



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DEWAYNE BURNS
House District 58

STATE OF TEXAS
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



86TH SESSION RECAP

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you well. As autumn begins and we welcome cooler weather, I want to take a moment to share with you about the 86th session of the Texas Legislature that concluded this past May.

As you know, the Texas Legislature is a part-time legislature that convenes every other year for 140 days. Within this short timeframe, we are able to conduct the business of the state, that includes passing a conservative balanced budget to fund all state agencies for the next two years. The Legislature also passed significant property tax reform and overhauled the public school finance system, which Texans have frequently cited as some of their top priorities. I am proud to have joined with Governor Abbott and my fellow members in working to address these issues.

In addition, House District 58 had a productive session, with more legislation passed in 2019 than any of the previous thirty years. In total, there were 7,324 pieces of legislation filed, and 1,229 of those were passed into law, which includes a wide variety of topics from expanding individual rights, disaster preparedness, and so much more.

According to the Texas Comptroller, our state's economy has grown and sales tax revenue for fiscal year 2019 is up. Our robust Texas economy created more new jobs than last year, so we have a responsibility in the Legislature to preserve that economic momentum going forward. With continued economic vibrancy and diversity, Texas is poised to continue its historic economic success.

In closing, thank you to everyone who took the time to reach out and let me know your thoughts regarding the legislative priorities for Johnson and Bosque Counties, as well as for the state as a whole. Your input during the Legislative session is essential when it comes to my service as your State Representative. Thank you to everyone who lifts our office up in prayer and works to improve our community. As always, we stand ready to serve you in any way we can. Best wishes to you for peaceful, productive and prosperous experiences going forward.

God bless,

Dewayne Burns



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☆ REPRESENTATIVE DEWAYNE BURNS ☆

Our primary focus continues to be the best interests of the families of Bosque and Johnson Counties. When making decisions on how to represent you, I consider two key questions, "How will this help the people of House District 58?" and "Is this the right thing to do?". I believe that the legislation I worked to pass will provide meaningful change and support on several key issues. Here are a few examples:

Supporting Law Enforcement

I successfully carried multiple pieces of pro-law enforcement legislation this session. House Bill 3540 gives police officers the ability to use professional discretion when responding to minor altercations involving persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities in a group-home setting, rather than being forced to make an arrest. The tensions that result in roommate disagreements in group homes can often escalate to physical altercations. Officers often had no choice but to arrest these individuals should a roommate or other person call and report a perceived threat. HB 3540 allows officers to assess the situation and visit with group-home staff to determine the level of danger present, if any, and whether a person with an IDD needs to be arrested or not.

I also successfully carried HB 2137, which waives the license to carry fee and course requirements for honorably retired peace officers and officers of the United States military in the same manner that is waived for active peace officers. One of my other bills, HB 2164 creates a fine for certain public venues that deny on- or off-duty peace officers their right to carry a firearm. This \$1,000 fine will add teeth to existing law and help protect the rights of law enforcement.

Eminent Domain Reform

Leading up to and during the legislative session, there were countless man-hours spent trying to craft a meaningful eminent domain reform bill to protect private property rights throughout Texas. Unfortunately, the clock ran out on us before we were able to get the finished product to a vote to address abuses in the system. Despite not having a final agreement between the House and Senate, we will continue to work next session to protect private property rights for all Texans.

Career and Technical Education Amendment

The State of Texas gives extra weighted funding as an allotment to school districts for students who are engaged in Career and Technical Education programs, such as high school agriculture classes. This funding finances CTE classes and helps them receive additional materials to further students' education in these fields. Historically, the State Board of Education has ruled that 58% of that allotment must go to direct costs for CTE programs and 42% can go to indirect costs. This session, House Bill 3, the major school finance reform bill, would have removed the existing language in statute that required a certain percentage go toward direct costs. In reviewing the details of HB 3, I recognized that removing this language would not ensure the historic minimum funding for these invaluable programs. I authored an amendment that was adopted and will continue to dedicate these funds for CTE programs.



With Governor Greg Abbott.



Members of Texas Farm Bureau from across the state to support efforts to reform the eminent domain process and protect private property rights.

