



STATE REPRESENTATIVE OSCAR LONGORIA

*Working for an even
stronger South Texas
we can all be proud of.*



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Dear Friend,

The 140-day 83rd Legislative Session officially ended May 27, 2013, but lawmakers were quickly called back for 3 consecutive special sessions which lasted through the first days of August.

In this newsletter, I have highlighted some of the major legislative achievements, including new laws that are in effect now.

This session was one for the record in terms of our ability to work together as a Legislature and the tremendous accomplishments we have secured for the Rio Grande Valley. Our greatest success was passing House Bill 1000/Senate Bill 24, which merges the University of Texas-Pan American and the University of Brownsville into one, and includes the creation of a medical school in our part of the state. This will no-doubt be a legacy for our constituents and an academic/healthcare advancement for generations to come.

Your input via telephone calls, letters, emails and office visits was greatly appreciated, as it helped our staff stay apprised of constituents' interests and concerns. I encourage you to continue sending your comments and suggestions on issues that are important to you.

As legislators, I firmly believe it is imperative that we compromise to make sure Texas remains the great state that we all know. It is truly an honor and a privilege to be your state representative, and I am extremely grateful for your confidence and continued support to allow me to serve you in the Texas House of Representatives.

I remain Your Public Servant in the Struggle for a Better Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar Longoria".

Oscar Longoria
State Representative



*The Rio Grande Valley delegation celebrate the passage of
HB 1000/SB 24, creating a new medical school in the valley.*



EDUCATION: A TOP ISSUE

Creation of the New University and Medical School in the Valley

The House and Senate passed H.B. 1000 and S.B. 24, which merges UTPA and UTB into one new university, and creates a medical school in the Rio Grande Valley. In addition, the creation of this new university will grant access to the Permanent University Fund (PUF), contributing millions of dollars to our children's education. This endeavor will not only move us in the right direction when it comes to better education and healthcare treatment, but it will also have a great economic impact in our region as new jobs will be created throughout the Valley.



Rep. Longoria urging the legislature to support H.B. 1000.



South Texas College students from all three LJISD high schools discuss Texas Government with Rep. Longoria.

Education Reform

As a product of public schools, I truly believe that the key to success is a good education. I worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure progress was made in our state's education system. The legislature made significant investments in public education. The State budget fully funds enrollment growth and provides an additional \$3.4 billion for the Foundation School Program. In House Bill 5, we were able to provide flexibility for students' graduation requirements and reduced the number of mandated end-of-course tests from 15 to 5. In addition, we passed Senate Bill 1406 to provide much needed oversight to the CSCOPE curriculum by the State Board of Education.

Texas State Technical College System and Public Junior Colleges (H.B. 2760)

This bill adds a new Subchapter to TSTC's Education Code to clarify their authority to enter into partnerships with other institutions of higher education for the purpose of propagating advanced and emerging technical education.

H2O: A MUCH NEEDED COMMODITY IN TEXAS

With the passage of House Bill 4 and Senate Joint Resolution 1, we have made monumental progress in developing sufficient water infrastructure in Texas and taken steps necessary to ensure a sustainable water supply for future generations. These measures will allow for the enactment of the State Water Plan, which will help Texans prepare for continued drought conditions and encourage job-creators to continue to move here.

Irrigation Water

I passed House Bill 752 which established requirements for municipal water suppliers. This would include the AGUA Special Utility District in my district to be considered a municipal water supplier for the purpose of now being able to irrigate water.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 83RD LEGISLATIVE SESSION

LOCAL QUALITY OF LIFE

Medicaid Reform (S.B. 7)

This bill improves the coordination of Medicaid long-term care and acute services, is reformed to better serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and expands on quality-based payment initiatives to promote the best care to all patients. Although there is much more to be done, we have taken huge steps to reaching our goal in providing for all Texans in need of better healthcare.

