



## REPRESENTATIVE ELLEN TROXCLAIR

*88th Legislative Report • District 19*

Blanco, Burnet, Gillespie, Kendall, Travis (part)

88th Legislative Report • 2023



## TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Ellen Troxclair**

*State Representative • District 19*

Friends,

Entering this last legislative session, there was much work to be done to keep Texas the beacon of liberty that our country needs – standing for faith, family, and freedom in the face of dysfunction and chaos in DC. Setting out to boldly protect our children, fiercely defend our border, unwaveringly stand up for women, and significantly cut property taxes, I am proud to report that we accomplished every one of these goals.

Today in Texas, no child under 18 will be subject to gender modification surgeries or exposed to inappropriate content in classrooms or online. With a historic \$5.1B investment in border security, we have filled the gaps where the federal government has failed us, deploying border buoys, continuing to fund the border wall, and sending more state troopers to put a stop to the trafficking of humans and drugs into our state. With a bill that ensures fair-play for women, biological women will no longer be forced to share locker rooms or compete against biological men. And, with an incredible \$18B commitment, the Legislature passed the largest property tax cut in United States history – reducing the largest portion of your property tax bill by 40%, cutting Robin Hood payments, and keeping thousands of dollars in your pocket in the form of permanent relief beginning next year.

The values and natural resources of the Texas Hill Country are worth preserving, so that our children can inherit both the independent spirit of grit and grace that makes our state so unique and the life-giving rivers and land that showcase God's spectacular creation.

Please take a moment to read the update enclosed here. While great progress has been made, our work is never done. Thank you for trusting me to continue fighting on your behalf with passion and integrity.

It is a profound honor to represent you as the voice of the Hill Country at the Texas Capitol. May God continue to bless you and our great state.

In Liberty,

*Ellen Troxclair*

Ellen Troxclair  
Your State Representative



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Texas Leads in Property Tax Relief

The biggest win for Texas this Session? The largest property tax cut in Texas history! \$18 billion strong, you're sure to see the difference in next year's bill. Highlights of the tax cut legislation include: Big reduction in "Robin Hood" - that redistribution scheme that costs our districts millions. We're using over \$12 billion of Texas' budget surplus money to reduce the school property tax rate for all homeowners and business properties.

What does that look like? A home worth \$330K will save around \$1400, a home worth \$660K will save about \$2,800. Homestead exemptions will increase to \$100K, up from \$40K, with even more for Seniors and Disabled citizens. About 5.7 million Texas homeowners will get a \$100,000 homestead exemption. Non-homesteaded properties, worth \$5 million and under, including commercial properties, will receive a 20% "circuit-breaker" on appraised values as part of a 3-year pilot project. We'll be funding our public school districts a little differently, through the reliable engine of our Texas economy: Using our State surplus, rather than ISD property taxes!

## Education Excellence for All Texas Families

As this newsletter goes to print, there is good word from Governor Abbott that a special session focused on empowering parents to choose the best educational environment for their own children will occur this autumn. Right now about half of Texas 8th graders are performing below grade level in Reading and Math. This can no longer be ignored. We have a duty to improve outcomes for all Texas children, but especially the approximately 60% of Texas' 5.5 million students who are considered economically disadvantaged.

**House Bill 900**, the Restricting Explicit and Adult-Designated Educational Resources (READER) Act, prevents sexually explicit and inappropriate books from public school libraries, protecting the innocence of our children. With this measure we have let vendors know they need to rate the content of all books sold to districts and made them responsible to issue recalls to schools. Written consent from a parent is now required to access books beyond a certain threshold.

The passing of **House Bill 1605** increases professional development tools for teachers, and ensures instructional materials in the classroom actually meet grade level Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills standards. This will better equip our teachers to provide a higher level curriculum for students that they deserve, bottom line.

School safety got a \$1.4 billion dollar bump in funding as well. We are now funding \$15,000 in new state funding for every public school campus for safety alone by way of House Bill 3 that requires at least one armed security officer present on each campus.

Retired educators gained a cost of living adjustment from **Senate Bill 10**, while keeping the Teacher Retirement System pension fund robust. Starting in 2028, the pension funds investment earnings will fund an annual cost of living adjustment to continue this for years to come.

Ensuring free speech on public college campuses in Texas was further assured with the passage of **Senate Bill 17** no longer allowing Diversity Equity and Inclusion office, or require that staff take "diversity" training. This allows campuses to focus on merit-based approaches to hiring and less on characteristics not related to their teaching skills and experience.

