



NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE JIM MURPHY

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. As you are putting together your resolutions for 2012, we would like to encourage you to continue to give back to the community. Oftentimes we only do that during the holiday season and these organizations need our help year round. Hopefully, the list we provided to you in November was helpful and you found a charity you enjoyed. Here is a link to the list: [Charities](#).

We would like to invite you to Austin this Spring. There are so many great events that occur in our Capital city, but there is nothing like our State Capitol in the Springtime. Please call our Capitol office to assist you in the planning of your visit. If you don't need help, please still swing by and say hello. We are there every day and should have a cold glass of water for you to enjoy. Committee hearings will begin meeting again this month, so there will be plenty of policy discussions for you to sit in on if you want.

In this e-news we are going to give you an overview of what is going on in Redistricting and touch a little bit on the state of the economy in Texas. We wish you and your loved ones a prosperous 2012.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim", written in a cursive style.

Redistricting

The redistricting process started a year ago when we gathered in Austin for Session. The House and Senate worked together to draw maps for the House, the Senate, State Board of Education and the Congress. It was the first time in three decades that all four maps passed out of the legislative branch and then signed by the Governor. Last Fall, there were two lawsuits filed to challenging the maps based on the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The cases quickly made it to the Supreme Court. The Court heard arguments on Monday and it appears likely that we will have maps sometime in February.

Here is what we do know:

- we do not have maps that tell us what our district or precinct lines will be,
- we do not have a firm date for the Primary, and
- we will not have any definite answers for about a month, we estimate.

The legal wrangling has created a lot of uncertainty and confusion for our voters, candidates and all us involved in the process. We look forward to the Supreme Court's decision and will keep you updated on new developments. For more information on Redistricting please visit [Texas Redistricting](#).

The State of the Texas Economy

According to the Comptroller, 2011 state sales tax receipts were up 9.4 percent from fiscal year 2010, after experiencing declines of 6.6 percent in 2010 and 2.7 percent in 2009. Much of this increase can be attributed to the expansion of the oil and gas and manufacturing sectors. To further highlight the positive economic news, oil and natural gas production tax collections since August of 2011 were 64 percent higher than during the same period in 2010. For more data about the current state of the Texas economy, visit the Comptroller's website by clicking [here](#).

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