



## **Dear Friends and Neighbors,**

In times of crisis, our community's strength and resilience shine through our collective efforts to safeguard all, especially our most vulnerable members. The recent widespread power outages across our region have tested our emergency response systems and highlighted the profound impact such events can have on us. Many households faced significant challenges, from spoiled groceries to the absence of air conditioning in the sweltering heat. Among those most affected are our senior citizens, who often rely on consistent power for medical reasons and basic comfort.

As a physician specializing in geriatric care, I am acutely aware of the needs of our elderly population. The recent power outages severely disrupted our capacity to provide essential care. This crisis has touched my family closely, as my parents, both in their 80s, live with me. I was fortunate to be close to them and ensure their safety and comfort while we had no power

Despite Texas' substantial resources, including a [significant Rainy Day Fund projected to reach \\$23.77 billion by the end of FY 2025](#), comprehensive strategies to manage long-term power disruptions remain underdeveloped. [Texas finds itself ranked 37th in the allocation of state and local government funding per resident](#), highlighting the broader issue of underinvestment in essential infrastructure. While the legislature has previously tapped into this fund, little has been done to enhance the essential services needed to mitigate such disasters for everyday Texans. We possess the technological and financial means to significantly improve these systems, yet we have not fully leveraged these resources to ensure our infrastructure can withstand future crises. Furthermore, it is evident that service providers like CenterPoint must improve their preparedness and response strategies to better serve their customers during such critical times. We are committed to investigating these failures and ensuring accountability.

As we reflect and consider the areas in need of improvement, one issue has resurfaced. The distinct role and vulnerabilities of senior living facilities of all types. [Recent reports](#) have highlighted that many of them were without power or had [inadequate backup generation during the outages](#). This underscores the need for comprehensive emergency preparedness across all such facilities. I will pursue legislation to ensure these facilities meet stringent safety and operational standards during emergencies. My proposals include requiring all types of senior living facilities to file emergency response plans with the state, establishing a statewide database

for tracking and responding, mandating robust emergency power solutions, and advocating for the strategic use of Rainy Day Funds to support these critical infrastructure improvements.

I am also studying emerging technologies developed through federal grants, [which aim to reduce costs and enhance the reliability of essential services like underground utilities](#). These innovative solutions are crucial for modernizing our infrastructure and ensuring its resilience against future challenges, including those posed by climate change.

This issue transcends mere policy—it directly impacts the dignity and safety of every Texan. The impact of climate change is undeniable, and we must take proactive measures to prepare for increasingly severe weather conditions. Together, we can build a resilient infrastructure that meets today's challenges and adapts to those we may face tomorrow. Let us rise to this occasion with the commitment and foresight needed to protect and empower our community, ensuring a safer and more secure future for all.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Suleman Lalani", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

***Representative Suleman Lalani, M.D.***





**Follow us on social media!**



## **Cooling Centers, Shelters, Debris Cleanup Alerts Signup and more.**

As we continue to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, resources will continue to be available for Fort Bend County and Harris County residents, including cooling centers and shelters to provide relief from the ongoing heat. Both counties continue to have Hurricane Beryl shelters and cooling centers as of 7/16/2024. The following are links to up-to-date listings and a map of the availability of these centers.

### ***Fort Bend County Active Cooling Centers and Shelters***

[\*\(Click here for latest updates and availability\)\*](#)

### ***Harris County and Houston Cooling Centers***

[\*\(Click here for latest updates and availability\)\*](#)

These centers provide a critical service to the community during extended power outages and high temperatures, ensuring everyone has access to a safe environment.



Get alerted about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for FBC Emergency Alert Program. This system enables them to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of

situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more.

[Sign Up here.](#)

### ***Red Cross Disaster Assistance***

Anyone who needs a safe place to stay or a warm meal can find shelter information at [redcross.org/shelter](https://www.redcross.org/shelter), the free Red Cross Emergency app, or by calling **1-800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767)**.

### ***Texas Workforce Commission***

**Disaster Unemployment Assistance** provides unemployment benefits for individuals who lost their jobs or self-employment or who are no longer working as a direct result of a major disaster for which a disaster assistance period is declared, and who applied but are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits.

DUA is available only during the Disaster Assistance Period, which begins with the first Sunday following the date that the major disaster is declared. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and DUA regulations determine when the Disaster Assistance Period begins and ends. Claimants must file their initial applications for DUA within 60 days of the presidential declaration of the disaster.

