

Terri Leo
WILSON

**MONTHLY SESSION NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2025**



MEET YOUR REP!

Terri Leo Wilson graduated Summa Cum Laude with undergraduate degrees in elementary and special education, and received a Master's Degree in Educational Administrations from Texas A&M University Commerce. She is a 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 five grandchildren.

SESSION ACTIVITY: BY WEEK

Week 1 - 89th Session Opening Ceremony

State Representative Terri Leo Wilson was sworn into office for Texas House District 23, inspired by the scripture Philippians 2:3 and her decades of experience in public service. She took the oath with her husband and key staff members present. Following the opening ceremony, the House elected Rep. Dustin Burrows as the new Speaker of the House after two rounds of voting, with Rep. Leo Wilson casting her vote for the caucus nominee, Rep. David Cook. Rep. Leo Wilson emphasized her commitment to working with Speaker Burrows to pass conservative legislation for her constituents. She looks forward to delivering results for Galveston and Chambers counties and can be reached at her new Capitol office.

Week 2 - Texas Budget Blueprints

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar has released the Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE), projecting \$194.6 billion in available funds for the 2026-27 biennium, which is about 1.1% less than the previous period. This estimate ensures funding for key areas like public safety, education, border security, and property tax relief, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Senate Budget (SB 1) Highlights:

- **Property Tax Relief:** \$32.2 billion for tax cuts and increased homestead exemptions.
- **Public Education:** \$73.1 billion for schools, with pay raises for teachers and \$1 billion for school choice.
- **Health and Human Services:** \$46.5 billion, with additional investments in community attendant wages.
- **Border Security & Public Safety:** \$6.5 billion for border operations and \$402 million for new DPS personnel.
- **Infrastructure & Energy:** \$40.4 billion for transportation and \$5 billion for the electric grid.

House Budget (HB 1) Highlights:

- **Property Tax Relief:** \$26.3 billion for ongoing tax relief and new initiatives.
- **Public Education:** \$63 billion for schools, with an increase for enrollment growth and \$1 billion for school choice.

- **Health and Human Services:** \$174 million for early childhood programs and state hospital beds.
- **Infrastructure:** \$36 billion for highway improvements and \$2.5 billion for water infrastructure.
- **Public Safety & Cybersecurity:** \$6.5 billion for border security and \$1.1 billion for cybersecurity.

Both chambers will negotiate a final budget, with the Senate's SB 1 serving as the framework. Rep. Terri Leo Wilson emphasized the importance of using the resources for property tax relief, education, school choice, and public safety.

Week 3 - Emergency Items, Priority Bills, & Legislative Priorities

Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, and Speaker Dustin Burrows outlined their key priorities for the 89th Texas Legislative Session, focusing on areas that affect Texans statewide.

Governor Abbott's Emergency Items:

- **Water Infrastructure:** Ensure long-term sustainability of Texas' water supply.
- **Teacher Pay Raises:** Increase educator compensation to attract and retain quality teachers.
- **Expanding Career Training:** Enhance workforce programs for high-demand careers.
- **School Choice:** Provide more educational options for parents.
- **Bail Reform:** Strengthen measures to keep violent criminals off the streets.
- **Texas Cyber Command:** Establish a state-led initiative to protect against cyber threats.
- **Property Tax Relief:** Provide additional tax cuts for homeowners.

Lt. Governor Patrick's Priority Bills:

- **Education Reform:** Includes school choice, a Parental Bill of Rights, and placing the Ten Commandments in schools.
- **Public Safety:** Strengthens bail reform and supports local law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration efforts.
- **Economic & Infrastructure Investments:** Raises the homestead exemption, enhances the electric grid, and secures the water supply.
- **Social & Cultural Issues:** Bans drag queen story hours in libraries, mandates education on communism, and blocks foreign adversaries from buying Texas land.

Speaker Burrows' Legislative Priorities: Focus on government efficiency, school choice, public school funding, property tax cuts, and supporting small businesses.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA!

HB 160

Removes eligibility for individuals not authorized to be in the United States under federal law to qualify for resident tuition rates.

