

★ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ELECTION NOVEMBER 2013 ★

(Listed in order as they will appear on the November 5, 2013 ballot).

PROPOSITION	SUPPORTERS	OPPONENTS
No. 1 Authorize a tax exemption for all or part of the market value of the residences of spouses of military members who are killed in action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing benefits for military widows can be inadequate. Surviving spouses of service members killed in action are deserving of a residence homestead property tax exemption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excludes other deserving populations and adds to the complexity of tax exemptions and other veteran benefits. Will surviving spouses who are residents of other states move to Texas to access benefit?
No. 2 Eliminates a requirement for a State Medical Education Board and a State Medical Education Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will afford an opportunity to shrink state government by eliminating an obsolete governmental office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments opposing the amendment were made during the house and senate committee hearings or during debate in chambers.
No. 3 Extends the tax exemption period on storing aircraft parts in the state and would provide more tax relief to aerospace manufacturers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aircraft parts are not covered under Freeport Tax Exemption. Eliminates the need for purchases to buy in bulk. Aids Texas Aviation Industry in keeping customers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of the amendment to local governments. Costs to the state when offsetting lost school district tax revenue through the school finance system.
No. 4 Authorizes a partial property tax exemption on charity-donated residences to disabled veterans or their surviving spouses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strikes the current requirement that qualifying residents be "100 percent" disabled. Enables the recipient disabled veteran or surviving spouse to remain in a donated home with the ensuing freedom to pursue education, find a suitable job, or start a business. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern that singling out specific groups for property tax exemptions could erode local property tax bases and undermine uniformity in taxation.
No. 5 Allows homeowners age 62 or older to use reverse mortgages to purchase residences. The prospective borrower will be allowed to use a Federal Housing Administration-insured home equity conversion mortgage to help buy a new home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By combining the selling and buying of the two properties into one transaction and eliminating a set of fees, a homeowner could save several thousand dollars in closing fees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments opposing the amendment were made during the house and senate committee hearings or during debate in chambers.
No. 6 Would create two funds to help finance key projects in the state water plan by receiving funds from the Texas Economic Stabilization fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas and the State Water Implementation Revenue for Texas, which are to be capitalized by a one-time appropriation of \$2 billion from the economic stabilization fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital should come from general revenue fund. Taking money from the economic stabilization fund could hurt the state credit rating and leave the state inadequately equipped to respond to future emergencies.
No. 7 Authorizes home-rule municipalities to choose how to fill city council vacancies if the positions have less than 12 months remaining in a three or four-year term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Save money and time for both the city and candidate during elections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing municipal officials to make appointments to fill vacancies could make the government more vulnerable to corruption.
No. 8 Repeals a constitutional provision authorizing the creation of a hospital district in Hidalgo County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will provide health related services to the community that has high numbers of uninsured. Improve access to affordable healthcare. Will provide an ongoing source of revenue to help fund the creation of a planned UT Medical School in the Rio Grande Valley. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property tax rate increase for Hidalgo County.
No. 9 Authorizes the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC) to use additional disciplinary actions (warning, reprimands, required additional trainings, etc) against judges or justices after a hearing. Current law allows the SCJC to issue a public censure or recommend removal or retirement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows the commission to use its full range of sanctions following formal procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments opposing the amendment were made during the house and senate committee hearings or during debate in chambers.

TONI ROSE

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Representative Rose welcomed over 180 members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to the Capitol for their Bi-Annual Red and White Day. "Educate! Employ! Empower! Celebrating 100 Years of Public Service in Texas!" was the theme of the day as the Deltas laid out their legislative agenda to the 83rd Texas Legislature.

VISITING THE CAPITOL

The State Capitol is open to the public year round with the exception of major holidays. Free guided tours are offered Monday through Friday 8:30am- 4:30pm; 9:30am - 4:30pm Saturdays and Noon to 3:30pm on Sundays. Tour reservations for groups of 10 or more can be made by contacting the Capitol Visitors Center at 512-305-8400.

