

★ LEGISLATIVE OFFICE UPDATES ★

INTRODUCING MAGGIE ALBRECHT: THE NEW DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR GALVESTON COUNTY



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson and Galveston District Director Maggie Albrecht attend a tour of the Galveston Seafarers Center. The Galveston Seafarers Center is an exceptional non-profit organization that serves the needs of men and women who live and work at sea.

background in theatre and music. She enjoys immersing herself in the arts, which has given her a profound appreciation for storytelling and the power of the arts to inspire and unite people. Her involvement in theatre has not only enriched her own life but also the lives of those around her, demonstrating her ability to bring people together through shared experiences and creative expression.

With her passion for connecting with others, her dedication to making a positive impact, and her love for the arts, Maggie Albrecht is sure to be an inspiring and influential presence in Galveston County. We are excited to welcome her to our team and look forward to the many positive contributions she will bring to our community.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH ALFORD: AN EXCEPTIONAL LEGISLATIVE INTERN

We are delighted to recognize Elizabeth G. Alford for her outstanding service as a legislative intern in the office of State Representative Terri Leo-Wilson during the 88th Legislative Session. Hailing from Mont Belvieu and a sixth-generation Texan, Elizabeth has been an invaluable asset to our office.

Elizabeth's contributions have been vital in handling a wide variety of challenging tasks, providing essential support and showcasing her impressive capabilities. Through her internship, she gained valuable experience in public service, deepening her understanding of the legislative process and the issues that impact Texans. Her dedication and skill have significantly benefited our office, and her commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed.

A graduate of the Barbers Hill Independent School District, Elizabeth is currently pursuing studies in government and pre-law within the liberal arts honors program at The University of Texas at Austin. Her leadership and civic engagement are evident through her accomplishments, including founding and serving as president of Girls Doing Good, an organization dedicated to community service and empowerment.

This summer, Elizabeth has taken an internship with the Mont Belvieu Parks & Recreation Department, where she continues to demonstrate her commitment to public service and community involvement. We wish her the very best in this new role and are confident she will excel, as she has done with us.

We hope that Elizabeth will return to our office upon completing her summer internship. Her dedication, enthusiasm, and talent have made a lasting impression on our team, and we look forward to the possibility of her rejoining us in Austin.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson presented Elizabeth Alford of Mont Belvieu with a resolution commemorating her work as legislative intern for the office.



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

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

CAPITOL OFFICE:

P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910  
512-463-0502

DISTRICT OFFICE:

305 21st Street, Suite 241  
Galveston, TX 77550  
(409) 762-0202

*TERRI.LEO-WILSON@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV*

STAFF | Capitol: Saul Mendoza, Chief of Staff – *saul.mendoza@house.texas.gov* • District: Maggie Albrecht, District Director – Galveston County – *maggie.albrecht@house.texas.gov*  
Remote: Susan LeBlanc, District Director, Chambers County – *susan.leblanc@house.texas.gov*

BE SURE TO FOLLOW REPRESENTATIVE LEO WILSON ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & X (formerly known as TWITTER)!

Official Business  
STATE OF TEXAS  
State Penalty  
For Private Use

PRSRRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Austin, Texas  
Permit 2803

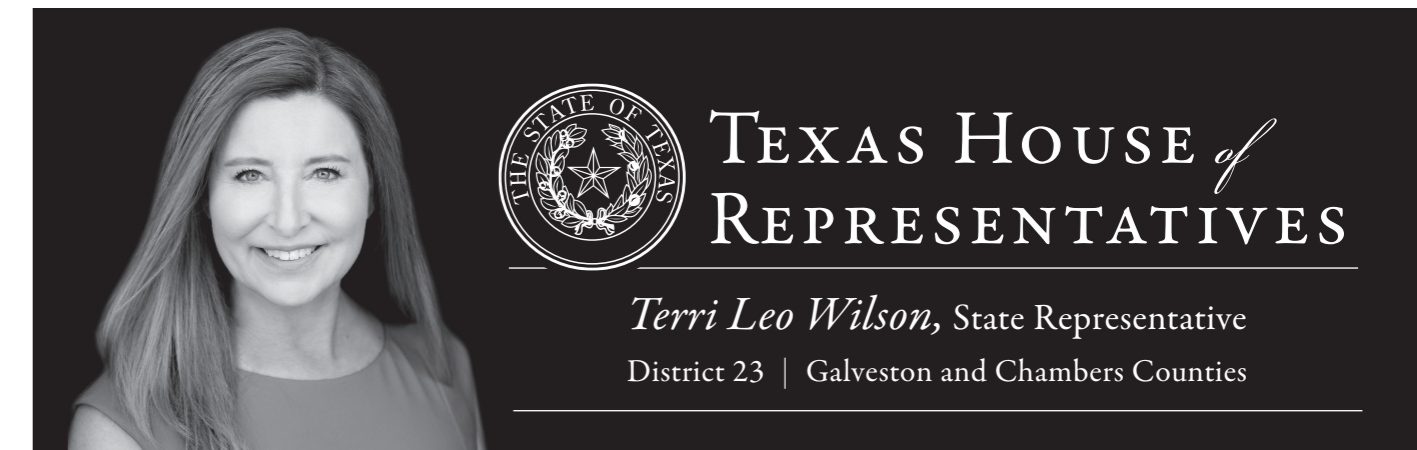
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**TERRI LEO WILSON**



