



PAT FALLON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DENTON COUNTY

2014 CAPITOL REPORT



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



To the Hardworking Taxpayers of Denton County,

I work for you, and in order to be an effective representative, I better not ever forget that! The job we do in the state legislature is an important one. It's the job that's important, not us! If I get hit by a bus there will be a special election in a few months and someone else will represent you. I get that. Unfortunately, there are too many elected officials who don't. They think that they are a big deal and forget about their constituency. It's high time we reject the traditional arrogance of the ruling 'elite' and instead openly embrace the humility of true servant-leadership.

This newsletter provides a summation of the 83rd legislative session, our office's priorities for next year, and useful information you can use to contact government agencies. It's been the greatest honor of my professional life to represent the interests of the hardworking taxpayers of Denton County. If you ever have a question, concern, idea, or any thoughts you would like to share, please don't hesitate to call or email us anytime. Thanks so much and God bless!

For Texas and Liberty,

Pat Fallon, Member
Texas House of Representatives
Denton County



Pat, his wife Susan and their two boys Thomas (7) and Mac (5)

P.O. Box 2910 • Austin, Texas 78768-2910 • phone (512) 463-0694 • fax (512) 463-1130 • pat.fallon@house.state.tx.us

Committees: Human Services • Technology

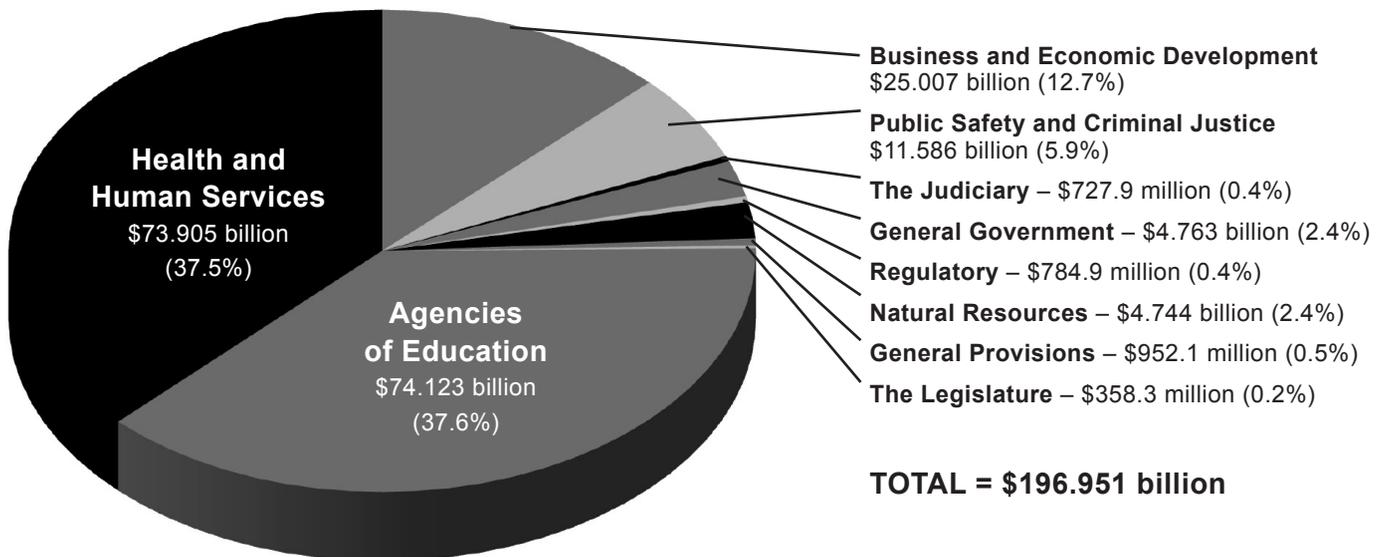
BALANCING OUR BUDGET

The Texas State budget for 2014-2015 was just over \$200 billion. The House version, which we passed in April of 2013, had my support early on in the legislative process; however, the final version of the bill added billions of dollars in additional spending that I felt wasn't needed. Because of the unnecessary increases, I felt compelled to vote no on the budget. Nevertheless, the budget did pass, and a breakdown of where our tax dollars were allocated is shown in the graphic below.



Rep. Fallon discussing budget cuts with Rep. Tan Parker

2014-2015 Texas State Budget



Notes:

1. Excludes Interagency Contracts

2. Biennial change and percentage change are calculated on actual amounts before rounding. Therefore, figure totals may not sum due to rounding.

Figures provided by Legislative Budget Board

SERGEANT ENRIQUE MONDRAGON



One of the most touching moments of the 83rd Session was when we honored Sergeant Enrique Mondragon, an alumnus of The Colony High School, who was killed in action on Christmas Eve 2012 defending our freedom in Afghanistan. Last February, the Legislature gathered in unity on the House Floor to pass a memorial resolution in honor of Sergeant Mondragon. It was my honor to host Sgt. Mondragon's widow Katie, and their three year old daughter Beverly on the House floor as we paid tribute to the Mondragon family's sacrifice.

Rep. Fallon with Sgt. Mondragon's widow, Katie, their daughter Beverly, and the House Speaker

83RD SESSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rejected Medicaid Expansion

On three separate occasions, the House of Representatives went on record in opposition to expanding the Medicaid program included in the Affordable Care Act. Each time, I felt it was important to vote to reject these costly efforts to expand Medicaid in Texas.

Merry Christmas Bill

I enthusiastically championed and co-authored House Bill 308 (the “Merry Christmas” Bill). The bill became law in June of last year, making it clear that school districts are allowed to permit teachers, students, and parents to display symbols associated with Christmas, Hanukkah, etc., celebrate these holidays, and of course use the greeting, “Merry Christmas!”. Nothing is more important than protecting our religious freedoms.