**Senate Bill 18** requires the Board of every college or university in the state adopt clear policies regarding their practice of granting tenure, and naming the reasons why a professor may have their tenure revoked. For our higher education system this will bring a new era of strong competition and high performance.

The passage of **Senate Bill 15**, the Save Women's Sports Act, ensures that women collegiate athletes are protected in their sport from being unfairly forced to compete against biological men.

## Medical Freedom

To ensure those who opt out of vaccines for any reason are not denied participation in Medicaid or the Child Health Care Program (CHIP) **House Bill 44** was passed. Patients can now better hold medical providers to account for sometimes large, and often confusing bills, thanks to HB 490. Hospitals and physicians must now provide an itemized bill, allowing patients to see what they're being charged for, so they can understand the charges, and check for accuracy. The bills must now list every medical service provided, the cost, and a plain language description of that service.



*Recognizing February 22, 2023, as Sheriffs' Association of Texas Day at the State Capitol with her colleagues standing with her.*

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



*Leading conversations on the floor with members of the House.*

## Protecting our Border

On the Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee we heard from officers and experts across Texas. There is nothing more vital to the future of Texas and our nation than securing our border and ensuring public safety in our homes and towns.

Operation Lone Star continues making a clear and measurable difference thanks to the intrepid work of brave law enforcement officers and the Texas Military. **House Bill 90, the Bishop Evans Act**, provides assistance payments to certain survivors of a member of the Texas Military who dies while on active state duty.

Additionally, **\$5 billion** was allocated to border security in the state budget to provide assistance to state agencies including the Texas Military Department and the Department of Public Safety. We also passed **House Bill 6** to provide greater punishment for fentanyl crimes, including manufacturing or delivering.

## Pro-Family Policy

**Senate Bill 24** expanded the proven, pro-life Alternatives to Abortion Program, now known as the Texas Pregnancy and Parenting Support Network. To provide protections to Texas Children, the legislature passed **Senate Bill 14**, prohibiting a physician from performing a surgery or administering a drug to a minor for the purpose of modifying a child's biological sex, and **Senate Bill 12** prohibiting commercial businesses from hosting sexually oriented performances in front of children and makes it an offense for a person to engage children in a prohibited sexually oriented performance. Another Bill, **House Bill 19**, requires sites to get parental consent before 17-to-18-year-olds' data is collected, protecting them from further targeting.



*Meeting Texas DPS officers stationed on the border while the buoys in the Rio Grande river were being deployed.*

## Rural Broadband

**House Bill 9** created the Broadband Infrastructure Fund, appropriating \$1.5 billion to expand internet reach to rural parts of the state. This will markedly expand internet service, improve emergency call service reach, and replace many dilapidated telephone poles.

## Rural Law & Order

**Senate Bill 22** is the newly founded Rural Sheriff's Office Salary Assistance Grant Program & the Rural Prosecutor's Office Salary Assistance Grant Program for rural counties which is 236 of Texas' 254 counties. The bill allows for increases in the salaries of sheriffs, prosecutors, and staff while providing for the ability to hire more staff, aiding in purchasing of firearms, vehicles, and other needed safety equipment.

Senate Bill 224 penalizes the growing crime of catalytic converter theft. House Bill 2899 permits immediate removal from the road of vehicles used in street racing or a reckless driving. House Bill 1442 now provides law enforcement and prosecutors additional ways to crack down on organized street racing and street takeovers in Texas and increase consequences for the perpetrators of these crimes. Along with Governor Abbott's Statewide Street Takeover Task Force, Texans are now better-protected against these incursions.

## Limiting Government

While my effort to ban taxpayer-funded lobbying did not advance into law this session, we did pass **House Bill 19** and **House Bill 2127**. HB 19 cracks down on rogue District Attorneys and County Attorneys, keeping them from creating policies that limit the enforcement of certain criminal offenses, and established a way to remove them by a local court. HB 2127 simply creates consistency and certainty across Texas, by prohibiting local governments from passing laws on matters where the State has already spoken. Checks and balances: preserved. **HJR 132** addresses the concern of future State-level overreach: by banning the State of Texas from ever imposing an income tax.

## Constituent Assistance

Reach out for any assistance needed with State-related issues to our Austin office. We welcome hearing from you with any joys or concerns, at any time. Is your group visiting the Capitol? We can arrange for a group tour, and even help book a room should one be available.

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*State Representative*  
**Ellen Troxclair**



*My first bill layout with the support of my freshman colleagues around me!*



*Praying with my women colleagues on the House floor before the layout of Senate Bill 15, the Save Women's Sports Act.*