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson attended the Bolivar Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet "Night Under the Stars" which honored "The Stars of Bolivar." Among the stars recognized was beloved community leader and businesswoman Anne Willis who recently passed away on May 13th, 2024. Our hearts go out to her family, friends, and community in the Bolivar Peninsula.

"Anne was very much the "Queen of the Peninsula". I only got to know her the last few years and I am so grateful I did. She loved this place and was knowledgeable about everything and everyone on Bolivar. I appreciated her sense of style and her fighting spirit. She fought for the things and people she believed in. It is one thing to say you care, it is quite another to spend a lifetime of doing caring deeds for others. I loved Anne mostly because she was not afraid to roll up her sleeves and step into the middle of the political fray if she needed to. She was truly one of a kind and will be sorely missed by all." – Terri



88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Dear Friend and Neighbor,

It is an honor to serve you and advocate for our Gulf Coast interests and values on the Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services and Juvenile Justice & Family Issues committees.

As the interim period ends and the 89th Legislative Session approaches, I am meeting with local elected officials, nurses, school administrators, teachers, small business owners, doctors, pastors, and families to discuss their aspirations, hopes, and dreams for our communities. Texans have always faced challenges, but with hundreds moving to our state daily, it's clear we're doing something right. I am committed to making our community an even better place to live, work, and raise families.

During the legislative interim, I have been actively involved in our community, attending events and town halls to stay connected with your needs and concerns. Additionally, I have been working closely with state agencies to ensure the effective implementation of legislation passed in the last session.

This newsletter aims to provide brief updates on developments in House District 23 and across the state. Interim committee hearings will begin soon, addressing several important policy items. As I serve on my respective committees, I plan to bring these discussions back to you for input over the coming months.

Representation for Galveston and Chambers counties is crucial as we approach the legislative session. Ensuring our unique interests and concerns are addressed requires active involvement and communication. Our local and Capitol staff are here to assist you during this interim period. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

It is a privilege to serve the people of Galveston and Chambers counties. Let's continue working together to strengthen our community and uphold the values that make our Gulf Coast home special.

For God and Texas,

*Terri Leo Wilson*

State Representative  
House District 23



**INTERIM CHARGES**

During the legislative interim, Speaker of the House Dade Phelan has assigned each standing and select committee specific interim charges to review, which were distributed in May 2024. Interim charges are directives given to committees to examine and address critical issues facing the state between legislative sessions. These charges serve as a roadmap for committees to monitor the implementation of existing legislation and to explore new challenges and opportunities that require immediate attention or future legislative action.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson recognizes Tristin Parker of Winnie on being named the 2023 Resistol Rookie of the Year in bullriding.

Each committee’s chairman is responsible for convening their respective committees to discuss these charges. This includes organizing meetings, hearings, and consultations with relevant stakeholders to gather information and insights. The interim charges encompass a broad range of topics, from scrutinizing the effectiveness of recently passed laws to investigating pressing state issues that demand prompt intervention. As committees delve into these matters, they may propose rulemaking actions to state agencies or recommend legislative changes for the next session.

State Representative Terri Leo Wilson, who serves on the Pensions, Investments, & Financial Services and Juvenile Justice & Family Issues committees, is actively involved in addressing her committees’ interim charges. These committees will be examining vital areas such as financial oversight, retirement systems, juvenile justice reforms, and family welfare issues. By participating in these interim activities, Representative Leo Wilson and her colleagues are working to ensure that the laws enacted are effectively implemented and that emerging issues are appropriately addressed.

The interim period is crucial for the proactive governance of our state, allowing for continuous improvement and responsiveness to the needs of Texans. Representative Leo Wilson’s engagement in this process exemplifies her dedication to serving her constituents and enhancing the well-being of our communities. The work done now will lay the groundwork for the legislative actions and priorities of the upcoming session, making it an essential component of the legislative cycle.

