



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

1. *Interim Studies*
2. *It's Tax Season!*
3. *Community News*
4. *Legislative Intern Position Available*
5. *Event Participation*
6. *Legis on the Web*

Capitol Update

It's been more than six weeks since the Groundhog saw his shadow and Texas seems to finally be done with a long winter. We are kicking off the first official day of spring and it's time to enjoy ourselves outdoors. It's not too late to start planning those gardens in order to see an array of colorful blooms and vegetables by mid-summer. Start seeds or set out plants for spring flowers and herbs to get them established before heat sets in. If you don't have much of a green thumb, you can visit the local farmer's market at St. Cyril's mentioned below. You can also take a trip up to Austin and visit the [Trail of Trees](#). There are 25 tree species found on the historic Capitol grounds. We enjoy the Texas Redbud blooms every March!

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

As always, you are welcome to visit our Capitol office anytime you're in Austin. We have cold drinks and an air conditioned spot for you and your family to relax as you enjoy your Capitol. 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.

Interim Studies

The Committees are preparing to begin their interim hearings. If you are interested in learning more about the [interim charges](#) or [committee hearings](#) please visit the House website or click on the links above. In the meantime, the Economic Development committee I sit on will be discussing the following seven charges this interim. Here is a sneak peek of our charges-

Did you know? Houston Edition-

- The total area of Houston is so large, it could contain the cities of New York, Boston, and San Francisco at the same time.
- If you love going to restaurants, Houston may be your city. Residents of Houston eat out more times a week than in any other city in America.
- Near the center of Houston, Interstates 45 and 10 intersect. This is almost the exact spot that Houston's founders, the Allen brothers, settled.

1. Review the statutes and state agency rules pertaining to public-private partnerships to ensure a fair, competitive, and transparent process that benefits all parties engaging in the partnership. Review how other states and countries utilize public-private partnerships and make recommendations on how to improve the process in Texas, specifically looking at whether there needs to be a single state entity responsible for administering the public private partnership program.
2. Examine and evaluate economic development incentives to determine if the incentives are achieving the desired outcomes for which the incentives were initially established. Review which economic development goals and incentives are most important and report on methods to further improve those goals and incentives while reducing ones not meeting their desired objectives.
3. Study venture capital investment in the state and determine how Texas compares to other states in attracting venture capital dollars. Make recommendations to improve Texas's ability in attract venture capital investment.
4. Review the current Texas Industry Cluster Initiative to determine if the state's targeted industry clusters need to be updated to reflect changes in industry sectors that have evolved in Texas since the clusters were initially identified.
5. Review the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism and determine its effectiveness on economic development in Texas. Determine how the office could be more efficiently coordinated with local and regional economic development entities and other state agencies to help further the economic development goals of the state.
6. Monitor manufacturing and manufacturing workforce development initiatives passed by the 83rd Legislature.

Web Resources-

[Rep. Jim Murphy
House Website](#)

[Texas Legislature Online](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

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7. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 83rd Legislature.

In conducting this oversight, the committee should:

- a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
- b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
- c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

This is a great time for you to share your thoughts on legislative ideas and get involved in the process. Please let us know if you have any ideas for legislation that would benefit our district and our state.

It's Tax Season!

The first day of spring and this year's vernal equinox is March 20, 2014. This puts us less than one month away from the Federal Income Tax filing deadline. We'd like to make sure that everyone in District 133 is aware of IRS Free File. This service, available through a partnership between the IRS and the tax software industry, provides free access to tax preparation software and step-by-step help in preparing and filing federal tax returns online. Through Free File, all taxpayers who made less than \$58,000 in 2013 can visit www.IRS.gov/freefile to prepare and e-file their federal tax returns. If you're interested in learning more about the program please visit www.freefile.irs.gov.

Community News

- Spring Branch ISD Principals of the year named- Rummel Creek Elementary School Principal Nancy Harn and Stratford High School Principal Chris Juntti won this year's honors in SBISD's ninth annual recognition of school leadership. We are proud to announce that both of those fine individuals are constituents of District 133.
- Support the locally-grown movement in our own backyard! There is a year-round, weekly farmers market every Thursday, rain or shine. The *new* extended hours are from 3-7pm at St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic Church at 10503 Westheimer Road (at Rogerdale Road, one block west of Beltway 8).

Staff Emails-

Molly Quirk, Chief of Staff

Kait Roth, Scheduler &
Policy Analyst

Deanna Harrington,
District Director

Creighton Root, Legislative
Aide

- TRASH BASH set for March 29, 2014- This is the 21st annual cleanup of the Galveston Bay Watershed. The event will be held on March 29, 2014 at 8:30 AM. Per the press release, this event started in 1993 with 7-sites and 3,000 volunteers. Now Trash Bash has grown to 16-sites across the Galveston Bay Watershed with more than 5,000 volunteers annually! In 2013 alone, 5,012 volunteers cleaned 167 miles of shoreline; collected 49 tons of trash; recycled 5,827 pounds of collected materials; and gathered 483 tires for recycling.

Please join them in protecting our environment!

For more information, contact Amanda Brown: 713-993-2462 or amanda.brown@h-gac.com OR Kathy Janhsen: 713-993-2423 or kathy.janhsen@h-gac.com to volunteer.

Legislative Intern Position

Our Capitol office is pleased to announce that we will be hiring interns for summer and fall positions. If you know of anyone from District 133 who might be interested in an unpaid internship please have them send their resume with a cover letter explaining their interest in the position and in working at the Legislature to our Chief of Staff, [Molly Quirk](#). Working at the Capitol is a fun and rewarding experience and we are happy to work with the part time (15-20 hours a week) availability of college students in Austin.

We are seeking individuals who can demonstrate the following skill set:

- Clear and concise written communication
- Ability to communicate effectively via telephone
- Willingness to work with constituents
- Strong organizational skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite and social networking websites
- Confidentiality
- Clerical Tasks
- Flexibility

Summer Application Deadline: May 1, 2014

Fall Application Deadline: August 1, 2014

Event Participation

Do you need a speaker at your next business meeting? Would your church, club, or civic group enjoy hearing from Jim? Are you a part of a charity or local organization seeking donations for fundraisers? We would love to help out with auction items and door prizes to help raise funds for your organization. Jim is looking for additional ways to serve his neighbors in District 133. ***Email [Deanna Harrington](mailto:Deanna.Harrington@house.state.tx.us), our District Director, if you are interested in setting up an event.***

Following the Legislature on the Web

Do you have a homework assignment and need to track down some research on a bill? Are you curious about the legislative process? The single best source is the Texas House website www.house.state.tx.us and <http://kids.house.state.tx.us/>. This site merits multiple visits due to its depth and complexity. Kids' House is great for homework assignments for our young students and the House website include areas about members (bills, committees, contact info); research (bills by topic, status reports, vote histories); links (sunset, visitor info, schedules) and video which features both live coverage as well as recorded coverage of floor proceedings and committee meetings. As always, if you have questions, please contact our office.



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