



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

Terri Leo Wilson, State Representative

District 23 | Galveston and Chambers Counties

89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Dear Friend and Neighbor,

It is an honor to serve you and advocate for our Gulf Coast interests and values on the House Committees on Public Education and Intergovernmental Affairs, as well as the Subcommittee on State/Federal Relations.

As we move through the interim period of the 89th Legislature, I am meeting with local elected officials, nurses, school administrators, teachers, small business owners, doctors, pastors, and families to discuss their aspirations, hopes, and priorities for our communities. Texans have always risen to meet challenges, and with families and businesses continuing to choose our state, it is clear we are doing something right. I remain committed to making our community an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

During this legislative interim, I have remained actively engaged throughout House District 23, attending community events, town halls, and meetings to stay connected with your concerns and priorities. I have also been working closely with state agencies and stakeholders to monitor implementation of legislation passed during the 89th Legislative Session and identify opportunities for improvement in future policy discussions.

This newsletter aims to provide updates on developments in House District 23 and across Texas. Interim committee hearings are underway, examining charges issued by the Speaker and addressing important policy matters that will help shape recommendations for the 90th Legislative Session. Through my work on the House Committees on Public Education and Intergovernmental Affairs, along with the Subcommittee on State/Federal Relations, I look forward to bringing these discussions back to our community and seeking your input in the months ahead.

Strong representation for Galveston and Chambers counties remains critical as we prepare for the 90th Legislative Session. Ensuring our unique Gulf Coast interests and concerns are addressed requires active communication and engagement. Our district and Capitol staff remain available to assist you throughout the interim period. We urge you to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

It is a privilege to serve the people of Galveston and Chambers counties. Together, we will continue working to strengthen our communities, protect our values, and preserve the qualities that make the Gulf Coast such a special place to call home.

For God and Texas,

Terri Leo Wilson

Terri Leo Wilson
State Representative
House District 23

- **Homewoners Insurance Affordability & Market Stability:** Study rising insurance costs, market competition, and consumer protections to improve affordability while maintaining coverage access. Gulf Coast communities continue facing increasing premiums and limited coverage options.
- **Property Insurance Claims & Consumer Protections:** Review claims handling, prompt payment requirements, cancellations, and transparency measures.
- **Windstorm Insurance Oversight:** Evaluate systems supporting coastal policyholders and examine long-term stability of windstorm coverage. Windstorm availability remains a major issue for coastal Texas.

INTERIM CHARGES

During the legislative interim, Speaker of the House Dustin Burrows assigned each standing and select committee specific interim charges to review, which were issued in April 2026. Interim charges serve as directives for committees to examine critical issues facing Texas between legislative sessions. These charges provide a roadmap for monitoring implementation of legislation passed during the 89th Legislature while identifying emerging challenges, opportunities, and areas requiring future legislative action.

Each committee chairman is responsible for convening hearings and meetings to discuss these charges, gather testimony from stakeholders, and evaluate policy outcomes. Committees review the effectiveness of recently enacted laws, examine pressing state issues, and may recommend legislative changes or administrative improvements ahead of the 90th Legislative Session.

State Representative Terri Leo Wilson, who serves on the House Committees on Public Education and Intergovernmental Affairs, as well as the Subcommittee on State-Federal Relations, is actively engaged in addressing these interim charges. These committees are examining significant issues including public school funding and accountability, educator recruitment and retention, special education, homelessness prevention, mental health services, agency oversight, and the interaction between federal policy changes and local governments.

The interim period remains critical for proactive governance in Texas, allowing lawmakers to evaluate legislation, identify gaps in policy implementation, and develop recommendations before the next legislative session. Representative Leo Wilson's participation in this process reflects her commitment to ensuring Gulf Coast communities have a voice in shaping statewide priorities.

Public Education

The House Committee on Public Education has been assigned extensive interim charges focused on evaluating the state of education in Texas and monitoring implementation of major legislation passed during the 89th Legislature.

