



2022 INTERIM LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



REPRESENTATIVE GARY GATES

Proudly serving Fort Bend County

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Dear Constituents,

It is with gratitude that I share what has been accomplished this year because of your participation in District 28.

The 2022 Primary was held on March 1. This election was as an opportunity to knock on thousands of doors to talk with constituents. 10,655 of you came out to vote, supporting me as your incumbent representative.

District 28 will move forward into 2023 with "Parents' Rights in Education" and "Career and Technical Training" opportunities for every Texas high school student as top priorities. Read more about proposed legislation, top priorities, as well as district successes on the inside pages.

Statewide, Texans voted to pass two property tax constitutional amendments:

- First, a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.
- Second, Texans have also voted to pass a constitutional amendment to freeze and lower the school property taxes of disabled individuals and the elderly, as the state's share of public education funding increases.

In 2023, I will pursue compliance in taxation as affordable housing developments evolve within the district and state. This would benefit many families in need of housing and would funnel developer taxes back to municipalities, including for school district funding.

As you may know, Fort Bend County has been recognized as one of the most diverse counties in the state and also the country. We have shown that liberty and justice work together in government. This November 8th, your participation in voting is critical to ensure that principled way of life in Fort Bend County continues for all who live, work and visit here. Please remember to cast your vote on November 8th.

It's an honor getting to know so many of the constituents in this District. I look forward to continuing to represent all of HD 28 in the coming term.

Sincerely,

Gary Gates

Texas House of Representatives, District 28

Feel free to reach out by calling or texting (713) 899-7870 or by email to gary.gates@house.texas.gov.

Committees: House Appropriations Committee and the House Urban Affairs Committee

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN DISTRICT 28



DISTRICT 28 AND CAREER & TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR ALL OF TEXAS

TERRY HIGH SCHOOL in Rosenberg had 1,948 students enrolled in at least 1 CTE course in the 2021-2022 school year. All of these programs end with an opportunity for students to attain an industry-based certification. Yet, evidence does not support that more than 3-6% of high school students statewide graduate with industry based credentials. There is much more that school districts need to do for Texas high school students who aspire to exit CTE programs as industry certified high school graduates.



- Animal Science
- Applied Agricultural Engineering
- Plant Science
- Carpentry
- HVAC
- Design and Multimedia
- Diesel, Heavy Equip.
- Digital Communications
- Business Management
- Marketing and Sales
- Teaching and Training
- Healthcare Diagnostics
- Healthcare Therapeutic
- Culinary Arts
- Law Enforcement
- Welding
- Cybersecurity
- Engineering
- Programming/
Software Development
- Automotive Technology

WORKING TO EXPAND CAREER AND TECHNICAL TRAINING RESOURCES FOR TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Rep. Gates plans to once again author a bill to institute a process by which a school district could establish a CTE program for high school students whose educational needs would be better served by focused career and technical education. This legislation would allow interested high school students to gain the skills and credentials they need to enter professions like plumbing, welding, construction, and electrical work upon graduation.

IN DISTRICT 28, INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS ARE OFFERED AT WHARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

TEXAS IS LEADING IN HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Texas Tier One welcomes The University of Texas at San Antonio and Baylor University as the latest universities in the state to achieve the prestigious ranking for research activity often referred to as Carnegie Tier One. The designation is awarded by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

PARENTAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION



Texans received a rude awakening about education when Florida's Governor DeSantis signed into law limitations on classroom education on the sexual orientation and gender identity for students in kindergarten through third grade. Texas legislators quickly became aware that similar measures may be needed to curb sex education and indoctrination in our own schools. Likewise, Texas parents have become more aware that this issue hits closer to home than anyone had thought.

Many legislators are already advocating for removing sex education for children in kindergarten through fourth grade. This year, legislators will talk about

parental rights in education. One key issue is the covert implementation of school curriculum being taught to children without parental knowledge and input. A second issue is the lack of acceptance afforded to parents when they do speak up.

What can you do as Texas legislators address sexual indoctrination in grades K-12?

1. Familiarize yourself with the topic, including federal government overreach. This can be a tough topic to face, but because of the pervasiveness of it in Texas schools, awareness will enable you to be a part of a well thought out solution.
2. Talk to others in the community who have an interest in Texas children: parents, grandparents, neighbors, teachers, and lawmakers.
3. Consider what is in the best interest of the child that is in your life, and what responsibilities your schools should be concerned with when it comes to their education. If you are a parent or adult caring for a child, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that you hold the fundamental right regarding the education of your child(ren). You are entitled to see and be informed about every aspect of curriculum, text books, and library books.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND TAXATION

Texas has been experiencing rapid population growth since 2016. In an effort to address the growing number of households in need of housing assistance, Texas offers tax breaks to housing developers. Under a specific law codified for this purpose, one program extends 100% property tax exemption benefits to apartment developers for rent restricted unit properties. Unfortunately, the financial returns promised to low- and middle-income households do not reflect the tax incentives enjoyed by the apartment developers.

1. This segment of apartment developers in Texas is rapidly growing and receiving property tax exemptions close to \$1 million a year per property, on average. Concern is mounting that despite the steep property tax exemptions, the public benefits are comparatively few. A growing body of evidence suggests that the exemptions provided apartment developers fail to serve the state's rising affordable housing needs while at the same time benefiting the developers.
2. To add to the matter, these same apartment housing projects have been accused of discriminating against the very population they promised to serve, low- and middle-income households. These households represent predominantly African-American and Hispanic groups.
3. The second issue is the loss in revenue to local taxing districts and to school districts reflected in diminished state education budgets.



This year, the House Committee on Urban Affairs is examining the effectiveness and integrity of these property tax exemptions, and whether such exemptions should continue for apartment developers. The committee will be making recommendations to the House during the 2023 Legislative Session.



LOOK FOR LEGISLATION PROTECTING PARENTAL RIGHTS TO DIRECT THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION



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