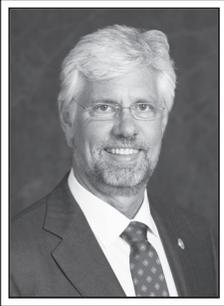




STATE REPRESENTATIVE



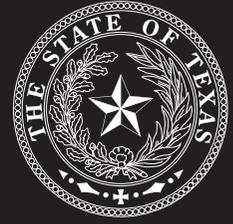
LYNN STUCKY, DVM

DISTRICT 64

DENTON COUNTY (PART)

DENTON, KRUM, CORINTH, SHADY SHORES,

HICKORY CREEK, AND LAKE DALLAS



86<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION & CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT INFORMATION



The State of Texas  
House of Representatives

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Earlier this year the 86th Legislative Session of the Texas Legislature came to a close. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, and update you on what we accomplished!

Coming off the heels of a devastating hurricane that rocked many of the coastal and southern counties of the state, we had our work cut out for us. Fortunately, the Texas spirit and the Texas economy has continued to blossom. The legislature passed a fiscally responsible state budget which added an unprecedented amount of state dollars for public education to go along with a revamped school finance system, increased formula funding for institutions of higher education, reduced the property tax burden on local taxpayers, provided for a "13th check" to eligible retired teachers, and strengthened our commitment to border security.

The legislature passed measures to increase school safety and provide additional mental health support to those in need. We put resources in place to improve our transportation mobility infrastructure and deal with the state's rapid population growth.

Inside this newsletter, you will find more information about these topics, as well as details concerning the proposed constitutional amendments offered to the voters by the 86th Legislature.

Though the legislative session has concluded, my staff and I continue to be available to assist you and the great people of House District 64. The contact information for both my Capitol and District offices are included. I encourage you to reach out so I may better represent your interests. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your State Representative.

Sincerely,

Lynn Stucky, DVM  
State Representative  
House District 64

# STATE BUDGET

The State of Texas operates on a biennial (two-year) budget cycle. Texas law requires a balanced budget that restrains state-controlled spending to stay below the state's estimated economic growth. House Bill 1 (HB 1), the 2020-2021 state budget appropriates \$118.9 billion in General Revenue and approximately \$250.7 billion in All Funds. HB 1 falls under all four spending limits - the debt limit, welfare spending limit, pay-as-you-go limit, and the constitutional spending limit.

HB 1 works in coordination with Senate Bill 500 (SB 500), also known as the supplemental budget. The supplemental budget is used to cover funding gaps from the previous budget cycle and in the case of the 86th Legislature, use money from the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), commonly referred to as the Rainy Day Fund, to address Hurricane Harvey relief. Despite using \$6.1 billion from the Rainy Day Fund, the estimated balance is projected to reach \$9 billion over the next two years.

## KEY BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

### Education & Property Tax Relief

- ★ \$5 billion in property tax relief
- ★ \$4.5 billion for transformational education reforms
- ★ \$2 billion for dynamic teacher compensation
- ★ \$219 million for various special education programs to comply with federal maintenance of financial support
- ★ \$200 million for school safety improvements

### Retired Teachers

- ★ \$589 million to TRS to provide retired teachers with a \$2,000 "13th check" on average
- ★ \$524 million to make TRS stable and solvent
- ★ \$230.8 million to cover shortfalls and ensure retired teachers' healthcare premiums do not increase

### Health & Human Services and Mental Health

- ★ Covers shortfalls in funding Medicaid, foster care, women's health, state hospitals, state-supported living centers, and correctional managed health care services
- ★ 24.3% increase in women's health funding over 2018-19 levels
- ★ \$86 million in rate increases for community care and Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) providers, pediatric home therapists, and pediatric private duty nursing
- ★ \$48 million for rate increases and cost growth for Early Childhood Intervention
- ★ \$11.7 million for salary increases to hire and retain Adult Protective Services workers
- ★ Support for expansion of Community Based Care for foster care services
- ★ \$7.7 billion for behavioral health and substance abuse services

