



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Suleman Lalani

State Representative, District 76

Lalani's Legislative Letter

Interim Edition #10

Greetings!

This is just a quick reminder that Early Voting ends TODAY, Friday, March 1, 2024.

Election Day is Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Your vote is your voice! Don't forget to use it!

Remember this is your Capitol. You are the most important part of what happens here. Come and see it, get involved, make your voice heard.

Blessings,

Representative Suleman Lalani, M.D.

Year in Review

In my first year in office I have achieved much more than I set out to do. I am proud of our accomplishments and can't wait to build on them!

- **2 Budget Riders** certified on the Appropriations bill
- **Authored 46 pieces of legislation** and jointly authored, co-authored, sponsored, or co-sponsored **another 97 pieces of legislation**
- **36 pieces** of legislation **sent to the Governor for signature**
- **36 pieces** of legislation **signed into law by the Governor**
- Assigned to three committees: **Higher Education, Natural Resources, and Resolutions Calendars**
- Caucus Leadership Positions: **Education Committee and Steering Committee** of the House Democratic Caucus; **Founding member** of the Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus and co-recipient of the **AAPI Caucus “Freshman Legislator of the Year” Award**
- Other Caucus Memberships: Technology and Innovation Caucus, Texas Energy and Climate Caucus, Texas Water Caucus, Women’s Health Caucus
- Recipient of the **Raise Your Hand Texas Public Education Champion Award**, the **2023 Texas Academy of Family Practice Patient Advocacy Award**, the **Texas PTA Champion for Children Award**, and the **SL95 S.O.J.E.S. Civil Rights Community Service Award**

My Legislative Priorities

Before the beginning of the legislative session, I identified five areas as my personal legislative priorities: healthcare, sensible firearm policies, education, mental health, and technology. I am proud that I was able to deliver something in each area which I believe will make a difference for HD 76 residents.

Healthcare: As a physician, I’ve seen the consequences of violence against healthcare workers and know it impacts not only the workers themselves but their ability to care for Texans. I was proud to be a joint author of **HB 3548** and sponsor its Senate equivalent, **SB 840**. These bills make assaulting on-duty hospital personnel a 3rd degree felony. I amended **SB 840** to include property that hospitals own or lease, such as parking lots, sidewalks, and garages.

When I came to the Texas House, I was determined to make a difference in the way Texans access healthcare. I accomplished this with a couple of different pieces of legislation. First, I filed **HB 1144**, otherwise known as the **Texas Way**. This bill would expand Medicaid in a way that makes sense for Texas. And while it didn’t receive a hearing this session, I am more determined than ever to work on the issue during future sessions.

I also became coauthor on **HB 12**. This piece of legislation would allow people who have given birth to keep their Medicaid benefits through the first 12 months post-

partum. Texas remains the state with the highest rate of maternal mortality in the nation and this bill would help to give new mothers the start they deserve.

Lastly, I worked with other members on **HB 54**, which increases the amount of social security income Medicaid residents of long-term care facilities receive for personal needs. This bill matters not only for public health but for the personal dignity of our Texas seniors. While Texas needs to do better at controlling the costs of long term care, bills such as this one are an important part of the equation, too.

Sensible Firearm Policies: This session, I filed six common sense gun bills which would have more closely monitored the sale and transfer of firearms, prohibited sex offenders from being able to purchase firearms, protected children from accessing firearms, and penalized those giving children access to firearms. Sadly, even in a session that saw the one year anniversary of the Robb Elementary shooting in Uvalde, the Allen Outlet Mall shooting, and other mass shootings around the country, none of my bills received a hearing. Texans deserve better. I know I am doing the right thing, What I hear from constituents and read in poll numbers only confirms it. I will continue fighting for common sense gun legislation.

Education: I authored, jointly authored, or sponsored several pieces of legislation which will have a positive impact on education and higher education. **HB 5330** increases Fort Bend ISD students' access to Houston Community College and expands the Houston Community College System to make it more accessible to those students. **HB 4005** also increases accessibility as well as affordability of higher education by creating the Texas Competency-Based Education Grant Program for competence-based education and workforce programs, giving Texans an opportunity to translate their real world experience into college credit. **SB 294** helps keep Texas students safe by expanding the types of medications which can be kept on public school campuses to treat respiratory illnesses such as asthma.

