

Dear Neighbors,

This past June, the 84th Texas legislature came to a conclusion. It has yet to be followed by a Special Session. Texas is exploding in economic and population growth, and the challenge this past session, as with the 83rd, was how to effectively manage the state's revenue and resources so as not to hinder our prosperity.

Paramount among this is the funding of transportation. Lawmakers heard the message sent in 2014 when 80% of the voters passed Proposition 1 to increase highway funding. Legislators responded with two more measures this year that will add new predictable funding streams through SJR 5: a two-part proposed amendment to the Texas Constitution that would direct billions each year to the State Highway Fund.

Other difficult issues that were deliberated this session were tax relief, budget transparency, gun rights, ethics, life issues as well as many others. The ongoing crisis on our border was addressed in earnest.

It was an honor to have a senior appointment on the Pensions Committee, where I was able to continue the hard work I began in the 83rd session: ensuring our state retirement programs remain solvent. In my other committee appointment, Investments and Financial Services, we tackled many complicated monetary issues, including municipal bond debt; which required a sub-committee.

This newsletter provides a comprehensive summary of some of the significant bills that were passed this session. It provides a glimpse at some of the legislation I authored or supported. Lastly, it gives a description of the constitutional amendments that will appear on the ballot for your consideration on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2015.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to serve as your state representative. Please contact our office in Rosenberg if you have any questions; our door is always open. God bless you, your family, our great State of Texas and the United State of America.

Sincerely,

Phil Stephenson