The committee is charged with monitoring implementation and rulemaking related to significant legislation, including:

- HB 2 regarding public education and school finance
- HB 6 concerning discipline management and access to telehealth mental health services in schools
- HB 8 (Second Called Special Session) related to accountability and transparency measures
- HB 1481 concerning student use of personal communication devices
- SB 2 establishing an education savings account program

Additional interim charges include:

- Studying the current state of public education, including academic outcomes, enrollment trends, school finance stability, school safety, and the role of technology and artificial intelligence.
- Examining strategies to eliminate educator misconduct and strengthen safeguards protecting students.
- Improving middle school outcomes through enhanced academic supports, interventions, and career exploration opportunities.
- Evaluating teacher recruitment and retention efforts following recent investments in educator compensation, classroom supports, and discipline reforms.

- Reviewing the impact of increased funding and policy changes affecting special education and students with special needs.
- Conducting oversight of agencies within committee jurisdiction, including the Texas Education Agency and State Board of Education, to identify fraud, waste, and abuse where applicable.

The committee has already convened twice during the interim:

May 11 Hearing

The committee examined:

- State of Education
- Reviewing academic outcomes, enrollment trends, school finance sustainability, school safety, and the role of technology and artificial intelligence in Texas classrooms.
- HB 1481, relating to school district and charter school policies governing student use of personal communication devices.

June 1 Hearing

The committee focused on interim charges related to implementation of HB 2, including:

- Monitoring implementation of HB 2 and associated reforms to public education funding and policy
- Teacher recruitment and retention strategies
- Investment in special education, including support for students with disabilities and special populations

These hearings provide legislators an opportunity to evaluate how newly enacted reforms are impacting classrooms, educators, and students throughout Texas.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson heard from Ball High School students during final project presentations during their Maritime Distribution & Logistics class.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson recognizes Anahuac FFA Agricultural Mechanics Team members who competed at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

Defense & Veterans’ Affairs

- **Veterans Property Tax Relief:** Review implementation and opportunities to strengthen property tax relief available to disabled veterans and surviving spouses. Property tax burdens remain a recurring concern among Texas veterans.
- **Veteran Access to Services & Workforce Support:** Study barriers affecting veterans’ access to healthcare, employment, and support services.

Pensions, Investments, & Financial Services

- **Teacher Retirement System (TRS) & Retirement Stability:** Examine long-term sustainability of retirement systems and impacts on retirees.

Natural Resources

- **Flood Mitigation & Resiliency:** Review flood infrastructure and planning strategies to improve disaster preparedness.

Transportation

- **Port & Freight Infrastructure:** Evaluate transportation systems supporting economic growth and freight movement. Ports and logistics are essential to Gulf Coast economies.
- **Disaster Evacuation & Infrastructure Resilience:** Study transportation capacity during disasters and extreme weather events.

Criminal Jurisprudence

- **Financial Exploitation of Elderly Texans:** Study scams and exploitation targeting seniors.

State Affairs

- **Government Efficiency & Oversight:** Review agency performance and identify fraud, waste, and abuse.
- **Energy Reliability:** Study grid reliability and resilience.

Governmental Oversight, *Select*

- **Education Foundations:** Examine the role and structure of education foundations that are affiliated with Texas public school districts, including the scope and sources of their revenues and the nature of their financial relationships with school districts. Review the practice of public funds being transferred to or used by these foundations. Assess the applicability of state transparency, reporting, and oversight laws, and determine whether existing law adequately ensures accountability, prevents conflicts of interest, and protects taxpayer resources.
- **Texas Public Information Act:** Study the applicability of the Texas Public Information Act, the entities currently subject to the Act, its effectiveness, and the necessity of current exemptions from public disclosure. Additionally, review requirements related to public notices and make recommendations to improve citizen awareness and transparency.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson attends the Texas A&M Galveston 2026 Mardi Gras Success for Student Scholarships fundraiser which raised over \$100,000.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson was honored to attend and recognize Reverend Valerie Hudson during her last sermon on Easter Sunday. Rev. Hudson served and led all three Methodist congregations in the Bolivar Peninsula: Port Bolivar, Crystal Beach, and High Island.

CONSTITUENT ASSISTANCE

The Office of State Representative Terri Leo Wilson is always available to constituents who need assistance with state-related issues. Constituents may call our Capitol and Galveston district office with any questions or concerns.

CAPITOL TOURS

The office is able to coordinate Capitol tours for any constituent visiting Austin. Constituents who schedule a tour will be led through the Capitol and get a glimpse at the history of the building and of the state. The tour makes stops in both the House and Senate chambers. In addition, the office is also able to coordinate Capitol Dome tours. This tour has restrictions on time availability and a 15 person group limit, and a medium level of physical activity. To schedule any of these tours please contact the Austin Capitol office.

