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Representative Dan Huberty



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Greetings, District 127!

Fall is officially here and you can feel a difference in the weather. The last few cold fronts have given us some beautiful weather and my family has been truly enjoying it. The boys are both playing football and my daughter is now playing volleyball for the Atascocita Middle School Tigers. Janet and I spend most of our Saturdays at games and local community events, which we truly enjoy.

Several weekends ago, I was honored to speak on a panel at the annual Texas Tribune Festival in Austin. My fellow panelists, Senators Judith Zaffirini and Dan Patrick and Representative Dan Branch, and I were asked to give a preview of the 83rd Legislative Session. The main topics included the future of school finance, standardized testing and accountability. It was a great discussion led by Jim Henson and I feel we provided some great insight on public and higher education.

I returned to the district that afternoon, but spent the majority of that week in Austin. The Joint Committee on Public School Finance met on Monday. The House Public Education Committee met Tuesday and the State Affairs Committee met Thursday. It was a busy week to say the least, but as we near the close of the interim study period, it is time for these committees to wrap up their hearings and write their interim reports. These are written by the committees with input from the presiding members that include summaries of the findings of the committee as well as recommendations for the next Legislature. Many of these recommendations will turn into bills during session that we will all diligently work on. I encourage you to look over these reports when they are issued by the various committees, as they can be very insightful for what will be brewing during the 83rd Session.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty
State Representative- District 127

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Legislative Update

As mentioned earlier, committees are nearing the end of the interim period and approaching the 83rd Legislative Session very quickly. With the bill-filing period opening soon, it is very important for these committees to compile and distribute these reports in a timely manner so they can be used for possible legislation by members. The committees on which Rep. Huberty sits, are no different, in that we are meeting more frequently and holding hearings on their final charges from the Speaker of the House.

The Joint Committee to study Public School Finance held a hearing on Monday, September 24, where the Representatives and Senators heard from several people concerning how education is funded in the state currently and what alternative resources are available to schools and parents, as well as what "Learning Centered Funding" means.

On Tuesday, September 25, the House Committee on Public Education met to take up their final interim charge of conducting a review of the University Interscholastic League (UIL). The Senate Education Committee also has several hearings lined up for the month of October on the remainder of their interim charges with topics ranging from virtual schools to school discipline.

Then Thursday, September 27, the House State Affairs committee met to hear several panelist to discuss the nuances of competitive bidding with state agencies. The charge, issued to the committee a bit later in the interim, is related to studying how businesses go about providing services or goods to the state. The charge is meant to assist in determining whether additional steps or processes are necessary to ensure the best value for our state and the taxpayers. Sometimes this means the best price, but sometimes it means the most qualified. Utilizing private industry's experience and resources, while saving taxpayers' money, is crucial to optimizing our resources and the effectiveness of our state's agencies.

On September 29, the Texas Tribune hosted their second annual Festival, which was full of debate, discussion and dialogue featuring many of the members of the Texas Legislature; On top of that, were featured private and public sectors of the most respected and well-known minds in the public policy realm from around the world. Rep. Huberty was honored to be a guest speaker on a panel titled "An 83rd Legislative Session Preview," which focused on education, both public and higher. He was joined by Representative Dan Branch, Chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, and Senators Judith Zaffirini, Chairwoman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, and Dan Patrick, Vice Chair of the Senate Education Committee. Moderator Jim Henson led an exciting discussion on and around education in the State of Texas, as each member spoke about where Texas has been in education and the direction that the Legislature needs to go in the coming years.



From left to right: Moderator Jim Henson, Rep. Dan Huberty, Sen. Dan Patrick, Rep. Dan branch. Not pictured: Sen. Judith Zaffirini.

Important General Election Information

As you are aware, the General Election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6th. Please work to ensure all of your family, friends, neighbors and fellow parishioners are "Getting Out The Vote!" Use your individual circles of influence to get out the vote. Do your research and select your candidates, then spread the word about them by telling everyone you know to GET OUT AND VOTE!

Harris County has made voting a much simpler task by adding new Early Voting Locations and having longer hours, so utilize these extra locations and hours. And remember, you can vote anywhere in the county during Early Voting. It is only on Election Day that you must vote at your precinct polling location.

