

YOUR DISTRICT 56 QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

In the previous edition of this newsletter, I asked McLennan County residents your thoughts on important issues facing us as we prepared for the 82nd Texas Legislature. Below are your responses. I'm very appreciative of your responses; they were very helpful during the session!

	YES	NO
✓ A needed priority for the 83rd Legislature		
★ Successful legislative action taken		
✓ 1. Do you think the state of Texas should consider [Arizona-type] immigration legislation? <i>Legislation to prevent cities from denying law enforcement the ability to check immigration status of lawfully detained individuals passed the House in regular session but failed in the Senate. Similar legislation in the special session passed the Senate, but not the House.</i>	87%	12%
★ 2. Do you favor increased state spending for border security? <i>\$219.5 million was provided for border security operations. This represents an increase of \$108.5 million.</i>	86%	11%
✓ 3. Do you think the State of Texas should require E-Verify for state contractors? <i>Legislation to implement an E-verify system to determine eligibility to work legally in the US was introduced, but did not come out of committee.</i>	90.5%	09%
★ 4. Do you favor legislation requiring a photo ID when voting? <i>"Voter ID" legislation was passed and signed by the Governor.</i>	87%	13%
★ 5. Do you favor placing a two-year freeze on college tuition rates? <i>Gov. Perry initiated proposals to make college education more affordable; other legislative leaders have committed to comprehensive interim studies on higher ed.</i>	71%	21%
★ 6. Eminent domain--would you favor an enhanced appeals process for property value determination? <i>After passing a constitutional amendment in 2009 for better protection of property rights, the Legislature enacted SB 18 this session to put those protections in statute.</i>	83%	07%
★ 7. Do you favor a more strict interpretation of the 10th Amendment to the US Constitution, which reserves broad powers to the states and not the federal government? <i>The Legislature successfully passed an Interstate Health Care Compact Law designed to give Texas and other states the power to suspend federal health care laws which are inconsistent with the states' laws.</i>	83%	10%
	A	B
★ 8. Do you support A) targeted budget cuts or B) across the board? <i>The budget was reduced by a historic 15 billion dollars. Some budget cuts were across the board; most were targeted.</i>	56%	39%
9. Do you feel your local appraisal district is A) fairly or B) unfairly appraising the value of homes in your neighborhood?	48%	43%
✓ 10. Do you favor making the local appraisal board A) elected or B) appointed? <i>Legislation to add to elected positions to the appraisal board passed a late session committee vote, but did not make it to the floor in the House.</i>	72%	16%



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State Representative
District 56
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Charles "Doc" Anderson

Capitol News Report

Texas House District 56



August 2011 Volume 13

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



CHARLES "DOC" ANDERSON
District 56

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- ★ **Provided for essential state functions in the upcoming budget** (2012-2013) which raises **no new taxes, lives within our means, and does not further dip into the Rainy Day Fund**;
- ★ Addressed critical funding for border security law enforcement;
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- ★ **Reduced overall spending by 15 billion dollars** (reducing the size of state government), and also **reduced General Revenue Funds spending for the second session in a row** for the first time in Texas history;
- ★ Passed all four **redistricting** maps (US Cong, SBOE, St. Senate, and St. House), **another first in modern Texas history**;
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HONORARY PAGE PROGRAM

Each session, I'm honored to host ambitious and inspired young adults on the House floor through the **Honorary Page Program**. *Taylor Spaulding is one of several bright students from McLennan County who participated in the program during the 82nd Session. This program offers firsthand experience to students such as Taylor who wish to gain a greater knowledge of the legislative process.*

AN AMERICAN HERO COMES BACK HOME

On December 6, 2010, Marine Pfc. Colton Rusk and his bomb-sniffing dog Eli were searching for hidden bombs in Afghanistan. Eli had been successful so far that day by sniffing out two bombs early--which is probably why they were targeted. A sniper fired on and killed Pfc. Rusk. Eli threw his body onto the fallen Marine and stayed with him until other Marines came to their aid.

When Pfc. Rusk died, his parents wanted to adopt Eli, the dog they had heard so much about. Considering Eli's extreme bravery and loyalty, Secretary of the Navy Doug Miller discharged him early and let him go home to his new family. This would only be the second time that a military dog was adopted by the family of a handler killed in combat. Eli went home to live with the Rusks in early February of this year.

Their story captured the attention of the Texas Legislature and many others around the state when my colleagues Rep. Jose Aliseda and Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa passed HCR 79 in honor of this pair of heroes. When I relayed this touching story to members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation, and requested that the TVMF donate Eli's health and wellness care for the Rusk family to honor their fallen soldier, they graciously agreed.

Texans bear the memory of thousands of brave men and women who live their lives, and give their lives, such as Pfc. Rusk, protecting our freedoms. Eli can proudly stand with them.



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Yet it was wise for the Legislature to preserve the fund's balance for what could be another difficult budget session in the next two years. Under federal laws that dictate much of the increasing health care spending, Texas may owe at least \$4 billion more for federal entitlements in the next budget cycle than we have budgeted. Thus, if the economy does not dramatically improve, health care expenditures alone may require most of the remaining rainy day funds. Additionally, we must be prepared for possible hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires.

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If this amendment is approved by Texas voters, widows and widowers of veterans who previously qualified for this homestead property tax exemption based upon their service-connected total disability will be able to apply for the continuation of that property tax exemption in the 2012 tax year.

As we remember our brave heroes who have given their lives to guard our freedoms, let us not forget the many who also endured unimaginable sacrifices in service to our country, and the spouses who have cared so much, and so long, for them. I ask all Texans to vote on this constitutional amendment in November.

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Texas House District 56



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HONORARY PAGE PROGRAM

*Each session, I'm honored to host ambitious and inspired young adults on the House floor through the **Honorary Page Program**. Taylor Spaulding is one of several bright students from McLennan County who participated in the program during the 82nd Session. This program offers firsthand experience to students such as Taylor who wish to gain a greater knowledge of the legislative process.*

AN AMERICAN HERO COMES BACK HOME

On December 6, 2010, Marine Pfc. Colton Rusk and his bomb-sniffing dog Eli were searching for hidden bombs in Afghanistan. Eli had been successful so far that day by sniffing out two bombs early--which is probably why they were targeted. A sniper fired on and killed Pfc. Rusk. Eli threw his body onto the fallen Marine and stayed with him until other Marines came to their aid.

When Pfc. Rusk died, his parents wanted to adopt Eli, the dog they had heard so much about. Considering Eli's extreme bravery and loyalty, Secretary of the Navy Doug Miller discharged him early and let him go home to his new family. This would only be the second time that a military dog was adopted by the family of a handler killed in combat. Eli went home to live with the Rusks in early February of this year.

Their story captured the attention of the Texas Legislature and many others around the state when my colleagues Rep. Jose Aliseda and Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa passed HCR 79 in honor of this pair of heroes. When I relayed this touching story to members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation, and requested that the TVMF donate Eli's health and wellness care for the Rusk family to honor their fallen soldier, they graciously agreed.

Texans bear the memory of thousands of brave men and women who live their lives, and give their lives, such as Pfc. Rusk, protecting our freedoms. Eli can proudly stand with them.

