Both the Galveston district office and the Capitol office are open during the interim to any constituent that wishes to visit. I invite you to come visit and express your aspirations, hopes, and dreams for the future.

For God and Texas,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri Leo Wilson".

Terri Leo Wilson
State Representative
House District 23

State Representative Terri Leo Wilson was proud to vote and co-author legislative efforts in the following areas of policy:

Public Education

HB 3: Ensures proper school safety oversight by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and along with the Texas School Safety Center, aligns their roles and responsibilities to provide support and enforcement for school safety rules. It also requires at least one armed security officer to be present on campus to ensure the campus is monitored and protected. The state will invest an annual \$15,000 in new state dollars into every public school campus for the required school safety measures.

HB 11: Improves the state's teacher recruitment, preparation, and retention policies through the allocation of \$500 million for recruitment and retention strategies, including a pay increase for educators. The bill further supports teachers by providing free public school pre-kindergarten for children of Texas teachers. Additionally, it allocates \$100 million for teachers who are practicing a year-long residency and earmarks funds to help cover the costs of high performing Educator Preparation Programs. Lastly, it waives all teacher and certification fees for any teacher entering the field.

HB 13: Allocates more resources to mental and behavioral health, including training for educators to better detect signs of necessary mental health intervention. Additionally, it addresses school safety by increasing the school safety allotment to \$100 per student.

HB 100: Provides financial certainty to school districts for the purposes of calculating their budgets by shifting to an enrollment-based system for most allotments in the state's school finance system. The bill invests \$4.5 billion into the public school finance system and requires districts to devote 50 percent of new money to educator and staff pay. Additionally, the bill increases special education funding and the transportation allotment.

HB 1605: Raises the bar for education in Texas by both improving curriculum for students and increasing professional development tools for teachers. It also addresses the issue in which a majority of instructional materials used in the classroom do not meet grade-level Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS) standards. This lack of suitable curricular resources inadequately prepares students, places a greater burden on school teachers, and creates barriers for parents to review classroom content.

Protection of Vulnerable Children

HB 900: Eliminates sexually explicit books from public school libraries and protect Texas children from radical sexualization. In addition, book vendors are held accountable for selling explicit content to schools. Additionally vendors will be required to rate the content of all books sold to school districts. In the event sexually explicit materials are sold to a district, the vendor will be required to issue a recall for all copies of the material. Not only can parents know the titles of books with sexually relevant content, but parents will be required to give written consent for their children to access those books.

HB 18: Requires online platforms to first obtain parental consent before collecting and processing the data of 13 to 17 year-olds in Texas. The bill also provides parents with the tools they need to have more of a say over the way that their children's data is shared, including the ability to know what kind of data is being collected and how they can delete it. Parents would have a say on the ability to opt out of algorithmic targeting by online platforms. Lastly, the components of the bill would be enforced through the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act.

Retired Teacher Benefits

SB 10: Delivers a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Texas retired teachers while maintaining the soundness of the Teacher Retirement System pension fund. The bill does so by providing eligible retired educators with a one-time, upfront cost-of-living increase in 2024 based on years of retirement, with a \$5,000 cash payment for the state's oldest retirees. Beginning in 2028, **SB 10** supplies retired teachers with an annual cost-of-living adjustment tied to TRS's investment earnings.

Border Security & Fentanyl Crisis

HB 6: Delivers swift punishment for fentanyl-related crimes and raises/creates penalties for manufacturing or delivering fentanyl in Texas. With the growing fentanyl crisis at critical levels, this bill prioritizes the safety of all Texans and addresses many of the issues highlighted by the governor's One Pill Kills campaign.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson was joined by her daughters Madyson & Mallory during the Opening Day ceremony on the Texas House Floor.



The Galveston County Day delegation visited their State Capitol to meet with their elected officials.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson was excited to have Tenley & Paityn Schubert of Chambers County serve as honorary House pages during the legislative session.



Texas voters sent a historic number of women to serve as members in the Texas House for the 88th Legislature.

Reining in Rogue Government Overreach

HB 2127: Provides regulatory certainty by creating a level playing field across Texas. The bill prohibits a city from adopting, enforcing, or maintaining an ordinance or rule for matters in which the state has passed laws.

HB 17: Enforces criminal laws uniformly across the state and prohibits rogue district and county attorneys from announcing, adopting, or implementing policies that prevent or materially limit the enforcement

of certain criminal offenses in Texas. Also, provides for the mechanism to remove these rogue county and district attorneys by a local court.

State Taxes

HJR 132: Takes a proactive step in banning the State of Texas from ever imposing an income tax on its citizens.

