

## INTERIM REPORTS

### County Affairs

In County Affairs Committee there have been a couple of meetings during the interim in which we discussed many county-related issues.

After the 2011 session was dismissed, the Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, charged the Texas House and Texas Senate committee's with interim charges to study and bring back to the 2012 Legislative Session workable solutions to these problems.

For County Affairs Committee there were four interim charges:

★ **INTERIM CHARGE #1**

Study county-related issues arising from population growth in unincorporated areas with regard to existing and new developments and the provision of services, including garbage disposal, fire protection, road maintenance, electricity, and water and wastewater service. Make necessary legislative recommendations for improving problems in these areas of the state.

★ **INTERIM CHARGE #2**

Study opportunities for cost savings through the abolishment of certain elected offices or the consolidation of county services

★ **INTERIM CHARGE #3**

Conduct a general study of issues facing county jails. The study should include innovative ways to address overcrowding, the impact homelessness has on the county jail population, and recommendations for handling inmates undergoing detoxification and withdrawal from drugs and alcohol.

★ **INTERIM CHARGE #4**

Monitor the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 82nd Legislature. And work on the Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program Medicaid 1115 waiver.

In April of 2012, County Affairs Committee met in El Paso, TX to hear public testimony on interim charges 1, 3, and 4. The committee is currently reviewing the testimony.

The committee report, which will contain the information addressed in the interim charges, will be issued in January of 2013.

### Corrections Committee

Corrections Committee met on March 6, 2012 at the Texas Capitol to discuss the following interim charges they received from the Governor of Texas, Rick Perry.

Corrections Committee was charged with:

★ **INTERIM CHARGE #1**

Monitor the implementation of SB 653 from the 82nd regular Legislative Session, which created the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. The committee was charged to make any recommendations needed to enhance the integration of the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

★ **INTERIM CHARGE #2**

Study ways to reduce the number of youth referred to the juvenile justice system. Consider the availability of mental health services, diversion and early intervention programs, and other prevention methods.

★ **INTERIM CHARGE #3**

Study and make recommendations about issues related to the certification of juveniles as adults.

The committee report, which will also be issued in January of 2013, will contain the information addressed in these interim charges.

In addition to addressing these interim charges, Representative White took a tour of the Texas State Penitentiary in Huntsville, Texas in January of 2012 to see Texas policies in action. He also wanted to see what policies the penitentiary would like to see implemented to bring about the best practices for the safety of the public as well as the safety of the inmate in all prisons.

State Representative James White will keep in contact with these prisons and he will consult with them on issues before making any decisions that will impact our district.

"My number one concern, as always, is the safety of my constituents." Representative White said. "Before making any decision on a corrections issue, I will consider the impact it will have on my district first, and then I will make my choice."



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## FIRST RESPONDER MEETINGS

First responders include fire, police, and emergency medical personnel and they are vital public servants. They are the ones putting their lives on the line during emergencies to protect property and save lives. It's been my privilege to travel around the district meeting the various first responders, learning about their needs and the challenges they face.

One of the most important resources that first responders need is having access to reliable, inter-operable communications to assist those in need during emergencies. Since the state is in the process of requiring a switch from broad-band to digital communications, this has been a tough challenge to upgrade systems with limited funds and without compromising the effectiveness of their communications. Our office is currently working with state agencies to help solve these problems and make this a smooth transition.

Another significant factor in the performance of first responders is good planning and preparedness which allows for a more effective and faster response, thereby reducing losses. These first responders and local emergency management officials are planning and preparing, according to the State Emergency Management Plan, for all-hazard emergencies such as hurricanes, floods, tornados and other domestic incidents, including wildfires.

Although we were fortunate to not suffer a repeat of last summer's devastating wildfires around the state, we still remember and appreciate the gallant efforts of all the firefighters. In August '12, State Rep. James White was honored to be a presenter at the annual "Community Impact Awards" which recognized the Firefighters of East Texas from 13 counties including: Angelina, Cherokee, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Panola, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler. Governor Perry sent a videotaped message to the honorees and State Rep. James White handed out a special Proclamation from the Governor.



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District 12 Newsletter

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**Committees**  
Corrections  
County Affairs

STATE OF TEXAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



FALL 2012

Dear Tyler County Constituents,

It is a great honor to represent the finest citizens in East Texas, the citizens of Tyler County. I want to thank each of you who participated in Tyler County Days on October 24, 2012. It was an honor to host you at your state Capitol.

A lot of changes have taken place since the last update you received in the Fall of 2011. To begin with, our district looks vastly different from that of the last 10 years. In the former district, House District 12, the counties included were Angelina, Trinity, San Jacinto, and my home county, Tyler. After re-districting, our district has now come to include Tyler, Jasper, Newton, Polk, and Hardin counties.

During the last few months, I have been getting to know the rest of the district that has been added. It is a great experience to get out there and learn about the industries and issues our new district brings to the table. I look forward to working with all of my constituents on the very important issues that Southeast Texas faces.

