



GLENN ROGERS

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 60

BROWN, CALLAHAN, COLEMAN, EASTLAND, HOOD, PALO PINTO, SHACKELFORD, STEPHENS

Friends,

Today marks the last day of the 1st Special Session of the 87th Legislature. With the absence of a quorum, we were not able to accomplish the items that were placed on the agenda. As a result, Governor Abbott has called another Special Session that will begin tomorrow, Saturday, August 7th, 2021.

We will continue with special sessions until priority items are addressed. The governor's priorities for the upcoming special session are below.

For the second special session, I am honored to be the bill author for one of these priority items. House Bill 8 would grant retirees under the Teacher Retirement System a one-time supplemental payment equal to the lessor of their annuity or \$2,400. As a freshman legislator, I am honored to be able to work a very important issue and being able to continue advocating for our retired teachers.



Left Photo: Representative Rogers with Porter, Ridley, Lauren, and Jason of Graford.
Right Photo: Representative Rogers pointing out the Texas Star in the Capitol to visitors Cory and Devin Crenshaw of Mineral Wells.

Second Special Agenda Items

BAIL REFORM: Legislation reforming the bail system in Texas to protect the public from accused criminals who may be released on bail.

ELECTION INTEGRITY: Legislation strengthening the integrity of elections in Texas.

FEDERAL RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS: Legislation providing appropriations from unappropriated available revenues for COVID-19-related healthcare expenses, such as those listed below, taking into consideration the approximately \$10.5 billion in funds received by local governments intended to be used on COVID-19 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021(ARPA), Pub. L. No. 117-2:

- healthcare staffing needs, including physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals;
- establishing, staffing, and operating alternative care sites;
- supporting the operations of nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities;
- vaccine administration;
- testing sites;
- supplies and equipment, such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators; and
- standing up and operating infusion centers.

EDUCATION: Legislation providing strategies for public-school education in prekindergarten through twelfth grade during the COVID-19 pandemic, which ensures:

- students receive a high-quality education and progress in their learning;
- in-person learning is available for any student whose parent wants it;
- the wearing of face coverings is not mandatory; and
- COVID-19 vaccinations are always voluntary

BORDER SECURITY: Legislation enhancing criminal laws or providing funding from unappropriated available revenues to support law-enforcement agencies, counties, and other strategies as part of Texas' comprehensive border security plan.

SOCIAL MEDIA CENSORSHIP: Legislation safeguarding the freedom of speech by protecting social-media and email users from being censored based on the user's expressed viewpoints, including by providing a legal remedy for those wrongfully excluded from a platform.

ARTICLE X FUNDING: Legislation providing appropriations from unappropriated available revenues to the Legislature and legislative agencies in Article X of the General Appropriations Act.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION: Legislation similar to Senate Bill 1109 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, requiring schools to provide appropriate education to middle- and high-school students about dating violence, domestic violence, and child abuse, but that recognizes the right of parents to opt their children out of the instruction.

YOUTH SPORTS: Legislation identical to Senate Bill 29 as passed by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, disallowing a student from competing in University Interscholastic League athletic competitions designated for the sex opposite to the student's sex at birth.

ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS: Legislation similar to Senate Bill 394 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, which prohibits people from providing abortion-inducing drugs by mail or delivery service, strengthens the laws applicable to the reporting of abortions and abortion complications, and ensures that no abortion-inducing drugs are provided unless there is voluntary and informed consent.

THIRTEENTH CHECK: Legislation similar to House Bill 3507 from the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, relating to a "thirteenth check" or one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

CRITICAL RACE THEORY: Legislation similar to House Bill 3979 concerning critical race theory as originally passed by the Texas Senate in the 87th Legislature, Regular Session.

APPROPRIATIONS: Legislation providing appropriations from unappropriated available revenues for the following purposes:

- property-tax relief;
- enhanced protection for the safety of children in Texas' foster-care system by attracting and retaining private providers for the system; and
- to better safeguard the state from potential cybersecurity threats.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS: Legislation modifying the filing periods and related election dates, including any runoffs, for primary elections held in Texas in 2022.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE: Legislation reforming the laws governing radioactive waste to protect the safety of Texans, including by further limiting the ability to store and transport high-level radioactive materials in this state.

EMPLOYMENT: Legislation shielding private employers and employees from political subdivision rules, regulations, ordinances, and other actions that require any terms of employment that exceed or conflict with federal or state law relating to any form of employment leave, hiring practices, employment benefits, or scheduling practices.

STATE LEGISLATURE: Legislation relating to legislative quorum requirements.



Photos from the Texas Independent Automobile Dealers Association (TIADA) Conference
Left Photo: Representative Rogers with Jeff Martin (TIADA Executive Director), Don and Stephanie Bostick of Brownwood [Rental's Auto and Truck Sales](#), & Chad Lancaster.
Right Photo: Representative Rogers with Jeff Martin, Paul Scott (DMV Commissioner) & Bob Boltman (CEO of National Independent Auto Dealers Association).

Despite not being able to complete legislation this special session, I continue to work on critical issues that face rural Texas

Yesterday, August 5th, I attended a Rural Healthcare Roundtable where I heard from Dr. Tom Oliverson (HD-130), John Henderson from Texas Organization or Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH), Tom Banning, CEO- Texas Academy of Family Physicians and Dr. Adrian Billings, Texas Family Physician of the Year from Alpine, Texas. The discussion focused on rural areas of Texas without obstetrical services. Some women are now over 200 miles away from care. Of the 157 rural hospitals in Texas (serving < 60,000 population) only around 40% are now providing obstetrical care. This is a Rural Crisis. We desperately need more rural family doctors and nurses.

Last week I had the opportunity to speak with the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA). In this meeting, I was able to provide a legislative update on the "13th Check" bill and was able to discuss the possibility of having a cost of living adjustment in the future.

On July 28th, members and staff received a briefing from the Department of State Health Services about the rise of COVID cases as a result of the more contagious Delta variant. Rural areas tend to have less fully vaccinated individuals and have seen an increase in COVID cases.

Recently, I was asked to participate on a panel for the Texas Housing Association. My contribution to this panel was to address the concerns of housing for essential workers in rural areas. Having safe and affordable accommodations for essential workers has become an increasing concern as rural communities grow and attempt to attract new residents.

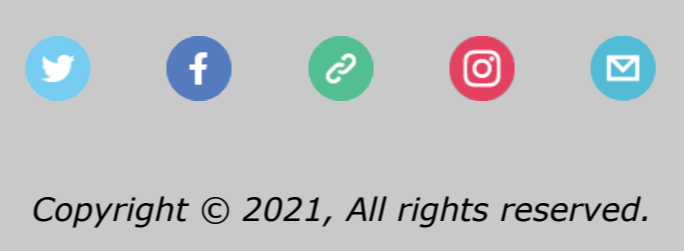
We have been working on opening up 2 of our district offices, one in Brownwood and one in Mineral Wells. There is still work to be done before all district offices are complete. I am looking forward to completing my work in Austin, getting back to the district and visiting with each of you.



Left Photo: TXDOT installing the House District 60 office sign in Mineral Wells.
Right Photo: Representative Rogers at the SB 6 bill signing that would establish limits on certain kinds of liability relating to a pandemic disease or pandemic emergency.

My Office

Our Capitol office in Austin is open Monday-Friday 8-5, and my staff and I are ready and available to hear from you! Currently, the Capitol is open to the public. If you ever find yourself in Austin, call my office to set up a time to visit.



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Office Contact Information:
PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
512.463.0656

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