



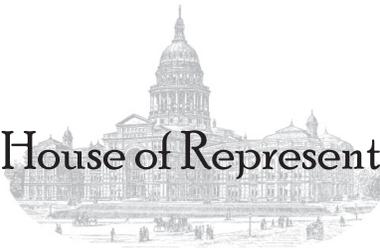
STATE REPRESENTATIVE TRACY O. KING

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

DISTRICT 80

SUMMER 2014

Texas House of Representatives



Dear Fellow Texans:

Since the end of the last legislative session in 2013, House committees have been charged with studying issues that the Legislature will consider when it convenes for the 84th Legislative Session in January 2015. These committees are conducting hearings to gather information so they can provide a report to the Legislature by the end of the year.

I encourage you to take a few minutes from your busy schedule to review some of the information provided in this newsletter. In addition to some of the interim charges there is information about the constitutional amendment that will be on the ballot November 4, 2014. I welcome your input and comments regarding these or any other issues of importance to you.

The opportunity to represent you in the Texas House of Representatives is an honor and a privilege that I take very seriously. Again, thank you for that opportunity and I look forward to working with everyone to improve our great state of Texas.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy".

Tracy O. King

**Proposition Number 1
SJR 1**

On August 5, 2013, the 83rd Legislature approved House Bill 1 and Senate Joint Resolution 1 during the Third Called Session of the 83rd Legislature. If approved, these pieces of legislation would provide annual disbursements for transportation funding, with an estimated \$1.4 billion transferred in the first year from the economic stabilization fund, more commonly known as the Rainy Day Fund.

SJR 1 proposes a constitutional amendment that authorizes this redirection of funds. HB 1 outlines the mechanism and details of when the funds are to be transferred and how the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) can use them. HB 1 will take effect only if voters approve the proposed constitutional amendment.

Ballot Language:

Proposition 1
“The constitutional amendment providing for the use and dedication of certain money transferred to the state highway fund to assist in the completion of transportation construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation projects, not to include toll roads.”

Proposition 1 would direct the comptroller to allocate to Fund 6 one-half of the general revenue derived from oil and gas production taxes that currently is transferred to the rainy day fund. The Legislature would, by statute, create a procedure whereby the amount allocated to the rainy day fund could be greater than one half. Revenue transferred to Fund 6 under Proposition 1 could be used only for constructing, maintaining, and acquiring rights of way for public roadways other than toll roads.

Proposition 1 would take effect immediately upon receiving the necessary approval from voters and would apply to transfers the comptroller made after September 1, 2014.

SUPPORTERS SAY

Proposition 1, in combination with its enabling legislation, HB 1, would take a key step toward securing critical funding for transportation projects in Texas. While far from a cure-all, the proposed resolution would present a viable means to secure a portion of the funding Texas needs to maintain roadway congestion at current levels, given population and economic growth.



Representative Tracy King addresses officials at the South Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association.

Proposition 1 would generate an estimated \$1.4 billion for public highways in fiscal 2015, decreasing to \$1.2 billion in the following years. This steady revenue stream would send a message to citizens, crediting bureaus, and businesses that Texas is serious about financing critical transportation infrastructure.

Proposition 1 would dedicate an additional, much needed funding stream to constructing and maintaining public, non-tolled roads. If approved, the amendment would represent a departure from relying on debt and toll roads as primary mechanisms for funding highways. The amendment would make use of expected increases in oil and gas production tax remissions to increase funding for highways and retain a solid reserve.

While Proposition 1 would authorize a dedicated funding stream for transportation projects, it also would allow the Legislature to take necessary means to ensure a minimum balance in the rainy day fund was available to respond to natural disasters and fiscal emergencies. HB 1, the amendment’s enabling legislation, calls for the appointment of a committee of legislators to determine a sufficient balance for the rainy day fund under which no general revenue would be transferred to Fund 6.

