

SAM HARLESS

State Representative for District 126
January 2019 Newsletter

January



Texas House of Representatives

District 126 News and Information



A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Sam Harless.

86th Session Begins

What a roaring start to the 86th Legislative Session! I was honored to be sworn in alongside my freshman class and returning State Representatives on January 8, 2019. I was thrilled beyond words and deeply humbled to take the Oath of Office led by the Secretary of State David Whitley.

We got down to business pretty quickly on the first day; the House elected long-time conservative Representative Dennis Bonnen as Speaker of the House of Representatives. His over twenty years of experience will serve us well, as demonstrated by the call for unity he included in his first speech. Session priorities include school finance reform, property taxes, and combating human trafficking.

I was privileged to spend time with Speaker Bonnen discussing upcoming committee assignments, and I communicated to him my hope to be an effective and valuable member to District 126 and the Texas House. In the meantime, I have been reviewing issues and pursuing bills that impact or benefit my constituents in District 126.

Below I will detail some of the important issues that my constituents have

brought to me, namely those that have already been filed and researched by Texas Legislative Council.

It is my honor and privilege to serve you in the Texas House of Representatives. Please contact my office using the information included at the bottom of this email. Should you decide to opt out of receiving my email newsletter, you may unsubscribe using the link underneath our office information.



Representative Harless before taking the Oath of Office on January 8th, 2019



My wife Patricia and I were honored to have Land Commissioner George P. Bush stop by the office the first day.



Family and friends from the District area on Inauguration Day.



Representative Harless and son trying out the new desk.



Governor Abbott was sworn in on the North Steps of the Capitol Tuesday, January 15th while Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas Nathan Hecht gave the Oath of Office. Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick was sworn in at the same time with a host of legislators, friends, and family members in attendance.

Committee Assignments

Freshman committee assignments are always unpredictable. As a new Member, we hope for the best and aim for committees where we can best serve our fellow Members and constituents, but there are ultimately 150 other Members in the same position. I am very pleased to announce that I will serve on the following House Committees this Session.

[Licensing and Administrative Procedures](#) *(Click link for full Committee)*

The Committee is made up of 11 members and is responsible for the oversight of state-regulated businesses and occupations, the regulation of racing and other gaming industries, alcoholic beverage regulation, and the oversight of several state agencies.

[State Affairs Committee](#) *(Click link for full Committee)*

The Committee is comprised of 13 Members and presides over state policy and administration, organization, operation, powers, regulation, and management of state government, including its departments, agencies, and institutions. The State Affairs Committee is responsible for public land and state building operation and regulation, in addition to overseeing the employment duties of officers, state government employees, candidates for elected office, and those interested in influencing public policy. Finally, the Committee oversees state agencies' access to scientific and technological information, as well as the regulation and deregulation of electric utilities and the electric industry, and telecommunications utilities and the telecommunications industry.

News Articles

[Community Impact News - Jan 23rd](#) - Committee Assignments

[Community Impact news - January 11th](#) - Flooding a top priority

[Community Impact News - Dec 11th](#) - Rising costs limit long-term care options

Our Bills In Motion

[HOA Board Membership](#) - (Not yet assigned a number)

This bill would preclude membership on the board of a property owners association by more than one member in a given household. (Excludes the subdivision or community developer during declaratory period)

[Entry of Bond Conditions HB -738](#)

In cases where a defendant is authorized to be out on bond is permitted bail that has specific conditions imposed by a judge or magistrate, those conditions have not previously been electronically distributed via the statewide law enforcement network. This bill would require judges to notify Sheriffs of those conditions and have them entered into the computer network when imposed and removed.

Tuition and Fees For Military Spouses - HB 739

Currently military spouses and dependents who are Texas residents but are currently deployed out of state can be charged out of state tuition, even if they maintain residency in Texas. To honor the service of those serving in our military this bill seeks to codify residency for them and their family.

Charterwood M.U.D. (Not yet assigned a number)

This bill realigns the percentage of expenditures in one category for this single MUD. It allows for a percentage increase in the expenditures for improvements to recreational facilities. It does not increase the amount of tax collected, just the single category expenditure percentage.

In The District



Fallen Warrior Art Gallery

If you're near Cutten Road and have some free time, be sure to stop by the Fallen Warrior Art Gallery. The exhibit features over 250 paintings by artist Ken Pridgeon. The gallery is located at 13703 Vintage Centre Dr. Houston, TX 77069

[Visit our website](#)

K9 Service Dog Memorial

Currently under construction at 14500 Cutten Road near the Fallen Warrior Memorial. The estimated completion date is around May of 2019, This is slated to be a unique tribute honoring the fallen military, rescue, and service dogs.



Fallen Warrior Memorial

Please visit the Fallen Warrior Memorial located on Cutten Road just South of Cypresswood Drive to see one of the most respectful tributes to fallen heroes in our area.

[Fallen Memorial Website](#)

Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts

The fabulous Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts has re-opened and has some wonderful exhibits and events. The Pearl is

located at 6815 Cypresswood Dr. Spring, Texas 77379. Check them out through the link below.

[Pearl Museum Website](#)



[Visit our House of Representative Website:](#)

Contact Us

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