If you are over 65 years of age, have a disability that will keep you from the polls, or are expected to be absent from the county on Election Day, you are eligible to receive a ballot-by-mail. To print your ballot-by-mail application, [click this link](#). Complete and return to the County Clerk's Office as soon as possible. Tuesday, October 30th is the last day to apply for a ballot-by-mail. Early Voting begins in Monday, October 22nd and goes through Friday, November 2nd, with one weekend for Early Voting. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th. You can see Early Voting Locations, Dates and Times at www.HarrisVotes.com.

City of Houston Ballot Propositions

For those of you who reside in the City of Houston, you will have several propositions for a bond referendum, plus the election for the District E Council Member at the very bottom of an already lengthy ballot. Please educate yourselves on these six propositions and the City Council election before you head to the polls to cast your vote.

The bond referendums as well as two proposed changes to the City Charter will be found near the end of what will be a very long ballot. For more information on these initiatives, visit www.houstontx.gov/2012bondreferendum.html or find brief explanations of each proposition below. This bond referendum will total \$410 Million, which is the smallest total referendum amount in the City of Houston over the last 30 years.

- **Proposition A:**
 - \$144 Million in Public Safety Improvement bonds; includes improvements at neighborhood police stations citywide, expansion of two fire stations and citywide fire station maintenance/improvements
- **Proposition B:**
 - \$166 Million in Park Improvement Bonds; includes pavilion replacements, swimming pool upgrades and replacements, ball field lighting upgrades, trail replacement and overlays, and the Bayou Greenways Project (see below)
- **Proposition C:**
 - \$57 Million in Public Improvement Bonds for health, sanitation/recycling and essential improvements at city facilities; includes repairs to City Hall and City Hall Annex, renovation of the Westpark recycling facility and Central Depository, and environmental remediation
- **Proposition D:**
 - \$28 Million in Library Improvement Bonds (renovations of four libraries)
- **Proposition E:**
 - \$15 Million in Bonds for Affordable Housing; used to demolish blighted properties to provide locations for construction of affordable housing using federal funds
- **Bayou Greens Project:**
 - \$200 million public-private partnership
 - Completes the 100-year old vision of Mayor Horace Baldwin of continuous parks and trails along every major bayou segment in the city
 - When completed, this project will provide improvements in every City Council district in Houston

Kingwood Park BizCom Meeting

On Thursday, September 6, the Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce hosted a "Business and Community" meeting at Kingwood Park High School. The meeting was opened by Chamber President, Charlie Dromgoole who was followed with an invocation by Jason Mick of Second Baptist. Humble ISD Superintendent, Dr. Guy Sconzo, gave a brief update on the state of the school district and introduced Kingwood Park Principal Lisa Drabing to give an update on their school. Melinda Stephenson was also on hand to offer an update on the newest construction and plans for expansion at Kingwood Medical Center. Next up Janet Hayes, Executive Director of the nonprofit Will's Kids, gave a brief update on the group and how organizations, and individuals could get involved. Lastly Zack Derelioglu, Manager of the newest Chic-Fil-A in the Lake Houston area, gave an update on the building and opening of the restaurant. Excited event attendees were happy to hear that the location will be opening early this fall, as soon as construction concludes.

Kingwood Chamber of Commerce Founder's Day Luncheon

Wednesday, September 12, saw the celebration of the 10th Annual Founder's Day Luncheon, hosted by the Kingwood Chamber of Commerce at the Nathaniel Center. Chamber President Sparky Nolan led the group on a trip down memory lane in Kingwood. He had attendees vie for longest resident by having them each say how long they had been in Kingwood. There was a close margin between local realtors Eunice & Rod Dennis, who arrived in the early 1980's, and Chief of Staff, Casey Christman, who also arrived in the early 1980's, as she was born in Humble at that time.

Sparky also spent time highlighting new Chamber members Orion Engineering and Houston Heart & Vascular Associates. And thanked longtime Kingwood restaurant, J. Christopher's, for catering the event by telling their great story of success to the crowd. The next monthly luncheon will be held on October 3, 2012 at the Nathaniel Center.

Summer Creek BizCom Meeting

The meeting was opened by the "Mayor" of Summerwood, Don Gaddy, who led us in a prayer and the pledges. As always, the turnout at Summer Creek High School was great and the program did not disappoint. Chic-Fil-A of Summerwood provided lunch while Gina's Italian Kitchen brought dessert.

