



# TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

## Representative Cecil Bell, Jr.

District 3



Rep. Bell at the 175th Celebration of the Texas Flag

### Did you know February 3rd is the last day to register to vote in the March 4th Primary?

Montgomery County Residents:

<http://www.mctx.org/election/vapp.asp?curlang=English>

Waller County Residents:

<http://www.wallercountyelections.com/voterreg.php>

Election Identification Certificates are available at all Texas driver license offices for individuals in need of proper identification required to vote in elections in Texas. For more information, please visit: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm>.

### Update on the State Board of Education Implementation of House Bill 5 and Graduation Requirements

The State Board of Education voted on new graduation requirements today after much deliberation the past several months. If you remember, I addressed the Board last November because Algebra 2 remained a de facto graduation requirement as the prerequisite for most of the advanced fourth-year math courses. The Board then limited the Algebra 2 requirement to students seeking the science and math endorsement.

This week, the Board approved two additional courses that can serve as advanced fourth-year math courses, giving students more options to satisfy the four years of math required for all endorsement plans.

In another final vote, speech will no longer be required for graduation. Instead, students must demonstrate proficiency in communication skills. Encouraging local control, school districts will determine how a student can satisfy that requirement, either through other a course or activity such as debate.

### Attention: Waller County Residents

Electro Purification has withdrawn its application with Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District to drill wells in Austin and Waller Counties. The withdrawal effectively ends the contested case hearing process.

### Texas' Organ, Tissue Donor Program Approaches Five Million Registrants

In 2013, DPS recorded more than 1.6 million Texas registrants to the Glenda P. Dawson Donate Life Texas Registry, boosting the total registry to nearly five million individuals. This accounts for 25 percent of the state's adult population. The registry is the state database of individuals who have officially indicated their decisions to donate organs and tissue to benefit thousands of people currently awaiting transplants.

Currently more than 11,000 individuals are awaiting organ or tissue transplants in Texas – and more than 120,000 nationally. In 2013 alone, 143 DPS-registered donors saved 486 lives.

To learn more about becoming a donor, visit your local DPS office or enroll online at [www.donatelifetexas.org](http://www.donatelifetexas.org).

### Speaker Straus Releases Interim Charges

Today, Speaker Joe Straus issued interim charges to every standing committee in the Texas House of Representatives.

Friday's charges are based on requests and suggestions made by House Members. The charges highlight some of the issues that the House will study and investigate to prepare for the next legislative session, which will begin in January 2015.

A copy of the charges can be found here: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/media/pdf/interim-charges-83rd.pdf>.

### Water News

The Texas Water Development Board is soliciting input from stakeholders for the development of rules that will implement H.B. 4. The Board members and staff will travel around the state to get input from stakeholders and the public on rules and standards for the state water implementation fund for Texas (SWIFT).

One of the meetings will be held in Conroe on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at the San Jacinto River Authority (1577 Dam Site Rd., Conroe) and is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. My staff and I will be in attendance.