

Texas House of Representatives



**Lyle Larson**

State Representative - District 122

## **What's New in District 122**

Happy New Year! Hopefully you had a great Christmas and 2013 is off to a great start! We had a busy December, which included lots of preparation for the upcoming Session. Leading up to Christmas, we attended briefings by both the City of San Antonio and Bexar County explaining their legislative agendas and goals for the Session. We also worked to meet with several constituents in advance of the Session to get ideas and feedback about our initiatives. Team Larson has spent the last several weeks gearing up for the start of the 83rd Legislative Session, which begins tomorrow, January 8th. We're ready to get the 140 day Session started and look forward to doing great things for District 122!

### **It's finally here...The 83rd Legislative Session**

The Texas House will convene on January 8th at noon. If you are in Austin at the Capitol, please feel free to stop by our new office located at E2.604 to meet the staff and see where we'll be working for you throughout the next few months. We want to hear from you! As the Session advances, please let us know what you think about what we're doing in Austin. Please make a note of our contact information, listed below:

State Rep. Lyle Larson Capitol Office:  
E2.604  
(512) 463-0646

Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768

State Rep. Lyle Larson District Office:  
14607 San Pedro, Suite 180  
San Antonio, Texas 78232  
(210) 402-5402

Additionally, please feel free to contact us via email at [District122.Larson@house.state.tx.us](mailto:District122.Larson@house.state.tx.us) or through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Please know that you can contact the staff anytime. A list of the members of Team Larson with contact information is below:

**Chief of Staff:** Lynlie Wallace

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We will continue to keep you apprised of happenings at the Capitol, but please feel free to call, email, fax, send a letter or stop by the office anytime. We look forward to hearing from you.

As many of you are aware, a fire in our district office building led to the closure of our San Antonio office in July and the office remains closed for repairs. The building's owner has indicated the work is almost finished and we should be able to reoccupy the space later this month. Again, we thank you very much for being patient with us as we've worked over the last 6 months without an office in San Antonio. We will certainly let you know when the office reopens.

As of January 7, we have filed 28 bills aimed at fixing various issues, including bolstering our state's water supply, protecting our state's sovereignty, restoring truth in budgeting (specifically the way in which the Legislature spends dedicated funding for roads, parks and trauma hospitals), just to name a few. To view the bills we've filed so far, please [visit this link](#) and let us know what you think of our legislative agenda.

### **What to expect as the 83rd Legislative Session gets underway**

Lots of folks are speculating about what will happen during the 2013 Session. While the 82nd Session, held in 2011, was consumed by redistricting and working to craft a budget despite a \$27 billion shortfall, this Session should be much different. Sales tax revenues have increased for 32 months straight and for the last two months, oil and gas tax collections have increased 12 percent over last year. With the incredible positive economic activity taking place throughout our great state, it appears that the budget discussions will have a different tone this Session. Comptroller Susan Combs will release the revenue estimate for the 2014-2015 biennium today at 10 a.m., which will guide the Legislature as we determine how to fund public and higher education, healthcare delivery, law enforcement and criminal justice functions, maintenance and construction of state roads, our water supply, and all other functions of state government.

Though the budget situation should not be as dire as last Session, there are still plenty of challenges facing the Legislature, and we look forward to working to fixing each of these issues during the next 140 days.

### **Colorado River Water Users Association and the Las Vegas ASR**

In early December, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Colorado River Water Users Association. Ten tribal councils and seven states met to discuss solutions to sustain this very important water source to all in the western U.S.

After the conference, I traveled to the site of the largest aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) facility in America, run by the Las Vegas Valley Water District. San Antonio boasts the second largest ASR in the nation, with close to 98,000 acre feet of water stored in the Carizzo Aquifer. ASR works by injecting water into an aquifer and storing the water until it is needed. ASR is much more attractive in many areas throughout the nation because the water stored isn't lost to evaporation. Water stored in reservoirs, on the hand, experiences evaporation, and in cases of extreme drought, more water evaporates than is actually used.

Las Vegas Valley Water District uses 93 wells to store and recover 300,000 acre feet of water. These folks are leading the nation in this technology and we in Texas can look to them to determine how to expand ASRs in our communities. The future of storing water in Texas is here and we will continue to work to make this excellent water storing strategy possible for all water entities throughout the state.



At the site of the nation's largest aquifer storage and recovery facility

### **Bighorn Sheep Restoration Project**

During the 1800's, it is estimated there were over 1,500 bighorn sheep roaming the mountains in West Texas. By the late 1950's, however, the bighorn sheep population

had practically disappeared. A few decades ago, in the 1980's, the Texas Bighorn Society was formed. After a couple years of making their case to the Legislature, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) began working to restore the bighorn population in its previous natural habitat.

Highly trained biologists use helicopters to humanely capture the bighorn and transport them back to the mountain ranges that their ancestors once freely roamed. This process takes several hours and anywhere from 20 to 40 sheep are relocated. The end goal is to repopulate the entire area where they lived before humans interfered.

In an effort to better understand this process to help inform my service on the Texas House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism, I attended the most recent reintroduction capture in Alpine on December 17th. Along with TPWD staff, I witnessed the capture of several bighorns by helicopter. The sheep were then taken by hand by several volunteers to a trailer where they were tested for parasites and collared, and finally taken to their new home. To get a better understanding of the process, please take a look at [this short video](#) taken during last month's capture. The bighorn restoration project is truly a great North American success story.



Photos of the most recent bighorn sheep restoration effort

### **Texas Legislature Power Rankings**

Following is an excerpt from Mike Hailey's [Capitol Inside](#) publication:

*"In a legislative arena where members seldom have the opportunity to exert significant clout until they've been around for more than two sessions, the list of the 50 most powerful House members in the countdown to the session contains only two representatives who'll be sophomores next year. Republican State Rep. Lyle Larson of San Antonio is ranked 37th as a Straus ally and old friend who's going to be carrying several key pieces of legislation that have the potential for fireworks. While Larson will*

*be in the midst of a second term that he won without opposition this year, he's a veteran of elective politics as a former San Antonio City Council member and Bexar County commissioner."*

### **In the News**

As always, please feel free to contact me if I may ever be of assistance to you by phone at (210) 402-5402 or by email at [lyle.larson@house.state.tx.us](mailto:lyle.larson@house.state.tx.us).

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyle Larson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lyle Larson