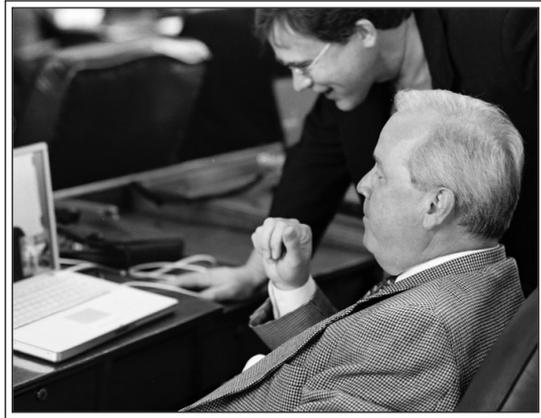


**HOW DOES TEXAS FARE?**

- ★ Texas was #1 in state business climate ranking in 2004.
- ★ Texas is #2 in state business climate ranking in 2005.
- ★ Texas has the #1 best tort system.
- ★ Texas is 50th in per capita spending.
- ★ Texas is the 4th fastest growing state.
- ★ Texas state and local tax burden is the 47th lowest.
- ★ Texas exports more than any other state.
- ★ Texas exports more computers and electronics than chemicals.
- ★ Texas is 1 of 3 states that decreased its expenditures in 2005.



Gary discusses pending legislation with a fellow member.

**APPRAISAL CAPS**

On August 21, 2006, Governor Perry issued an executive order establishing the Texas Task Force on Appraisal Reform (TFAR). In an effort to curb the out-of-control appraisal increases, the Governor has charged TFAR with formulating recommendations to improve the current tax appraisal process so taxpayers are not burdened with tax levies that continue to rise rapidly while providing a long-term stable source of revenue for essential government services. The recommendations are due prior to the start of the upcoming session beginning on January 9, 2007, and will serve as maps as the legislature debates various scenarios to help our constituents.

**HOW CAN I SAVE MONEY ON MY ELECTRIC BILL?**

You may recall that three years ago the Legislature deregulated electricity. The competition created by that is paying off. You can go to the Public Utility Commission's website at <http://www.powertochoose.org> and enter your zip code. Then choose between "residential" and "business" rates. You will see a list of rates to choose from that may help you reduce your electricity costs by switching providers.

Thank you for answering this questionnaire. Please detach, refold, stamp, and mail back to my Capitol office.



State Representative  
**GARY ELKINS**  
 P.O. Box 2910  
 Austin, Texas 78768-2910

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**HOW TO CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE ELKINS**  
 STATE OF TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*DISTRICT 135*

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
 9601 Jones Road Ste. 215  
 Houston, Texas 77065  
 (832) 912-8380  
 (832) 912-8879 Fax



**CAPITOL OFFICE**  
 PO Box 2910, E1.408  
 Austin, Texas 78768  
 (512) 463-0722  
 (512) 472-5610 Fax

Email: [district135.elkins@house.state.tx.us](mailto:district135.elkins@house.state.tx.us)

**Visiting the Capitol**

Our state capitol offers free guided tours most days of the week. The tours are approximately forty-five minutes long and are offered every Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and Sunday between noon and 3:30 p.m. If you have a group consisting of more than ten people, you should call Capitol Information and Guide Services at (512) 463-0063 to make reservations. Visitor parking is available at 1201 San Jacinto and is free for the first two hours. A charge of \$0.75 is accrued for each additional half-hour following the initial two hour stay. While you are here, please feel free to come by my office, E1.408, to visit.

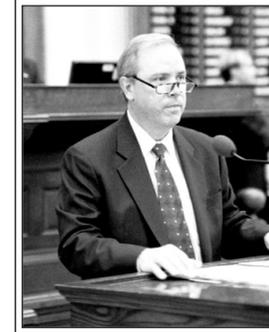


Gary meets with constituents at the Capitol.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 135

**Gary Elkins**

LEGISLATIVE REPORT • DECEMBER 2006



REPRESENTATIVE GARY ELKINS  
  
 TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Friends:

The 80th Session of the Texas Legislature is just around the corner and I look forward to representing you in Austin in 2007. I consider it a true honor and privilege to serve as your voice in the Texas House of Representatives. We will be faced with a variety of issues during the upcoming legislative session. My goal is to continue working to provide long term property tax relief by passing a constitutionally lower mandated appraisal cap, secure further reductions in property taxes, push for illegal immigration reform and cut wasteful government spending. We will also deal with issues such as our state's economy, the environment, our transportation needs and our education and tax systems, to name a few. I expect that all of these issues will generate hours of spirited debate, both in the legislative committees and on the floor of the House. I look forward to continuing the fight for these and other issues that matter most to you and all Texans.

