



**VIKKI GOODWIN**



STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 47

**MARCH 27, 2019**

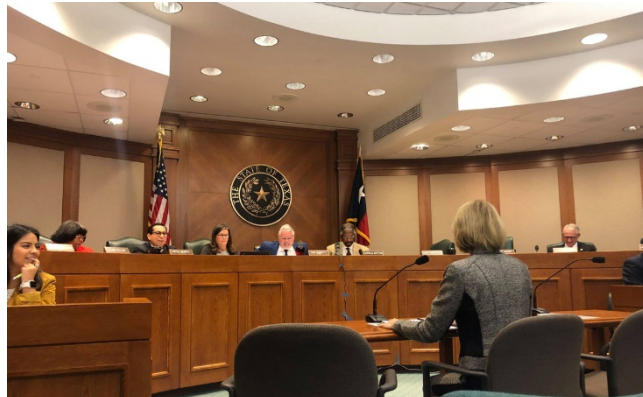
Below you can find the latest updates about what I'm doing at the Capitol and in the Community. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

### **In the Pink Dome**

Today is a big day at the Capitol. The House will be voting on the state budget for the next two-year cycle. We are likely to hear several hundred amendments to the budget since many members will have something they want to add to the budget, or funds they want to dedicate to a specific item. I have a few simple amendments, one of which is to use a portion of the funds already in TCEQ's "Alternative Fueling Facilities Program" account to install charging stations for electric vehicles within the Capitol Complex. With more and more people buying electric vehicles, I think the time is right to have charging stations at the Capitol. As a result of amendments like this, the budget process will likely go well into the night. At the end of all the debates, we will vote on spending (appropriating) approximately \$251 billion for 2020-2021, an increase of 6.5% from last biennium.

We are fortunate to have a great economy here in Texas, and one that is allowing us to invest more in our education system, our teachers and other school employees, as well as our retired teachers. While the budget will add \$9 billion to our public schools, HB 2505 will use over \$1 billion from the Economic Stabilization Fund to shore up the teacher retirement system and the teachers' group health insurance. This is a great step for our retired teachers who haven't received an increase in pay in many years. I and over forty other Representatives have co-authored HB 2505.

My bills are making progress, and four of them have been heard in committees and will hopefully be voted on by the House in the coming days and weeks. I've had a great deal of positive feedback for my "personal financial literacy" bill, as well as my "safety corridor" bill. I have some other bills that are making their way through the process, including the Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District bill and a bill that could allow more affordable housing to be built in Travis County.



## Out in the Community

I just spoke to residents of River Place last night, giving them a Legislative Update and answering questions about the new Limited District and ensuing park/trail fees. Getting out and enjoying nature is important for our physical and mental health, and I am hopeful the neighborhood leaders can work out a solution that allows and encourages people to use the trails. Perhaps those who volunteer for a work day on the trail can get a free pass for a specific timeframe to compensate for their time maintaining the trail. Whether that's the solution or not, I'm certain neighborhood leaders will find a way to ensure all residents feel welcome and included within their own neighborhood.

Tomorrow I will be joining other Hill Country legislators for a panel discussion on water in Texas hosted by the Hill Country Alliance. We will be discussing bills that address some of the water issues here. I will



be discussing the need for the Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District and my work with the current GCD Board to ensure they are given an opportunity to hold a ratification election so they can continue their work studying the groundwater in their area.

Friday I will be meeting with the Mayor of Lago Vista for a tour of their beautiful community. And I'll also be stopping off to visit with the Mayor of The Hills for an opportunity to learn more about that community. And finally, I am setting up some Town Halls for the coming months. One will be April 23 in Onion Creek. More details will be sent closer to that date. In the meantime, have a wonderful week!

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