

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DAN FLYNN
DISTRICT 2



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



Dan Flynn
State Representative • District 2

CAPITOL OFFICE:
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
E1.302
Tel: 512-463-0880
Fax: 512-463-2188

DISTRICT OFFICE:
P.O. Box 999
Canton, Texas 75103-0999
Tel: 903-567-0921
Fax: 903-567-0923

Dear Friends,

With the 83rd Legislative session approaching in January 2013, we will be considering some extremely important issues for Texas. Even with anticipated revenue increases and a strong Texas economy, many interests will be competing for their share of the budget. There will be tough choices to prioritize: public school financing, healthcare issues, security of our border, water issues, and securing opportunities for job growth.

Issues that will be prominent during session include: immigration, education, protection of our families and life; and working to make the budget more transparent to taxpayers. The 10th Amendment, which ensures the sovereignty of States rights will be addressed as Texas continues to fight off federal intrusion. This will be most prevalent with the Financial Reform Act revolving around the Dodd-Frank Legislation; and of course the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This Act threatens to overwhelm Texas with unfunded mandates and regulation that will ultimately hurt employers, individuals and those that truly need continual medical attention.

The growth of federal entitlements has placed us into unimaginable debt and is causing widespread damage to our economy. The Affordable Care Act is an attempt to not only eradicate our 10th Amendment rights, but forces American citizens to become heavily reliant on the federal government at the expense of your tax dollars. The implementation of such a program would require a potential cost of billions to Texas taxpayers; forcing a decision between raising taxes or cutting deeply into all levels of services, if not eliminating them entirely.

It is no secret that Texas continues to be an exemplary model of opposition to D.C. regulation and government overreach. Texas remains the beacon of hope for American citizens who oppose the direction the current administration is taking our country. Our conservative principles and our determination to remain steadfast in upholding them will continue to be a thorn in the side of Washington.

I will join other state leaders in upholding the Constitution and founding principles of limited government. Ceding control to Washington has never accomplished anything.

May God bless you and our great State of Texas,

Dan Flynn



WATER

We are fortunate that over the last several months Texas has received some much needed rain; however, the 2011 drought remains the worst in Texas history and we would be foolish to forget Texas is still very much in a water crisis. The 2011 drought led to severe declines in aquifer and reservoir levels, compromising water supply and delivery to many public systems. Early in 2012, the public water systems of 13 towns and cities were projected to run completely out of water within 180 days; and Texas reservoirs were at 64 percent of their water storage capacity -- the lowest since 1974 when the state started keeping records.

In Texas today, we have a population of about 25 million. By 2060, the state's population is projected to grow to 46.3 million -- an 82 percent increase over our current population. Put simply, we do not have enough water to support projected future population growth with our current water infrastructure. Long-term planning is contained in the State Water Plan, a 50-year plan. The 2012 Water Plan reflects a grim reality stating, "Texas does not and will not have enough water to meet the needs of its people, its businesses, and its agricultural enterprises." However, part of the purpose of the Water Plan is to identify and recommend water management strategies to meet the state's needs.

The Water Plan tells us what needs to be done and how much it will cost to do it. Unfortunately, the state has no revenue source devoted to maintaining and developing water supplies at this time.



Defending Individual and States' Rights as defined by the U.S. Constitution and the 10th Amendment.



I am pleased to have the opportunity to represent Hopkins County in the 83rd Session. Pictured here with Hopkins County Judge Chris Brown.

It will be critical that the Legislature address how to adequately fund the Water Plan. Over the interim, both the Senate and House are considering possible ways to do this. In the meantime, it is important that individually we all strive to conserve water in our homes and in our lives. I ask you to look into conservation measures, as well as talking with your neighbors and community about this issue so that we may all work toward a sustainable goal for our state.

10TH AMENDMENT

Texas claims sovereignty, under the 10th Amendment, over all powers not otherwise granted to the Federal Government. I am proud to support legislation that takes action to prohibit or repeal any compulsory federal regulation that would require states to comply under threat of civil or criminal penalties or loss of federal funding. Unfunded mandates are the result of unstable economic policies in Washington. The failure of the Federal Government to provide secure, rational, and funded legislation is just another reason why the 10th amendment is crucial to the economic stability and sovereignty of Texas.