According to the Texas State Comptroller's web site, increasing job growth and sales tax collections are signals that the Texas economy is emerging from the recent recession. However, we must continue to restore and revitalize our state economy.

So here in Tyler County, as well as the rest of Texas, things are starting to look up. We are having new industries come into our county offering new opportunities for employment. My staff and I will continue working hard for the people of Tyler County as well as the rest of District 19 in the upcoming legislative session.

Thank you for your support,

James White



ANGELINA • SAN JACINTO • TRINITY • TYLER

## Tyler County Delegation visits the State Capitol

State Representative James White was proud to welcome a group of Tyler County constituents on their official visit to their state Capitol on October 24, 2012, to meet with their statewide leaders.

Among these constituents were former Mayor of Woodville, Jimmie Cooley, Tyler County Precinct 1 Commissioner Martin Nash, Claudia Nash, Sue Shaw, Jack Walston, Rusty Hughes, Commissioner Mike Paddie, Fred Sullivan, Elizabeth Sullivan, Marilyn Owens, Jason Riley, Bryan Weatherford, Phil Ryan, Steven Sturrock, Harold III Trey Allison, Lee Mann, Lindsey Wisenhant, Mayor Jack Brockhause, Jackie Skinner, Judge Jacques Blanchette, Lisa Blanchette, Lonnie Grissom, Gill Tubbs, Billy Read, Walter and Mrs. Diggles, Mark Allen, Ben Bythewood, Aimee Bythewood, Terry Riley, Dr. Brian Babin, Robert Allison, Jr., Caleb Spurlock, and Kelli Barnes.

These Tyler County citizens had quite a busy schedule for their time in Austin. They started out their day taking a group photo on the south steps of the their Capitol.

After the photo, State Representative James White hosted a breakfast reception for the Tyler County delegation group in the Speaker of the House's Apartment off of the back hall of the Speaker's office. State Rep. White invited the Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, Todd Staples, David White, a member of the State Comptroller's office, Wendy Foster from the Texas Water Development Board, and many others. This reception provided Tyler County constituents the opportunity to mingle with the different state office holders and agency heads and talk about issues related to Tyler County.



*Delegation of Citizens from Tyler County visiting their state Capitol for Tyler County Days on October 24, 2012.*

After the Reception ended, Jillian Henderson, your district's Legislative Director, escorted the Tyler County delegation over to the Governor's Mansion for a Tour to learn the history of the Mansion's existence in Austin.

When the group finished with a quick lunch at the Capitol Grill, the Tyler County delegation toured the Lieutenant Governor's Reception Room before it left the Capitol to head back to Tyler County.

State Representative White wants to thank all of the Tyler County leaders and constituents who came up to visit their Texas State Capitol. It is always nice to visit and hear from the home folks. Representative White hopes the Tyler County Delegation had a great time and he hopes to see you all back at the Capitol next year.

## Immigration Report

In February of this year, the Center for Immigration Studies issued a press release reporting that preliminary analysis of Census Bureau data showed the illegal population held roughly steady from January 1, 2009 (the month Obama took office), to January 1, 2011. The just-released Department of Homeland Security (DHS) estimates for 2011 confirm our prior observations.

The DHS estimates for 2011 are the first to use Census Bureau data weighted to reflect the results of the 2010 Census, and have thus been revised upward; the new estimates show 11.5 million illegals in the country for January 1, 2011, compared to a revised estimate of 11.6 million for January 1, 2010. But the conclusion has not changed; according to the Obama administration, there has been no meaningful change in the illegal immigrant population from 2010 to 2011. (All DHS estimates are for January 1.)

Further, the previous DHS estimates for 2009, if adjusted by the same amount, would show 11.6 million illegal immigrants as well. This means that the illegal population has remained virtually unchanged for the first two years of the Obama administration — January 2009 to January 2011. DHS's old estimate for January 1, 2010, was 10.8 million, which has been revised upward about 7.4 percent to 11.6 million. DHS did not revise its 2009 estimate, but it also was 10.8 million. This almost certainly means that a revised figure for January 1, 2009, would be 11.6 million,

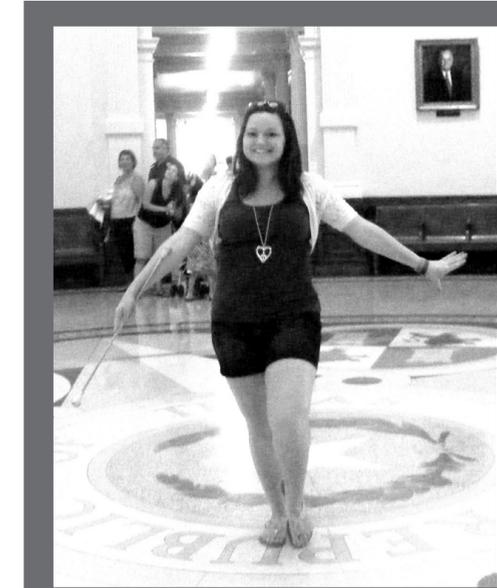
the same as the revised estimate for January 2010 and almost identical to the 2011 estimate of 11.6 million. The stabilization in the illegal population stands in stark contrast to the period from 2007 to 2009, during which prior DHS estimates showed a decline of one million, or roughly 10 percent.

