



NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE JIM MURPHY

Dear Friends,

I enjoy getting out in our community and meeting with school groups, local elected officials, businesses and religious organizations. Accountability starts with accessibility so these meetings are important. A common question I am asked is, "When you are not meeting at the Capitol during the session, what do you do as a Legislator?" Although we only convene in Austin every other year for 140 days, we are continuously working to become more educated on issues affecting citizens and preparing for our next legislative session. One of the best ways to accomplish this is through our interim House Committee hearings.

Following each legislative session, the Speaker of the House decides on topics and issues called "charges" and each committee is assigned a set of issues. These might be identified through legislative work in the prior session, public comments, or requests by legislators. We then hold hearings, usually in Austin but sometimes around the State, to listen to testimony about these issues and discuss possible legislative actions. This testimony can be from issue advocates, industry reps, affected parties and/or interested citizens. The two committees of which I am a member, Economic and Small Business Development and Ways and Means, have each been following this process.

The Economic and Small Business Development Committee has been studying our state's economy and discussing how we can encourage new business formation and growth. Texas continues to be on the forefront of economic growth, and we are exploring new initiatives to keep our state economically competitive. We have been examining grants awarded for cancer-related research through the Emerging Technology Fund (ETF) and the future of the ETF program. Next month, we will be having a joint hearing with the Higher Education Committee to talk about the ways private businesses and research universities can work together to develop new technologies that have commercial viability.

The tax structure and economic forecast for our state has been the focus of the discussions in Ways and Means Committee. We have looked at tax exemptions, reporting methods, economic development programs and our overall tax structure and how these affect our economic climate. The Committee has heard from business around the state, our Comptroller's office, and economists.

After our hearings are concluded, we will develop recommendations from each committee. These will then be the starting point for legislation that will be considered in the session beginning January 2013. Not all legislative ideas come from these interim committees but the process works well for major, long term issues that require extensive study.

I invite you to watch these hearings (and others) by logging on to the House website- www.house.state.tx.us You can watch live hearings, pull up past archived hearings, and view upcoming committee schedules as well. You may also view all interim charges assigned to each of our House Committees by clicking here: [82nd Legislature Interim Charges](#).

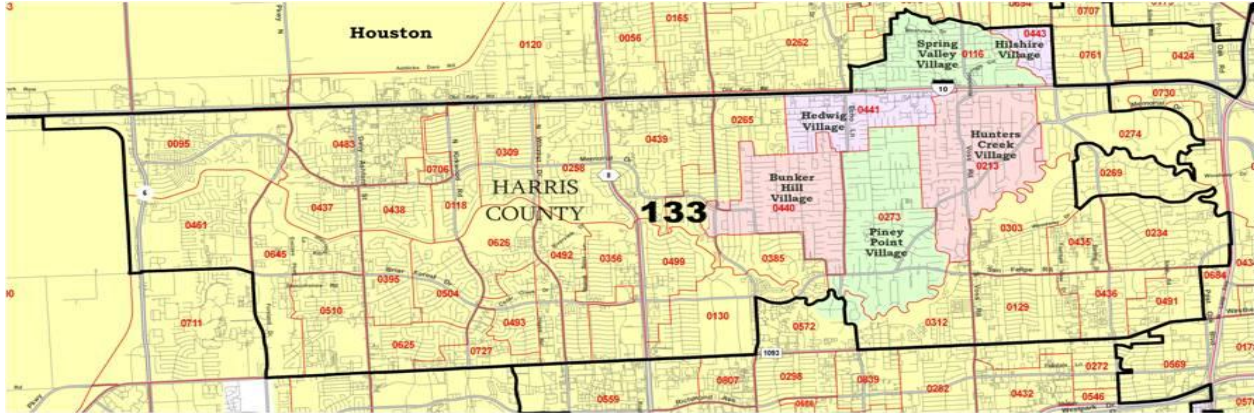
We hope that you continue to enjoy reading our newsletters. Please continue to forward this to your neighbors. If you have any questions for us, please don't hesitate to contact me toll free at 855.597.0662.

Yours truly,



**Thank you to
Briargrove Elementary for having me to
their school to visit!**

NEW HOUSE DISTRICT 133 MAP:



Important Primary Election Dates Coming Up:

- **March 30.....First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail**
- **April 30.....Last Day to Register to Vote**
- **May 14.....Early Voting Begins**
- **May 22.....Last Day Ballots by Mail Accepted**
- **May 25.....Early Voting Ends**
- **May 29.....Primary Election Day**

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