



The Texas Pledge of Allegiance:

"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."

Items of Interest

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Capitol Update

Last week was the end of what we call the "veto period." Article IV-14 of the Texas Constitution provides the Governor 20 days after adjournment of the Legislature to either sign or veto a bill. The Governor may also choose not to sign a bill. If he does not sign a bill, the bill will become law. Of the 5,868 bills filed, 1,437 bills made it to the Governor's desk. Of those bills, the Governor signed 1,395 and vetoed 26. For a list of the bills vetoed and to learn why they were vetoed, please log on to [the Governor's website](#).

We are the floor today debating the House, Senate and Congressional maps. There should be some interesting debate. We invite you to log on to the House website to watch the debate live on your computer or mobile device- www.house.state.tx.us and click on the **video/audio link**. Committees are meeting to discuss other bills that are on the Governor's call for Special Session. Those bills should be on the House floor in the next couple of days. This First Called Special Session of the 83rd Legislature comes to a close next Tuesday.

If you are interested in what is happening now at the Texas Legislature or around the district, please like our [Facebook page](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for continuous updates!

If you are ever in Austin, please make a trip over to the Capitol. We would love to have you stop by at our office. We enjoy working for you and look forward to being of service.

P.S. If you are having difficulty reading this email, please refer to the attached PDF.

Did you know?

- The Tyler Municipal Rose Garden is the world's largest rose garden. It contains 38,000 rose bushes representing 500 varieties of roses set in a 22-acre garden.
- John Wayne and Chuck Norris are honorary Texas Rangers. The Texas Rangers are the oldest law enforcement agency in North America with statewide jurisdiction.
- The Dallas State Fair Park is home to the largest Ferris wheel (the Texas Star) in the Western Hemisphere.

We're on the Web!

[Rep. Jim Murphy](#)

[House Website](#)

[Texas Legislature Online](#)

[Twitter](#)

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Around the District

Congratulations to David Breunig, Ross Kimmel, Daniel Sweat, and Michael Timte for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. We are all proud of your commitment to our community.

Stratford graduate Macey Smith was named the District 22-4A Pitcher of the Year. Congratulations Macey!

Summer Travels

Why leave Texas for your Summer vacation? We have Big Bend, the Hill Country, the coast and a beautiful State Capitol. As you are planning your adventures we wanted to provide you with a few resources. Here are two resources you can use as you are planning your travels around Texas:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife- www.tpwd.state.tx.us
- Texas Travel - www.traveltex.com

Let's keep our travel dollars in our great state and help grow our economy by staying within our borders and supporting our state parks and local businesses.

We wish you safe travels and a happy return! If you find yourself in Austin, please stop by for a visit to the Capitol office.

Hurricane Season

The forecasters are predicting that this is going to be a busy season for hurricanes. Let's hope Houston and our neighbors are not in the path of any of these storms. Are you prepared? Do you know the four steps? The City of Houston created a website to help Houstonians prepare for these natural disasters. This website is filled with resources. You can sign up for storm alerts, access the FEMA websites and even track storms. Please take a minute to look at this very helpful website. Click [here](#) or log on to www.readyhoustontx.gov.

State of the Texas Economy

According to the [Dallas Federal Reserve](#), the Houston Business-Cycle Index jumped up from a revised March growth rate of 2 percent to 8.9 percent in April. This implies a sudden acceleration in the pace of economic expansion in the region and may underscore a reversal of the slight decelerating trend that dominated the latter half of 2012. Directly and indirectly, energy-related activity continues to spur other area industries. Some stresses from the global economy have dissipated, but

continued fiscal and regulatory uncertainties remain the largest clouds on the horizon. Overall, Houston-area fundamentals remain healthy.

To read the entire report, please log on to their website by clicking [here](#).

Contact Information

Capitol Office

Phone: (512) 463-0514

Toll Free: (855) 597-0662

Fax: (512) 463-8715

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Molly Quirk, Chief of Staff

Jason Briggs, Policy
Analyst

Deanna Harrington,
District Director

Ethan Caudillo, Legislative
Aide

Katherine Kuntz,
Legislative Intern



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