Financial Security for Retired Teachers

Senate Bill 1458 makes several critical changes to the Teacher Retirement System. The legislation returns TRS to actuarial soundness by, among other measures, increasing state and employee contributions to the system and by making important eligibility changes. The measure also provides a three percent cost of living adjustment to all retired teachers and their beneficiaries – the first cost of living adjustment offered since 2001.

Tax Relief

The Texas House of Representatives passed House Bill 500, which provides over \$710 million in tax relief for Texas businesses, with most of the relief going to small businesses. This is important as small businesses are the backbone of our economy.



Rep. Longoria makes a presentation to teachers from all over the Rio Grande Valley.

DPS Salary Increase (H.B. 2100)

I was proud to carry this piece of legislation as a joint author with my colleague Representative Senfronia Thompson. Year after year, we have seen the decline of DPS officers in Texas, primarily because of salary issues. This bill reclassifies the salary for certain positions with the Department of Public Safety to make these positions more competitive and hopefully, attract more individuals to this great profession. These men and women protect us and our roads daily, it was long overdue for this gesture from the legislature.

Parent-Child Relationship (H.B. 1185)

This bill repeals Section 107.006(f), Family Code, relating to a requirement to destroy records obtained by an attorney ad litem, a guardian ad litem for a child, or an amicus attorney appointed by court order in certain suits affecting the parent-child relationship in which the child's court appointed representative was given both immediate access to a child and information relating to the child.



Representative Longoria at the ribbon cutting of his district office in La Feria, Texas.

Human Trafficking

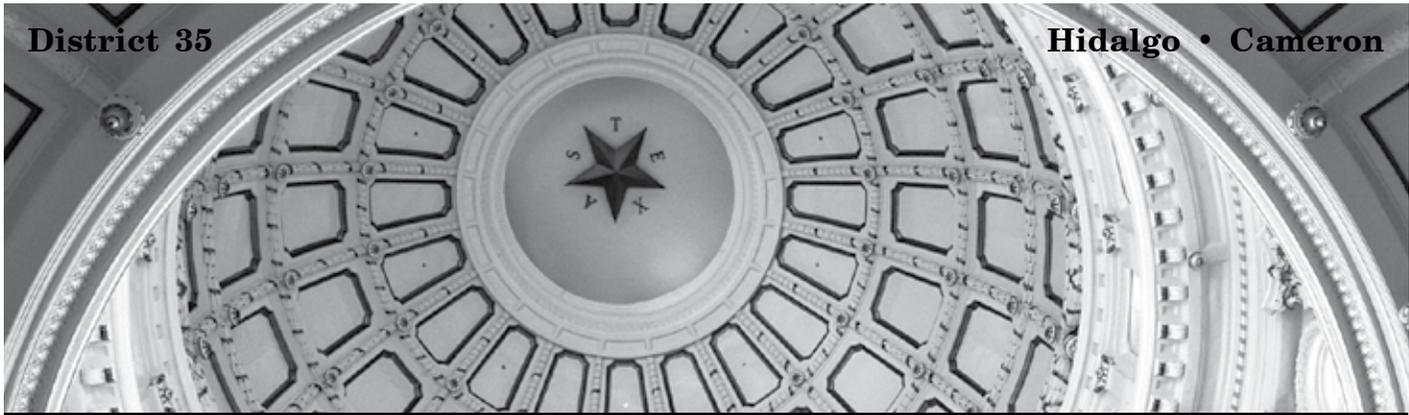
Representing the border, I know the dangers and crimes made on innocent human beings. I have made it a point to continue the fight on human trafficking. Therefore, I worked close with my colleagues to pass House Bill 8 which relates to the prosecution and punishment of offenses related to trafficking of persons and to certain protections for victims. I believe we did make significant progress tackling this issue, but our efforts must go on in order to finally put a stop to this heinous crime on mankind.

Affordable Care Act

Health insurance is very important to have these days. Although it has been implemented by the federal government, I too encourage everyone to sign up. The ACA aims to increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, lower the uninsured rate by expanding public and private insurance coverage, and reduce the costs of healthcare for individuals and the government. Open enrollment began on October 1, 2013 and will last thru March 31, 2014. Insurance plans purchased by December 15, 2013 will begin coverage on January 1, 2014. For more information log on to www.enrollamerica.org.