### ***Food***

Houston Food Bank said it is closely monitoring conditions and will provide relief through its 1,600 community partners across SE Texas.

If you need food assistance, please call **1-832-369-9390**. You can also [click here](#) to find free food assistance in your area.

### ***Mental Health***

For those seeking mental health support, here's a list of resources

- **Veterans Crisis Line:** Immediate support for veterans and their families by dialing 9-8-8 and selecting option 1. More information available at [veteranscrisisline.net](http://veteranscrisisline.net).
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text TX to 741741 to connect with a counselor immediately.
- **Texas 2-1-1:** For a wide range of services including mental health, dial 2-1-1 and choose option 8.
- **Texas Youth Helpline:** Call 1-800-989-6884 for support for youth and adults.

For more information on these and additional mental health services:

- Texas Health and Human Services - Mental Health Crisis Services: [hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/mental-health-crisis-services](http://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/mental-health-crisis-services)
- Mental Health Texas: [mentalhealthtx.org](http://mentalhealthtx.org)

### ***Individual and Family Resources***

- Check Road Conditions: [DriveTexas.org](http://DriveTexas.org)
- Hurricane Safety Information: [TexasReady.gov](http://TexasReady.gov)
- Flooding Resources: [TexasFlood.org](http://TexasFlood.org)
- Flood Safety Tips: [Ready.gov/floods](http://Ready.gov/floods)
- Call 2-1-1 for information on evacuation shelters, or visit [tdem.texas.gov/shelter](http://tdem.texas.gov/shelter)
- Find a Texas Licensed Plumber [here](#)
- Stay Connected: [twitter.com/TDEM](https://twitter.com/TDEM)
- [Report Roads in Need of Repair](#)
- [Latest Forecasts and Maps from NOAA](#)

### ***Report Damage***

Affected Texans are encouraged to **report property damage**. Share pertinent details and photos to assist emergency management officials in the preliminary damage assessment process.

- [Fill out an Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool \(iSTAT\) damage survey.](#)
- [Complete una encuesta de daños de evaluación individual del estado de Texas \(iSTAT\).](#)
- [iSTAT Video in English](#)
- [iSTAT Video en Español](#)

### ***Texas Emergency Management Council State Agencies & Partner Resources***

- Office of the Governor: [Texas Hurricane Center](#)
- Public Utility Commission of Texas: [Storm Resources](#)
- Texas Department of Transportation: [Road Conditions and Closure Map](#)
- Texas Department of Public Safety: [Texas Roadside Assistance](#) 1-800-525-5555

- Texas Health & Human Services Commission: Dial 2-1-1 for social services and disaster-related information such as extreme weather shelters, crisis counseling, and food, rent and utility payment assistance.
- Texas Department of State Health Services: [TexasReady.Gov](https://www.dshs.texas.gov)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality: [Hurricane Preparedness](https://www.tceq.texas.gov)
- American Red Cross: [Hurricane Safety Tips](https://www.redcross.org)
- Texas Department of Insurance: [Help After the Storm](https://www.tdi.texas.gov)
- Texas Water Development Board: [Real-time weather data](https://www.twdb.texas.gov)
- Texas Animal Health Commission: [Natural Disaster Assistance for Livestock Producers](https://www.tahc.texas.gov)
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service: [Hurricane Preparedness Tips](https://www.agrilife.texas.gov)
- Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission: [Disaster Assistance for Licensees](https://www.tabc.texas.gov)

### **How to Reach Us**

#### **CAPITOL OFFICE:**

**P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910**

**Phone: (512) 463-0596**

**Email: [Suleman.Lalani@house.texas.gov](mailto:Suleman.Lalani@house.texas.gov)**

#### **DISTRICT OFFICE:**

**12550 Emily Court, Suite 300  
Sugar Land, TX 77478**

**Phone: (281) 494-0151**

**Email: [District76.Lalani@house.texas.gov](mailto:District76.Lalani@house.texas.gov)**

**Follow us on social media!**

 [@LalaniTX](https://www.facebook.com/LalaniTX)

 [@DoctorLalani](https://twitter.com/DoctorLalani)

 [@DrLalaniForTX](https://www.instagram.com/DrLalaniForTX)



*The House of Representatives is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require reasonable accommodations during the application process, please call (512) 463-0865.*