



Terry Canales

ACTUALIZACIÓN DEL CAPITOLIO

Otoño 2019

Distrito 40



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Diputado Terry Canales
Distrito 40

Queridos Vecinos y Amigos,

Muchas gracias por brindarme la oportunidad de representar al Distrito 40 en la Cámara de Representantes del estado de Texas durante la 86ava. Sesión Legislativa. De enero a mayo, mis colegas legisladores y yo, dejamos a un lado nuestras diferencias y nos enfocamos en las cuestiones que son de mayor interés para poder brindar un mejor futuro a los tejanos; entre las cuestiones se incluye la educación, el salario de los maestros, reformas de impuestos a la propiedad y la prevención de inundaciones. Durante esta sesión invertimos \$4.5 billones hacia una reforma educativa transformacional que incluye \$2 billones en aumentos de salarios para maestros, el acceso a programas pre-escolares de tiempo completo y finalmente una 13ava. nomina para los maestros jubilados.

La Legislatura de Texas también hizo una inversión extremadamente importante hacia la educación superior del Valle de Texas. La Universidad de Texas Rio Grande Valley - Escuela de Medicina recibirá \$69 millones del estado, lo que representa un incremento de \$12 millones de la previa sesión legislativa. Esto incluye \$2 millones que fueron otorgados a la universidad para crear un centro completamente nuevo para los estudios de cáncer cervical. No existe mejor equalizador que la educación y estas inversiones hacen posible que los estudiantes del Sur de Texas reciban una educación de primer nivel, que les brinde la oportunidad de poder tener éxito en la vida.

En febrero, el Vocero de la Cámara de Representes del Estado de Texas, Dennis Bonen, me nombro como Presidente del Comité de Transporte de la Casa de Representes, que tiene jurisdicción estatal sobre las carreteras, ferrocarriles, aeropuertos y puertos entre otros. Este nombramiento le brinda al Valle de Texas la oportunidad de tener una voz importante en temas de infraestructura conforme crecen la población y nuestras necesidades de transporte.

Mas de 7,000 proyectos de ley fueron presentados en la 86ava. Sesión Legislativa y los legisladores pasaron horas innumerables deliberando y examinando las propuestas legislativas en un esfuerzo para hacer de Texas un mejor lugar para vivir, crear una familia y tener un negocio propio. Aunque obtuvimos éxito en satisfacer muchas de las necesidades que afectan a los Tejanos, estamos conscientes de que aun queda mucho trabajo por hacer especialmente en temas sobre salud, transporte y desarrollo económico.

Espero y encuentre los siguientes resúmenes útiles. Si usted tiene algún comentario, pregunta o sugerencia no dude en comunicarse con nuestra oficina, su opinión es bienvenida. Nuevamente muchas gracias por brindarme la oportunidad de representarle y ser su voz en La Cámara de Representantes

Diputado Estatal Terry Canales



COMMITTEES: Transportation, Chair • Land & Resource Management



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★ What Your Representative's Office Can Do For You: ★

The day to day operations of a legislative office are never set in stone, but the primary goal is to serve constituents. From working in the community to resolving an issue with a state agency, the Capitol and District offices of Representative Terry Canales are here to help you with issues small and large.

- If you are having difficulty working with a state agency, please let us help to ensure your voice is heard, and your matter is considered promptly and fairly.
- If you have an idea to improve state government, contact the Capitol office to determine the feasibility of new legislation.
- If you are visiting Austin as an individual or as part of a group, contact our office in advance to arrange a special tour of the Texas Capitol and other historic location around the Capitol complex.

The offices can be reached by email at Terry.Canales@house.texas.gov, or by phone at (956) 383-0860 in Edinburg and (512) 463-0426 in Austin.