District 35

Hidalgo • Cameron



OSCAR LONGORIA

State Representative ★ *83rd Legislative Capitol Report*



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★ IMPORTANT AGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS ★

Aging and Disability Services, TX Dept. of.....	800-458-9858	State Bar of Texas	800-204-2222
Agriculture, TX Dept. of	800-835-5832	Lawyer Referral Service.....	800-252-9690
Attorney General, Office of.....	800-252-8011	Texas Equal Access to Justice	800-252-3401
Child Support.....	800-252-8014	Texas Lawyer's Assistance Program	800-343-8527
Consumer Protection.....	800-621-0508	State Health Services, TX Dept. of	888-963-7111
Crime Victims	800-983-9933	TX Commission Environmental Quality	800-687-4040
Comptroller of Public Accounts.....	800-531-5441	TX Education Agency	512-463-9734
Criminal Justice, Dept. of	512-463-9776	TX Secretary of State.....	512-463-5555
Family and Protective Services, Dept. of.....	512-438-4800	TX Water Development Board	800-973-7252
Texas Abuse/Neglect Hotline.....	800-252-5400	TX Workforce Commission	512-463-2222
Texas Youth Hotline	800-989-6884	Transportation, TX Dept. of.....	800-558-9368
Governors Citizens Assistance Hotline.....	800-843-5789	Senator John Cornyn	956-423-0162
Housing & Community Affairs, TX Dept. of.....	800-525-0657	Senator Ted Cruz.....	210-340-2885
Insurance, TX Dept. of.....	800-578-4677	Congressman Ruben Hinojosa.....	956-682-5545
Licensing and Regulation, Dept. of.....	800-803-9202	Congressman Henry Cuellar	956-424-3942
Motor Vehicles, TX Dept. of	888-368-4689	State Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa.....	956-972-1841
Public Safety, TX Dept. of	512-424-2000	State Senator Eddie Lucio Jr.	956-968-9927
Public Utility Commission of Texas	888-782-8477		

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House Appropriations Committee

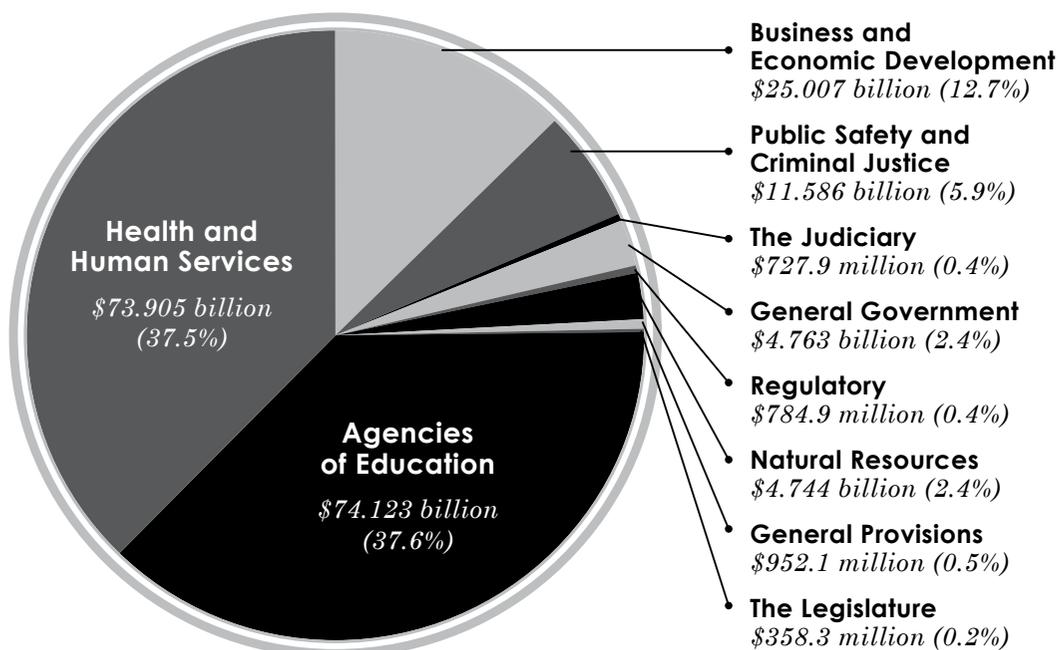
REPRESENTATIVE LONGORIA APPOINTED to the HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS and INVESTMENTS & FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEES

