

## Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's



## Capitol Report



### Urgency to Ramp Up Zika Prevention Efforts

Dallas health officials are taking a stance on proactive prevention efforts of the Zika virus. Many health officials believe that the government is not currently doing enough to stop the Zika virus at this early stage in the fight. It may take the situation getting worse before there is more urgency to ramp up prevention efforts and implementation of an aggressive prevention strategy. Dallas County's health director, Zachary Thompson urges officials to start tracking how many people are entering the Dallas-Fort Worth area from counties in Central and South America where the Zika virus is already at epidemic status. These travelers should then be monitored and educated on the importance of visiting the doctor at the first sign of even mild symptoms.

So far, three people in Dallas County have contracted the Zika virus, which is why health officials believe there is already urgency to ramp up prevention efforts. Health officials recommend testing for anyone who has traveled to the outbreak countries, especially if they exhibit the virus' flulike symptoms such as rash, fever, red eyes or joint pain. Thanks to a laboratory set up during the 2014 Ebola scare, Dallas County has an advantage at containing the Zika virus in the area. The lab has the ability to test specimens for the virus and will provide a quicker turn around for blood sample results. The local testing will give patients results within 24 hours, whereas it can take up to three weeks to receive test results sent to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

**"The Zika virus threat cannot be taken lightly at this point. It is of utmost importance that we commit fully to prevention efforts to ensure the safety of our residents, especially with the summer months quickly approaching. Make sure to pour at standing water around your home and reach for the insect repellent,"** stated Rep. Alonzo.



### Be Prepared Before Heading to the Polls

Early voting for the Texas Republican and Democratic primaries are now underway and it is important to make sure you have everything you need before heading to the polls.

#### On the ballot:

*Statewide offices-* Republicans and Democrats will choose nominees for railroad commissioner, state appellate courts and the state board of education.

*Congress-* All of the state's 36 U.S. House districts are on the ballot

*Legislature-* Each of the 150 Texas House seats is up for election, along with half of the state Senate.

*County-* County commissioners, sheriffs, some country courts and other offices are up for election.

#### Valid form of ID:

You must take one of the following IDs with you to the polls- Texas driver's license, U.S. passport, state-issued ID card, state-issued election certificate, Texas concealed handgun license, or U.S. military ID or citizenship certificate.

#### Find your polling place:

You should have been mailed a voter registration card with you name, address and the precinct in which you'll vote. Click the below link for 1) Voter Lookup 2) Precinct Lookup 3) List of polling locations.

<http://www.dallascountyvotes.org/polling-locations/>



**Rep. Alonzo speaks at the Center for Mexican American Studies Tech Center ribbon cutting ceremony at UT Arlington**