HB 1212 prohibits a public school district, from requiring documentation from a clergy member or other religious leader in order to excuse a student's absence from school for a holy day. It also requires a school to accept a note from a parent as acceptable documentation for such an absence. This is especially important as Texas expands its diversity and many Texans celebrate religious holidays other than the traditionally excused ones. I am proud to joint author this legislation and am happy to announce it has been signed by the Governor and is effective for this coming school year.

In addition to this bill, I also coauthored **HB 1883**, which ensure that exams such as the STAAR test and end-of-course exams are not scheduled on dates of holy days or periods of observation. Testing dates are routinely scheduled on religious holy days, putting certain students in the position of having to choose between practicing the traditions of their faith, such as fasting and prayer, or scoring well on high-stakes exams. This bill passed unanimously from the House and Senate and now is sitting on the Governor's desk for signature.

I joint authored **HB 104** which would provide loan repayment assistance to nursing students who opt to work in one of the many long-term care facilities in Texas. As life expectancy for Texans continues to grow, it is incumbent upon us to make sure that we have the workforce to meet the growing needs. This bill did not advance, but rest assured, I will continue to work on this important issue.

Lastly, I was honored to support public school teacher pay raises by coauthoring **HB 1548**. This bill would have provided a \$15,000 a year pay raise for teachers across Texas. It is imperative that we compensate teachers for their work in a way that is meaningful. Texas cannot continue to underfund on teacher salaries. Like many other efforts in the House to raise educator pay scales, this one failed. However, every time a raise came on the floor for a vote, I voted to increase wages. I will always side with educators on this issue.

Mental Healthcare: As I have said, Texas has a major mental healthcare problem, caused in part by lack of access to services which is, in turn, driven by a shortage of providers. I was proud to sponsor **SB 532** creating the Mental Health Loan Repayment Assistance Program. As the name suggests, the program helps keep mental health professionals in Texas by providing assistance paying student loans in exchange for recipients practicing in Texas for 3 years. I also amended **SB 532** to include a requirement that new student campus tours at public colleges and universities must include a stop at the campus's mental health clinic. This ensures students have the knowledge they need before a mental health crisis occurs.

Technology: Technology advances so quickly it is difficult for laws to keep up with new uses and misuses. I did my part to keep the 88th legislature on top of what Texans want and need. **HB 2060** creates an appointed AI Advisory Council to oversee the growth and regulation in Artificial Intelligence in Texas. Understanding how fundamental AI will become to our state's economy and workforce, I amended this bill to require a study be conducted which would allow the Texas Workforce Commission to create a training program for the use of Artificial Intelligence. **SB 768** protects Texans from cyber crime and fraud by shortening the timeline in which companies must notify the Attorney General and consumers after a data breach involving personal data.

I authored **HB 4897**, which cracks down on the deceptive practice of online impersonation also known as "catfishing". This bill was voted out of the House. It didn't advance in the Senate due to time running out on the session. I will make this a priority next session.

Lalani Budget Riders: In addition to the rider providing additional funding for the **Family Practice Residency Program**, I also was able to provide a funding line in **HB 1** that would facilitate Texas's participation in the **Strategic National Stockpile for Health Emergency Preparedness**. When federal funding comes available, my rider gives Texas the option to pull that funding down to create a stockpile of medical items, such as PEP and pharmaceuticals as preparation, against future pandemics, health crises, or natural disasters. It does this by creating the necessary administrative and

regulatory framework to enable our state to secure federal matching funds for creating and maintaining such a stockpile.

Other riders that I filed that did not make it into **HB 1** include:

- Adding \$5 million to expand GME slots
- Adding \$10 million to the Physician Education Loan Repayment Program
- Adding \$1 million to the Rural Resident Physician Grant Program

This trio of budget riders highlight my commitment to better health care in Texas by working to encourage the physicians we educate in our medical schools to stay and practice here in Texas.

If you want to follow any of my legislation, please go to my House [website](#).

