



## House District 1 - Bowie, Franklin, Lamar & Red River counties

### District & Capitol Interim Report *September 2015*

*Introduction.* This month, I begin sending a monthly interim e-newsletter to all of the people from House District 1 (HD 1) whose e-mails are included in my office's database as a way to keep you more up-to-date on what is going on in HD 1 and around the Capitol. If you do not wish to receive these e-newsletters, please let my office know and your address will be removed. Otherwise, expect to hear from me each month about important issues, events and activities affecting the wonderful people who live and work in HD 1.

*Still time.* HD 1 residents still have time to register to vote in the upcoming November 3, 2015, constitutional amendment election\*. If you have not registered, the deadline is October 5. Contact your local county voter registrar's office for more information; here is a helpful link: <http://votesmart.org/elections/offices/TX#.VgGIFWflt1s> .\*This link, <http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/pubsconamend/analyses15/analyses15.pdf> , will give you complete information about the proposed amendments.

*Town Hall meetings.* This month, I completed a series of post-session Town Hall meetings held in New Boston, Texarkana, Paris, Clarksville & Mount Vernon. These meetings were a great opportunity to talk with my constituents about their concerns from this year's session.



Rep. VanDeaver visiting with constituents at the Paris Town Hall meeting.

*House of Representatives Christmas ornament project.* Each year, a Texas-grown, 20-foot tree is placed in the House Chamber in early December and decorated with historic and new ornaments given by each House member. This month, I reached out to school districts asking if they have high school students who want to submit a design for consideration. There are over 80 students participating in this project. I am excited to see what these talented students create and submit. I know it will be very hard to choose a design, but after my selection, I will give the winning student a glass ball to transfer the chosen design onto so it can be hung on this year's House Christmas tree at the Capitol.



Rep. VanDeaver with Christus St. Michael Board Chairman and CEO, Chris Karam

*Recognitions.* This month, officials with Christus St. Michael Hospital in Texarkana and Texas A&M-Texarkana were gracious to recognize local legislators who worked hard on their behalf and passed legislation addressing specific issues. Christus St. Michael Hospital now has authorization to create a local provider participation fund (LPPF) that will help it secure more funding to treat area residents. Texas A&M-Texarkana received \$32 million in tuition revenue bonds (TRBs) to construct a new Academic and Student Service Building. These groups were wonderful to work, and I am glad that my office was able to help them reach their goals.

Franklin County Retired Teachers Associations also expressed their appreciation for the legislature funding their TRS-Care health insurance program for the next two years.

*Around the Capitol.* Things are pretty slow at the Capitol in Austin right now, but agencies are beginning their rulemaking process to implement all of the new laws passed this session. My office will keep tabs on this process over the next few months.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) reminds teenagers and their parents about the *Impact Texas Teen Driver Program (ITTD)* that went into effect on September 1 and is a new requirement for driver license applicants, including parent-taught driver's education. For more information see: <https://impacttexasteendrivers.dps.texas.gov/>.

The state comptroller's office has updated its 50-State Scorecard that lets anyone see how Texas compares to the other 49 states on such factors as tax burden, employment opportunities, economic indicators and quality of life at: <http://www.comptroller.texas.gov/fiscalnotes/50states/>

I attended the 2015 Star of Texas Awards ceremony to honor peace officers, fire fighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) killed or seriously hurt in line of duty. This month, I also spoke to the Texas Association of Community Schools meeting in San Antonio, as well as the Education Service Center Region 2 meeting in Corpus Christi.

To address the needs of Veterans and military member homeowners who have been affected by the Memorial Day Weekend Floods, the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) has established a Disaster Relief Initiative. There are two components to the initiative, both of which provide new funding to affected Veterans. For more information you may call 1-800-252-8387 or email [vlbinfo@glo.texas.gov](mailto:vlbinfo@glo.texas.gov).



*Around the District.* I have also met with numerous constituents at my new office, located at the Bowie County Courthouse to discuss items ranging from veterans benefits to plumbing laws. I also attended the 20th anniversary of the Mount Vernon Lowe's store and the Red River Valley Fair.

*Finally.* I am working hard to represent the people and businesses in HD 1. Feel free to contact either the District office (903-628-0361) or Capitol office (512-463-0692) if you have any questions, need more information or need assistance. Thank you for the honor of serving you.

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