**Pensions, Investments, & Financial Services (PIFS)**

The Committee on Pensions, Investments & Financial Services has been assigned crucial interim charges to address before the

upcoming legislative session. First, the committee is tasked with monitoring agencies and programs under its jurisdiction, ensuring the effective implementation of legislation passed by the 88th Legislature. This includes active oversight of all associated rulemaking and governmental actions to guarantee the intended legislative outcomes. A significant focus will be on Senate Bill 10, which amends the state statute to enhance benefits for eligible retirees under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). As of June 14, 2023, SB 10 provides a one-time stipend for annuitants aged 70 or older by August 31, 2023, with \$7,500 allocated for those aged 75 and above, and \$2,400 for those aged



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson attends the San Leon Fire and Rescue Department Open House event.

70 to 74. Additionally, as of January 1, 2024, the bill made a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for retirees. The COLA includes a two percent increase for those who retired between September 1, 2013, and August 31, 2020, a four percent increase for retirees from September 1, 2001, to August 31, 2013, and a six percent increase for those who retired on or before August 31, 2001.

Secondly, the committee is charged with examining the impact of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) policies on fiduciary duties and their potential detrimental effects on investors. This involves scrutinizing how ESG considerations might conflict with the primary responsibility of fiduciaries to maximize financial returns for investors.

**Juvenile Justice & Family Issues (JJFI)**

The Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues has been assigned critical interim charges to address pressing concerns within its purview. First, the committee is tasked with monitoring the agencies and programs under its jurisdiction, ensuring that the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 88th Legislature is carried out effectively. This involves active oversight of all associated rulemaking and governmental actions to guarantee the intended legislative outcomes.

Secondly, the committee will examine the definition of the “best interest of a child” in the Texas Family Code, which is pivotal in determining issues of conservatorship and access to a child. The goal is to assess whether policy changes are needed to better protect the rights and interests of both children and parents. This review seeks to ensure that the legal framework adequately supports the well-being of children while balancing parental rights.

Thirdly, the committee will evaluate the juvenile justice system, focusing on the adjudication and disposition of cases involving delinquent conduct. This involves analyzing whether changes to juvenile court proceedings and improvements in planning and funding services can keep children closer to home, thereby enhancing overall outcomes for youth and public safety. The committee aims to identify strategies that can provide better support and rehabilitation for juveniles within the justice system, ultimately leading to more positive long-term results.

Through these interim charges, the Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues is committed to ensuring that legislation is effectively implemented, the legal definitions and protections around child welfare are robust, and the juvenile justice system is optimized for better outcomes. Representative Terri Leo Wilson’s participation in addressing these charges underscores her dedication to improving the systems that impact children and families, ensuring their rights and needs are prioritized within the legislative framework.

**Interim Charge Highlights**

State Representative Terri Leo Wilson does not serve in the committees addressing the following charges but it is still important for legislators to be engaged on all other matters pertinent to the state. These are a few highlights that should be an interest to all Texans.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson and State Senator Mayes Middleton attend the Texas A&M Galveston groundbreaking ceremony for the \$1,300 square foot Engineering Classroom and Research Building (ECRB). The ECRB will serve as a hub for freshman engineering programs and the new marine electro-technology degree program.

**Agriculture & Livestock**

**Foreign-Owned Agricultural Land:** Examine foreign ownership of farm-, timber-, and pastureland and agricultural processing facilities in Texas to determine whether Texas industries and supply chains are adequately protected from threats and disruptions and if further safeguards and restrictions on ownership are needed.

**Business & Industry**

**Housing Affordability:** Evaluate the impact on housing prices and rent caused by institutional buyers to determine whether policy changes are needed to ensure families and individuals are not unfairly priced out of homeownership.

**Culture, Recreation, & Tourism**

**Support for Coastal Shrimping and Fishing Industries:** Study the impact of excessive imports of shrimp from other countries and related



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson participated in Galveston’s Lemonade Day hosted by the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce. The event provides young entrepreneurs the opportunity to operate their own lemonade stand for a day and learn what it takes to run a small business.

trade practices on local economies, domestic shrimp populations, and public health and safety. Identify measures to promote Texas gulf shrimp and support local fisherman and coastal communities.

**Public Education**

**Educational Opportunity:** Consider issues and matters to increase educational opportunities in Texas to ensure that students and families have increased options to attend a high-quality school, regardless of circumstance. Evaluate the use of education savings accounts in other states and make recommendations for a Texas program, including suggestions on eligibility and prioritization of applicants.

