

State Representative

John Raney

District 14 • Capitol Update

State of Texas

House of Representatives



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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The trust you have placed in me to represent District 14 in the Texas Legislature is appreciated. Serving as your State Representative is an honor, and working diligently to be an effective voice for you, the constituents of District 14, is a promise I will keep. My decisions will be made based upon the Constitution, the traditions of our state, reason, and my experience along with your input.

Since being sworn into office on December 23, 2011, I have attended hearings, participated in briefings, become better acquainted with other House members and have met many agency officials. It has also been a pleasure attending quite a few events in Bryan and College Station as your State Representative. A favorite aspect of this position is the opportunity to meet many people. It has been thoroughly enjoyable getting to know many of you that I did not meet prior to becoming a public servant, and look forward to meeting more of you in the near future.

Although the Legislature is not currently in session, the House and Senate are working steadily. All of the standing and select committees are meeting around the state and examining issues that will result in significantly improving the state's manufacturing capabilities and providing an increase in transparency, accountability, and efficiency in state government.

Knowledge is best gained by engaging in conversation, whether verbal or written. We are here to serve you. Please communicate with us about the issues affecting you. By working together we can better face the challenges before us.

Sincerely,

John Raney
State Representative, District 14



82ND LEGISLATURE HOUSE COMMITTEE INTERIM CHARGES

After each session, in the fall, the speaker issues Interim Charges for House Committees.

Each committee is tasked with studying, evaluating, and coming up with recommendations to be considered during the next legislative session. This is done through a series of public meetings which seek input from various agencies, groups, and citizens and submitted in writing to the Legislature.

This interim, Speaker Joe Straus addressed important priorities including finding ways to strengthen our state's economy, review our transportation infrastructure, address our water challenges, improve wildfire response and find innovative ways to improve public and higher education. Speaker Straus has also assigned each committee the task of studying and making recommendations for improving the state's manufacturing capability and finding ways to increase transparency, accountability, and efficiency in state government.

Committee interim reports will be submitted no later than December 1, 2012 to the 83rd Legislature which convenes Tuesday, January 8, 2013.

I serve on the House Committee on Higher Education and the House Committee on Land and Resource Management. In addition to the charges as a whole, each committee is assigned specific charges.

Higher Education has been charged with the following:

- Review the various research funding programs available to institutions of higher education. Analyze the effectiveness of each program and recommend whether state funding should be continued. Consider whether the investments made in these programs are attracting research projects to Texas and whether more emphasis should be placed on policies that attract outside research funding to Texas. Consider whether maintaining multiple programs dilutes the state's efforts to attract groundbreaking research to Texas.
- Review potential improvements to transfer pathways within the state's higher education system. Examine the impact of transferability on timely degree



Rep. Schwertner, Rep. Raney, A&M Student Regent, John "Quinten" Womack, Rep. Workman, and Sen. Van de Putte attending the A&M Federal Biosecurity Contract Announcement in Austin on June 17, 2012.



Rep. Raney attending a House Committee on Higher Education hearing held jointly with the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Art III.

- completion. Study and recommend strategies to improve the "2+2" model as a low-cost degree option.
- Evaluate proposals for the state's next master plan for higher education beyond 2015, including a review of various metrics to measure successful outcomes in higher education.
 - Evaluate the funding, performance, and administration of the state's adult basic education programs. (Joint with the House Committee on Appropriations)
 - Examine the impact of research at state universities on the state economy. Identify ways to increase the partnership opportunities between private business and research institutions to enhance the commercialization of newly discovered technology. (Joint with the House Committee on Economic & Small Business Development)
 - Monitor the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 82nd Legislature

Land and Resource Management has been charged with the following:

- Examine the Cabin Program managed by the General Land Office. Review the history of the program, the current fee structure, and the renewal process and whether the program is achieving the goals for which it was created. Make appropriate legislative recommendations.
- Monitor and examine the ongoing litigation of Severance v. Patterson and its impact on the Texas Open Beaches Act.
- Examine the effectiveness of the Texas Private Real Property Rights Preservation Act (Chapter 2007, Government Code).
- Examine current regulatory authority available to municipalities in their extraterritorial jurisdiction. Make necessary legislative recommendations to ensure a proper balance between development activities and municipal regulations.
- Monitor the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 82nd Legislature.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

According to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), the state budget for fiscal 2012-13 authorizes total spending of \$173.5 billion in all funds, a decrease of \$14 billion, or 7.5%, from fiscal 2010-11 spending levels.