The sufficient balance provision authorized by Proposition 1 would achieve a compromise between an automatic Fund 6 transfer irrespective of the status of the rainy day fund and a constitutionally established floor under which no transfer would be made. Without a floor of any kind, a combination of unforeseen events could leave the Legislature with insufficient funds to finance emergency spending needs. A constitutionally designated floor, on the other hand, might not provide the Legislature sufficient flexibility to meet varying needs each session.

Proposition 1, in combination with HB 1, would provide an assurance that a sufficient balance remained in the rainy day fund, while granting each Legislature the ability to address the needs of the time. In addition, HB 1, which would enable the Legislature to adjust a sufficient balance determination within the first 60 days of a regular session, would ensure proper legislative oversight in determining what the state should maintain as a reserve fund.

OPPONENTS SAY

Proposition 1 would not provide a solution to the state's serious, ongoing highway funding shortage and would not adequately safeguard emergency reserves in the rainy day fund.

No additional revenue. Because the proposed amendment would not authorize the collection of any additional revenue, in effect it would take money out of one fiscal pocket and move it to another. Proposition 1 would reduce the amount of revenue flowing into the rainy day fund by instead dedicating it to transportation. While this might not cause problems in times of plenty, it could create a dilemma during a lean period. In the event of an emergency that demanded state spending during a fiscal crisis, a depleted rainy day fund might be the only source of revenue available to lawmakers who traditionally have been reluctant to drain the account below a certain amount, generally perceived to be about \$6 billion in 2013.

Proposition 1 would provide no guarantee of a minimum balance in the rainy day fund before authorizing a transfer of funds to Fund 6. The amendment relegates this authority to each legislature, which is inevitably subject to the whims and political vagaries of any given legislative session. The rainy day fund transfer is designated in the Constitution in part to provide a well-protected reserve and to ensure continuity and stability. A constitutionally protected reserve is important for the state's ability to weather economic calamities and for its credit rating. Failing to provide a constitutionally designated floor under which no transfer to Fund 6 would be made — such as has been considered and approved in previous versions of this legislation — would open the door to decisions that could leave future legislatures with shortfalls in revenue and a shallow reserve pool from which to draw.

Representative Tracy King participates in the Washington Birthday Celebration Association parade in Laredo.



Realtors from House District 80 visit with Representative Tracy King in Austin.

Election Day: Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Contact your county clerk's office for a listing of voting times and locations in your area.

County Information

For information about voting locations and procedures, please contact your county clerk's office or elections administrator. Below is the contact number for each county in House District 80.

DIMMIT COUNTY
Mario Z. Garcia
(830) 876-4239

WEBB COUNTY
Oscar Villarreal
(956) 523-4050

FRIO COUNTY
Angelina Tullis
(830) 334-2214

ZAPATA COUNTY
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan
(956) 765-9915

UVALDE COUNTY
Margarita Del Toro
(830) 278-3225

ZAVALA COUNTY
Oralia G. Trevino
(830) 374-2331



County Road Funding

Last session, the Legislature passed SB 1747 which created the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund Grant Program to help counties complete road repair projects in areas primarily impacted by heavy oil/gas related traffic. Each county in District 80 applied and recently received grant awards to address their transportation infrastructure needs.

Tracy O. King's Committee Assignments

Chairman - House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock

Member - Natural Resources • Edwards Aquifer Legislative Oversight Committee • Energy Council

INTERIM CHARGES

In preparation for the 84th Legislative Session, every standing committee of the Texas House of Representatives will study issues, topics and ideas that have been identified as key priorities. The committees that I serve on were given the following interim charges:

House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock

- Evaluate actions by state agencies under the committee's jurisdiction to increase transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Consider cost-saving technologies such as the route optimization system used by the Texas Department of Agriculture to save funds in inspection activities. Identify and make recommendations to address gaps and to improve efficiency and access to user-friendly information while protecting appropriate data security.
- Study the feasibility of the creation of a border agricultural inspection training program and the authority of Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) employees to augment federal produce inspectors at Texas border land ports of entry.
- Evaluate the Texas Right to Farm Act and determine if certain recommendations and updates to the law should be made in efforts to protect agricultural operations.
- Examine current statutes and rules to determine any necessary enhancements that can assist in the eradication of feral hogs by using practical solutions and effective eradication techniques. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism)