HB 309

Prohibits political subdivisions in Texas from using public funds for lobbying activities including hiring registered lobbyists

HB 749

Requires food service establishments to provide clear notices to customers when serving shrimp imported from outside the United States.

HB 902

Amends the approval process for beach access and use plans by the Texas General Land Office commissioner, provides guidelines for partial approval, specific feedback for denials, and procedures for revising and resubmitting plans.

HB 1137

Requires the development of a parental rights handbook for education, requires school district trustees to undergo training on parental rights, and sets deadlines for implementation by the State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency.

HB 1484

Allows parents to transfer their child to another school if they believe their child is being subjected to sexual grooming in a public school.

HB 1645

Permits individuals injured by crimes committed by those unlawfully present in the United States to sue local entities or campus police departments for violations of immigration enforcement laws.

HB 2102

Prohibits discrimination and antisemitism in public schools and higher education institutions and requires antisemitism awareness training and equivalent disciplinary measures as those for racism.

HCR 6

Designates Galveston as the official Juneteenth Capital of Texas.

HCR 50

Designates Galveston as the official Mardi Gras Capital of Texas.

MEET THE STAFF!



Saul Mendoza
Chief of Staff

Saul will be working his 8th Legislative Session under the pink dome. He previously worked for former State Representatives James White and Jim Landtroop. During his time in the Capitol, he has served as a Chief of Staff for 9 years passing a variety of legislative bills focusing on criminal justice and law enforcement reforms. Additionally, Saul has worked on the campaigns of Governor Greg Abbott, Senator Ted Cruz, and State 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 has served as Chief of Staff to Rep. Terri Leo Wilson since she took office in 2023.

Caleb White
Legislative Director



Caleb White, a senior political science major at Texas A&M from Pflugerville, Texas, grew up in a family with a strong legacy of public service in the state of Texas. Through his time earning his Eagle Scout rank with the Boy Scouts of America, Caleb discovered his own interests in the field of public service that would play a large role in shaping his educational pursuits after high school. As a proud second-generation Aggie, Caleb followed his passion by attending the Bush School of Government and Public Service. His commitment to public service continues this spring as he interns as a Legislative Director with the Office of State Representative Terri Leo-Wilson. Looking forward, after graduating in December of 2025, Caleb plans to dedicate himself to serving the state of Texas with a career in public policy.

Samuel Yates
Legislative Aide



Samuel is a first-year student at Lone Star Cyfair pursuing an Associate of Science but plans on pursuing a Bachelor's in Economics as a transfer student at another university. Samuel was born and raised in Houston, Texas, and was an Alternate Delegate to the 2024 RNC.

Samuel is excited to work in Rep. Leo Wilson's office and to serve and support those of Texas House District 23.



Elizabeth Alford
Legislative Aide

Elizabeth is a second year student at the University of Texas at Austin studying Government and History with an emphasis in national security. She is part of the Liberal Arts Honors program and various political and Christian clubs on campus. She is passionate about public service and fighting for freedom, justice, and human rights.

Faith is at the center of her decision making, guiding her to a life dedicated to serving God and serving others. A Mont Belvieu native, she is humbled and excited for the opportunity to serve HD23 and give back to the community that has given her so much!

Andrew McKiernan
Legislative Aide



Andrew is currently a third year student studying Government at the University of Texas at Austin. As a military child, Andrew had the opportunity to live in nine different states, where he gained a deep commitment to public service. Academically, he is a member of the Jefferson Scholars Program at UT, studying the philosophic origins of Western Civilization. This reverence for Western ideas has made him passionate about defending classical American principles. He is currently President of his TPUSA chapter at UT Austin, where he hosts speakers, leads meetings, and engages in student activism for his fellow students. Andrew is excited to work for Representative Leo Wilson and serve the people of Texas House District 23 for a second legislative session.

Rebecca Currie
Legislative Intern



Rebecca is a first-year student at the University of Texas and is studying political communication. At UT, Rebecca is a member of the Sigma Epsilon chapter of Kappa Delta Sorority. Rebecca attended an Early College High School in Baytown, TX and is honored to be working for Rep. Leo Wilson to continue to provide educational opportunities to students that she was able to have in her youth. Prior to coming to Austin, she earned her associates degree through her dual enrollment program at Lee College.