Each state agency, public institution of higher education, and appellate court is asked to make an additional 10% cut in their baseline Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for the upcoming 2014-15 biennium.

With so many competing demands for resources, it's essential for lawmakers to determine and provide a workable solution that streamlines government without compromising the safety and well-being of Texans.

For detailed information on the current budget, visit the Legislative Budget Board's website at www.lbb.state.tx.us.

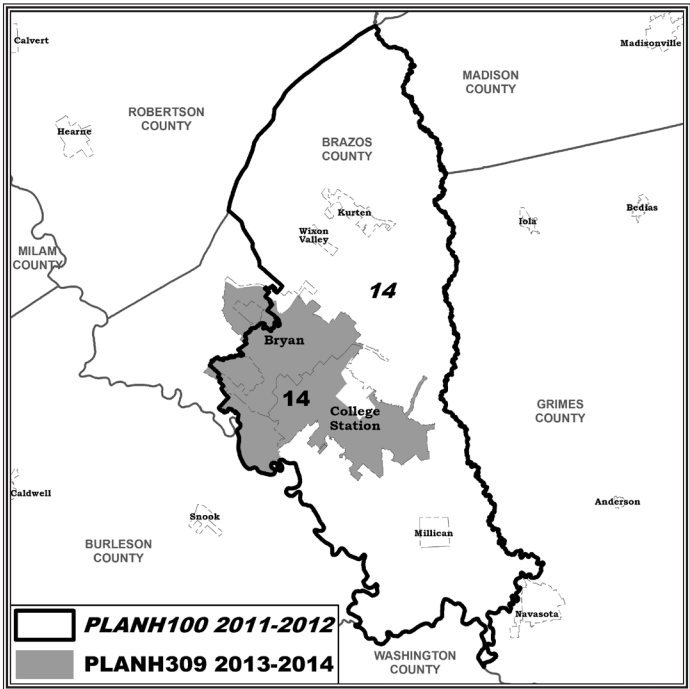


John visiting with constituents in Bryan.

REDISTRICTING

A brief overview of where we are today...

- Redistricting legislation is drafted every 10 years based on the previous year's census population data.
- The 82nd Legislature's HB 150, relating to the composition of the districts for the election of members of the Texas House of Representatives was sent to Governor Perry on May 24, 2011.
- Governor Perry signed HB 150 on June 17, 2011 to be effective August 29, 2011.
- Several suits were filed that challenged preclearance and the maps' equity in certain populations.
- The consolidated redistricting cases' trial began in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division, on September 6, 2011.
- On February 28, 2012 the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas ordered an interim house plan for the districts used to elect members to the Texas House of Representatives (PlanH309) which will be in effect beginning January 1, 2013.



Ribbon cutting ceremony on June 19, 2012 at the new District 14 Office location hosted by the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce.



State Representative
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CAPITOL OFFICE


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District 14



Answering to You

I am accountable to you so, please don't hesitate to ask questions, request assistance, or give feedback.
Being accessible is a top priority of mine.

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www.house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=14

DISTRICT OFFICE

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GOVERNMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS
State of Texas Helpful Numbers

Aging & Disability Services	1-512-438-3011	Injured Worker's Hotline	1-800-252-7031
Child, Disabled & Elder Abuse Hotline	1-800-252-5400	Medicaid	1-800-252-8263
Child Support Info Line	1-800-252-8014	Medicare	1-800-633-4227
Commission on Environmental Quality	1-512-239-1000	Nursing Home Complaints & Info	1-800-458-9858
Consumer Protection	1-800-621-0508	Roadside Emergency	1-800-525-5555
Crime Victims Services	1-800-983-9933	State Bar Legal Referral Service	1-800-252-9690
Department of Public Safety	1-512-424-2000	Workers' Compensation	1-888-4TX-COMP
Drug & Alcohol Abuse Hotline	1-800-784-6776	Application Process	
Housing & Community Affairs	1-512-475-3800	Workforce Commission	1-800-939-6631
Income Assistance & Food Stamps	1-877-556-3663		
Online Resources			
The Texas Legislature • www.capitol.state.tx.us			
TexasOnline - (The Official Website of the State of Texas) • www.texasonline.com			
Rep. John Raney • www.house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=14			