



CANDY NOBLE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 89



86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



CANDY NOBLE
DISTRICT 89

Dear Friends,

I love serving on your behalf in the Texas House! The 86th Legislative Session came to a close on May 27, 2019. During the 140 day session, we tackled some monumental issues including long-awaited school finance reform and property tax relief. I am happy to report in this newsletter some highlights of the successes we achieved, successes that will help ensure that Texas remains the amazing place for living, working and raising a family that it is today.

My freshman session was a busy one. I served on the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Human Services, and the Committee on General Investigating. It was an honor to have five bills that I authored signed into law. These bills include protecting Texans receiving in-patient hospice care from abuse, neglect or exploitation (HB 3079); cutting unnecessary red tape for after-school programs (HB 4090); sales tax exemptions for vehicles used specifically for religious purposes (HB 2338); protecting Texans from having their tax dollars going to abortion providers or their affiliates (SB 22); providing a temporary substitute for a Justice of the Peace who is out for illness, training or other needed absences (HB 3081).

Thank you to everyone who called, sent emails and letters, or visited our office in Austin during session to share your thoughts or advocate for or against a bill. It was both helpful and encouraging to have your input.

Also included inside is a brief, very simplified summary of the ten constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot in November (constitutional amendments differ from regular legislative bills in that they require statewide voter approval). I hope you will find the provided information useful as you consider your position and cast your vote on each of the proposed amendments. For more detailed information on the amendments visit www.tlc.texas.gov/publications. For your convenience, important election dates are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your State Representative in the Texas House. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if we can be of service.

Respectfully,

Candy Noble

★ THE TEXAS PLAN FOR SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM ★

For almost four decades we've been under a school finance system that has relied more and more on property owners to finance our constitutionally required public schools. This legislative session we passed transformational school finance reform and property tax legislation. The Texas Plan for School Finance Reform provides:

- \$5 billion in statewide property tax relief
- \$4.5 billion to student-centered education reforms
- \$3.6 billion to reduce recapture payments by 47% this biennium
- over \$2 billion in dynamic pay raises for teachers, librarians, counselors, and nurses

Statewide Property Tax Relief - The Texas Plan increases the State's share of education funding to lower property taxes. As a result school property tax rates will be lowered by an average of 8 cents in 2020 and 13 cents in 2021. The plan provides an additional 2.5% tax compression beginning in 2021. The plan ensures taxpayer dollars are used responsibly by requiring districts to conduct efficiency audits before going to voters with a tax increase. This plan significantly reduces recapture (Robin Hood) in many of our HB 89 districts so our local dollars stay local.

Student Centered Education Reforms - The Texas Plan puts more money into classrooms to accelerate student achievement by significantly increasing the basic allotment per students, adopting high-quality standards to ensure students read at grade level by 3rd grade, creating a program to identify and support students with dyslexia, accelerating student achievement via College, Career & Military Readiness outcomes bonuses, and much more.

Dynamic Pay Raises - The Texas Plan provides for investments in our teachers by creating a merit/incentive pay program for high-quality educators to receive additional pay and increasing the minimum teacher salary schedule.

Throughout the legislative session many of you reached out to my office asking for more transparency in school spending, increased share of state funding, and more support in our classrooms for students and teachers. The Texas Plan for School Finance Reform accomplishes all this and more preparing our students today for an outstanding future.



Madison and Zachary Gardner of Lucas served as Honorary Pages in April.

★ THE TEXAS PROPERTY TAX REFORM & TRANSPARENCY ACT ★

The number one issue I heard from our House District 89 residents was the need for property tax relief. In fact, over 1000 of you called, wrote, emailed or talked to me in person about your skyrocketing property tax bills. I am a proud co-author of SB 2 and HB 3, which together provide \$5 billion in property tax relief and increase transparency for taxpayers while giving you the tools to make informed decisions about your property taxes.

Protecting Property Owners - Property value can no longer be increased when protesting at the appraisal review board level. Opportunities to protest or appeal appraisal values will be expanded and electronic notices from appraisal districts will be required. Going forward, all arbitrators will be required to complete training developed and administered by the Comptroller's office. This will help to ensure arbitrators remain neutral during property tax disputes.

Fostering Collaboration - Local governments will now have to work with taxpayers when budgeting for the community. The

Act adds real-time tax notices that allow you to timely engage in the rate-setting process; requires taxpayers be informed who has proposed a rate increase, by how much, and when and where to protest; and provides an online form for you to communicate your position on proposed rates.

Slowing the Growth Rate - Beginning next year, the voter approval rate for most taxing units has been lowered from 8% to 3.5%. Now when taxes are raised above 3.5% a November election will automatically be triggered.

Encouraging Fiscal Responsibility - A Property Tax Advisory Board will be created to make ongoing recommendations to improve the property tax system.

This legislation empowers taxpayers and provides the knowledge necessary to take on a more active role in fighting tax increases at the local level. Below is a sample of what information our tax appraiser will now be required to provide online.