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Department of Aging & Disability Services (DADS) 800-458-9858	Texas Department of Insurance 800-252-3439
Department of Assistive & Rehabilitation Services (DARS) 800-628-5115	State Bar of Texas 800-633-6630
Attorney General 800-252-8011	Health & Humans Services Commission 877-541-7905
Texas Education Agency (TEA) 512-463-9734	Texas Workforce Commission 800-558-8321
Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS) 800-720-7777	

TONI ROSE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 110

83RD LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 110

Dear Constituents of House District 110:

It is a great honor and privilege to serve as your State Representative. The 83rd Legislative Session and our three called Special Sessions on Redistricting, Women's Health, Juvenile Justice and Transportation put our State in the national spotlight and helped forge a change in Texas politics forever.

This newsletter serves as an overview of key bills that became law as a result of this past session. I am pleased to report that we passed a number of bills that were aimed to help improve the lives of all Texans. Also in the newsletter, you will find a detailed chart regarding nine amendments and their proposed changes to amend the Texas Constitution. This information will assist you in making an informed decision in the upcoming election on November 5, 2013.

The 83rd Legislative Session was highlighted with many successes; however, there are many important issues we still need to address in upcoming legislative sessions. Texans need an adequate and equitable public school system for our children, accessible health care for our residents, and citizens should have easy access to their right to vote. I will continue to work during the interim to address these, and other issues that are important to you.

I want to give a special thank you to all those that contacted my office during the session. Let's keep the communication open. Your input, insight and concerns are very important to me. If you are not receiving communications via e-mail from my office, please contact me via email at toni.rose@house.state.tx.us or by phone at 214-371-3300.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve District 110 and the great State of Texas.

Yours for a better Texas,

Toni Rose
State Representative
District 110

★ LEGISLATION AUTHORED BY REP. TONI ROSE ★

During the 83rd Session, Representative Rose authored legislation pertaining to Criminal Justice, Health, and local issues.

LOCAL ISSUES

House Bill 802

The first bill I filed during the 83rd Legislature was House Bill 802. The lack of county emergency vehicles being authorized to use emergency flashing lights continued to delay their ability to arrive at a site to provide a coordinated response. The passage of this legislation now allows county vehicles greater access to disaster sites and will allow counties to be more proactive in responding to emergencies.

HB 802 became effective on June 14, 2013 immediately upon Governor Perry signing the bill.



On April 3, 2013 Representative Rose stands with fellow Freshman Legislators on the passing of her first bill, House Bill 802. A longstanding House tradition, Legislators of the same class stand together at the passing of their first bill.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

House Bill 2544

This legislation would have allowed for more effective and responsible administration of the Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue program offered by the Victim Services Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The bill passed the House April 18, 2013, but was not heard in the Senate.



Representative Rose shares a moment with House Speaker Joe Straus and House Parliamentarian Chris Griesel, during her turn as "Speaker of the Day" on April 30, 2013.

HEALTH

House Bill 1340

Youth in the Juvenile Justice system frequently need medical treatment. However, parental consent may be unavailable due to various circumstances; making it difficult for providers to administer medical treatment. House Bill 1340 would have allowed teens to consent for vaccines if the parents were unavailable and a signed medical consent was on file. HB 1340 passed the House; however, due to time constraints was not heard in the Senate.

House Bill 3531

In-prison education programs are critical in helping individuals prepare for future employment opportunities, which contributes to lowered recidivism. This bill would have increased educational programs for offenders in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. HB 3531 was left pending in committee.

House Bill 3532

Currently, the law does not provide for a time frame when criminal proceedings may be resumed once a defendant is determined to be competent. As a result, individuals may decompensate while awaiting proceedings to resume. This bill created specific time frames for proceedings to begin after a defendant returns to jail from the state hospital. HB 3532 passed out of committee; however, due to time constraints was not heard in the Senate.

House Bill 3533

Visitation is significant in creating and maintaining consistent family relationships and can make a positive difference during an offender's time in prison. This legislation would have required the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to notify an offender's next of kin regarding any change in an offender's eligibility to receive visitors. HB 3533 was left pending in committee.