Budget (with no new taxes)

As a freshman legislator, it was truly an honor to be appointed a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. I served in the General Government sub-committee and was named Vice-Chairman of the Budget, Transparency and Reform sub-committee. Our team, under the leadership of Chairman Jim Pitts, would arrive in the Capitol before sunrise and left way after sunset every day to make sure we could restore the funds lost during the 2011 budget cuts. As a member of this committee, I was able to keep a close watch on funds for services benefitting House District 35, and therefore felt comfortable with the significant improvements and the compromise made by the House and Senate. This budget sees a \$3.8 billion increase from last biennium to public education, funds critical health & human services programs (including a significant increase in mental health services), provides for a long-awaited state water plan in conjunction with H.B. 4, H.B. 1025, & S.J.R. 1, increases the state's contribution to the teacher retirement system, and funds items critical to the valley such as the surplus AG Grant Program for food banks and the EDAP program.

ALL-FUNDS BUDGET

★ Total: \$196.951 Billion ★



NOTES: 1) Excludes Interagency Contracts • 2) Biennial change and percentage change are calculated on actual amounts before rounding. Therefore, figure totals may not sum due to rounding. • Figures provided by Legislative Budget Board

★ ABOUT REPRESENTATIVE OSCAR LONGORIA ★

Oscar Longoria is the Democrat member of the Texas House of Representatives for House District 35, serving his first term in office. HD 35 encompasses both Hidalgo and Cameron Counties and includes the cities/towns of: La Joya, Sullivan City, Peñitas, Alton, Edinburg, Monte Alto, Edcouch, La Villa, Mercedes, Weslaco, Santa Rosa, Primera, Palm Valley, Combes, Harlingen, and La Feria.

Rep. Longoria was born in Mission and raised in South Texas. He is a product of the La Joya Independent School District. Longoria attended South Texas College for two years before transferring to the University of Texas at Austin, where he graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies. In 2007, Rep. Longoria graduated with his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law.

Professionally, Longoria owns and operates the Law Office of Oscar Longoria, representing clients on a variety of issues. He is Licensed to practice law in Texas, Licensed to practice law in the United States Southern District of Texas, and a Certified Mediator, via the University of Texas School of Law. Longoria is a member of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, the Hidalgo County Bar Association, and the Hidalgo County Young Lawyers Association.

An active member of his community, Rep. Longoria has previously served on the Agua Special Utility District as a Board Member and is also a former Board of Trustee for South Texas College (STC), which serves approximately 30,000 students across the Rio Grande Valley.

Rep. Longoria is married to Jennifer Ruiz-Longoria of Mission and they have a beautiful baby girl, Camilla Lee Longoria. The Longoria family enjoy participating in various philanthropic efforts throughout the Rio Grande Valley, especially sponsoring and distributing toys to children and families during the Christmas Holiday.

Pictured: Rep. Longoria with his wife Jennifer and daughter Camilla Lee.



Special Events

If you are looking for a unique way to honor a special individual or community event, I am proud to fly a Texas flag over the state Capitol Building or draft a congratulatory resolution to honor the successes within our community. Please contact my office at (512) 463-0645 or Oscar.Longoria@house.state.tx.us for more information regarding these services.



★ ***Visit the Capitol*** ★

The State Capitol Building is open to the public all year with the exception of major holidays. The Capitol's visiting hours are 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Professionally guided tours of the Capitol are available throughout visiting hours free of charge. I invite you to stop by my office if you and your family are visiting the Capitol. I am located in the Capitol in room E1.510.