Summer Creek Principal Thyrun Hurst gave an update on the first month of school and how the students were adjusting to being back in the classroom and how their athletes were performing. He encouraged everyone to come out to a Bulldog Football or Volleyball game and distributed schedules.

The next speaker, Congressman Ted Poe, needed no introduction. He gave an update on what is currently happening in Washington, D.C. and reminded the crowd that he prefers being with his constituents over his fellow legislators. Congressman Poe also addressed Congressional Redistricting and expressed concern over his new district and his hopes that the Texas Legislature will take up the issue again in the next session. Janis Schmees of the Harris County Sports Authority gave a wonderful wrap-up on the AAU Junior Olympics and praised the Lake Houston area and its residents for being amazing hosts. She said the AAU was very interested in returning to Turner Stadium and the successful event this past summer had drawn the attention of other organizations, like the US Olympic Trials.

Louis Smith of Memorial Hermann gave a brief update on the Convenient Care Center it is opening near Summer Creek High School along Beltway 8 and thanked the members of the Chamber and the BizCom attendees for helping them in this expansion process.

Jenna Dhayer and Nora Witbrodt of the Lake Houston YMCA gave an update on the YMCA programs being put in place in Fall Creek. The organization has purchased land and is looking forward to eventually building a new facility in that area. Until then, they will continue to host programs, but they will be administered from the Kingwood location.

Barbara Probandt also gave a safety update and mentioned that Summerwood National Night Out would be held Tuesday, October 2, in the Resident's Clubhouse. She also encouraged everyone over the age of 55 to join the Lone Star College Academy of Lifelong Learning for only \$2 annually to take a range of classes.

Beckwith's Constitution Day

On September 15, the Atascocita community came together for the third annual Constitution Day celebration sponsored by Beckwith's Car Care.

This year's event was even larger and more successful than those of the previous years; It featured a flag ceremony put on by the Atascocita High School JROTC, many family activities, and a visit from state representative Dan Huberty.

Particularly noteworthy was the nomination of Beckwith's Car Care for the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedom Foundation by local resident Marguerite Baxter. Thanks to Ms. Baxter's submission of an essay detailing why exactly Beckwith's should be honored with the award, the local business has been chosen as a winner of the award.

Additionally, Representative Huberty presented the business with a flag that had flown over the State Capitol. Lynn Beckwith, owner of Beckwith's Car Care, hopes to fly the flag at next year's event. The Constitution Day celebration was a wonderful opportunity for those in the community to celebrate our nation's staunch commitment to freedom in a setting free of politics. Indeed, the event showcased the patriotism in pursuit of liberty for which the Constitution itself was written to protect.



HAAM Pillars of the Community

On September 15, Representative Huberty and his daughter, Brianna, attended the Humble Area Assistance Ministries recognized the 2012 Pillars of the Community at the Kingwood Country Club. They were honored to sit at the Memorial Hermann table.

HAAM is a local non-profit organization that has been working for over twenty years to bring congregations and other community organizations together for the purpose of more effectively addressing the needs of those less fortunate in the Humble ISD/East Harris County area. By uniting such organizations in an inclusive effort, HAAM has been able to broadly serve the social needs of the surrounding Lake Houston community, and it has been growing since its founding.

The well-attended recognition event honored three deserving couples from the Lake Houston area who had shown exceptional devotion to the selfless service of the community at large through a variety of causes and initiatives. A silent auction was also held to benefit HAAM. The three honored couples were:

- Tony and Leslie Raffa
- Larry and Cynthia Calvert Shiflet
- Philippe and Mieke Cras

The funds raised at the event will be used to help advance HAAM's social service initiatives for the upcoming year.

METRO General Mobility Program Referendum – November 6, 2012

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) has called a Special Election to be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 that has to deal with the METRO General Mobility Program (GMP). The citizens who can vote in this election must live within the boundaries of the METRO service territory. As it applies to the communities within the Lake Houston region, the City of Humble, the City of Houston (Kingwood) and the unincorporated areas of Harris County that includes Atascocita, Summerwood, Fall Creek all are within the METRO territory.

