



May 3, 2019

DISTRICT 55 CONTACTS

Hugh D. Shine

State Representative
hugh.shine@house.texas.gov

STAFF

Charlotte E. Blakemore

Chief of Staff

Connor D. Leigh

Legislative Director

Lamar Lewis

District Director

Karen Stagner

District Liaison

Allison Joy

Constituent Services

Blake Dickerson

Legislative Aide

Capitol Office | E1.308
(First Floor Extension)

Capitol Phone

512-463-0630

Capitol Fax

512-463-0937

Capitol Mailing Address

Representative Hugh D. Shine
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

District Office Address

4 South First Street,
Temple, TX 76501

District Phone

254-742-7616

**Want to schedule
a meeting?**

Send an email request to
Charlotte.Blakemore@house.texas.gov

HB 3 : School Finance Reform Passes The House

I have the greatest respect for Public Education Chairman Dan Huberty's leadership. Chairman Huberty has crafted monumental public school finance legislation that is long overdue. I look forward to joining him and fellow House members in getting this legislation through the House and ultimately to the Governor's office for his signature. House Bill 3 (also referred to as the "Texas Plan") invests \$9 billion above enrollment growth and current law entitlement toward student achievement, teacher quality and property tax reform, and will put more money into Texas classrooms than ever before. It represents the first major rewrite of the state's public school finance system undertaken without threat of a court order. House Bill 3 also gives the rural school districts in House District 55 the ability to earn and keep more money from local property taxes, provides added programs and resources for underserved students, and updates the critical transportation funding model to a simplified \$1.00 per mile reimbursement, among other important components. House Bill 3 also gives school districts the ability to access an additional \$140 million to recruit and retain quality teachers through their own local performance designation system, giving rural districts more resources to recruit and retain top teachers. Our schools are and will remain a top priority for me.

I CO-AUTHORED HOUSE BILL 3, WHICH BENEFITS FAST GROWTH SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY:



Raising the Basic Allotment from \$5,140 to \$6,030, giving districts the flexibility to spend funds where they need it most



Quadrupling the amount of funding to build and equip new instructional facilities to \$100 million per year



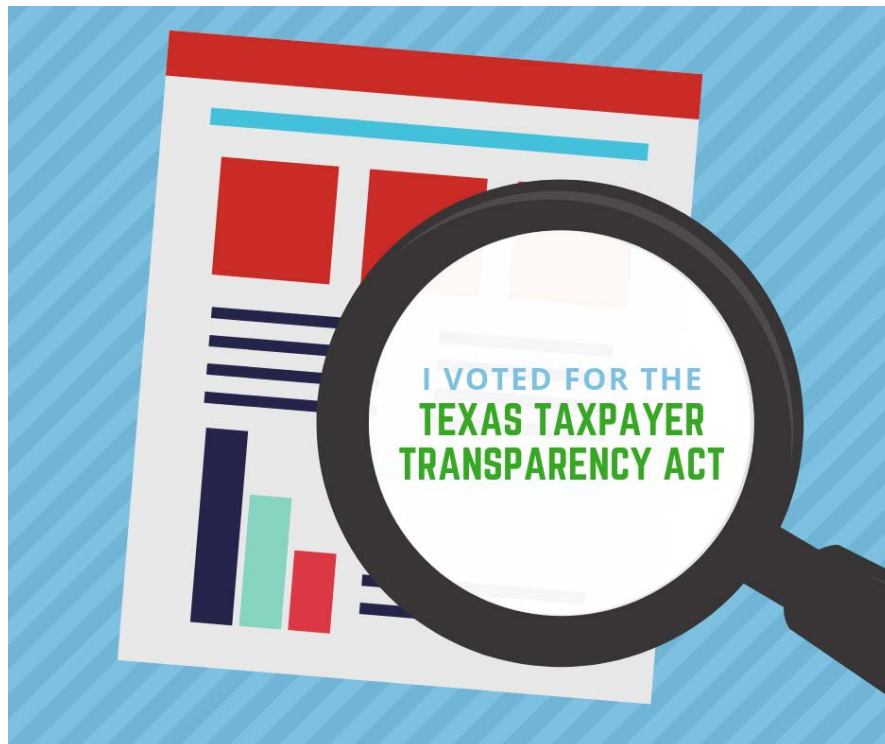
Equipping them with the resources to meet the demands of growing student populations



Allowing districts to earn and keep more money from local property taxes

Senate Bill 2 (Taxpayer Transparency)

I'm extremely proud to announce the Texas House has passed the Texas Taxpayer Transparency Act, which provides much needed transparency in the property tax system. Our current property tax system lacks transparency, which discourages taxpayers from getting involved. The act provides critical transparency mechanisms that empower taxpayers and voters with a say in the property tax rate-setting process. A more open process is beneficial to everyone, and taxpayers deserve every opportunity to weigh in on how their taxes are being raised and spent. This bill encourages taxpayers and local governments to work together in setting a budget and adopt property tax rates that meet the needs and obligations of their community and gives property owners the tools they need to make informed decisions about their property taxes by disclosing online and on tax notices who is proposing a rate increase, by how much, when and where they can go to make their voice heard at a public hearing. The bill also gives taxpayers the option of filling out a short online form to provide their opinion on the proposed rates, which is then sent directly to the taxing unit. I am glad to have authored a portion of the language for this bill and believe it is a step in the right direction for reform.



Leadership Belton's Day at the Capitol

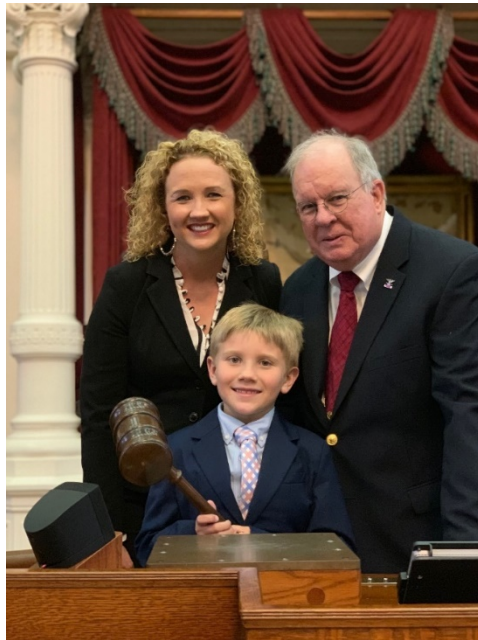


Leadership Belton has their day at the Capitol.

Highway Naming Bills

Representative Shine's two highway renaming bills, one honoring the memory of Senior Trooper Tom Nipper and the other honoring First Cavalry Division veterans. House Bill 338 creates a memorial highway on I-35 for Senior Trooper Tom Nipper at the location he was struck and killed in a crash while conducting a traffic stop. Trooper Nipper served in law enforcement for 44 years and is survived by his wife Tammy and three children; Michael, Amy, and Lori. The "First Cavalry Division Veterans Highway" is created on the stretch of I-14 in Bell County with House Bill 421. This road runs through Killeen, Harker Heights, and Fort Hood, where the First Cavalry Division has been stationed since 1971. Many service members and veterans live in the area and have a large impact on the community. The First Cavalry Division responds to every major military crisis America faces.

At the Capitol



Preston Bragg, pictured with his mother, Melissa Tyroch Bragg, serves on the floor as an honorary page.



National Champion Baylor women's basketball with members of the Texas House.

Congratulations to the 2019 Women's College Basketball National Champions, the Baylor Lady Bears! It was a pleasure to honor their incredible achievements this season on the House floor.

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.