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Terry Canales

CAPITOL UPDATE

Fall 2019

District 40



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Representative Terry Canales
District 40

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Texas and House District 40 during the 86th Legislative Session. From January through the end of May, my fellow lawmakers and I set aside our differences and focused on the issues that matter to Texans, including education, teacher pay, property tax reform, and flood prevention. This session, we invested \$4.5 billion into transformational educational reform, including \$2 billion for dynamic teacher raises, funding for full day Pre-K, and a much needed 13th check for our retired teachers.

The Texas Legislature also made a substantial investment in higher education for the Rio Grande Valley. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine will receive \$69 million from the state, which is an increase of \$12 million from the previous legislative session. This includes \$2 million in first-time funding for a new cervical cancer center at the school. Education is the great equalizer, and these investments make it possible for South Texas students to receive the education they need in order to succeed in life.

In February, I was appointed by the Speaker of the House, Dennis Bonnen, to serve as the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, which has jurisdiction over our state's highways, railroads, airports, seaports, and more. This position gives the Rio Grande Valley a seat at the table as our population continues to boom and our transportation needs grow.

More than 7,000 bills were filed in the 86th Legislative Session, and policymakers spent countless hours deliberating and examining the legislative proposals in an effort to make Texas an even better place to live, raise a family, and own a business. While we were successful at meeting many of the unique challenges facing Texans, there is still much more work to be done, especially regarding healthcare, transportation, and economic development.

I hope that you find these summaries helpful. If you have any comments, concerns, or suggestions, please know that I welcome your feedback. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your voice in the Texas House of Representatives. God bless you and God bless Texas!

Very truly yours,

State Representative Terry Canales



COMMITTEES: Transportation, Chair • Land & Resource Management



86th Legislature



EDUCATION

After years of research, data, and testimony, the legislature passed unprecedented school finance reform legislation, which invests more money into our classrooms, lowers property taxes, reduces recapture, and treats hardworking educators like the professionals they are by dedicated funding for dynamic pay raises. The 86th Legislature significantly increased the Basic Allotment per student, meaning every school district will receive additional funding through a statewide average increase of approximately \$1,020 per student. The new law creates an Early Education Allotment that expands state funding for full-day Pre-K so that more Texas students can get a jump start on their education.

The Texas Legislature compensated educators as true professionals by providing over \$2 billion in pay raises for teachers, librarians, counselors, and nurses, while also investing in professional development and mentoring programs for new teachers. We made sure to take care of our retired teachers and school employees by providing a 13th check, which is capped at \$2,000, and by allocating \$1.1 billion toward our teacher's pension plan to make certain that our promise of ensuring their well-being far beyond the classroom is kept.



Chairman Canales discussing transportation legislation with Governor Abbott on House Floor

THE TEXAS PROPERTY TAX REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

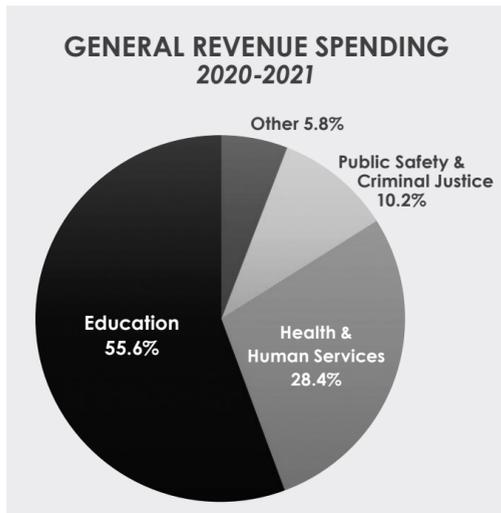
This session the Texas Legislature also provided \$5 billion in property tax relief while improving requirements on property tax notices. Now taxpayers will know in real-time who is proposing to raise rates, by how much, and when and where they can go to make their voices heard. The Texas property tax system is needlessly complicated, and this legislation will help Texans better understand the impact of their local tax rates. Most importantly, this new law increases transparency for taxpayers and empowers voters to stay informed on their property tax rates.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