The METRO Board of Directors called an election to obtain authorization for the continuation of the ¼ cent allocation of sales tax revenue for general mobility improvements by jurisdictions within the Metro service area. In 2003, voters approved the referendum extending the General Mobility Program dedicating twenty-five (25%) of METRO's one cent sales tax for street improvement and general mobility projects as authorized by law to 2014 and requiring an election by 2013. Current contracts with participating jurisdictions will expire in 2014.

The current GMP funding criteria states that the jurisdiction must be within METRO's service area and compliant with the Texas Transportation Code for funding projects such as constructing or maintaining streets, roads, bridges, grade separations, sidewalks, hike and bike trails; installing or maintaining traffic control signals, street lights, landscaping, or drainage associated with roadway projects.

This proposition will continue the dedication of up to twenty-five (25%) of Metro's sales tax revenues for the period of October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2025 to Harris County and the 14 cities within Metro's jurisdiction for street improvements and related projects as authorized in the current GMP funding criteria. In addition, METRO's proposal will allocate the growth in the sales tax after 2014 through a methodology called Incremental Collections in which 50% will go to jurisdictions within Metro's service area and 50% will remain with Metro for general mobility purposes. There will be no increase in the current METRO one cent sales tax rate.

The outcome of this proposition may affect future roadway and infrastructure projects in the City of Humble, the City of Houston, and unincorporated areas of Harris County within the Lake Houston region with the future growth that we will experience in this area. An example of projects completed with these funds include the Will Clayton overpass and road expansion, Wilson Road expansion, and the Townsen overpass, intersection, and road expansion.

September Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

The Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce hosted their monthly Third Tuesday Luncheon on September 18. Former Houston Oilers quarterback Dan Pastorini was on hand to speak about his experiences in professional sports. Sports announcer and writer John Lopez was also present to introduce Pastorini and talk to the experience of assisting him in writing his memoir, [Taking Flak](#).

Pastorini spoke about the process of a writing the book with Lopez and also to his "record" in professional sports and entertainment television. Everyone was very pleased to hear from the football legend and many event attendees purchased copies of the book for him and Lopez to sign.

The next LHACC luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, at the Humble Civic Center, and will honor the Teachers of the Year from Humble ISD, Spring ISD, Lone Star College-Kingwood and several local private schools.

Purple Ribbon Luncheon

On September 26, FamilyTime Crisis and Counseling hosted the annual “Purple Ribbon Event” luncheon at the Kingwood Country Club to raise awareness for domestic violence and celebrate its Women of Achievement. Attendees also had the opportunity to nominate women for the 2013 Woman of Achievement Award. The event helped to kick off National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

FamilyTime Crisis and Counseling Center is a local nonprofit organization whose mission is “to provide an outreach program and accessible services to families and individuals in crisis through counseling, crisis intervention, information and referral, and shelter.” By providing such services as support groups, an emergency shelter, and trained legal advocacy staff; The organization hopes to promote both community awareness and prevention of domestic and sexual abuse.

The Women of Achievement Award dates back to 1990, and has grown to honor over 250 women in the community since its founding. The increased attention given to the award in recent years speaks of a widespread, staunch commitment to service, and social involvement that many women in the community feel is worthy of both honor and respect.

The event also recognized a Woman of Excellence, described as “one woman who has already been recognized as a Woman of Achievement but has continued to serve the community since she was awarded.” The recipient of this honor was Robin Martinez, pictured below.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Summer



Representative Huberty pictured with Humble ISD Trustee Robert Sitton

No Idling Signs and Bumper Stickers Now Available Free of Charge!

Now that the 2012-13 school year is underway, it is even more important that we take steps to reduce unnecessary vehicle idling. Vehicle engine idling wastes fuel, drains financial resources, and pollutes our air. Reducing idling protects the environment, promotes quality of life, and saves money!

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is now offering idling reduction bumper stickers and signs free of charge! Our idling reduction stickers can be fun learning tools for all and can be posted inside buses as a daily no idling reminder for drivers. Idling reduction signs serve as a stationary and more permanent idling reduction reminder for bus drivers, parents, delivery drivers, patrons, etc. These signs could be posted at bus yards, school loading areas or docks to improve the quality of the air we breathe. If you are interested in idling reduction bumper stickers, signs or both, simply create the order form online at www.EngineOffHGAC.com. This website also includes sample idling reduction policies available for adoption—if you haven’t already done so—along with a wealth of additional information.

