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*Volume 1, Edition 12*

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## **Dear Friends,**

Welcome to the 12th edition of the Wray Wrap Up! I appreciate all the feedback I've received from the district on the many measures coming before the legislature. With less than 45 days to go, both chambers will be working overtime to achieve results for Texans. If you have suggestions on how my office or I can serve you better, I hope you'll send me your thoughts!

## **HOUSE TAX PLAN MOVES FORWARD**

The House Ways and Means Committee voted [HB 31](#) and [HB 32](#) favorably out of committee this past Thursday. [HB 31](#) cuts the state sales tax rate from 6.25% to 5.95%, reducing state sales tax for the first time in Texas history! [HB 32](#) cuts the business franchise tax rate by 25% and allows EZ tax filing for businesses with total revenues of \$20 million or less, helping reduce the burden and cost of franchise tax compliance. Together these bills will provide \$4.87 billion in tax relief to both businesses and individuals. As a co-author of [HB 31](#) and [HB 32](#), I am looking forward to having these bills considered before the entire House and to passing significant and historic tax-relief for Texas.

Take 15 minutes and watch Speaker Pro Tem Dennis Bonnen answer questions regarding HB 31 and HB 32.



*House Press Conference on Tax Relief*

## **OPEN CARRY**

On Friday, the House passed [HB 910](#), which permits licensed individuals to openly carry holstered handguns. Filed by Representative Larry Phillips, licensed open carry passed by a vote of 96-35 on second reading. [HB 910](#) maintains the individual requirements of handgun proficiency courses and background checks to obtain a Handgun License. I am a co-author of [HB 910](#), and supported this legislation in an effort to protect our 2nd Amendment rights and bring Texas in line [with the numerous other states that allow open carry](#).

## **HOUSE BILL 40**

The House passed [HB 40](#) by a vote of 122-18 on Friday. The bill has broad support, with 75 authors and coauthors signed on to this legislation. This bill would keep cities from regulating certain aspects of oil and gas, including adopting hydraulic fracturing bans. Cities would be permitted to enact ordinances relating to above-ground oil and gas activity, including regulating fire and emergency response, traffic, lights, and noise. [HB 40](#) requires city ordinances to be commercially reasonable, which includes ordinances that have been in effect for five years and that have allowed oil and gas production over that time. All other regulatory powers would reside with the state.

Introduction of [HB 40](#) was instigated by the approval of a fracking ban by Denton voters in November. The Texas Oil & Gas Association and the Texas Municipal League have worked with the author to craft a solution and as a co-author of this bill, I'm thankful for all the work put forth by all parties.

### **TEA PARTY DAY**

The first ever statewide Texas Tax Day Tea Party Rally was held on Wednesday at the Capitol. Over 100 activists gathered on the south steps of the Capitol to celebrate their grassroots accomplishments and inspire citizens to be more involved in the political process. It was a privilege to meet with Tea Party constituents who made the trip down to Austin. The Tea Party movement is vibrant in Texas and I appreciate all the hard work members put in to bring a conservative message to citizens across the state.



*Texas Tea Party Day at the State Capitol, Photo courtesy of Texas Tribune*

### **GET INVOLVED & STAY CONNECTED!**

You can reach our Austin office at (512) 463-0516 and our District Office at (972) 938-9392. You can always shoot an email to [district10.wray@house.state.tx.us](mailto:district10.wray@house.state.tx.us) too!

For more regular updates, "like" the HD 10 District [Facebook](#) Page and follow the HD 10 [Twitter](#) account.

God Bless you and God Bless Texas!



Representative John Wray

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