



**VIKKI GOODWIN**



STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 47

**FEBRUARY 22, 2019**

Here are some highlights of what has been happening at the Capitol. As always, please feel free to reach out to me or my staff about issues that concern you!

### **Committee Meetings**

Last week my committee meetings kicked off with the Homeland Security and Public Safety committee spending a good deal of time hearing and asking about the backlog of rape kits throughout Texas. Lynn Garcia from the Texas Forensic Science Commission testified that they don't have the authority to do anything about the backlog, and DPS hasn't been able to keep up. The Committee will be looking for ways to better



address the processing of rape kits so cases can be worked in a more timely manner. Meanwhile, the primary issue heard in the Urban Affairs committee was affordable housing and ways to improve the process for developers to be able to obtain approval for new affordable housing projects.

### **Financial Literacy for Students**

Our next deadline is March 8, when we must have all our bills filed. So far I have filed a few bills, and have a few more in the works. I have received a lot of media attention for my bill that would require high school students to complete one semester of personal financial literacy. Many parents I've heard from think this is a great idea. Right now students are offered a course on personal finance, but it isn't required and too many young adults struggle with budgeting, understanding the implications of opening multiple credit card accounts, obtaining or paying back large student loans, and understanding a variety of other financial issues. This requirement would provide practical knowledge. I will keep you up-to-date on this and other bills I've authored and co-authored as they move through the process.

### **Public School Finance Reform**

Speaking of finance, a number of bills have been, and will be, filed relating to public school finance. The House Democratic Caucus released its outline for school finance reform yesterday, which will include pay raises for our teachers, but also for our support staff. In addition, we need to bolster the Teacher Retirement System and TRS-Care which is the health care insurance system. And, we believe in providing full-day Pre-K, annual increases to the basic allotment, and more

support for students needing special education. Finally, the plan includes ideas on how to fund these goals.



Rep. Vikki Goodwin  
Texas House District 47  
Capitol, E2.420  
512.463.0652