### Driver's License Services

- ★ \$210 million for the driver's license program to reduce wait times, improve customer service, hire new employees, and add three additional driver's license offices
- ★ \$8 million for a brand new driver's license office in Denton

### Transportation

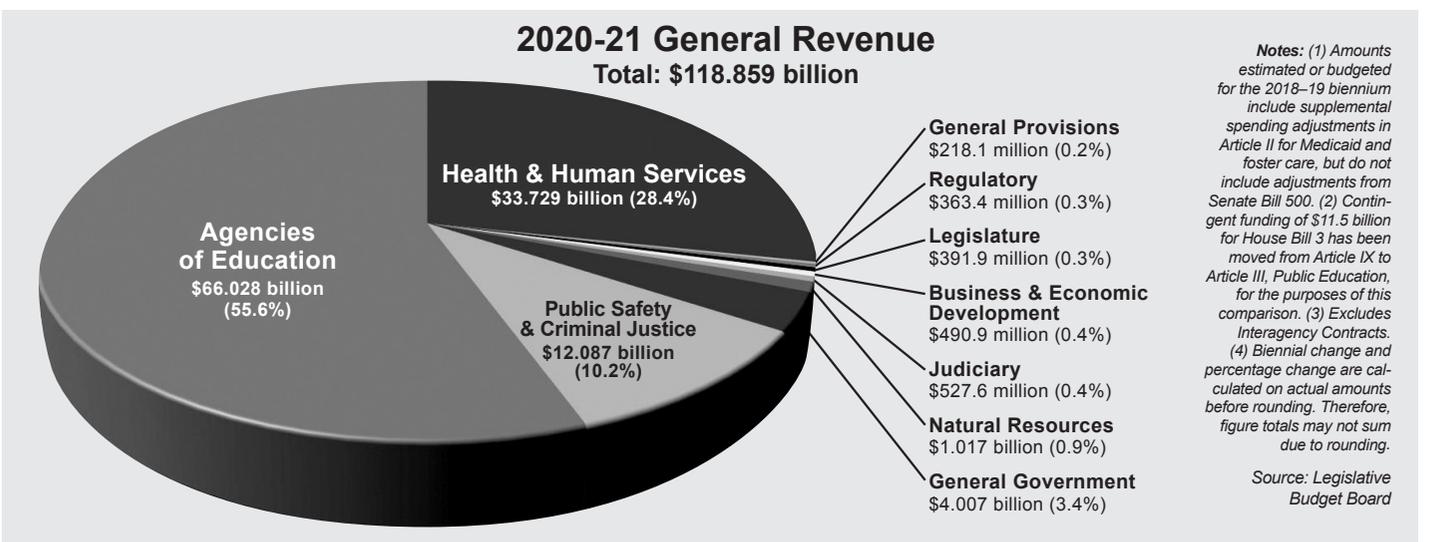
- ★ \$6.1 billion to TxDOT for non-tolled highway construction
- ★ \$86 million to TxDOT for building, construction, and deferred maintenance

### Border Security

- ★ \$800 million for Border Security efforts
- ★ \$5 million from the ESF to Texas Parks and Wildlife for equipment to improve game wardens' communication statewide
- ★ \$7.5 million to DPS for Operation Draw Bridge Cameras and 4 analysts for the Transnational Intelligence Center
- ★ \$1.7 million in grants for border prosecution, border zone fire departments, and economic development

### Higher Education

- ★ \$500 million for increased formula funding across all public institutions of higher education
- ★ \$80 million to maintain TEXAS Grants
- ★ \$10 million for the Center for Agile and Adaptive Additive Manufacturing (CAAAM) at the University of North Texas
- ★ \$10 million increase in funding for the Center for Women's Leadership in Business, Politics, and Public Policy at Texas Woman's University



## REP. STUCKY'S BILLS

*During his second legislative session, Rep. Stucky was able to pass 11 of the 15 bills he filed to help Denton County and the State of Texas.*

**HB 14** (passed as SB 16) creates a new student loan repayment assistance program for peace officers that will allow us to recruit and retain skilled peace officers across the state. The program, which will be administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), will provide up to \$20,000 in student loan repayment assistance over a five year period for new peace officers who meet and maintain the requirements of the program.