...the illegal population declined by about a million from 2007 to 2009, or roughly 10 percent

While the actual number of illegal immigrants in 2007 may also be about 7.4 percent higher than previously estimated by DHS, it would still mean the illegal population declined by about a million from 2007 to 2009, or roughly 10 percent. If the old

2007 number is correct, then the decline would be larger still. This reinforces our original conclusion that the first two years of the current administration were a period of no decline in the illegal immigrant population, a fundamental change from the prior two years, which saw the illegal immigrant population decline significantly.

DHS may revise all its estimates for 2005 to 2009 at some point. But all available evidence indicates that the estimated proportional year-to-year change in the illegal population will remain the same, though the size of that population seems to have been larger than previously estimated. While unlikely, it is possible that revised figures for 2007, 2008, or even 2009 may show no decline. But if that is correct, it would just mean that the current administration has followed in the footsteps of its recent predecessors in failing to enforce the law and reduce illegal immigration.



*Megan Cheney, Twirler from Colmesneil High School visited the Capitol to take photos documenting her experience at the State legislature in Austin. This photo was taken in the Capitol Rotunda.*

## Jobs and Economy report for Tyler County

State Representative White is aggressively working with local leaders in Southeast Texas to bring new businesses and work to the area that take advantage of our vast natural resources like timber, water, natural gas, and oil.

"The people want to work, we just need to bring the jobs here to our area so they have the opportunity to provide for their families," said Representative White. According to Rep. White, job creation requires a business friendly environment that has low taxes, certain and reasonable regulatory environment, a fair civil justice system, and ample public infrastructure.

During the next legislative session, State Representative James White will work on issues dealing with logging regulations, opening up state contracting opportunities for our rural small businesses, to include improving our county roads and expanding our ports so our businesses in Tyler County can get their products to the global markets.

## Education and School Finance

Education and school finance were some of the biggest issues facing our state during the 82nd Legislative session and special session. Undoubtedly, this topic will continue to be a major focus of the next session.

Throughout this year, State Representative White has participated in a legislative task force on public school finance and accountability in order to develop an equitable public school finance system and an effective accountability system that prioritizes students and teachers.

Focusing on restoring and revitalizing education, State Representative White is working with Southeast Texas local school leaders, business and industry leaders, and parents. These community leaders routinely state that instead of standardized testing, they want their local expectations and student opportunity to be the driving force on classroom curriculum. We need to broaden the opportunities for all students while preparing them for vocational or college

programs in order to produce a more educated workforce to enhance economic growth.

Since the special session, some of State Rep. White's education-related activities have included the following: meeting with numerous Superintendents around the district including Glen Conner with Woodville ISD and

Stacey Ackley with Colmesneil ISD; meeting with Dr. Paul Szuch, President of Lamar Institute of Technology and Dr. Larry Phillips, President of Angelina College; meeting with constituents and parents concerning parental involvement in education;

attendance at the TX Retired Teachers Association Fall Conference in Austin; and attendance at legislative briefings on Public School Finance in Austin.

Finally, to fulfill his longing to return to the classroom where he taught for 18 years, State Rep. James White has been teaching dual-credit Government at Warren High School for the Fall 2012 semester.

...working with Southeast Texas local school leaders, business and industry leaders, and parents

## Tyler County Constituent Donae Hadnot Interns at State Capitol Office



State Representative James White was proud to offer an internship to Tyler County Constituent Donae Hadnot at her State Capitol in Austin, Texas, during the month of June so she could see what it was like to work in a legislative office.

While at the Capitol Donae performed tasks such as answering the phone, taking messages and writing correspondence to constituents in the district and around the Capitol. Donae was also tasked with compiling lists of all of the committees and current members serving in the Texas House of Representatives.

The other project that Donae participated in was updating the office contact files by making a list of county officials.

Donae Hadnot, a graduating senior at Sam Houston State University, worked as a valuable member of Rep. White's Capitol district staff. "I really enjoyed working with Timothy Head (Legislative Chief of Staff)," Donae said. "He was very informative and gave me a lot of insight on what happens around the Capitol. My first day

was a crash course in how easy it is to get lost in the building, but I met plenty of nice people along the way and got to see how things work on a day to day basis in the Capitol."

Donae Hadnot was an intern during the interim months of the Texas Legislature. "My exposure was limited because I was around during a dead time of year, but I was grateful I was able to see and learn all I did. I am very appreciative of Representative James White for the opportunity," Hadnot said.

Representative James White was happy to have a constituent from Tyler County intern in their State Capitol.

"Texas is a great state," Representative James White Said. "Only in the State of Texas can the classroom teacher become the state representative and he can continue his lifelong passion of teaching American Government by providing his former student an opportunity to work for Tyler County as his legislative intern."

Representative White is always looking for hometown Southeast Texas talent to staff his legislative office. If you are interested contact State Rep. James White at P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78701 or send an email to james.white@house.state.tx.us.