In an effort to continue to safeguard the well-being of all Texans, the Texas Legislature made great strides to ensure that funding for sexual assault and human trafficking prevention did not fall short. We provided \$56.6 million to eliminate the rape kit backlog and increase crime lab capacity. Additionally, we allocated funding to fight online sex trafficking and support rape crisis centers, while enhancing penalties for online sex trafficking buyers and certain crimes of sexual assault and harassment. Furthermore, the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) were given additional funding to develop investigative squads and enforcement units to track down and dismantle gang related activity, as well as human and child sex trafficking rings.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Healthy Texans means a healthy Texas, and in that spirit, the Texas Legislature dedicated \$7.7 billion to mental health and substance abuse intervention. We also created the Texas Mental Health Consortium to foster partnerships between schools, colleges, and universities with mental health programs, and we established programs to place non-physician mental health professionals at education service centers and expanded access to telehealth and child psychiatry networks. On top of this, the Legislature dedicated funding to train teachers and administrators to identify and intervene when students show signs of mental health issues. It is also important to note that there was an increase of 24.3% in women's health funding as well



86th Legislature



BRINGING FUNDS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Education is by far the best equalizer, and for that reason we worked tirelessly to increase higher education funding for our region. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley saw its state funding increase by \$22 million dollars, and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine received \$69 million from the state--an increase of \$12 million from the 85th session. This includes \$2 million in first-time funding for the Cervical Dysplasia Cancer Immunology Center. South Texas College also saw an increase in funding of \$3.9 million dollars from the previous session. This will undoubtedly provide many more students the opportunity to obtain a post-secondary degree.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Over the past two years, flooding has become a greater statewide issue with many regions across Texas suffering from catastrophic rain events. The Legislature stepped up to the challenge and appropriated \$3.5 billion from the "Rainy Day Fund" to help the state recover from flooding and to invest in projects that will help South Texas improve our drainage infrastructure so that we are better prepared for the next big rain event. On top of this, the Rio Grande Valley delegation was successful in securing \$10 million for the Raymondville Drainage Project, which will help resolve flooding issues across the South Texas region.

CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

I am honored that Speaker of the House, Dennis Bonnen, appointed me as the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation. The Transportation Committee has 13 Members and has jurisdiction over the state's highway system, railroads, airports, seaports, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), and much more. The House Transportation Committee is known for its high-volume of legislation referred to its committee, so as a response, I created the Subcommittee on Tolling and the Subcommittee on High Speed Rail to better study policy in their respective jurisdictions. By the end of the Session, we vetted all 306 bills referred to the Committee, had public hearings on 217 of the bills, and passed 94 of them into law.

Additionally, I advocated for more transportation infrastructure funding for the Rio Grande Valley (RGV), resulting in our region scheduled to receive \$2.19 billion of transportation infrastructure funds over the next 10 years. This is an immense victory for the RGV. In August, the Texas Transportation Commission, the governing body of



Rep. Canales receiving Chairman's gavel from House Speaker Dennis Bonnen

FIGHTING FOR LOCAL FUNDS

As your state representative, one of my greatest concerns is to always fight for resources that will be impactful in our community. With that state of mind, we helped secure \$5 million for the South Texas International Airport in Edinburg to expand an airport hangar for emergencies and first responders; \$1 million in grants for border zone fire departments; \$5 million for the Wellness Center & Multi-Specialty Facility in the City of Pharr; and \$1.9 million in grants for Public Library Services on the border.

In the Rio Grande Valley, we have a robust healthcare system; however, we do not have a Level 1 trauma center. The Rio Grande Valley delegation secured \$17 million to strengthen trauma system infrastructure. We are proud that at least \$6 million of the trauma funds will go toward ensuring that South Texas has a lifesaving top-tier trauma center in the near future.

TxDOT, approved the 2020 Unified Transportation Program (UTP). This program is a statewide infrastructure planning document that will be used to develop Texas' infrastructure for the next decade.