**HB 747** (passed as SB 235) allows the City of Corinth to propose a ballot measure creating a fire control, prevention, and emergency medical services district. If approved by voters in Corinth, the district would be funded by a portion of their local-option sales tax.

**HB 951** (passed as SB 386) relates to the creation of Tourism Public Improvement Districts (TPID). While this bill gives the authority to hoteliers in Denton, a similar bill (HB 1136) signed into law gives immediate statewide authority to create these types of districts. TPIDs are funded by hotels who are members within the district and self-assess a fee for the district's operation.

**HB 1891** relates to high school equivalency exams. The bill gives the THECB the authority to create a cut score on tests like the GED that would allow high-achieving scorers to bypass certain college readiness testing when enrolling in a junior college, university or technical school in Texas.

**HB 2042 & HB 2082** both expand the oversight of state agencies by the Comptroller's Office while also creating some efficiencies to expedite reporting standards for certain audits. These bills will ensure better oversight and accountability of tax dollars.

**HB 2461** relates to the Denco 9-1-1 District, allowing for a statutory reorganization of member cities.

**HB 4683, HB 4693, HB 4719 & HB 4720** all relate to the creation of special municipal districts that will allow for the development of new neighborhoods in Denton County. All four of these bills received support from affected cities, county and school officials.



*Representative Stucky being sworn in.*

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

In the 86th Legislative Session, Rep. Stucky had the honor to serve on three important committees that directly impact House District 64: Higher Education (Vice Chair), Appropriations and the Article III Subcommittee on Appropriations, which specifically deals with funding all education in Texas. And, finally, the Resolutions Calendars Committee.

As the Vice Chair of the Higher Education Committee, Rep. Stucky helped oversee the passage of important bills to lower the cost for textbooks for students, create a smoother path for transferring credits between institutions, and empower victims of sexual assault to report their attackers to university officials.

According to House Rules, the Appropriations Committee specifically oversees the writing and allocation of state funds for the biennial budget. The Article III Subcommittee oversees the allocation of state funding for all public education, including primary, secondary and higher education.



### *Visit the Capitol*

*The State Capitol Building is open to the public all year, with the exception of major holidays. The Capitol's visiting hours are 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Professionally guided tours of the Capitol are available throughout visiting hours, free of charge.*



*Representative Stucky with Representative Jared Patterson (Frisco) on the House Floor.*

# KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 86<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## ★ PROPERTY TAXES ★

The passage of the Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act marked the most significant change in our property tax system in 40 years. SB 2 plus 48 other pieces of comprehensive property tax legislation made changes to the appraisal protests and appeals process, tax exemptions, tax payments, disaster relief and recovery, economic development, local government transparency, and open-space land appraisal. The bottom line is Texans have now been given the tools and the power to hold local taxing authorities accountable for annual tax increases.

### Senate Bill 2 will bring:

- ★ A lower threshold for voters to approve an increase in local tax rates above a 3.5% increase. When that vote is called, the elections are to be held on a uniform election date in November;
- ★ Transparency in the local rate-setting process by showing voters what the proposed new tax rate is based upon increases in appraised values as compared to the current year;
- ★ New tax notices will further clarify which taxing entities are increasing their rates, approximately how much that will increase your tax burden, and will explain when and where to protest if desired. The new notice will also give information on the taxing entities, including websites, public hearing dates and all taxing units in the county. This will begin in 2020;
- ★ The creation of a Property Tax Administration Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Comptroller concerning the effectiveness and efficiency of the property tax system, best practices and complain resolution procedures; and
- ★ The creation of local special appraisal review boards that will hear from taxpayers protesting appraisals of commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential developments

A full review of Senate Bill 2 is available online at [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov) under the “Bill Search” link or by using the “Search Legislation” navigation bar on the home page.