Property address: 123 Sycamore Lane Legal Description: Lot 18 Block C Frosty Acres Sec 2 Property Identification ID: 624387 Market Value: \$280,000								
JURISDICTION	TAXABLE VALUE	"NO NEW REVENUE" TAX RATE (PER \$100 OF VALUE)	PROPOSED TAX RATE	TAX ON PROPERTY AT "NO NEW REVENUE" TAX RATE	TAX ON PROPERTY AT PROPOSED TAX RATE	PROPOSED TAX INCREASE	TIME AND DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING	LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING
COUNTY	\$277,000	\$0.38	\$0.40	\$1,052.60	\$1,108.00	\$55.40	8:00 p.m. August 15, 2019	211 Main St. Smith City
*SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$255,000	\$1.38	\$1.38	\$3,519.00	\$3,519.00	\$0.00	6:00 p.m. August 1, 2019	457 Red Rock Ln. Green City
CITY	\$280,000	\$0.47	\$0.52	\$1,316.00	\$1,456.00	\$140.00	2:00 p.m. August 18, 2019	477 Sunny Dr. Smith City
JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT	\$280,000	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	6:00 p.m. August 16, 2019	100 Travis St. Travis City
SPECIAL DISTRICT #1	\$280,000	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$224.00	\$224.00	\$0.00	4:00 p.m. August 18, 2019	300 Calvert Rd. Smith City
Total				\$6,251.60	\$6,447.00	\$195.40		

★ THE TEXAS STATE BUDGET ★

This session we passed a state budget that appropriates \$118.9 billion in General Revenue and \$250.7 billion in total All Funds. While prioritizing needs, the budget remains well under the state's four spending limits: the debt limit, welfare spending limit, pay-as-you-go limit, and the spending limit. In addition to school finance reform and property tax relief covered on the previous page, a significant part of the total spending went to Hurricane Harvey relief and budget shortfalls left over from the last session. Some budget highlights:

HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- Over \$2 billion from the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) to the Governor's office for disaster grants, the Flood Infrastructure Fund, school districts, higher education institutions, the General Land Office, Soil and Water Conservation Board and Texas Parks and Wildlife for Hurricane Harvey related expenditures
- \$628 million for local matching funds for FEMA Hazard Mitigation and Public Assistance grants related to Hurricane Harvey damage
- \$47 million for state flood risk mapping at the Water Development Board

SCHOOL SAFETY

- \$200 million for school safety improvements state-wide including building renovations, added security personnel and technology, emergency response training and more

BORDER SECURITY

- Maintains the 2018-19 levels of funding for Border Security Efforts
- \$5 million from the ESF to Texas Parks and Wildlife for equipment to improve game wardens' communication statewide
- \$7.5 million to DPS for Operation Draw Bridge Cameras and 4 analysts for the Transnational Intelligence Center
- \$1.7 million in grants for border prosecution, border zone fire departments and economic development

SEXUAL ASSAULT & HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

- \$56.6 million to eliminate the rape kit backlog and increase crime lab capacity
- \$8.6 million for rape crisis centers and sexual assault nurse examiners
- \$27.8 million for human and child sex trafficking investigative squads, anti-gang squads, and regional human trafficking investigative squads at the Department of Public Safety
- \$3.4 million for the expansion of the Human Trafficking Prevention section at the Office of the Attorney General
- \$1.5 million for the creation of a Human Trafficking Team and to increase inspections of establishments with a high risk for human trafficking

TEACHER RETIREMENT

- \$524 million to make the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) stable and solvent
- \$589 million to TRS to provide retired teachers with a \$2,000 13th check on average
- \$230.8 million to cover shortfalls and ensure retired teachers' healthcare premiums do not increase

(Note: There are more than 300 retired Texas teachers over the age of 100!)



Visiting with Gov. Greg Abbott and Rep. Matt Krause on the House Floor.



Dirk Nowitzki was honored in the Texas House.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES & MENTAL HEALTH

- Covers shortfalls in Medicaid, foster care, women's health, state hospitals, state supported living centers, and correctional managed health care
- 24.3% increase in women's health funding over the 2018-19 levels
- \$86 million in rate increases for community care and Intellectual and Developmental Disability providers, pediatric home therapists, and pediatric private duty nursing
- \$11.7 million for salary increases to hire and retain Adult Protective Services workers
- Supports Community Based Care expansion for foster care
- \$7.7 billion for behavioral health and substance abuse services

(Note: Too many Texans with mental illness end up in our jails.)

DRIVER LICENSE PROGRAM

- \$210 million for the driver license program to reduce wait times, improve customer service, hire new employees, and add three additional driver license offices

(Note: We have specifically asked for relief for our Collin County driver license renewal centers.)

TRANSPORTATION

- \$6.1 billion to TxDOT for non-tolled highway construction
- \$86 million to TxDOT for building, construction, and deferred maintenance

★ NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ★

STRENGTHENING YOUR RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

HB 121 Protects law-abiding gun owners from being penalized for accidentally carrying in an establishment where guns are prohibited.

HB 302 Prohibits “no firearms” clauses in leases restoring the rights of tenants to own and keep firearms.

HB 1177 Allows people to carry handguns while evacuating from and returning to a disaster area.

SB 535 Restores the rights of places of worship to decide whether licensed carry is permitted on their premises.