This newsletter is an extension of a conversation that began twelve years ago when you first gave me your vote and, more importantly, your trust. I will continue to cast votes that reflect the values of our community while protecting the social and economic security of our families. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff whenever we can be of assistance to you. We are committed to working to improve your lives. I invite you to read this newsletter, participate in the survey and call or e-mail my office should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Gary Elkins*  
 Gary Elkins



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 REP GARY ELKINS  
 PO BOX 2910  
 AUSTIN TX 78768-2910

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE





INTERIM COMMITTEES

During this interim legislative period, Speaker of the House Tom Craddick gave each house committee certain issues to study, take testimony on, and then make recommendations about.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

The House Committee on Business and Industry was charged with studying five issues, including "rent-to-own" laws, identity theft, and the workers' compensation system.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAYS & MEANS

As a member of the House Committee on Local Government Ways and Means, I am fortunate to be a part of the discussions regarding local property taxes.

EMINENT DOMAIN

Eminent domain is the power of government to take private land for public use. This power is limited by the federal and state constitutions, both of which require that when government does take private property for public use that it must fairly compensate the owner for the property taken.

In Kelo v. City of New London, Connecticut, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the municipal taking of a group of working-class homes and the subsequent transfer of the land to private parties for the purpose of economic development.



Gary discusses pending legislation with Speaker Tom Craddick.

BORDER SECURITY

Securing the 1,254-mile long border that Texas shares with Mexico is of significant importance to Texas and our nation's security.

HELPFUL CONSTITUENT INFORMATION TRACKING THE LEGISLATURE

You can access the Texas Legislature online at: http://www.capitol.state.tx.us. This site makes following and tracking bills easy as they move through the legislative process.

Through this site, you also have the ability to view House, Senate and committee proceedings at home via live or archived video streams.

THE KIDS' HOUSE

The "Kids' House" is an interactive website designed to teach children of all ages about the people, processes, and places associated with Texas government.

The Kids' House Flyer will be an excellent tool for students to learn about the Texas House, state government and Texas history.

Please visit www.kids.house.state.tx.us to explore the "Kids' House" or download a printable version of the Kids' House Flyer.

Advertisement for Kids' House website featuring the Texas House of Representatives logo, the text 'Kids' House Where Texas Kids Meet Texas State Government', the website URL www.kids.house.state.tx.us, and promotional text about tours, coloring books, and learning about lawmaking.



Your opinions are important to me. Please take a moment to let me know where you stand on the issues affecting local families and our community.

VOTER 1 VOTER 2

- 1. Which of the following do you feel is the single most important problem currently facing our community today?
2. How would you rate the overall quality of education in your local public schools?
3. In order for the State to fund education and initiate property tax reduction, which of the following options would you most support?
4. Do you favor or oppose sending military, National Guard, and Department of Public Safety troopers to patrol the Texas-Mexico border?
5. Do you favor or oppose making it a criminal offense for employers to hire illegal immigrants?
6. Do you favor or oppose requiring all applicants for U.S. citizenship to be able to read and speak English?
7. Do you favor or oppose building a security fence or physical barrier along the Texas-Mexico border?
8. Do you favor or oppose having public school teacher pay raises based on performance in addition to seniority?
9. Do you favor or oppose pursuing "clean-coal" technology for coal-plants in the state of Texas?
10. Do you favor or oppose building new lakes and reservoirs across the state of Texas to meet our future water needs?
11. Do you favor or oppose building toll roads to help improve local traffic congestion?
12. Is there something that is of importance to you that has not been included in this survey? If so, please, feel free to write it below.

Thank you for answering this questionnaire. Please detach, refold, stamp, and mail back to my Capitol office.