General Appropriations Act

House Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act, serves as the budget for the state of Texas for the next two years. This budget contains many wins for the taxpayers, including \$5 billion in property tax relief. It expends less than the rate of population and inflation growth and meets all four spending limits required by the Texas Constitution that include:

1. the pay-as-you-go limit, which requires balanced budgeting so that the state cannot appropriate more than they have in general revenue;
2. the spending limit, which prohibits the rate of growth of tax-funded appropriations from outpacing state economic growth;
3. the limit on welfare spending, which cannot exceed 1% of the state budget; and,
4. the limit on tax-supported debt, which prohibits the state from incurring debt in excess of 5% of the previous three years' general revenue.

Ending Taxpayer Funded Abortions

The legislature learned that certain government entities were using your tax dollars to assist entities that provide abortions. For example, the City of Austin leased government-owned land to Planned Parenthood for only \$1 a year. I am proud to have co-sponsored SB 22, a measure that prohibits local governments from contracting with abortion providers. The bill passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Abbott, ensuring that the State of Texas will continue to be a voice for the voiceless and will fight to protect the sanctity of life.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Valley Mills Fourth of July Parade

There was a huge turnout in Valley Mills to celebrate Independence Day. Thank you to all the great Americans in Valley Mills for coming out and helping to celebrate the independence of our wonderful nation.

Grand Opening of Hard Eight BBQ in Burleson

On July 1st, Hard Eight BBQ in Burleson hosted its grand opening. As a community we should be ecstatic that our booming Texas economy is receptive to new businesses being able to open and thrive.



Rep. Burns with students from Clifton Elementary School on the steps of the Texas Capitol

The Battle of the Golden Spike Softball Tournament

The cities of Burleson and Cleburne went head-to-head in The Battle of the Golden Spike softball tournament. Cleburne came out on top with a final score of 20-8; however, the true winners are the ReInspire and Court Appointed Special Advocates of Johnson County (CASA) programs as all proceeds from the tournament go toward these wonderful nonprofit organizations.

75th Memorial Celebration of D-Day

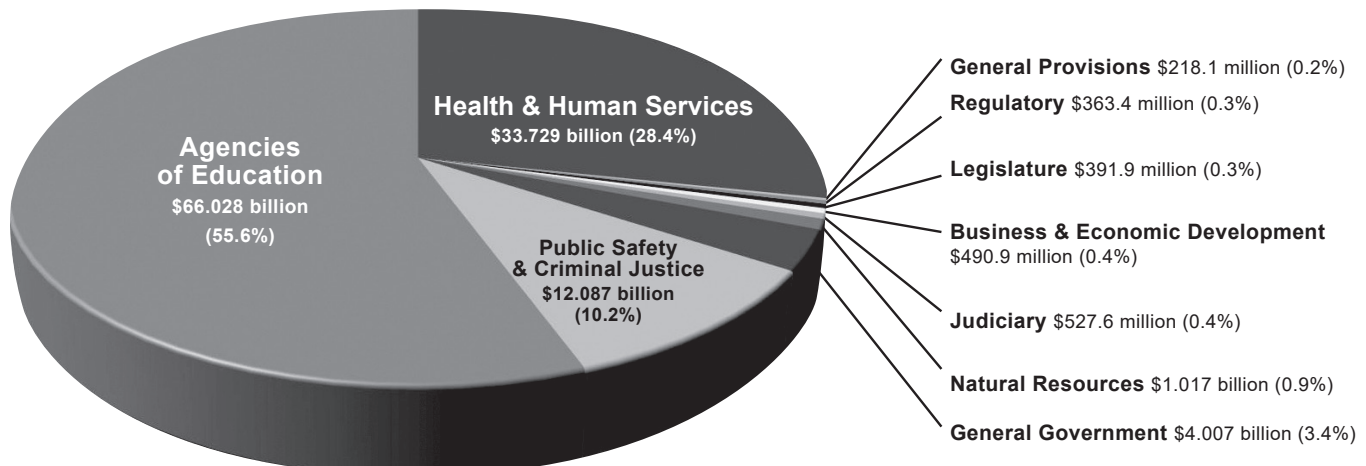
It was an honor to join the American Legion S.A.L #50, American Legion Post 50, American Legion Auxiliary, and various family and friends of those who answered the call of duty on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Thank you to all of those who helped lay wreaths at their graves in Rosehill Cemetery and in sharing their personal stories of courage, service and sacrifice. Thank you to the Greatest Generation for answering the call to service.