LEGISLATION AUTHORED & PASSED BY REPRESENTATIVE LEO WILSON

HCR 29: Designates the second to last week of April as Texas Christian Heritage Week. Texas will join Louisiana, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin in recognizing a week that honors our country's Christian roots. Governor Ann Richards adopted a gubernatorial proclamation in 1992, however, in the 31 years since, Texas had not observed the week.

HCR 42: Designates Winnie, Texas as the official Rice Capital of Texas. The great state of Texas is the fifth largest producer of rice in the United States, even though only a handful of Texas counties grow and harvest that particular crop. Among those counties, nobody harvests more rice than Chambers, and in Chambers County, nobody celebrates that harvest more than Winnie. The City of Winnie will hold its fifty-fourth annual Texas Rice Festival this upcoming October and we welcome all residents of House District 23 to attend.

HB 2900: Cleaned up state code to ensure that the Trinity Bay Conservation District maintains separate funds for drainage and water/sewage services.

HB 3097: Removed red-tape that slowed the rate in which our local cities could disburse funding to mitigate disaster recovery in the event of a natural disaster. In the event of another hurricane, this

will greatly reduce how quickly cities can get funding authorized and mobilized to support our coastal community.

HB 5309: Removed an obscure section of code that required the Galveston Juvenile Justice Board to meet more frequently than other juvenile justice boards across the state. The board is now on par with every other board and is not required to hold unnecessary meetings unless needed to do so.

SB 1725 (HB 3415): Allows first-time offenders who go through a county's alcohol docket to get the entirety of a single incident expunged. Previously the law would sight a minor in possession of alcohol with three different charges. The law allowed for the minor to not be penalized with the condition that they finish programming, however, it only allowed the waiver of one charge. Moving forward the entire incident will be expunged and the child will receive their second chance at making better decisions.

Additionally, **HB 1929** which did not pass as its own bill was amended into **HB 4087**. The amended bill allows the residents of the Bolivar Peninsula to use aerobic septic systems if the appropriate permits are obtained. This bill is crucial to the development and the infrastructure of utilities on the fast growing communities within the Bolivar Peninsula.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 BALLOT

HJR 2: The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

HJR 3: The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy.

HJR 107: The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.

HJR 125: The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.

HJR 126: The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.

HJR 132: The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

HJR 134: The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County.

SJR 32: The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.

SJR 64: The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility.

SJR 74: The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.

SJR 75: The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.

SJR 87: The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain.

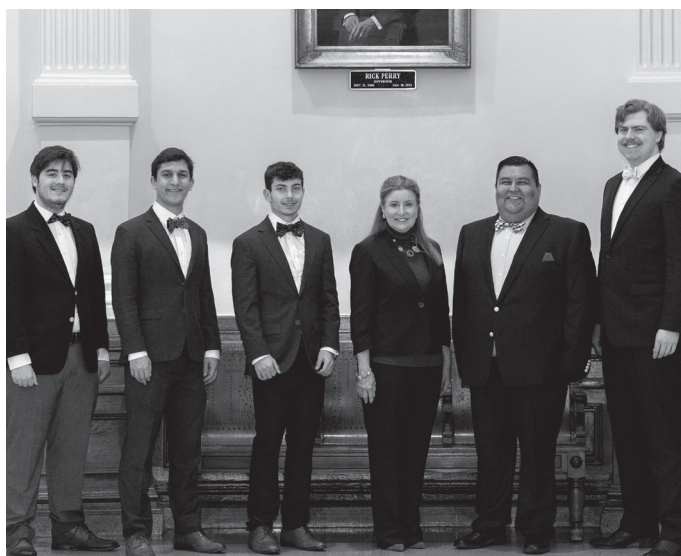
SJR 93: The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.

Constituent Assistance

The Office of State Representative Terri Leo Wilson is always available to constituents who need assistance with state-related issues. Constituents may call our Capitol and Galveston district office with any questions or concerns.

Capitol Tours

The office is able to coordinate Capitol tours for any constituent visiting Austin. Constituents who schedule a tour will be led through the Capitol and get a glimpse at the history of the building and of the state. The tour makes stops in both the House and Senate chambers. In addition,



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson is proud of the staff members who helped make her first session a successful one. (Pictured: Interns – Andrew McKiernan, Nathan Comeaux, Zach Shamban, Legislative Director – Jaren Tankersley, and Chief of Staff – Saul Mendoza; Not Pictured: Intern – Katelyn Pasierb, District Director – Susan LeBlanc, and District Director – Gloria Greene)

the office is also able to coordinate Capitol Dome tours. This tour has restrictions on time availability and a 15 person group limit, and a medium level of physical activity. To schedule any of these tours please contact the Austin Capitol office.

Legislative Recognitions

Know someone in District 23 who deserves recognition? Let us know! We frequently arrange for official House Resolutions recognizing community service, academic and extracurricular scholastic accomplishments, and other outstanding works of note in our community.



