

DISTRICT 150 SURVEY FOR UPCOMING SESSION

Survey Instructions

Your opinion is very important and will help guide me on policy next session. Please fill out the survey below and fold the paper into thirds, with the mailing label facing outward. Then, tape it shut and drop it in the mail with a stamp. I look forward to hearing from you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Do you support abolishing the property tax system in favor of a consumption or sales tax?
 YES NO
- Should the Legislature pass more pro-Second Amendment legislation?
 YES NO
- Should the Legislature pass Constitutional Carry, whereby law-abiding citizens can carry legally-owned handguns without a government-issued license?
 YES NO
- Should the Legislature continue to supplement border security operations if the federal government refuses to act?
 YES NO
- Should the Legislature protect historical monuments from displacement and destruction?
 YES NO
- Should the Legislature end taxpayer subsidies to companies moving to Texas?
 YES NO
- Should all future taxpayer-funded roads be toll-free, even if it takes much longer for the roads to be built?
 YES NO
- Should the Legislature pass stronger pro-life laws?
 YES NO
- Do you support abolishing abortion, except when medically necessary to save the life of the mother?
 YES NO
- Should the Legislature limit state spending growth to population plus inflation?
 YES NO
- Do you generally support or oppose the development of low-income, government subsidized housing projects in your area?
 SUPPORT OPPOSE



State Representative ★ District 150 VALOREE SWANSON

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Austin, Texas 78768
(512) 463-0572

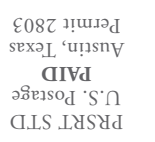
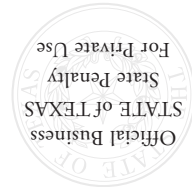


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Committees: Elections, Urban Affairs

2019 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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VALOREE SWANSON
State Representative



HELPFUL NUMBERS & WEBSITES

State Representative Valoree Swanson • District 150 • (512) 463-0572 • www.house.texas.gov

Texas Dept. of Aging and Disability Services (800) 458-9858 www.dads.state.tx.us/index.cfm	Texas Dept. of State Health Services (DSHS) (888) 963-7111 www.dshs.state.tx.us
Texas Dept. of Agriculture (800) 835-5832 www.texasagriculture.gov	Texas Dept. of Insurance (800) 252-3439 http://www.tdi.texas.gov/
Office of the Attorney General www.oag.state.tx.us	Texas Legislature www.capitol.texas.gov
<i>Child Support Enforcement</i> (800) 252-8014	Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (800) 792-1112 www.tpwd.state.tx.us
<i>Consumer Protection</i> (800) 621-0508	Texas Dept. of Public Safety www.txdps.state.tx.us
<i>Crime Victims</i> (800) 983-9933	Texas Public Utility Commission (888) 782-8477
<i>Consumer Protection Hotline</i> (800) 621-0508	Texas Education Agency http://www.puc.texas.gov/
Texas Education Agency (512) 463-9734 www.tea.state.tx.us	Texas Department of Transportation (800) 452-9292 www.dor.state.tx.us
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) (512) 239-1000 www.tceq.state.tx.us	Voting and Election Information (800) 252-8683
Texas Dept. of Family and Protective Services (800) 252-5400 https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/	Texas Workforce Commission (800) 832-2829 www.twc.state.tx.us
Texas Health and Human Services Commission www.hhs.state.tx.us	

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VALOREE SWANSON



NORTHERN HARRIS COUNTY • DISTRICT 150



2019 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Constituent,

It is a true honor to represent you in the Texas House of Representatives!

As you may know, the 86th Legislative Session has come to an end, and I am proud of the many great accomplishments achieved for Texans! In this letter, you can read about some of these major successes as well as the Constitutional Amendment propositions the Legislature has placed on the ballot this November.

When Session began, Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, and Governor Greg Abbott showed great unity and determination in laying out major priorities which greatly benefit the taxpayers.

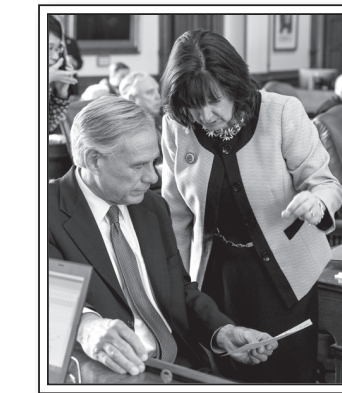
House Bill 3 is a transformational reform of school finance in Texas, which funds teacher pay raises, increases the basic allotment per student, and provides a monumental \$5 Billion in property tax relief. (See page 3)

Senate Bill 2 is an unprecedented reform of the property tax system – a reform which empowers voters with far more transparency, gives Texans a greater say in future local tax increases, and caps local government revenue growth. (See page 3.)