Dinosaur Science Museum Opens

Located at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, this museum utilizes their facility and incredible collection of fossils to educate not only their students but also elementary students from around the area. They maintain the largest, most detailed online catalogue and dig database in the world, right here in our district, House District 58.

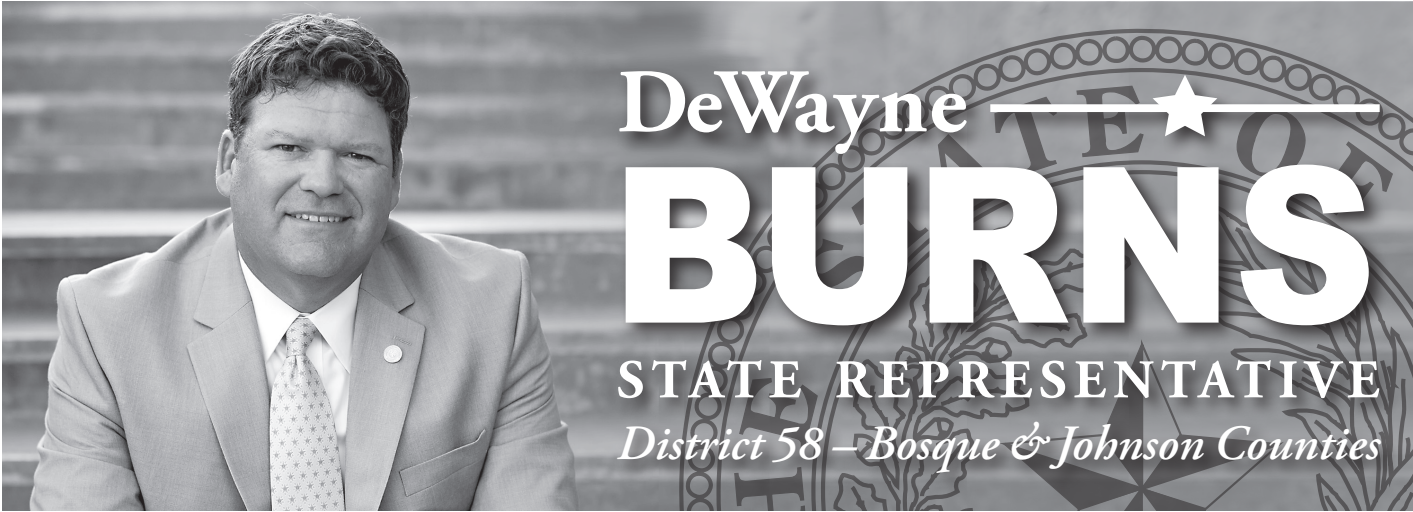
2020-21 General Revenue

Total: \$118.859 billion



Notes: (1) Amounts estimated or budgeted for the 2018-19 biennium include supplemental spending adjustments in Article II for Medicaid and foster care, but do not include adjustments from Senate Bill 500. (2) Contingent funding of \$11.5 billion for House Bill 3 has been moved from Article IX to Article III, Public Education, for the purposes of this comparison. (3) Biennial change and percentage change are calculated on actual amounts before rounding. Therefore, figure totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Legislative Budget Board



DeWayne 
BURNS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
District 58 – Bosque & Johnson Counties

86TH SESSION RECAP

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Want to stay updated on with what's happening in Austin? Like and follow my Facebook page, State Representative DeWayne Burns, and follow me on Twitter.

★ HELPFUL NUMBERS ★

- Aging & Disability Services, TX Dept. 512-438-3011
- Child, Disabled & Elder Abuse Hotline..... 800-252-5400
- Child Support Info & Payment Inquiry..... 800-252-8014
- Consumer Protection 800-621-0508
- Crime Victims' Services 800-983-9933
- Environmental Quality, TX Commission on 512-239-1000
- Housing & Community Affairs, TX Dept. 512-475-3800
- Income Assistance & Food Assistance..... 877-787-8999
- Injured Workers' Hotline 800-252-7031
- Legal Referral Service, State Bar 800-252-9690
- Medicaid 800-252-8263
- Medicare 800-633-4227
- Nursing Home Complaints & Info 800-458-9858
- Public Safety, TX Dept. 512-424-2000
- Roadside Emergency 800-525-5555
- Workforce Commission (Unemployment)..... 800-939-6631