

The Laubenberg Letter

February 2015

Dear Friends,

As the 84th Legislative Session begins, I will attempt to update you on the progress of issues that I hope you will find important and of interest. I encourage you to contact my office if you have a special interest on an issue or a bill that has been filed.

Just a quick overview of the legislative process - The Texas Legislature meets once every two years for 140 days. This is constitutional, by design from our founding fathers, in their belief that less government is best government. In that spirit, they also set the parameter that no legislation could be voted on until 60 days after the Legislature is sworn into office. This does not prohibit bills from being filed or committees from taking action. A bill can be heard and passed out of committee but must wait until the 60th day of the Session to have a full floor debate and vote. March 13th marks the 60th day of this Session.

However, with government there are always "loopholes." If the Governor believes there are issues that need to be addressed immediately, he can designate those items to be placed on an Emergency Calendar and bypass the 60-day restriction.

Today in his State of the State address to the full Legislature (both House and Senate), Governor Greg Abbott declared five emergency items to be considered before March 13th: early education, higher education research initiatives, transportation funding, border security funding and ethics reform. We will likely see bills filed and debated within the next few weeks, rather than waiting until March 13th to begin floor action.

The Governor also released his proposed budget, which includes a strong emphasis on substantial business and homeowner property tax relief. In addition, the Governor's proposed budget calls for more efficiency of state agency operations, and a reduction of government growth by restricting the state budget to a spending cap based on population growth and inflation, rather than the current spending limit based on population plus income.

In my next update, I will focus on the budget process and where Texas stands fiscally and economically. As always, I consider it an honor and privilege to represent District 89. Thank you for your trust and confidence.

Respectfully,
Jodie Laubenberg



Jodie Laubenberg

District 89



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Important Dates

If you no longer wish to receive these updates, or would like to change your email address, please [email us](#).

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 (1st Day)

84th Legislature convenes at noon

Friday, March 13, 2015 (60th Day)

Deadline for filing bills and joint resolutions other than local bills, emergency appropriations, and bills that have been declared an emergency by the governor

Monday, June 1, 2015 (140th Day)

Last day of 84th Regular Session