



BRISCOE CAIN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 128



86TH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



BRISCOE CAIN
DISTRICT 128

Fellow Texans,

This newsletter's purpose is to provide a summary of the legislative actions taken over the course of the 86th Legislative Session which took place between January 10th and May 27th, 2019. It includes our office's priorities, the focus of the committees in which I serve, a constituent survey, and contact information for various government agencies as a resource to you and your families.

Serving House District 128 continues to be the greatest honor of my professional life. I am humbled to have been given the opportunity to represent the interests of the hardworking taxpayers and Texans that make up our district. If you ever have any questions, concerns, ideas, or thoughts of any kind that you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact the office. Thank you so much!

May God bless you and yours, and may God continue to bless the great State of Texas.

For Texas and Liberty,

Briscoe Cain
State Representative



Rep. Cain, his wife Bergundi and sons on the Texas House Floor

PROPERTY TAX REFORM

There is no other issue that was communicated to me by constituents and fellow Texans more than that of the need for Property Tax reform. In response I was a proud co-author of the most meaningful property tax reform package in decades:

Senate Bill 2: Slows property tax increases by limiting the amount of tax revenue that local taxing entities may raise without an election. If the tax revenue growth exceeds 3.5%, then voters will be given the opportunity to oppose such increases in an election for that purpose in November. The 3.5% automatic election trigger is lowered from the 8% “rollback rate,” which includes optional trigger for an election in most taxing entities. The bill contains numerous additional reforms to empower taxpayers such as additional emphasis on informing taxpayers of when and where hearings over proposed tax rates will be held and training improvements for arbitrators who hear property tax appeals.



Rep. Cain discussing the property tax system with Gov. Abbott.



Rep. Cain discussing the merits of policy on the Texas House floor.

SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM & PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

You cannot have true property tax reform and relief without restructuring how we fund our public schools in this State. They are intricately connected in that school finance relies on tax revenue raised through property taxes.

House Bill 3: Provides more than \$5 billion in property tax relief while also committing the state of Texas to ongoing relief over time through a method of ‘compression’ of an additional 2.5% per year starting in 2021. The bill reduces ‘recapture’ (i.e. ‘Robin Hood’) by over \$3.5 billion and requires school districts to undergo efficiency audits before presenting tax increase proposals to voters to help ensure that any tax money collected is being spent wisely. The bill provides for an additional \$4.5 billion in additional public education funding which includes increases in the basic formula funding allotment and incentive pay for our educators.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Our area of the state is all too familiar with natural disasters with the most recent example being the fallout of events in 2017 with Hurricane Harvey causing catastrophic damage amounting to upwards of \$125 billion in costs in its wake. The Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas studied the state’s response to Hurricane Harvey and examined ways to improve the state’s preparedness for hurricanes and other natural disasters and as a result several bills were passed this session as a response to the recommendations. Of those bills:

House Bill 5: Provided for a study as to how the state can improve the removal of debris left behind from a disaster with additional requirements to agencies such as the Texas Division of Emergency Management to develop a catastrophic debris management plan and model guide to be used by lower political subdivisions

House Bill 6: Required the Texas Division of Emergency Management to develop a disaster recovery task force to operate throughout a long-term recovery period to address specialized assistance issues, financial issues, available federal assistance programs, and recovery and resiliency planning to speed recovery efforts.

★ PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERIM ★

ISSUES OF LIFE & LIBERTY

There were several bills filed that addressed specific issues on life and individual liberty but very few made it through the entirety of the legislative process. Perhaps one of the biggest disappointments this session was the lack of focus on the issue of life. There were a few bills that addressed nuance but even fewer did anything significant to protect the most vulnerable among us.

House Bill 1500: I filed the 'Heartbeat Bill' which would effectively prevent abortions upon a detectable heartbeat. The bill itself was never granted a hearing in the House Public Health Committee despite having the support of sixty-one other legislators. I intend to file this legislation again in the 87th Legislative Session and work during the interim to garner additional support to help protect and cultivate a culture of life in our state. Several states around the country adopted the same or similar bills into law and I am disappointed that Texas decided not to lead on this issue to be an example for the rest of the nation.

Having been the victim of infringement of our right to free expression on our institutions of higher education I went into the legislative session working to improve protections for individuals on our college campuses.

