



Friends,

Governor Abbott called us back for a second special session that began on August 7, 2021

Here's what has been happening this month in the Texas House:

Special Session

Speaker Dade Phelan gavelled in the House of Representatives for the Opening Day of the Second Called Special Session of the 87th Legislature, on August 7th, 2021.

Special sessions are 30 days long and can only be convened if ordered by the Governor.

Governor Abbott issued a proclamation listing off the 17 priorities that he wants the Legislature to address during this special session.



Second Special Session agenda items include:

- Bail Reform
 - Election Integrity
 - Federal Relief Appropriations
 - Education
 - Border Security
 - Social Media Censorship
 - Article X Funding
 - Employment
 - State Legislature
 - Family Violence Prevention
 - Youth Sports
 - Abortion-inducing drugs
 - 13th check
 - Critical Race Theory
 - Appropriations
 - Primary Election
 - Radioactive Waste
-



Texas House Democrats and some Democrat Senators flew to Washington DC to break quorum and stop the ability for the House to vote on the new voter suppression bill, House Bill 3.

Representative Morales was one of the Democrats who stayed in Texas.

Here's the statement I issued regarding the voter suppression bill and quorum break:

"As a US Citizen and a Texan, I am opposed to any unjust voting laws and will oppose measures that make voting unnecessarily difficult. I believe our current election system in Texas has room for improvement, however, we should be expanding access to voting and encouraging all legal voters to make their voice heard. This bill is an attack on our democracy and the precious right to vote.

I believe that staying to both debate and articulate my reasons for opposing the bill is the best way for me to represent my particular district. That said, I support the decisions of my colleagues who choose to fight this bill differently, using parliamentary procedures.

I have faith in the integrity of our current election process. I oppose the myth of widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election and believe this bill is purely an attempt to cater to those who refuse to accept the election results. Despite this attempt to make voting unnecessarily difficult, the ultimate recourse to this bill or any other bill will be the voters' decisions in our 2022 election."

What's in House Bill 3, The Voter Suppression Bill?

To read the full text of House Bill 3 [Click Here](#)

Here's My Summary:

- **Vote-by-Mail Restrictions:**
 - HB 3 threatens to suffocate the right to vote-by-mail with confusion and fear.
 - Banning local election officials from proactively sending mail ballot applications to voters and adding new voter ID rules for mail-in ballots leaves seniors and voters with disabilities with few options to get a mail ballot.
 - These restrictions strip access away from the very Texans who are already eligible to vote by mail.
- **Vigilante Poll Watchers:**
 - Voters should feel safe at their polling location to exercise their constitutional right to the ballot box.
 - By giving vigilante poll watchers greater access to move freely, we are allowing voter intimidation at the polls to occur.
 - Voters will be subject to intimidation and bullying by poll watchers, with nothing to do to stop it.
- **Attacks on Voters who need Assistance:**
 - It should be safe and easy for voters who need assistance to receive it.
 - HB 3 adds unnecessary requirements and hurdles for the elderly, disabled, and non-English speaking voters and anyone assisting them.
 - It added penalties, paperwork, and opportunities for errors.
- **Bans drive-through voting**
- **Bans early voting sites not located inside buildings**
 - Restricts flexibility on where a county can set up early voting polling places, requiring them to be located inside a building and prohibiting them from being located in a movable structure like a tent. Main early voting polling places must be located inside the building housing a county clerk's regularly maintained branch office.
- **Bans 24 hour early voting**
- The bill requires voters to provide their Driver's License number, or last four of their Social Security number on their absentee ballot application and envelope.
 - With many HD 74 constituents relying on mail-in ballots to participate from their rural homesteads, this gives the Early Voting Ballot Board more reasons to delay and reject a vote by mail. This information is already given when registering to vote, making the provision unnecessarily redundant.

What do experts think?

The AARP has come out and stated that they “favor laws and policies that encourage and do not hinder electoral participation.”

- Article 4 of the bill requires voters to sign an absentee ballot application with ink on paper and prohibits the use of an electronic or photocopied signature

The AARP believes that “this requirement does not consider voters with a neurological condition, such as Parkinson's or MS, or other physical conditions that prevent one from being able to sign by hand. This would exclude many voters.”