**State Affairs**

**Securing the Border:** Conduct a review of functions and operations of state agencies involved with carrying out Operation Lone Star as they relate to securing the border and preventing transnational criminal activity. Evaluate whether agencies have sufficient resources and authority to carry out their prescribed duties. Make recommendations to increase the safety and wellbeing of personnel and efficiency of agency operations as needed.

**Review TWIA Funding:** Review current state policy as it relates to the operation and funding of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA), including state agency capacity to effectively oversee TWIA. Evaluate the ability of state agencies and instrumentalities to secure the seacoast region’s ability to produce energy and advance science and technology, including the role of reinsurance in maintaining economic security and ways to reduce the burden of reinsurance purchases on energy production and scientific and technological advances, while maintaining adequate coverage for policyholders.

**Transportation**

**Port Infrastructure and Maritime Industry:** Study long-term needs of the maritime industry in Texas. Evaluate the implementation status of the Maritime Port Mission Plan and make recommendations to improve port planning, safety measures, and project delivery. Examine status of TxDOT seaport projects that received funding during the 88th Legislature.

**Bridge Safety:** Evaluate the current status of state-maintained bridges, existing safety standards related to bridges, and long-term financial needs for bridge planning, construction, maintenance, and inspection. Examine ways to improve bridge project delivery.

**HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS**

Natural disasters annually wreak havoc on thousands of homes and disrupt countless lives across Texas. Particularly, hurricanes have historically posed numerous risks both to the lives and property of Texans. Being proactive and prepared can help mitigate the risks posed by hurricanes. Taking steps, such as safeguarding personal documents, assembling a disaster emergency kit, purchasing flood insurance, flood-proofing homes, and formulating a family evacuation plan can greatly reduce the toll that these storms can have on your life. As the next hurricane season approaches, it is important to stay both up to date and prepared.

First, Texans can stay informed about storms and potential risks from local officials, stage agencies like the General Land Office (GLO) on social media, and the National Hurricane Center (NHC). Staying informed is key to knowing potential risks as they arise.

Second, secure crucial financial, medical, educational, and legal documents in waterproof bags, and maintain electronic backups. A video inventory of your home and belongings can be invaluable for insurance purposes, enabling quick packing of valuables in emergencies. Third, ensure your kit addresses the needs of all household members, including children, elderly, individuals with special needs, and pets. It should include medical supplies, tools, safety items, non-perishable food, water for at least three days, and specific necessities such as infant formula. Fourth, most homeowner insurance policies exclude flood damage. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) offers policies through agents or directly. Maintaining flood insurance is crucial, especially for homes rebuilt in floodplains under the Texas General Land Office’s Homeowner Assistance Program, to qualify for future government aid. Fifth, flood damage by shutting off the main circuit breaker, keeping gutters and drains clear, installing water alarms, sump pumps, and check valves in sewer lines, and stockpiling protective materials. Elevate heating systems, water heaters, and electrical panels if they are at risk, and consider home elevation in areas prone to repetitive flooding. Sixth, evaluate your flood risk, prepare a meeting spot if separated, and pack a readily accessible “go bag.” Familiarize yourself with local evacuation routes. Communicate your plans with friends or family outside your area. Seventh, secure doors and windows, trim trees and secure loose yard items, and inspect and potentially upgrade roofing to withstand hurricane-force winds.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson attends the Texas City Hurricane Town Hall at Doyle Convention Center. Over 600 people were in attendance and attendees were given hurricane buckets containing essential supplies.

**Helpful Links:**

- Chambers County Hurricane Preparedness:** <https://www.co.chambers.tx.us/376/Hurricane-Preparedness>
- City of Galveston Hurricane Preparedness:** <https://galvestontx.gov/491/Hurricane-Preparedness>
- Texas General Land Office Disaster Checklist:** <https://recovery.texas.gov/documents/disaster-preparedness/disaster-evacuation-checklist.pdf>
- Evacuation Roots Across the Texas Gulf:** <https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/docs/trf/hurricane-preparation/houston.pdf>
- Texas Ready:** <https://texasready.gov/>
- National Hurricane Center:** <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
- National Hurricane Center Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale:** <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutshws.php?large>
- FEMA National Flood Insurance Program:** <https://www.floodsmart.gov/>



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson spoke to Ms. Bennett’s classes regarding civics and the process of passing a bill in the state legislature. Additionally, she was able to recognize Tina Ly and Brynden Bogie on advancing to the UIL State Informative Speaking Competition and representing the best of Anahuac Independent School District.

**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, 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.