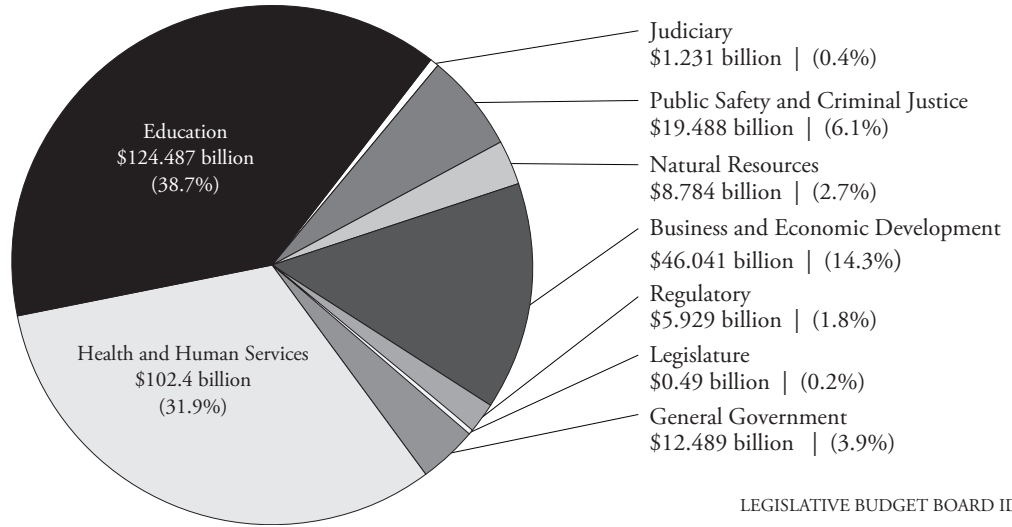
State Representative Terri Leo Wilson is joined by a delegation from Winnie, Texas, who came to Austin to testify in favor of designating Winnie as the Texas Rice Capital. Additionally, they are joined by our local oyster industry stakeholders who also came to Austin to testify in favor of legislation that promotes our local oyster industry.

★ BUDGET BREAKDOWN ★

HIGHLIGHTS OF HB 1 & SB 30

2024-2025 ALL FUNDS

TOTAL = \$321.34 billion



LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD ID: 8117

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF: Under **HB 1**, \$17.6 billion will be allocated for property tax relief.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Provides \$5,105.7 million for border security efforts coordinated through thirteen state agencies, including the Texas Military Department (\$2,265.5 million), Office of the Governor (\$1,388.7 million) and the Department of Public Safety (\$1,194.6 million).

EDUCATION: **HB 1** fully funds the Foundation School Program (FSP) under current law, including increases of \$3.2 billion to fund projected enrollment growth, \$2.4 billion for increases in the golden penny yield, and \$60.0 million for the New Instructional Facilities Allotment. **HB1** also increases funding to districts and charter schools for technology and instructional materials by \$307 million.

SCHOOL SAFETY: Increases funding for school safety measures by \$1.4 billion (\$300.0 million in **HB 1** and \$1.1 billion in SB 30), including grants to districts and charter schools and new statewide initiatives.

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM: Includes \$1.6 billion for a onetime supplemental annuity payment for certain TRS retirees and \$3.4 billion to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible TRS retirees. Additionally, **HB 1** provides \$588.5 million to TRS to maintain health insurance premium increases below 10 percent each year for TRS-Active Care participants.

GULF COAST FUNDING: Provides the General Land Office (GLO) \$550.0 million in GR to provide funds to the Gulf Coast Protection District and \$60.0 million in GR-D funding to administer the Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act program to expand erosion response projects studies.

DISTRICT 23 SURVEY

We value your opinions on issues and want to hear from you! Please feel free to fill out the following survey and return to our office in person or by mail.

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Please prioritize the following issues in order of importance to you. (1- highest priority; 10 - lowest priority)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| _____ Immigration & Border Security | _____ Healthcare |
| _____ 2nd Amendment Rights | _____ Tax Relief |
| _____ Protection of Life - unborn & end of life issues | _____ Transportation |
| _____ Religious Liberty | _____ Child Welfare |
| _____ Education Funding | _____ Additional Comments: _____ |
| _____ Criminal Justice Reform | _____ |



Responses can be digitally emailed to Saul Mendoza, Chief of Staff, at saul.mendoza@house.texas.gov. Responses may also be mailed to Rep. Terri Leo Wilson, P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768.



Terri Leo Wilson, State Representative

District 23 | Galveston and Chambers Counties

COMMITTEES: Pensions, Investments & Financial Services | Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TERRI LEO WILSON



The Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for State Representative Terri Leo Wilson's Capitol office.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson joins the ribbon cutting of the Chambers County Children's Museum.