- Article 5 of the bill states that if a person provides assistance to three voters or more by providing transportation to the polling place, that person must sign and complete a form.

AARP states “long-term care facilities and group homes for the disabled may take several residents over multiple days to the polls. Requiring a form each time is cumbersome.”

Comstock Back to School Night



I had the privilege of attending Comstock ISD's Back to School night earlier this month. I was invited by Superintendent Buddy Wolfenbarger to speak to the kids who were getting ready to start school.

Throughout The 87th Legislative Session, we worked closely with Superintendent Wolfenbarger to help get key legislation passed that helped keep schools like Comstock ISD open.

Legislative Update for the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce



Thanks to the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce, I was able to deliver a legislative update to members of the chamber. I covered all that we were able to get done during the regular session and asked for input to see what should be prioritized in the next regular legislative session as well.

15th Annual Del Rio Southwest Texas Regional: Back to School Health Fair

Backpack Raffle Winners

Thank you Del Rio for inviting me to your Back-to-School Health Fair.

I was happy to raffle off some backpacks filled with school supplies to some lucky young men who were attending the fair.



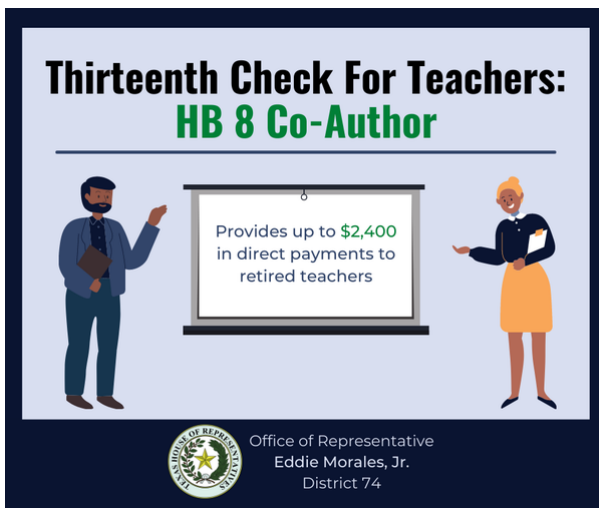
Stuffing the Bags

I had the privilege of meeting hundreds of students and helping fill their backpacks with pencils, glue sticks, and other school materials.

I always look forward to meeting the bright minds who will shape the future.

I'm proud to support public education and our future workforce.

Thirteenth Check, HB 8 Co-Author



This special session, I am proud to be a co-author of HB 8, which would provide up to \$2,400 in direct payments to retired teachers throughout Texas.

For a long time, retired teachers have struggled economically to keep afloat. HB 8 provides a strong step in assisting passionate, dedicated, and selfless teachers across Texas who devoted their lives to educating present and future generations.

Tools for Emergency Preparation

Texas Water
Development Board

TEXASFLOOD.ORG

The Texas Water Development Board
launched their new website!
The site features resources and tools that
can provide fundamental information on
emergency preparation for flood related
events

FEATURED RESOURCES

- Review lake levels and river heights
- Check current precipitation totals and weather conditions
- Evaluate potential flood risk
- Learn the primary types of flooding and basics of flood insurance



State Representative
Eddie Morales, Jr.

COVID-19 Vaccine

GET VACCINATED!



Let's stop Covid-19!



State Representative Eddie Morales

With the new Delta variant filling up hospital beds, it is more important now than ever, to make sure that you have your vaccine!

The vast majority of COVID hospitalizations right now are from people who are unvaccinated.

As of March 29th, all people 16+ can now receive a COVID19 vaccine in Texas.

There are multiple tools to help you find a vaccine. DSHS encourages people to use a tool that works best for them. Click on the link below!

[Vaccine Locator](#)



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office for any assistance with a state agency or to record your opinion on proposed legislation. You can reach us by phone: (512) 463-0566, by email: District74.Morales@house.texas.gov or by physical mail: P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Morales, Jr.". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a stylized "M".

State Representative Eddie Morales, Jr.

[Texas House of Representatives](#)