Senate Bill 18: Provides that a university may not discriminate against students, student groups, or invited speakers on the basis of viewpoint or content as well as requiring these institutions to establish disciplinary sanctions for students, organizations, or faculty who unduly interfere with the expressive activities of others on campus. Ultimately the bill as passed is a step in the right direction. I offered House Bill 2100 which provided for additional protections for individuals which passed out of the House chamber and was never granted a hearing in the Senate. I offered additional bill provisions as amendments to Senate Bill 18 which were adopted but later taken out when the bill went into a conference committee and ultimately were not included in the final version of the bill.



Rep. Cain discussing provisions in a bill with the House Parliamentarian.

ELECTION INTEGRITY



The House Elections Committee Members.

I am honored to serve on the House Elections Committee where we deliberated many bills seeking to protect the integrity of our election system.

House Bill 831: Clarified how an individual may satisfy the continuous residency requirements for holding public office if they can confirm their intent to return to a residence after a temporary absence

House Bill 1888: Requires election polling places to remain open at set locations throughout the early voting period which as a result will prevent election officials from using temporary branch polling places to target certain populations on certain days or at specific times to the exclusion of others.

★ CONSTITUENT SURVEY ★

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

★ ★ ★

Would you support providing more funds to both build newer and improve existing roads for Texans?

Yes No

Should the State of Texas continue to encourage businesses to relocate here with tax incentives or other means?

Yes No

Do you support parental choice when it comes to selecting the school in which a child attends?

Yes No

Please circle the most important legislative issue:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Border Security | Criminal Justice Reform | Property Taxes | Healthcare |
| Public Education | Religious Freedom | Tax Relief | Transportation |
| Second Amendment Rights | Budget | Immigration | Higher Education |

Do you have any other comments or concerns?

★ ★ ★

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Your feedback is important and will allow me to better serve as your voice in Austin
when the legislature convenes again.

Sincerely,



★ IMPORTANT DATES & TOUR INFORMATION ★

GENERAL DATES

- September 2, 2019 – Labor Day
- September 17, 2019 – Constitution Day
- October 7, 2019 – Last Day to Register to Vote
- October 21, 2019 – First Day of Early Voting
- November 1, 2019 – Last Day of Early Voting
- November 5, 2019 – General Election Day
- November 11, 2019 – Veterans Day
- November 28, 2019 – Thanksgiving

Legislative Calendar

- January 8, 2021 – 87th Legislative Session Begins
- May 27, 2021 – 87th Legislative Session Ends (Sine Die)

TOUR INFORMATION

The Texas State Capitol and Capitol grounds are one of the most popular attractions in Austin and a favorite spot for many school groups as well. Other nearby interests are the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and the Capitol Complex Visitors Center. For more information about the activities and tours, visit the website provided below or contact our office for assistance.

Texas Capitol & Visitors Center
www.tspb.texas.gov/CVC/home/home.html
 (512) 305-8402

The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum
www.thehistoryoftexas.com • (512) 936-8746

LBJ Library & Museum (UT Austin Campus)
www.utexas.edu/tmm • (512) 721-0172

The Blanton Museum of Art (UT Austin Campus)
www.blantonmuseum.org • (512) 471-5025

★ FOLLOW THE LEGISLATURE ★

- Texas Legislature Online* – www.capitol.texas.gov
- Texas Senate Online* – www.senate.texas.gov
- Texas House Online* – www.house.texas.gov
- Legislative Reference Library* – www.lrl.texas.gov



Rep. Cain discussing legislation with fellow Houston area legislator Rep. Senfronia Thompson.



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Committees: Elections • International Relations & Economic Development

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USEFUL STATE GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

- | | |
|---|---|
| Governor of Texas gov.texas.gov | Texas 2-1-1 (United Way)211.org |
| Texas Senate senate.texas.gov | Texas Education Agencytea.texas.gov |
| Texas House of Representativeshouse.texas.gov | Texas Department of Motor Vehicles txdmv.gov |
| State of Texas texas.gov | Texas Department of Transportation..... txdot.gov |
| Texas Legislature Online..... capitol.texas.gov | Texas Department of Public Safety txdps.texas.gov |
| Office of the Attorney General.....oag.texas.gov | Texas Department of Insurancetdi.texas.gov |
| Health & Human Services Commission.....hhsc.texas.gov | Texas Parks & Wildlife Department..... tpwd.texas.gov |
| Medicaid, Food Stamps, & TANF yourtexasbenefits.com | Texas Workforce Commission twc.texas.gov |
| Child/Elder Abuse Reporting..... txabusehotline.org | Texas Veterans Commission tvc.texas.gov |