## ★ DENTON DRIVER'S LICENSE OFFICE ★

The budget passed by the Legislature includes \$8 million to establish a much needed new driver's license office in the City of Denton. The new office will be located in a Denton zip code and is expected to have 12 service counters, which is an increase of 7 from the current office. The projected opening is set for December 2020. The current office will remain open, but it will no longer provide driver's license-related services.

## ★ HURRICANE HARVEY ★

The Legislature took numerous steps to address problems stemming from Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Through multiple bills, the Legislature eased regulatory burdens that had slowed response times and debris removal, created a disaster task force to improve long-term recovery assistance, improved infrastructure and regional planning efforts to better mitigate, control, and recover from floods. The state also enhanced emergency management training for state and local personnel as well as bolstered public communications channels, data sharing tools and technology to improve disaster management operations.

## ★ SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM & PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ★

By far, the most bi-partisan moment of the 86th session was the passage of House Bill 3 (HB 3) into law. This bill is one of the most comprehensive reforms of school finance in state history bringing with it \$5 billion in dedicated property tax relief.

All told, HB 3 invests \$11.5 billion in new education funding for Texas in order to accelerate student achievement, lower property taxes, modernize outdated school finance formulas and increased pay for teachers, nurses, counselors, and librarians. In addition to the new public education funding (broken down in the “Budget” section on Page 2), here is a look at some of the programs being funded in HB 3:

- ★ Full-Day Pre-K for low-income students
- ★ A first-ever dyslexia identification program
- ★ Simplified transportation funding
- ★ Targeted funding for schools with higher concentrations of under-served students
- ★ A state-wide reduction in recapture that will compress local school property tax rates. It also reduces the recapture payments from school districts in HD 64 from about \$1.4 million in 2020 down to less than \$30,000.

## ★ TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM ★

There were two substantial bills passed this session — Senate Bill 12 (SB 12) and Senate Bill 500 (SB 500) — that will stabilize the state's pension fund for teachers, while also providing a “13th check” worth an average of \$2,000. SB 12 also includes gradual increases in the state's contributions to the fund over the next five years to keep the fund solvent. Finally, SB 500 includes \$230.8 million to curb the rising cost of health care premiums for retired teachers.



*Representative Stucky discussing legislation with Representative Stan Lambert (Abilene) and Representative Hugh Shine (Temple).*

# ★ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT VOTING GUIDE ★

<p><b>Proposition 1</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p><b>HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 72</b></p> <p>“The constitutional amendment permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time.”</p>
<p><b>Proposition 2</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p><b>SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 79</b></p> <p>“The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas.”</p>
<p><b>Proposition 3</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p><b>HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 34</b></p> <p>“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster.”</p>
<p><b>Proposition 4</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p><b>HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 38</b></p> <p>“The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual’s share of partnership and unincorporated association income.”</p>
<p><b>Proposition 5</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p><b>SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24</b></p> <p>“The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas’ natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes.”</p>
<p><b>Proposition 6</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p><b>HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12</b></p> <p>“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.”</p>
<p><b>Proposition 7</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p><b>HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 151</b></p> <p>“The constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund.”</p>
<p><b>Proposition 8</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p><b>HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4</b></p> <p>“The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects.”</p>
<p><b>Proposition 9</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p><b>HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 95</b></p> <p>“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state.”</p>
<p><b>Proposition 10</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p><b>SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 32</b></p> <p>“The constitutional amendment to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances.”</p>

*For more information and resources for voting in Texas, visit [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov).*

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE LYNN STUCKY, DVM

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
LYNN STUCKY, DVM  
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**Election Day: Tuesday, November 5th**

in this issue

## **Constitutional Amendment Voter's Guide**

cut out and take with you to the polls

**Early Voting:**

**Monday, October 21, 2019  
through**

**Friday, November 1, 2019**

Last day to register to vote is October 7, 2019