LEGISLATIVE RECOGNITIONS

Know someone in District 23 who deserves recognition? Let us know! We frequently arrange for official House Resolutions recognizing community service, academic and extracurricular scholastic accomplishments, and other outstanding works of note in our community.

90TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW: INTERIM CHARGES & GOVERNOR'S FIVE-STEP PROPERTY TAX PLAN

As we look ahead to the 90th Legislative Session, Texas remains focused on the issues that matter most to families, homeowners, and our local communities. I remain grateful for the opportunity to represent House District 23 and to continue fighting for the conservative principles that keep Texas strong, affordable, and prosperous.

One of the most important developments already underway is the release of the Texas House interim charges by Speaker Dustin Burrows. The interim process plays a critical role in preparing for the next legislative session. Members submit recommended charges to their committee chairmen, chairmen make recommendations to the Speaker, and once finalized, committees begin holding hearings across the state to evaluate legislation passed during the previous session and develop recommendations for future policy improvements.

I look forward to continuing my work on the House Public Education Committee, the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, and the Subcommittee on State-Federal Relations as we study key issues affecting Texans. These hearings allow legislators to take a deeper look at public education, school safety, teacher recruitment, homelessness prevention, foster youth services, mental health, and the impact of federal policy changes on Texas communities. The interim is where many of the ideas that shape future legislation begin to take form, and it is an essential part of ensuring state government remains responsive and accountable.

At the same time, it is already clear that the biggest priority of the upcoming legislative session will be property tax relief. Governor Greg Abbott has made this issue front and center through his five-step property tax plan, which focuses on meaningful reforms aimed at lowering the burden on Texas homeowners and taxpayers.

During his keynote address at the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute Gala, Governor Abbott made it clear that the Legislature would not conclude the 90th Legislative Session without passing his property tax plan and returning excess state revenue back to taxpayers since the Economic Stabilization Fund, commonly known as the Rainy Day Fund, has reached its cap.

The Governor's proposal includes stronger local spending limits, requiring voter approval for tax increases, empowering voters to initiate rollback elections, creating greater predictability in appraisals, lowering appraisal caps, and ultimately eliminating school property taxes for homeowners through a constitutional amendment.

Texans have consistently asked for real, long-term property tax relief, and I fully support continuing the work to reduce and ultimately eliminate the crushing property tax burden that many families face. Texas taxpayers deserve to keep more of their hard-earned money, and I believe this upcoming session presents a historic opportunity to deliver lasting relief.

As always, I remain committed to representing our district with transparency, integrity, and a focus on the priorities that matter most to our communities. Thank you for your continued support and the privilege of serving House District 23 in the Texas House of Representatives.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson honors Ovvie Joy Green Franssen on her 100th birthday. There were over three generations of families that came out to wish Ovvie a Happy 100th Birthday. Ovvie has taken care of all of them at one time or another. She has passed down her kindness, wisdom and her loving care to many of their children, and their children's children.



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson attends UTMB's Annual Veteran's Day Luncheon honoring 174 veteran students at UTMB and 765 veterans in their employment.



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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Natural disasters annually wreak havoc on thousands of homes and disrupt countless lives across Texas. Particularly, hurricanes have historically posed numerous risks both to the lives and property of Texans. Being proactive and prepared can help mitigate the risks posed by hurricanes. Visit the websites:

- Chambers County Hurricane Preparedness:
www.co.chambers.tx.us/376/Hurricane-Preparedness
- City of Galveston Hurricane Preparedness:
galvestontx.gov/491/Hurricane-Preparedness
- Texas General Land Office Disaster Resources:
www.glo.texas.gov/disaster-recovery
- Evacuation Rutes Across the Texas Gulf:
txdot.gov/safety/severe-weather/hurricane-preparation.html
- Evacuation Routes (in district):
chamberscountytexas.gov/DocumentCenter/View/718/Evacuation-Routes-PDF



State Representative Terri Leo Wilson and Governor Greg Abbott congratulate the Galveston County Commissioners Court on being the first government to pass a resolution supporting the Five Step Property Tax Plan.