The Legislature, with the leadership of the Harris County delegation and other coastal legislators, passed a large package of flood relief and disaster mitigation legislation, providing \$2 Billion in recovery funds! These bills also helped state and local governments be more prepared by cutting red tape and setting up new systems for speedy responses.

Several of my bills, which help keep our elections fair and secure, defend law-abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment rights, and protect our first responders and their families from stalkers and criminals, also passed into law! In total, I authored, joint authored or coauthored over 70 great bills that are now law!

The Legislature passed many other important bills that stop forced municipal annexation, prevent taxpayer funding of abortion, end the rape-kit testing backlog, protect free speech on college campuses, and crack down on sex trafficking.



With a lifetime of campaign experience and service as an election judge, I requested and was appointed to serve on the Elections Committee this session. The committee passed numerous excellent bills to secure our elections and killed dozens of bad bills.

Protecting the voice of local residents to determine where low-income, government-subsidized housing developments are constructed remains one of my top priorities. As a member of the Urban Affairs Committee this session, I defeated all attempts to strip local residents of that voice for a second session in a row. (See page 4.)

I am excited and remain committed to defend and expand economic liberty and opportunity for generations of Texans to come!



State Representative
VALOREE SWANSON
 Constitutional Amendment Guide

The following are Constitutional Amendment Propositions on the ballot this November 5, 2019.
 Please cut this page out and save it for your reference before the election!

PROPOSITION	TOPIC
Proposition 1 (HJR 72)	Permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time.
Proposition 2 (SJR 79)	Providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas.
Proposition 3 (HJR 34)	Authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster.
Proposition 4 (HJR 38)	Prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual's share of partnership and unincorporated association income.
Proposition 5 (SJR 24)	Dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas' natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes.
Proposition 6 (HJR 12)	Authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.
Proposition 7 (HJR 151)	Allowing increased distributions to the available school fund.
Proposition 8 (HJR 4)	Providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects.
Proposition 9 (HJR 95)	Authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state.
Proposition 10 (SJR 32)	Allowing the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances.

For more details about each proposition, visit <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/BillNumber.aspx> and search by the HJR or SJR number listed above.

