



J.D. Sheffield

**Texas House of Representatives
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July 2013 Newsletter

Greetings Friends,

The Third Called Session of the 83rd Legislature has come to an end. This newsletter provides some information on our work during this time. I have also included some highlights from events throughout the district. It was most enjoyable to spend time with families in a number of communities during 4th of July celebrations.

It was great to see significant rainfall throughout much of District 59 over the past month. The scarcity of water was a key topic for this past legislative session. I am pleased that a constitutional amendment to use reserve funds for water infrastructure projects will go before the voters in the next constitutional amendment election. While we cannot produce rain, we can better manage and conserve water. A measure will also appear on the November ballot to address transportation needs in the state. Page 5 of this newsletter contains more details. We will provide information on these ballot measures once it is finalized.

Sincerely,

J D Sheffield

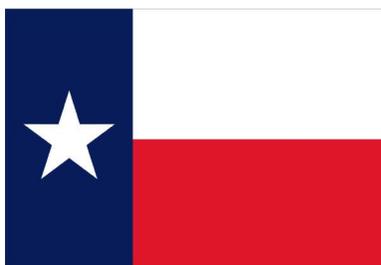


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Special Session

State Representative J.D. Sheffield votes for major pro-life legislation

House Bill 2 has been signed into law

The Texas Legislature gave final passage to House Bill 2 (HB2), an omnibus pro-life bill that will protect unborn life and increase health and safety standards for abortion providers in the State of Texas.

Among the bill's requirements, abortion providers in the State of Texas would have to maintain the same health and safety standards as an ambulatory surgical center, and doctors who perform abortions would need to gain admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. The bill also prohibits abortions after 20 weeks of gestation, a point at which an unborn baby can experience physical pain.

State Representative J.D. Sheffield voted for the bill, which passed the Texas House by a margin of 96-49. The bill was then passed by the Senate and signed by Governor Perry to become law.

"As a family physician for more than 20 years, I care very deeply about the health and safety of all Texans. My vote in support of HB2 is consistent with my pro-life convictions that life is precious and deserves protection," explained Rep. Sheffield.

Rep. Sheffield's vote for HB2 was applauded by Dr. Joe Pojman, Executive Director of Texas Alliance for Life, one of the largest and most influential pro-life organizations in Texas.

"J.D. Sheffield is a pro-life champion. It is critical to have conservative, pro-life physicians like Rep. Sheffield in the legislature to stand up for the health and well-being of all Texans, including mothers and unborn babies," said Pojman.

Rep. Sheffield shares the same pro-life position as former President George W. Bush, that the termination of a pregnancy is a tragedy that should be confined to such circumstances as rape, incest, serious fetal malformation, and imminent harm to a mother's life. His votes on HB2 were consistent with these pro-life convictions.

Redistricting

During the First Called Session, the 83rd Legislature approved maps for U.S. Congressional, Texas House and Texas State Senate Districts. No changes were made to District 59 and only minor changes were made statewide.

In Memory

House Resolution 17, by J.D. Sheffield, was passed through the Texas House of Representatives on July 9, 2013, honoring the life of Hood County Deputy Sergeant Lance McLean of Hico. McLean fell in the line of duty on June 29, 2013.



RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Sergeant Lance McLean and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family.



Top Photo: Representative Sheffield and Representative Jim Keffer honor Sgt. Lance McLean while House Resolution 17 is read aloud.

Bottom Photo: Senator Brian Birdwell with members of the Hood County Sheriff Department and Mrs. McLean.

District Events



Representative Sheffield participated in a number of Independence Day events. We enjoyed the Gatesville parade, Brady parade, Comanche fireworks, Goldthwaite community event and giving bike helmets to children in Stephenville prior to the Firecracker 100 bike race.

Brady Deer Seminar

Dr. Sheffield joined deer breeders and enthusiasts from all around the Central Texas area on July 19th for an educational seminar on the deer industry and wildlife management. Sheffield gave a short presentation on agriculture, wildlife and water-related issues.



The Third Called Session of the 83rd Legislature

State Representative J.D. Sheffield Supports Transportation Measures

Third Special Session concludes with constitutional ballot provision.

AUSTIN - During the Third Called Session of the 83rd Legislature, two measures were approved to help address future transportation infrastructure projects, while still protecting the state's Economic Stabilization Fund, commonly referred to as the "Rainy Day Fund."

House Bill 1, filed by Representative Joe Pickett, creates a select committee whose purpose is to determine a sufficient balance, or floor, for the Rainy Day Fund for each state fiscal biennium. The sufficient balance will have to be approved by a majority vote of both chambers. The bill requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to identify a total savings of at least \$100 million in funds appropriated to TxDOT in the budget cycle beginning this year. The measure mandates that the use of these savings would be applied to TxDOT's debt balance.

Senate Joint Resolution 1, filed by Senator Robert Nichols, proposes a constitutional amendment to provide a stable source of funding for our state's transportation infrastructure. Rather than only using fuel taxes, 50 percent of oil and gas taxes going to the Economic Stabilization Fund would be transferred to the State Highway Fund. Because this is a constitutional amendment, it must be approved by a majority of Texas voters.

"Transportation infrastructure is vital to Texas' economic growth and prosperity," said State Representative J.D. Sheffield. "I supported this measure in the Texas House, but the decision is ultimately up to the voters in November."

NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY—JULY 27

SHEFFIELD HONORS COWBOY CULTURE AND WESTERN HERITAGE OF STEPHENVILLE

House Resolution 146

WHEREAS, For more than 75 years, Stephenville has played a significant role in preserving and promoting the heritage of the American rodeo and the cowboy way of life; and

WHEREAS, Considered by many to be the Cowboy Capital of the World, Stephenville and its vicinity first became important to the history of rodeo in 1937, when Everett Colborn moved his new rodeo company to the nearby Lightning C Ranch, where he raised some of the best rodeo stock in the world; during the 1950s, George and Beulah Brown, the only husband and wife to be inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, helped introduce rodeo to the area; and

WHEREAS, Today, Stephenville is headquarters of the United States Team Roping Championship, and it is home to Lone Star Arena, a premier rodeo venue that also hosts expositions, concerts, horse shows, and other events; the city is also home to Tarleton State University and its championship rodeo team; since 1947, Tarleton riders and ropers have won 21 individual national titles in such events as barrel racing, calf roping, and steer wrestling, and Tarleton teams have taken six national titles; the team is one of the largest in the nation, boasting more than 100 members; and

WHEREAS, Many championship riders and their families have lived in the surrounding county, including world champion bull and bronc rider Harry Tompkins, bull-riding champion Ty Murray and his wife, the singer Jewel, world champion bull rider Tuff Hedeman, the twin brother bull riders Adam and Gilbert Carrillo, and J. J. Hampton, who has won more championships than any other woman in professional rodeo; Stephenville was also the home of pioneering barrel racer and National Cowgirl Hall of Fame inductee Isora Young; many of these individuals have been honored in Stephenville's Cowboy Capital Walk of Fame; and

WHEREAS, The rich history of the Western cowboy and cowgirl, with their code of honor, dedication to traditional values, and strong work ethic, remains vital and alive in Stephenville, and the city's residents may indeed take great pride in the role they have played in sustaining this outstanding cultural legacy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby honor Stephenville for its long history as a center of Western heritage and extend to the city's officials and residents sincere best wishes for continued success in their maintenance of this proud tradition; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the City of Stephenville as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.