Mark Lucas
Legislative Intern

Mark is a third-year student studying Government at the University of Texas, originally from Cedar Park, Texas. Mark is involved with the Naval ROTC unit at the University and will commission into the Navy after graduation. Mark is excited to work for Rep. Leo-Wilson and is ready to support those of Texas-house District 23.



Camille McWhorter
Legislative Intern

Camille is a second-year student at Concordia University Texas. She is a member of the Honors College and is pursuing a degree in Law and Policy. Outside of the classroom, she competes as a hurdler on her University's track team. Camille is passionate about giving back to the community through volunteering. This legislative session, Camille plans to serve the community of House District 23 by assisting Representative Leo Wilson in all her efforts.



Mackenzie Foster
Legislative Intern

Mackenzie is a student at Westlake High School in Austin, Texas, with plans to pursue a degree in Political Science. She is actively involved in her school's Politics Club and a member of the National Charity League, where she cultivates her passion for community service and leadership. Mackenzie is thrilled to intern with Representative Leo Wilson, inspired by her dedication to representing and supporting the Galveston community—a cause close to her heart as her grandparents reside there. She looks forward to gaining valuable experience and deepening her understanding of public service.



Maggie Albrecht
Galveston County Director

Maggie serves as the District Director for Galveston County, where she is known for her compassionate leadership and ability to foster meaningful connections. A proud Texan with a passion for service, Maggie's dedication to her community is reflected in her extensive humanitarian efforts and her love for the arts, which she uses to inspire and unite those around her.

As a loving mother and advocate for positive change, Maggie balances her commitment to family, community, and creative expression. Her background in theatre and music enriches her work, bringing a unique perspective to her role and making her an invaluable asset to Galveston County.

Susan LeBlanc
Chambers County Director



With a degree in Home Economics and Business, Susan began her career as a school nutrition director at Lumberton ISD in 1990 and joined Barbers Hill ISD in 1992, retiring after 29 years of service. Passionate about feeding children, she and her team developed a renowned lunch program for secondary students and showcased staff talents through district catering events. Susan also established school gardens and taught hundreds of elementary students to become Junior Master Gardeners.

A lifelong Republican, Susan has actively contributed to her community through the Republican Party and civic organizations. She has served as Chambers County District Director for Representative Leo Wilson since she took office in 2023 and is dedicated to helping her serve her constituents. Susan and her husband, Tim, also retired from Barbers Hill ISD, have one son, Andrew.





CHAMBERS COUNTY



**MAKING OUR
MARK ON**

Texas

Saddle Up & Put On Your Boots

JOIN THE MEMBERS OF CHAMBERS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
AS WE CELEBRATE THE WAYS THAT CHAMBERS COUNTY IS

Making Our Mark on Texas!

CHAMBERS COUNTY DAY AT THE CAPITOL LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025
BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM
1800 CONGRESS AVE | AUSTIN, TX
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MENU TO INCLUDE:
HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES SHOWCASING REGIONAL SPECIALTIES
FREE BEER, WINE, TEA AND WATER



RSVP IS NOT REQUIRED,
BUT WILL HELP US WITH PLANNING

RSVP BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR
EMAILING SHUMPHREY@CHAMBERSTX.GOV

DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS TO SAMANTHA HUMPHREY AT
409-267-2692 OR SHUMPHREY@CHAMBERSTX.GOV



LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

Galveston County Day

MARCH 6TH, 2025 • 5PM

SIGN UP HERE



SAVE THE DATE!



League City
Regional
Chamber of Commerce



GALVESTON
Regional
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Friendswood
Chamber of Commerce



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
HITCHCOCK, TEXAS



Santa Fe
Chamber
of COMMERCE
Honor the Past Embrace the Future



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Contact Representative Leo Wilson!

(512) 463 0502

(409)-762-0202

P.O. Box 2910

305 21s St., Suite 241

Austin, TX 78768

Galveston, TX 77550