

The Capitol Ledger

March 11, 2019

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Want to schedule a meeting?

Send an email request to
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Bill Filing Deadline

Friday, March 8th marked the final day to file bills for the 86th legislative session. We will now be focused on hearing and debating bills in committees and on the floor in order to pass meaningful legislation to improve the lives of Texans around the state. We are grateful to be your voice in Bell County and thank you for your continued prayers and support for me and my staff as we work hard for you and the rest of the great State of Texas. Please don't hesitate to email us with any questions or concerns you may have at district55.shine@house.texas.gov

House Bill 3

I am proud to co-author HB 3, a bill that invests in Texas students and teachers by adding approximately \$9 billion in funding above enrollment growth and current law entitlement over the next two years. HB 3 will also empower local school districts to put more money in their classrooms by raising the basic allotment per student by \$890 and provide property tax reform by lowering school property tax rates statewide. Our teachers will see a substantial raise in minimum teacher salaries and the bill also allocates an additional \$140 million in funding for teacher quality programs to provide districts with the resources to recruit and retain the top teachers available. Additional positives of this bill include an update of the transportation model, better allocation of resources to low income students and an expansion of career and technology programs to better prepare our students for the workforce and post secondary education. I believe HB 3 will be a positive step in ensuring a bright future for Texas education.

Truancy Masters Bill

We recently filed HB 452, a bill that would create administrative appointees who would take on truancy cases in Bell County. Appointees would be trained in the same manner as truancy justices and the bill would help create better relationships between school districts and the truancy system. HB 452 would additionally foster more open communication between school districts and courts, helping to reduce the backlog and workload of having a large amount of cases running through just a few courts. Bell County Judge David Blackburn supports this bill, as well as our local superintendents and we hope that HB 452 will be a model that other Texas communities may be able to follow in the future.

Local Boy Scouts honored in Belton



1Left to Right: Allen McGuire, Ari Schanzmyer, Cormac Fowler, Gabriel Vacula, Hunter Woraus, Jack Howson, John Flor, Logan and Wyatt Sawicki and Preston Wells

The Blue and Gold Banquet at the First United Methodist Church in Belton was a ceremony about leadership for boys crossing over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. We would like to congratulate our newest group of Scouts, as well as Den Leaders Adam and Angelina Sawicki, who will be moving on with the boys from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. We would also like to congratulate Cubmaster Jay Early for his continued commitment and leadership to Troop 117 and the Belton community's program. Thank you for your service and continued leadership.

Be an Honorary Page at the Capitol

Each session, we are allowed to invite 10 children ages 8-18 to participate in the Honorary Page program. This welcomes young men and women to the capitol to work with the House Sargent's Office in either a morning shift (8:30 a.m. to noon) or an afternoon shift (1:30 to 5 p.m.) For details or to apply for this program, email District55.Shine@house.texas.gov.