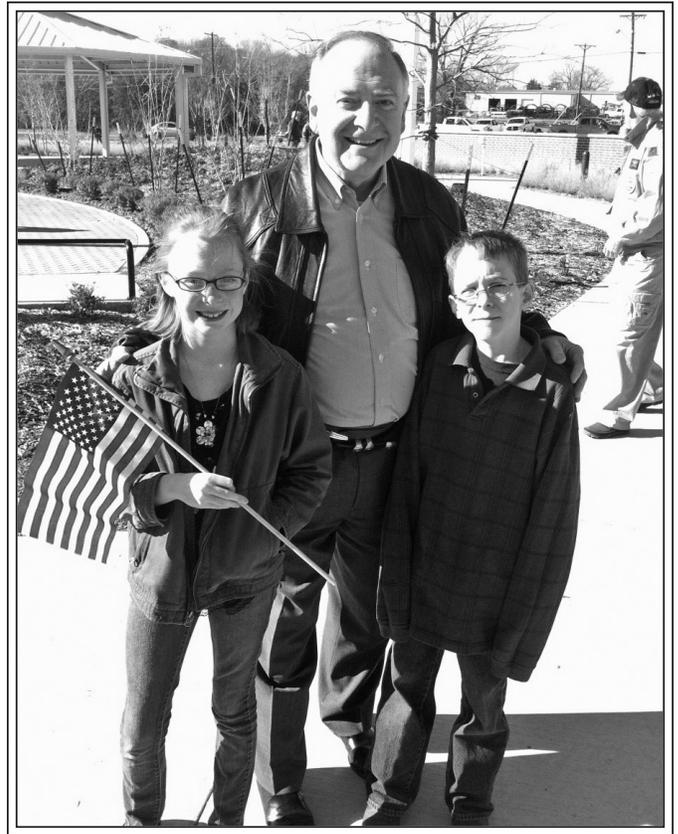
It is plain to see that our Federal Government has become oppressive in its size, intrusive into the lives of our citizens; and unnecessarily meddling in the affairs of our State. I believe that returning to the letter and spirit of the U.S. Constitution, by embracing the full authority of the 10th Amendment, will free our state from undue regulations, and ultimately strengthen our Union. I authored HCR 94, a resolution urging

the repeal of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. This federal legislation sets up a regulatory regime that allows “Too Big to Fail” banks and Wall Street to continue to avoid adequate scrutiny while punishing traditional Texas banks that had nothing to do with the recent financial crisis. The Dodd-Frank Act consists of almost 2,300 pages of new statutory language that will result in the promulgation of approximately 400 new federal regulations. If this new agency were to become what its advocates have envisioned, it could be at least as large as the Internal Revenue Service; severely damaging the community banking system in Texas. Community Banks are essential to the continued growth and well-being of the State of Texas. They serve as important hubs of economic activity for communities all across the state and we must protect what they do for Texas.

EDUCATION

The idea that students in House District 2 are worth less than those in other districts is absurd. The current funding formula does not recognize this idea. How education funds are distributed is part of the overall problem; wasteful spending on supposed accountability programs contributes largely to the inefficiencies in the system.

Recent budget decreases has made it harder for many rural schools to operate on what was already a lean budget. During the 82nd session, approximately 1.5 billion dollars was added to the School Foundation program by the vote of the Legislature. This additional funding however was not enough to offset the heavy loss of Federal and outside funds, making it extremely hard for rural schools to compensate for that loss. The hit was



Spending Memorial Day with Karen & Eric James at the Van Zandt County Veterans Memorial.

felt harder because, unlike urban school districts, rural districts lack the excessive extracurricular programs and bureaucratic administration offices that were able to be cut before teachers and classroom expenses. When the Legislature was put into a position of requiring budget reductions to School Districts, I believe rural districts were left to suffer most harshly. As one Superintendent put it, “the big cities lost a toe, I lost my left arm.” We have to change the formula so things are fairer to rural districts.

It is clear the problem is not just about more money; it is about the methods in which we use the money we already have. Continuing to operate under the same inefficient, unproductive system year after year will only continue this cycle of overspending on programs and people outside of the classroom. Funding from the state must be fixed to be fair and equitable as the State’s Constitution requires. We also have to look at how we spend your taxpayer dollars and honestly decide what is more important; teachers and kids in the classroom or excessive spending for extracurriculars, administrative “support” (that is fast approaching a ratio of one administrator to one teacher), and a public school “accountability” program that is out of control.



Lone Oak ISD was nationally recognized as a Blue Ribbon School for outstanding academics and student achievement.



Susanna, Samuel & Elizabeth Wesson visiting my capitol office in Austin from Hunt County.

Prioritize spending and give local control back to school superintendents so that they may manage their district on the ground - a much more efficient process than attempting to macro manage from Austin.