House Bill 3534

This bill would have established protocols that allowed the Department of State Health Services to require a hospital found to have committed a violation resulting in a potentially preventable adverse event, to create and implement a plan to address internal deficiencies. HB 3534 was voted favorably out of committee; however, due to time constraints was not heard in the House.

★ OVERVIEW OF THE 83RD LEGISLATIVE SESSION ★

THE BUDGET

\$197 billion, two year budget passed the House on a vote of 118-29. The budget package also would end a fee on electricity bills in North Texas, Houston and the Rio Grande Valley. The money, collected in the **System Benefit Fund**, will no longer be collected as of September 1st. Those monies held on reserve will be used to give qualifying low income people discounts on their electricity bills. **State employees** will get a 1% raise across the board and 2% next year. **State troopers** and other peace officers get a 10% pay increase and guards at prisons and youth lockup facilities get 5%. Others receiving raises are community care attendants and psychiatric nurses at state mental hospitals. **Dallas County** will benefit from several appropriations measures, including: \$600,000 to a fresh produce program for low income students; \$300,000 to **Dallas County Community College District** for distance learning; and \$133,000 for the **UT Dallas African American Museum Internship program**.

EDUCATION

\$3.9 billion was restored to public education during this session. **House Bill 5** reduces the number of end-of year course exams needed for graduation from 15 to 5. The required tests will be algebra, biology, U.S. history and 10th grade reading and writing. **Senate Bill 376** would require all schools and school districts, where more than 80 percent of students are already eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the federal School Breakfast Program, to offer a free breakfast to all students. **Senate Bill 2** allows for an increase of 90 additional charter schools before 2019. The bill also gives the **Texas Education Agency** new authority to regulate low-performing charter schools and close them if they are academically unacceptable for three straight years.



Honorable Curtis Graves (center) the first African American to serve in the Texas House of Representatives since Reconstruction, with Representative Rose and other legislators during his visit to the House Chamber in February.

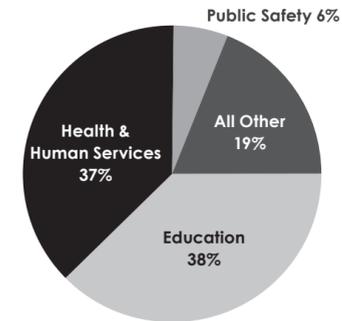
RETIREMENT

Senate Bill 1458 makes substantial changes to the Teacher Retirement system eligibility requirements and will give a 3 percent cost of living adjustment to teachers who retired on or before August 31, 2004.

Additionally, the member contribution rate will increase from 6.4 percent to 6.7 percent in 2015, 7.2 percent in 2016 and 7.7 percent in 2017. The state's contribution rate will also increase from 6.4 percent to 6.8 percent. Senate Bill 1458 was signed into law June 14, 2013.

The passage of Senate Bill 1459 increases the state's contribution to the Employees Retirement System of Texas from 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent in both years of the 2014-15 budget. Employees' contributions will increase from 6.5 percent to 7. For employees hired after August 31, 2013, the minimum retirement age is 62 with the rule of 80 retirement eligibility. If individuals retire before the age 62, there is a 5% per year permanent retirement reduction factor. Senate Bill 1459 takes effect September 1, 2013.

All Funds Spending 2014-2015



HIGHER EDUCATION

Senate Bill 976 allows academic institutions to participate in the tuition equalization program. **Paul Quinn College** will receive funds with the passage of this bill to assist eligible students with tuition. Representative Rose co-sponsored this bill with Representative Dan Branch.

EMPLOYMENT

Senate Bill 21 will require individuals seeking unemployment benefits to undergo mandatory drug screening. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will adopt a questionnaire for the applicant to complete.

Answers considered suspicious or questionable will lead to drug tests and anyone who fails the test would become ineligible to receive unemployment benefits unless TWC determines that the individual is participating in a drug abuse treatment program or that the individual failed the test based on the use of physician prescribed medications. Senate Bill 21 becomes effective September 1, 2013.

