



Your District 45 Weekly Update

Hey y'all!

I wanted to take a moment to let you know about what's been going on this week here at the Capitol and around the district. From passing a historic education bill out of the House to hosting a Grammy-nominated band on the House floor, we've had quite a couple weeks.

Thank you for being engaged, and I hope you'll stay in touch.

For a better Texas,

Erin Zwiener

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Hays & Blanco Counties

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Click [here](#) to sign up for our office newsletter!

In Memoriam



Before we get into the news of the past few weeks, I want to take a moment to remember an extraordinary public servant we lost on March 28, Mayor Phillip Taylor of Mountain City.

Mayor Taylor was a volunteer firefighter, a member of the Hays County Sheriff's Office, and a Volunteer Emergency Management Specialist. He embodied what public service is all about and made the lives of those he touched safer and better.

My thoughts are with his family, the people of Mountain City, and his current and former colleagues at Hays County Sheriff and Hays CISD who are mourning a friend, father, and community leader.

The Main Stories

More Funding for Texas Schools and Property Tax Relief



I promised to fight for public education, pre-K funding, teacher pay, and property tax relief when I got to the capitol. We did some amazing work in the House this week toward that goal. I am so thrilled to have co-authored HB 3 to provide \$9 billion in public school funding, increase teacher pay by over \$1,800, and grant property tax relief across HD 45 and Texas.

With this bill, we are able to take better care of our kids and our families, and the state of Texas is once again moving toward paying its fair share for public education. The Texas House passed this bill on Wednesday, April 3rd, and now it's the Senate's turn.

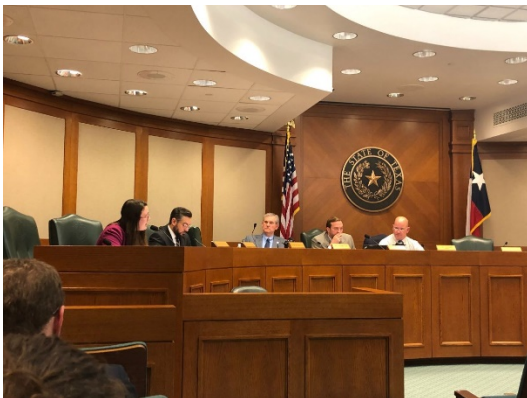
Protecting Our Drinking Water

I'm hearing your concerns loud and clear, and I know my colleagues and I in the Texas House must take action to protect our vulnerable aquifers from contamination from oil and gas pipelines.

That is why I laid out HB 3324 on April 2nd to make sure there are contingency plans in case of an accident in the transportation of hazardous materials through pipelines.



Laying out HB 4116



HB 4116 creates a voluntary financial assurance program for discharge permits administered by TCEQ. It would allow a permit applicant to negotiate an agreement upfront with interest groups -- an agreement that would include more stringent limitations than the TCEQ permit -- and then back that agreement up with bonding, a letter of credit, or an escrow account.

Infrastructure

As a legislator, public safety will always be among my top priorities. Hays County's six high-hazard dams pose a risk to our infrastructure and the lives of Hays County residents.

That is why I proposed an amendment to ensure these dams and others are properly maintained and repaired or upgraded when necessary. It's the best way to see that both our dams and people are kept safe and secure. I hope we can come together to adopt and pass this amendment that will be good not just for House District 45, but the entire state of Texas.

Chaplain of the Day



I was honored to host Dr. Mario Garza of San Marcos to lead the invocation on the Texas House floor. Dr. Garza serves as board of elder's chair for the Indigenous Cultures Institute and Cultural Preservation Officer of the Miakan/Garza Band of Coahuiltecan people, a group indigenous to south central Texas.



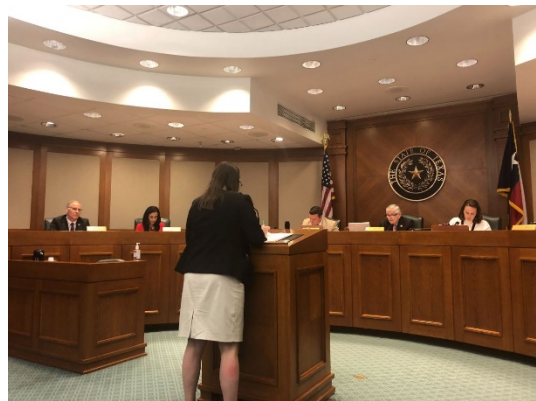
Dr. Garza delivered the invocation in the Coahuilatecan language. Thank you to Dr. Mario Garza and Maria Rocha for representing our district so well and ensuring the visibility of indigenous communities here at the Texas State Capitol.

Wood & Wire

It was also a pleasure to meet Grammy-nominated Wood & Wire and honor them on the House floor for their contributions to bluegrass music. Half the band lives in Hays County, and they decided to record their Grammy-nominated album *North of Despair* in House District 45 in Dripping Springs.



Recent Photos



Clockwise from top left: Me and my staff getting ready for a long Budget Day; our amazing honorary page, Aubrey; presenting HB 2544 to the House Committee on Land & Resource Management; and a great meeting with the National Council of Jewish Women.

Looking Ahead

HB 509 by Representative Wilson (and joint-authored by me) is being heard before the **Energy Resources Committee** on **Monday, April 8, at 2:00pm**. This bill creates a General Operating Permit for Aggregate Production Operations (APOs) to be issued and enforced by the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC). This

General Operating Permit will allow RRC to review applications for new APOs from a wholistic standpoint and use its expertise and professional discretion to evaluate compliance with the law. It also requires the RRC to establish rules requiring that APOs that are abandoned or depleted to the point of disuse to undergo a reclamation process to make the abandoned mine site safe for the public and with the surrounding landscape.

Two more of my bills, **HB 4423 and HB 4060**, will also be heard in the Energy Resources Committee on Monday. **I am asking you to register your support for these bills and HB 509** if you are able to make a trip to the Capitol. We have enough witnesses who will be testifying, but registering in support of these bills would demonstrate to the committee their importance. Please come by our office if you need assistance.

Get Involved

Thank you to everyone who signed up to join our Legislative Action Team! In case you missed the call to action, please read the message below!

As more opportunities for constituent involvement in the policy-making process pop up, I want to make sure that your voice is being heard. **What are you passionate about? What issues affect your day-to-day life? What do you want to see happen this session?**

Our **Legislative Action Team** is a place for you to share your answers to those questions with me. **Sign up to join the Action Team [here!](#)**

Recent Articles

[This Week At The Capitol With Rep. Zwiener](#)

[Rep. Erin Zwiener Introduces Rural Broadband Bill](#)

[Rep. Zwiener Introduces Budget Amendment To Fund Repairs To High-Hazard Dams](#)