Our community mourns the loss of AVFD's Capt. Neal Smith

Last month, Captain Neal Smith of the Atascocita Firefighters tragically lost his life after suffering a heat-related illness during a smoke diver training class at the Beaumont Emergency Services Training Complex on September 15.

A funeral service was held at 10:00 am Monday, September 24, 2012 at the First Assembly of God Church Humble, TX, with full Firefighter and Military Honors.

Representative Huberty spoke at the ceremony and had the following words for the fallen public servant:

“Captain Neal Smith selflessly served his community, his family and his fellow man. After his passing, we not only grieve together through this horrific loss but we celebrate his life: a life of service; a life of devotion; a life of concern for others and a life of sacrifice. Each and every year nearly 100 fireman lose their lives in the line of duty. The significance of their contributions cannot be minimized, and while they will be dearly missed, their legacy lives on in the spirit of those who continue to serve. When a man or woman becomes a fireman their greatest act of bravery has already been accomplished. What they do after that is all in the line of work. He will be dearly missed by all that knew him.”

Smith, a pillar of the community, is survived by his wife and two children as well as many other loving relatives.



Representative Huberty speaking at Capt. Smith's Memorial Service



Capt. Smith's photo at Atascocita Fire Department

Humble BizCom Meeting

On Thursday, October 4, the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce hosted an Humble BizCom meeting for the purpose of connecting business and community. Charlie Dromgoole, President of the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce, opened the meeting, with a welcome delivered by Scott Brady from Joiner Partnership, Inc. Among the speakers were Dr. Charles Ned, principle of Humble High School, Dr. Guy Sconzo, Superintendent of Humble ISD, and Darrell Boske, City Manager for the City of Humble. Scott Brady gave an update on the Grand Parkway. Those in attendance were encouraged to give any updates and announcements they felt would be appropriate. Lunch was provided by Freebirds.

New Texas Financial Toolbox Website

A new online resource, www.TexasFinancialToolbox.com, has been launched to give consumers an easy way to find the “tools” they need to achieve their financial and homeownership goals.

The Texas Financial Toolbox website, created by the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSAHC), connects consumers with nonprofit organizations or government entities in Texas who help consumers manage their finances, purchase a home or provide options to home owners facing foreclosure.

Nonprofit organizations and government entities who offer financial and homeownership programs and are interested in having them included in the Texas Financial Toolbox may submit their information through the website.

“We are excited about launching this unique website which provides consumers in Texas with a directory of organizations who can help them improve their lives,” said David Long, TSAHC President. “Whether Texans want to prepare for home ownership, find programs available to home buyers, seek foreclosure prevention help, or improve their money management skills, the Texas Financial Toolbox is a great place to start.”

TSAHC, a statewide nonprofit organization based in Austin, Texas, created www.TexasFinancialToolbox.com with generous funding support from Bank of America and Insperity.

Upcoming Events

Friday, October 12

6:00 PM Houston Metro Go Texan Committee Humble/Kingwood Fall Dance
Stetson’s Nightlife

Saturday, October 13

10:00 AM- Free Flu Shots
HealthOne 24 Hour Emergency Care—Fall Creek

2:15 PM BARC Third Annual Pet Blessing
3200 Carr Street, Houston 77026

11:00 AM St. Martha’s Catholic Church Fall Festival
St. Martha’s Catholic Church

6:30 PM HESI Heritage Fiesta
King’s Harbor

Monday, October 15

6:00 PM District E Town Hall Meeting in Kingwood
Kingwood Community Center

Tuesday, October 16

11:00 AM Lake Houston Chamber Teacher of the Year Luncheon
Humble Civic Center

Friday, October 19

8:30 AM Lakeland Elementary Tree Planting
Lakeland Elementary - 1500 Montgomery

11:00 AM Memorial Hermann "In the Pink of Health" Luncheon
Houston Airport Marriott Hotel

Saturday, October 20

10:00 AM Bits & Pieces Skeet Tournament for Texas Adaptive Aquatics
FM 1960, near Dayton

Monday, October 22

8:30 AM Early Voting Begins
Kingwood Branch Library

2:30 PM Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL) Class
College Atascocita Center