WATER

House Bill 4 allows for the collection of funds for the State Water Implementation Fund. In November, voters will decide if \$2 billion from the Rainy Day fund can be used to fund this plan to assist with future water needs.

HUMAN SERVICES

Medicaid was not expanded to the approximately 1.5 million low income individuals in Texas during this session, but nursing homes did receive a 2% increase the first year and 4% the following year for Medicaid reimbursements.



Representative Rose visits with Representative Senfronia Thompson as Alexis McCain, Honorary Rose looks on. Youth ages 8 to 18 are selected by House members to assist with daily proceedings during legislative sessions.

★ COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ★

Representative Rose serves on two key committees within the Texas House of Representatives.

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee on Corrections has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the incarceration and rehabilitation of convicted felons, both adult and juvenile. The committee also oversees the establishment and maintenance of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration; as well as the construction, operation, and management of correctional facilities.



Rep. Rose engages in discussion of bills before the Human Services Committee. 176 bills were referred to the Human Services Committee during the 83rd Legislative Session.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Human Services Committee oversees the Health and Human Services Commission, and the prevention and treatment of intellectual disabilities; and its programs. They also ensure the development, administration and control for welfare and rehabilitation.

Senate Bill 7 will redesign the way in which Medicaid services are provided for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who are in need of both acute-care and long term services. The bill will expand Medicaid's STAR PLUS managed care program and implement additional reforms to the Medicaid system.

★ 83RD LEGISLATURE SPECIAL SESSIONS ★

Governor Rick Perry called three Special Sessions to address Redistricting, Abortion, Capital Punishment for Juveniles and Transportation.

REDISTRICTING

The Texas House debated Senate Bill 3 for many hours before it passed. The passage of the redistricting bill made changes to 14 house districts in Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Webb Counties; other districts in the state are identical to the interim districts ordered by the U.S. District Court.

ABORTION

House Bill 2 pertains to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers, and facilities; providing penalties. The passage of this bill during the Second Called Session bans abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy; requires clinics to meet the same standards as ambulatory surgery centers; abortion providers must have hospital admitting privileges within 30 miles of the abortion facility and lastly, the bill requires a doctor to be present when a woman takes a pill for a medical abortion.



Rep. Rose stands with House Democrats in solidarity on Women's Health during the second called Special Session after Rep. Thompson's powerful testimony on the historical methods of abortions.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Senate Bill 2 relating to the punishment for a capital felony committed by an individual younger than 18 years of age. Passage of this legislation during the Second Called Session will create the option of life in prison with the possibility of parole after 40 years for 17 year olds.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The Third Called Session ended with the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 1 (SJR1) and House Bill 1 (HB1) for Transportation funding in the Texas. The major components of this legislation are listed below:

- *SJR 1 provides that the portion of oil and gas tax revenues currently transferred to the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), aka Rainy Day Fund, shall be split 50/50 between the State Highway Fund (SHF) and the ESF.*
- *Revenues deposited into the SHF may only be used for constructing, maintaining, and acquiring rights-of-way for non-tolled roads.*
- *Requires the Legislature to adopt a procedure to designate how much money shall be in the ESF before revenues are transferred into the State Highway Fund.*
- *The proposed constitutional amendment will appear on the November 2014 general election ballot and have immediate effect once approved by the voter. The estimate of money available if the constitutional amendment passes is \$1.2 billion a year.*
- *HB 1 requires TxDOT to distribute any additional funding, estimated to be \$1.2 billion a year, to all Districts in Texas under existing formulas adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission.*
- *The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is also required to identify and implement \$100 million worth of savings and efficiencies, and use these savings to reduce the principal and interest on Proposition 14 bonds. To achieve these savings, TxDOT may not reduce funding for transportation projects. This also results in a \$47 million additional savings in interest.*
- *The Speaker and Lt. Governor will appoint five members from each body to a select committee in the fall of each even-numbered year to determine a sufficient balance in the ESF and present it to the Legislature as a concurrent resolution.*