Adding my name to one of the 62 bills I authored, joint authored or co-authored.

PROTECTING INNOCENT LIFE

SB 22 Prohibits abortion providers from receiving taxpayer money. I am proud to be the House author of this legislation.

HB 16 Protects babies who are born alive after an abortion by ensuring they receive the highest degree of life-saving medical care.

SB 24 Strengthens the informed consent requirements to an abortion.

SB 750 Comprehensively addresses the issue of maternal health both during and after pregnancy.

FORTIFYING CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES

SB 1978 Prohibits governmental entities from using tax dollars to deny contracts, loans, licenses or employment opportunities to a person or business over their religious beliefs or charitable giving.

SB 18 Protects free speech on college campuses and prevents conservative students from being silenced for exercising their First Amendment rights.

LIMITING GOVERNMENT

HB 1631 Bans the use of red light cameras.

HB 347 Defends private property rights by ending forced annexation statewide.

HB 234 Ensures Texas children have the freedom to sell lemonade without big government requiring a permit.

★ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION ★

PROPOSITION 1, HJR 72

Allowing Municipal Judges to Serve Multiple Municipalities

The Ballot Will Read: “The constitutional amendment permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time.”

Summary: Prop 1 would allow a person to serve as an elected or appointed municipal judge in more than one municipality at the same time. This constitutional amendment would allow for one qualified and willing person to cover the needs of more than one small underserved community.

PROPOSITION 2, SJR 79

Water Development

The Ballot Will Read: “The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas.”

Summary: Prop 2 would allow for an on-going program to be used to give financial assistance to economically distressed areas of Texas specifically for the development of water supplies and sewer projects. This bond project would allow for up to \$200 million in total principle to be available for use in this program at any given time.

PROPOSITION 3, HJR 34

Tax Exemptions for Certain Property Damaged by a Disaster

The Ballot Will Read: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster.”

Summary: Prop 3 will allow a taxing entity the ability to temporarily lower the tax rates or give a temporary tax exemption to property damaged or destroyed during a disaster, as declared by the Governor. It also allows the county the option to not reappraise each individual damaged property as the property owners rebuild.

PROPOSITION 4, HJR 38

Prohibiting a State Income Tax

The Ballot Will Read: “The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual’s share of partnership and unincorporated association income”.

Summary: Many voters believe that the Texas Constitution already prohibits a state personal income tax, but the constitution only imposes certain restrictions, including voter approval, on any potential personal income tax. Prop 4 would provide a clear prohibition. The proposition would make it more difficult to impose a state personal income tax in the future because a two-thirds vote of each chamber of the legislature, and a vote by Texas citizens, is required to amend the constitution.

★ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION ★

PROPOSITION 5, SJR 24

Dedicating Sales Tax on Sporting Goods to Parks and Historic Sites

The Ballot Will Read: “The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas’ natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes”.

Summary: Prop 5 will automatically dedicate all state sales tax collected on sporting good sales to the Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission.

PROPOSITION 6, HJR 12

Increasing Funding for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

The Ballot Will Read: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.”

Summary: Prop 6 will authorize an increase in the general obligation bonds for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas from the current maximum of \$3 billion to a maximum of \$6 billion.

PROPOSITION 7, HJR 151

Allowing Increased Distributions to the Available School Fund

The Ballot Will Read: “The constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund.”

Summary: Prop 7 would authorize, but not require, an increase in the amount of revenue available for distribution from the Permanent School Fund to the Available School Fund from the current \$300 million per year to as much as \$600 million per year.

PROPOSITION 8, HJR 4

Creating the Flood Infrastructure Fund

The Ballot Will Read: “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects.”

Summary: Prop 8, if approved, will create the Flood Infrastructure Fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects, in a cooperative, coordinated and statewide effort.

PROPOSITION 9, HJR 95

Exempting Precious Metals from Ad Valorem Taxation

The Ballot Will Read: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state.”

Summary: Texas is the only state that currently allows for local property taxes on precious metals. Prop 9, if passed, would allow those who deal in precious metals to hold them in deposit in Texas without having to pay property taxes on those metals.

PROPOSITION 10, SJR 32

Retiring Law Enforcement Animals

The Ballot Will Read: “The constitutional amendment to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances.”

Summary: Currently, our Texas Constitution does not allow law enforcement agencies to transfer ownership of any valuable property to a person or organization for free. This includes service animals such as a police dog or horse. The passage of Prop 10 would allow for the ownership of animals retiring from service to be simply transferred to their handler or another qualified caretaker without cost.



Collin County Days at the Capitol.

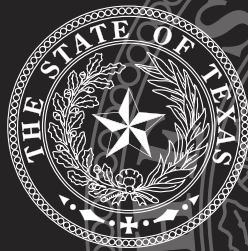


Laying out HB 3081 before the Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee.

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Committees: Ways and Means • Human Services • General Investigating

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION DATES:

October 7, 2019 - Deadline to Register to Vote

October 21, 2019 - Early Voting Begins

November 1, 2019 - Early Voting Ends

November 5, 2019 - Election Day