I introduced House Bill 2491 which would have placed a moratorium on the “assessments of certain public school students under the public school accountability system.” This would have put the test on hiatus for two years to use those funds to support teachers in the classroom while we took a look at what this test meant and really came up with the right way to handle this situation. I introduced this as an Amendment and when the vote was taken, it passed 140-2, only to be held off in the Senate. The moratorium was needed to help protect schools from the unreasonably high costs and time commitment (estimated in testimony as 45 days) imposed by the new statewide tests. Based on figures provided by TEA, Texas taxpayers by 2015 will have paid nearly \$1.2 billion to develop standardized tests and related materials. One superintendent, in an article that appeared on Texasisd.com, said, “That’s 15,000 teacher salaries sacrificed at the altar of standardized testing.”

I continue to be concerned with substance, not with perception and politics; our students deserve at least that. I have never called for less accountability, but rather better accountability. Students are not educated by tests, but by classroom teachers. To lay credit for improvements at the feet of a series of federal or state-developed tests is sadly misleading. Our kids are not improving academically because of “accountability”

systems; rather, they are improving because of the diligent efforts of classroom teachers and parents. Too much has been loaded onto the state’s current accountability system including the STAAR Testing. The original intent was always to focus on teachers and children in the classroom and we need to get back to that. The focus needs to be on the students, not on special interests that dominate the business of education. We need to free the hands of the Superintendents and local school boards so that our school districts can get back to what they are good at - providing a foundation for our children’s future.

BORDER SECURITY

Border Security continues to be a major concern for Texas, as once again the Federal Government fails to address the needs and the dangers surrounding the southern border of Texas. It is imperative that our state have the tools and manpower necessary to combat the multitude of issues that require daily address. These tools include: a fence, surveillance cameras, drones; and most important, troops on the ground. Despite a blatant lack of support from Washington, Texas has pulled together its resources and increased man power on the border with local law enforcement, the Department of Public Safety, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas State Guard. While this has proven to be an effective short term plan, the growing intensity of border conflict only affirms the need for effective legislation this coming session.



Operation Border Star

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE

Recent questions and concerns about how our tax dollars and charitable dollars are spent will become intertwined in the fight to protect life and family values in the upcoming 83rd Session. I was fortunate to be among the leaders to fight for the Right to Life through the regular and special sessions and understand the needs of the many women who desire full and complete information before making a decision about life, family, and health.

Within the content of two House Bills, members were able to stop the budget process until they ensured that the Legislature eliminated funding for taxpayer-funded abortions in urban hospital districts and cut \$60 million from those entities in the state budget. Those funds were used in other more vital areas such as Autism and mental health.

The Texas Sonogram Law, which I proudly co-authored, was taken to court by activists and they were defeated. The law, HB 15, signed by Governor Rick Perry back in May 2011 amended the 2003 Texas "Women's Right to Know Act."

HB 15 is about informed consent. The patient needs to be given the full range of information that relates to the procedure. It requires that a doctor perform a



Engaging in a healthy debate over key legislative issues.

sonogram and that they be given the option to view the image. It then requires that the doctor make the heartbeat audible, and give a description. For years clinics were preventing women from seeing their own sonograms. This will answer those questions and provide the information needed to make an informed decision.



Pleased to welcome Amanda Robertson to our staff.

OFFICE UPDATES

I would like to welcome my new Legislative Director, Amanda Robertson, to our staff and introduce her to House District 2. She is assigned to our Capitol office during the interim and will be with us in the Legislative Session that begins in January of 2013. She will be a great addition to my hardworking and dedicated staff: David Erinakes, Chief of Staff; and Janice Melton, District Director. Amanda has previously served the constituents of House District 3. She is familiar with the local leaders and elected officials and is excited to continue to offer her services to Northeast Texas. A 2009 graduate of Hillsdale College with a double major in Political Economy and Sociology, she too believes in the importance of states' rights, limited government intervention and is a strong advocate for the protection and preservation of life and family values.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Dan Flynn

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit 2803

Official Business
STATE of TEXAS
State Penalty
For Private Use



DAN FLYNN

DISTRICT 2

CAPITOL REPORT



CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE FLYNN



Capitol Office

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
(512) 463-0880 Phone
(512) 463-2188 Fax
Dan.Flynn@house.state.tx.us

District Office

P.O. Box 999
Canton, Texas 75103
(903) 567-0921 Phone
(903) 567-0923 Fax
District2.Flynn@house.state.tx.us