House Natural Resources Committee

- Monitor the implementation of HB 4 (83R) and SJR 1 (83R) and the progress of the Texas Water Development Board and other entities in implementing this legislation to provide a stable, long-term funding source for the State Water Plan.
- Evaluate the availability, management, and development of groundwater in the state. Consider the economic, environmental, and social impacts of groundwater usage and production in the agricultural, municipal, and energy sectors. In particular, examine methods to facilitate further development of brackish groundwater resources and to improve the consistency and certainty of permitting by groundwater districts without undercutting reasonable regional and local regulation of groundwater.
- Explore opportunities to encourage voluntary protection and stewardship of privately owned lands in support of the state's water supply and to protect environmental flow needs in Texas rivers. Examine methods in which state agencies, water rights holders, and non-governmental organizations can work together through programs like the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program and the Texas Water Trust.
- Examine strategies to enhance the use of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects, including a review of existing ASR facilities in Texas and elsewhere.
- Monitor the use of funds provided or made available to Texas in relation to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and make recommendations on the appropriate use of these funds in the future. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Appropriations)

To see a full list of interim charges go to the Texas House of Representatives website, www.house.state.tx.us.



Representative Tracy King joins Zavala County in paying tribute to all veterans on Memorial Day.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 1, 2014 - Labor Day
October 13, 2014 - Columbus Day
November 2, 2014 - End of Daylight Savings
November 4, 2014 - Election Day
November 11, 2014 - Veterans Day
December 7, 2014 - Pearl Harbor Day

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

First Day to Prefile Bills: November 10, 2014
Opening Day of the 84th Legislative Session:
January 13, 2015
Last Day to File a Bill: March 13, 2015
Last Day of Session (Sine Die): June 1, 2015
Last Day for Governor to Veto or Sign Bills:
June 21, 2015

Follow the Legislature

Texas Legislature Online - www.capitol.state.tx.us
Texas House Online - www.house.state.tx.us
Texas Senate Online - www.senate.state.tx.us
Legislative Reference Library - www.lrl.state.tx.us

TOUR INFORMATION

The Texas State Capitol and Capitol Grounds are one of the most popular tourist attractions in Austin and a favorite spot for many school groups as well. Other nearby interests are the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and the Capitol Complex Visitors Center. For more information about the activities and tours, visit the website provided below or contact our office for assistance.

Texas Capitol & Visitors Center

www.tspb.state.tx.us/CVC/home/home.html
or (512) 305-8402

The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

www.thestoryoftexas.com or (512) 936-8746

Texas Memorial Museum

(on the UT-Austin Campus)
www.utexas.edu/tmm/ or (512) 232-4278

LBJ Library and Museum

(on the UT-Austin Campus)
www.lbjlibrary.org or (512) 721-0172

The Blanton Museum of Art

(on the UT-Austin Campus)
blantonmuseum.org or (512) 471-5025

Veterans Day

Don't forget Veterans Day on November 11, 2014 and honor those who have bravely served in our nation's military.

CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE TRACY O. KING

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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 AMENDMENT
 VOTER'S GUIDE

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Texas Legislature Online:
www.capitol.state.tx.us

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★ ————— **HELPFUL NUMBERS** ————— ★

Citizen's Opinion Hotline
 800-252-9600

Department of Agriculture
 800-835-5832

Department of Aging
 800-252-9240

Adult & Child Protective Services
 800-252-5400

Attorney General's Office
 800-252-8011

AG Consumer Protection Hotline
 800-621-0508

AG Child Support
 800-252-8014

Texas Parks and Wildlife
 800-792-1112

Texas Department of Transportation
 800-452-9292