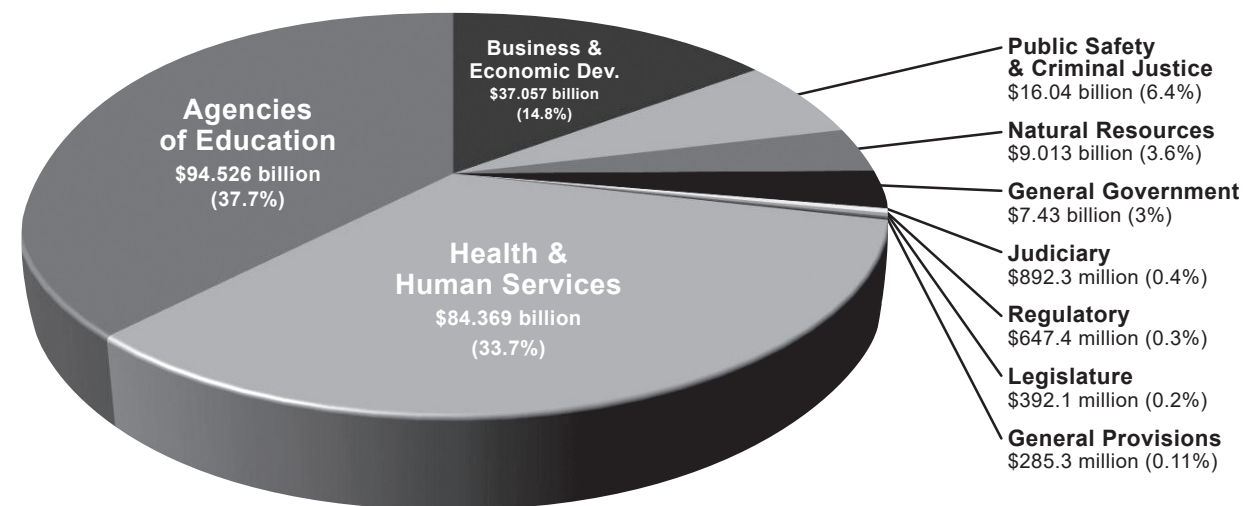


86TH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Texas Budget

The 2020-2021 Texas budget is balanced, and it funds state agencies and programs in a fiscally responsible manner. It includes \$5 Billion for property tax relief, \$4.5 Billion in transformational education reforms, \$800 million to supplement federal border security operations, over \$2 billion for flood relief, \$56.6 million to eliminate the rape-kit testing backlog, over \$200 million for school safety improvements, \$210 million to reduce driver's license wait times, \$6.1 billion for non-toll highway projects, over \$1 billion to stabilize the teacher retirement system and provide a "13th check" to retirees, and almost \$80 million to fund alternatives to abortion programs.

2020-21 All Funds
 Total: \$250.652 billion



Notes: (1) Amounts estimated or budgeted for the 2018-19 biennium include supplemental spending adjustments in Article II for Medicaid and foster care, but do not include adjustments from Senate Bill 500. (2) Contingent funding of \$11.5 billion for House Bill 3 has been moved from Article IX to Article III, Public Education, for the purposes of this comparison. (3) Excludes Interagency Contracts. (4) Biennial change and percentage change are calculated on actual amounts before rounding. Therefore, figure totals may not sum due to rounding. Source: Legislative Budget Board

Property Tax Relief & Reform and School Finance Reform

Long before the session began, Texans were demanding property tax relief. With the vast majority of local property taxes being paid to school districts, relief required a major reform of the school finance system. That is why I was proud to co-author House Bill 3 and co-sponsor Senate Bill 2, which work hand-in-hand to:

- Provide \$5 Billion in tax relief by buying down local school property taxes
- Require voter approval on school revenue increases above 2.5% (improved from 8%)
- Require school districts to conduct efficiency audits before asking voters to approve tax increases
- Allocate \$2 Billion for dynamic teacher pay raises
- Provide \$4.5 Billion to increase the basic allotment per student and make other reforms
- Require voter approval on most local government revenue increases above 3.5% (improved from 8%)
- Require property tax appraisal districts to post information online about current tax rates and proposed tax increases, who is proposing the increases, when and where public hearings will be held, and how to contact elected officials involved in the setting of those rates



Rep. Swanson passing a bill on the House Floor

86TH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Low-Income Housing

Each year, my office receives applications from developers to construct low-income, government-subsidized housing in our district. After receiving each application, I have spoken with community leaders and gathered feedback from local residents and have consistently received overwhelming opposition to these developments. Therefore, under the Section 42 (9%) law, I have written letters of opposition which have prevented each project from being approved or constructed. Additionally, as a member of the Urban Affairs Committee, I stopped all attempts to strip State Representatives of this power to represent their constituents.

Teachers' Retirement

With the passage of Senate Bill 12, which I co-sponsored, retired teachers will receive a "13th check" of up to \$2,000. The new law also gives retirees some peace of mind by stabilizing the pension fund and returning it to solvency.

Other New Laws Coauthored by Rep. Swanson

- Ending Forced Annexation (HB 347), cities must now gain the consent of voters before annexing land.
- Banning Taxpayer-Funded Abortion (SB 22), this law creates a permanent ban on public funds at the state and local levels going to abortion providers.
- Eliminating the Rape-Kit Backlog and Fighting Sexual Assault (HB 8), this law will clean up the existing backlog of untested rape-kits and will prevent future backlogs. It also forbids the destroying of evidence provided by rape kits for 40 years. This law will help law enforcement agencies prosecute rapists and prevent future crimes.
- College Free Speech (SB 18), this law requires universities to adopt policies ensuring students and organizations are able to speak freely on campus, no matter their political party or ideology.

Swanson Bills Passed into Law

- HB 88 prevents ballot preparers from laying out ballots in such a way that benefits any particular candidate or political party.
- HB 121 provides a defense to prosecution to otherwise law-abiding gun owners who unknowingly enter establishments that post signage banning the carrying of guns.
- HB 273 provides greater election integrity by increasing the efficiency of administering elections and cutting down on the potential for ballot harvesting.
- HB 2446 protects the safety and privacy of our first responders by exempting their home addresses and work schedules from public information requests.
- HB 4129 increases the efficiency of preparing overseas military ballots.
- HB 4130 sets security standards for electronic poll books and requires the machines be certified by the Secretary of State.



Gov. Abbott signs Rep. Swanson's HB 121 into law



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