Another important development in RGV transportation is the creation of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO), which will be the RGV's local decision-making body that is responsible for overseeing the metropolitan transportation planning process of the entire region. The RGVMPO is the product of merging three MPOs that previously existed in the RGV, and it required our local leaders to set aside any differences and unite under a common regional goal: to better the lives of all RGV residents. Our display of unity demonstrates to the Texas Transportation Commission that we are serious about RGV transportation infrastructure and are willing to work together as a larger voice to ensure equitable distribution of transportation dollars to our region. We anticipate future UTPs to have even more dollars allocated to our region as a result of the RGVMPO.



Major Legislation by Rep. Canales



During the recent legislative session, my staff and I had 63 pieces of legislation sent to the governor with my name on them, including 21 pieces of legislation where I was the primary author or sponsor. Below, we have attempted to summarize some of the most important bills that we worked on for the constituents of District 40 during the 86th Legislative Session.

HB 2840 - RIGHT TO TESTIFY AT GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

Politically engaged Texans have seen that some governmental entities conduct the public testimony section of their local meetings at the end--after the governmental body has already made a decision on a particular issue. HB 2840 requires a governmental body to allow any member of the public the ability to testify on an item on the agenda before or during the body's consideration of the item. This bill also says that a governmental body may not prohibit public criticism of the governmental body other than those otherwise prohibited by law (e.g., death threats). This bill increases public input into the consideration of items by governmental entities and ensures that every member of the public has an opportunity to make their voice heard.



Rep. Canales discussing vital legislation with Rep. Terry Willson (Marble Falls)

HB 4203 - EDINBURG HOTEL REVENUE

The City of Edinburg is experiencing rapid growth and quickly becoming a tourist destination. Edinburg recently finished the construction of a 9,000-seat professional soccer arena, and surrounding the stadium are sports fields and facilities that include the professional soccer team's practice field. The area around the professional soccer stadium has recently seen several new hotels built, and this is largely attributable to the soccer stadium attracting tourists and overnight guests. The purpose of HB 4203 is to allow the City of Edinburg to utilize the Hotel Occupancy revenue for projects within 2,500 feet of this soccer field.

HB 547 - DIGITAL HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE

Technology is rapidly advancing, and it is imperative that we harness these innovations in order to simplify our lives. This legislation allows Texans to show a digital receipt or a photo of their hunting or fishing license to game wardens to show proof of licensure. This bill helps modernize our current hunting and fishing licensing system to better fit changing demands and encourage the participation of the next generation of hunters and fisherman.

HB 3361 - HIDALGO COUNTY CIVIL COURT SERVICES

HB 3361 allows Hidalgo County to update their court reporter service fee on civil cases from \$15 to \$30. Currently, Hidalgo County is experiencing a shortage of available qualified court reporters to fill open positions in the courts. The revenue will be used to fund court reporter services and will generate an additional \$95,000 to \$105,000 in revenue to be used for court reporter services in our county.

HB 81 - GOVERNMENT SPENDING TRANSPARENCY

HB 81 requires that any information related to the expenditure of public funds for a parade, concert, or other event open to the public, and paid for in whole or part with public funds, must be privy to open records. HB 81 also keeps governmental entities from including provisions in their contracts that prohibit disclosure. HB 81 will improve our government's transparency by making it more clear where our taxpayer money is being spent and how much money our governmental entities spend on concerts and other public events.

HB 101 - CRIMINALIZING ROBOCALLS

HB 101 makes it a Class A misdemeanor to spoof your number in order to defraud, harass, or harm the call recipients. In 2017, the Federal Communications Commission issued a report that said they received an average of 375,000 complaints per month relating to spoofed calls. Spoofing occurs when individuals use technology to make it appear that a call is coming from a number or business other than that of the actual caller. Spoofed calls are not only a nuisance but are often used to fraudulently obtain sensitive information from innocent people.