Important Information on the Upcoming Election

Information about the Ballot

To learn more about the March 5th primary election, you can access the ***League of Women Voters Election Guide*** by clicking this [link](#).

Early Voting Locations

For an interactive map of ***Fort Bend County Early Voting Locations***, click this [link](#).

Fort Bend County Early Voting Schedule
March 5, 2024 Democrat/Republican Primary Election
Horario de Votación Anticipada del Condado de Fort Bend
Elecciones primarias demócratas/republicanas del 5 de marzo de 2024

Early Voting Location	Hours (Horas)			
	Tuesday-Friday February 20 – 23, 2024 (martes- viernes) (20 – 23 de febrero, 2024)	Saturday February 24, 2024 (sábado) (24 de febrero, 2024)	Sunday February 25, 2024 (domingo) (25 de febrero, 2024)	Monday-Friday February 26 – March 1, 2024 (lunes- viernes) (26 de febrero – 1 de marzo, 2024)
Cisco Ranch Branch Library 2620 Commercial Center Blvd, Katy				
Clayton Oaks Assisted Living Center 21175 Southwest Freeway, Richmond				
Commonwealth Clubhouse 4330 Knightbridge Blvd, Sugar Land				
Four Corners Community Center 15700 Old Richmond Rd, Sugar Land				
Jacks Conference Center 3232 Austin Pkwy, Sugar Land	All Sites are open	All Sites are open	These Sites are open	All Sites are open
Jones Creek Ranch Park 7714 FM Rd 158, Richmond	7:00 A.M.	7:00 A.M.	12:00 noon	7:00 A.M.
Jordan High School 27500 Fulshear Road, Fulshear	To	To	To	To
Kreger Riverstone 18800 University Blvd, Sugar Land	7:00 P.M.	7:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	7:00 P.M.
Meadows Place City Hall 1 Treyan Dr, Meadows Place				
Lakes of Bell Terra Clubhouse 11620 W Torino Road Dr., Richmond	<i>(Todos los sitios están abiertos)</i>	<i>(Todos los sitios están abiertos)</i>	<i>(Estos Sitios son abrir)</i>	<i>(Todos los sitios están abiertos)</i>
Missouri City Visitors Center 1522 Texas Pkwy, Missouri City	7:00 A.M.	7:00 A.M.	12:00 mediodía	7:00 A.M.
Quail Valley Fund Office 3605 Glenn Lakes Ln, Missouri City	Para	Para	Para	Para
Road and Bridge (Newville) 1743 School St, Newville	7:00 P.M.)	7:00 P.M.)	6:00 P.M.)	7:00 P.M.)
Roberts Middle School 9250 Charger Way, Fulshear				
Rosenberg Annex Building (MAIN EARLY VOTING SITE) 4520 Rosenberg Rd, Rosenberg				
Sienna Annex 5855 Sienna Springs Way, Missouri City				
Terapkins High School 4400 Fulshear Lanting Blvd, Katy				
Beasley City Hall 319 S 9 th Street, Beasley	All Sites are open	All Sites are open		All Sites are open
Bowie Middle 700 Plantation Dr, Richmond	7:00 A.M.	7:00 A.M.		7:00 A.M.
Crawford High School 801 Caldwell Ranch Blvd, Houston	To	To	These Sites are CLOSED	To
Cheswood Clubhouse 7622 Cheswood Dr, Missouri City	7:00 P.M.	7:00 P.M.		7:00 P.M.
George Memorial Library 1061 Golfview Dr, Richmond	<i>(Todos los sitios están abiertos)</i>	<i>(Todos los sitios están abiertos)</i>	<i>(Estos Sitios son cerrados)</i>	<i>(Todos los sitios están abiertos)</i>
Highower High School 3333 Hartman Ln, Missouri City	7:00 A.M.	7:00 A.M.		7:00 A.M.
Last Creek Conference Center 3703 Last Creek Blvd, Sugar Land	Para	Para		Para
Rewe Technical Center 12300 University Dr, Sugar Land	7:00 P.M.)	7:00 P.M.)		7:00 P.M.)
Richmond Water Maintenance Facility 110 N 8 th Street, Richmond				
Sugar Land Branch Library 550 Edridge Rd, Sugar Land				

Approved By Commissioners Court

I:/D.SharedInfo/2024/1 – March 5 2024 Primary Election/March 5 Early Voting.docx

Attachment A

Important Dates

- February 5 – Last day to register to vote or change your address
- February 20 – First day to early vote in person
- February 23 – Last day to apply for a vote-by-mail-ballot
- March 1 – Last day to vote early in person
- March 5 – Election Day and vote-by-mail ballot receipt deadline

Check Your Registration Status

You can check the [Fort Bend County Elections](#) office to see if you are registered in Fort Bend County.