Education

We have to stop making our children average at the things they’re bad at and start making them great at the things they’re good at. I co-authored House Bill 5 which reduces excessive standardized testing from 15 end-of-course exams to 5, and expands curriculum options to allow students career path flexibility. We also reformed Texas’ charter school system, allowing it to accommodate 100,000 more children who are currently on waiting lists.

Pro-Life Legislation

The omnibus pro-life legislation, House Bill 2, was passed into law in June of last year. It was my privilege to co-author this bill which outlaws abortions in Texas after 5 months, requires abortion clinics to be up to the standards of an ambulatory service center, and mandates that physicians have hospital admitting privileges within 30 miles of an abortion clinic.



Rep. Fallon addressing his colleagues on the house floor

Tax Relief

As a co-author of House Bill 500, I am pleased that small businesses in Texas will see practical reforms to our state’s margins tax and over \$700 million in tax relief. In total, the legislature passed measures that provide over \$1 billion in relief to Texas taxpayers.

Second Amendment

The 83rd Session was a step in the right direction for Second Amendment Rights, but we must take even bolder action to ensure our constitutional right to bear arms. Senate Bill 864 has been signed into law and reduces the number of hours required to obtain a Concealed Handgun License. House Bill 48 also relaxes requirements for renewing your CHL.



Rep. Fallon, Rep. Jonathan Stickland, and Senator Ken Paxton show their support for the Pro-life omnibus bill

84TH SESSION PRIORITIES

Border Security

If the federal government won't secure our borders, Texas will. Current federal immigration policies are encouraging more and more unaccompanied minors and aliens from countries other than Mexico to illegally enter our country. We must increase the number of state guard and border security officers, tighten state smuggling laws, prohibit sanctuary cities, and provide civil liberty protections to landowners against illegal trespassers.

Government Reform

Two examples of our state government run amuck: First, many members of the legislature become lobbyists the day after leaving office. A two-year cooling off period would lessen the conflict of interest when a person is a legislator one day and a lobbyist the next. Second, incredibly, current law allows a legislator who's convicted of felony abuse of office to still collect a state pension. This is clearly outrageous! Next year, I will file legislation to end this once and for all.

End In-State Tuition for Illegal Immigrants

Right now, Texas uses your tax dollars to subsidize higher education for foreign nationals. This provides an incentive and reward to have people enter our country illegally. We have to use common sense and end this practice.



Rep. Fallon confers with Reps. Craig Goldman and Ron Simmons over an upcoming vote

Term Limits

I will reintroduce legislation to limit State Representatives' and State Senators' tenures in office. As citizen legislators, a decade-plus is more than enough time in public office.

American Laws for American Courts

It should go without saying that American law is the only legal basis for rulings in American court systems. Unfortunately, a few activist judges have brought that obvious truth into question by introducing Sharia law in their formal opinions. Not in Texas!



STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAT FALLON
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PO BOX 2910
AUSTIN TX 78768-2910

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YOUR OFFICE. WORKING FOR YOU.

STATE AGENCY ASSISTANCE – Having trouble cutting through the red tape of a state agency? We’re here to help you get things resolved. Examples of agencies we work with include: Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Attorney General (Child Support Division), CHL Permitting, Public Utility Commission, and State Parks.

LEGISLATIVE RECOGNITION – If you know someone who deserves to be recognized for an accomplishment or community service, please let us know. We can arrange for an official House Resolution, certificate, or letter of recognition to thank them for their dedication and selflessness and to extend our gratitude for making Texas an even better place! Just send us an email with your request at District106.Fallon@house.state.tx.us.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – High school students residing in District 106 may apply for local internships and/or a seat on the prestigious Legislative Leadership Council. Youth ages 8-18 can also apply to serve as a “Page for a Day” during the legislative session in Austin.

DISTRICT 106 SURVEY

We value your opinions on issues and want to hear from you!
Please feel free to fill out the following survey and return to our office in person or by mail.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please prioritize the following issues in order of importance to you (1 – highest priority; 7 – lowest priority):

- Tax Relief
- Roads/Infrastructure
- Border Security
- Increased Education funding
- Pro-Life Initiatives
- 2nd Amendment Safeguards
- Repeal the Affordable Care Act

Additional Comments:

If you would like, you may email your responses to District106.Fallon@house.state.tx.us or fax to your District Office at (469) 362-0540 or your Capitol Office at (512) 463-1130.

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CAPITOL OFFICE
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
(512) 463-0694
(512) 463-1130 Fax
Capitol Extension: E1.312



DISTRICT OFFICE
100 W Eldorado Parkway
Little Elm, Texas 75068
(469) 362-0500
(469) 362-0540 Fax

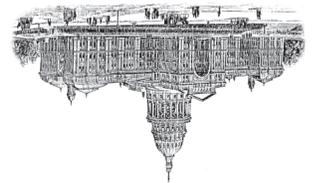
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PAT FALLON
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910



HELPFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

www.txdmv.gov
Toll-Free Number: (888) 368-4689
Denton County Office: (940) 349-3510

Texas Workforce Commission

www.twc.state.tx.us
Main Office: (512) 463-2222
Regional Office: (940) 382-6712

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

www.dfps.state.tx.us
Abuse Hotline: (800) 252-5400
Regional Office: (817) 792-4400

Office of the Attorney General

www.oag.state.tx.us
Main Office: (512) 463-2100
Child Support Division: (800) 252-8014

Texas Department of Public Safety

www.txdps.state.tx.us
Main Office: (512) 424-2000
Denton Office: (940) 484-6666
Lewisville Office: (972) 221-8081

Texas Department of Insurance

www.tdi.state.tx.us
Main Office: (800) 578-4677