You can check the [Texas Secretary of State's My Voter Portal](#) to see if you are registered elsewhere in the state.

Voter Registration Applications can be found [here](#). It must be printed, signed and mailed or delivered to:

Mailing Address	Physical Address
Fort Bend County Elections 301 Jackson St. Richmond, TX 77469	Fort Bend County Elections 4520 Reading Road Suite A-400 Rosenberg, TX 77471-2133

For more information, call the Fort Bend County Elections office at (281) 341-8670.

Update Your Name and/or Address Online

Click [here](#) to update your name and/or address.

You may update your name and/or address online if you still live in the county in which you are currently registered to vote. If you have moved to a new county, it is necessary to re-register using the printed Voter Registration Application provided in the section above. Online name and/or address changes must be submitted by the 30th day before any election in which you desire to vote. Click the link below to submit your online name and/or address change.

Apply for a Ballot by Mail

Click [here](#) to request a ballot by mail, if you meet the requirements below.

To be eligible to vote early by mail in Texas, you must:

- Be 65 years or older
- Be sick or disabled
- Be out of the county on election day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance or
- Be expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day or
- Be confined in jail, but otherwise eligible

The Job Link*

This section is intended to give HD 76 access to employment opportunities.

More Jobs in Mo' City Job Fair!

Workforce Solutions Missouri City will be hosting an in-person job fair on February 28th, 2024. Multiple Employers will be present and conducting interviews on the spot. Dress to Impress and bring multiple copies of your resume!

Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 10am-1pm

Workforce Solutions - Missouri City
3823 Cartwright Rd., Missouri City, TX 77459

For more information, contact:

Joy White - email: Joyshayla.white@wrksolutions.com

Leap Into a New Career

Workforce Solutions-Katy will be hosting an in-person job fair on February 29, 2024 from 1pm-4pm. Multiple Employers will be present and conducting interviews on the spot. Dress to Impress and bring multiple copies of your resume!.

Thursday, February 29, 2024, 1pm-4pm

Workforce Solutions - Katy
24025 Katy Freeway, Suite D, Katy, TX 77494

For more information, contact:

Zulia Hernandez - email: zulia.hernandez@wrksolutions.com

****If you are an employer and want to share hiring information, please reach out to our office at District76.Lalani@house.texas.gov and use the subject line "District Employment Opportunity" and we will share it in our newsletter.***

Out and About in HD 76



2024 Houston Men's Squash Open
TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
Dr. Suleman Lalani
State Representative, District 7b



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confidence.

**An-Nisa
Health Fair**
TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Dr. Suleman Lalani
State Representative, District 76




The Bridge Southwest
Community Christian Center
TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
Dr. Suleman Lalani
State Representative, District 76

Representative Suleman Lalani, MD, Texas, HD 76





NAACP Community Meeting
 TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Suleman Lalani
 State Representative, District 76

How to Reach Us

 <p> TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES Dr. Suleman Lalani State Representative, District 76 </p>	<p> CAPITOL OFFICE P.O. Box 2910 Austin, Texas 78768-2910 <i>phone</i> (512) 463-0596 SULEMAN.LALANI@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV </p>	<p> DISTRICT OFFICE 12550 Emily Court, Suite 300 Sugar Land, TX 77478 <i>phone</i> (281) 494-0151 DISTRICT76.LALANI@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV </p>
	<p> Jennifer Strobel, MPA <i>Chief of Staff</i> JENNIFER.STROBEL@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV </p>	<p> Aaron T. Burgess <i>District Director</i> AARON.BURGESS@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV </p>

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