



Paul Bettencourt

An Open Letter to the Citizens of Senate District 7



SENATOR PAUL BETTENCOURT
DISTRICT 7

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for the privilege to serve you in the Texas Senate – it was an honor to return to Austin for a fifth legislative session and represent Senate District 7!

In this newsletter, I want to share some remarkable accomplishments the Texas Legislature achieved during the 88th Legislative Session which will keep Texas the best State in the Union!

During the 88th Legislative Session, I was reappointed Chair of the Senate Committee on Local Government by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and passed 43 bills as the primary Senate author or sponsor to Governor Greg Abbott's desk. In addition, I served as the joint author, co-author, or co-sponsor of over 33 bills for a total of over 76 bills passed during the 88th Legislative Session.

As a tireless champion for property tax relief for over 20 years, one of my top priorities every session is to be a leading advocate for Texas taxpayers. The second Special Session was exceptional for taxpayers. The Legislature passed my bills SB 2 and SB 3 which create an unprecedented record \$18 billion property tax reduction plan that increases the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000 for all 5.72 million homesteads, doubles the franchise tax exemption, and a whole lot more. It took longer than I thought, an entire regular session plus two special sessions (LOL), but it's rewarding when you, the voters, get to vote on a record \$18 billion property tax reduction plan on November 7th.

But wait, we're not done yet! The session I also spearheaded major reforms that increased election transparency and security, cracked down on catalytic converter crime rings & street racers, stopped Public Facility Corporations (PFCs) from ripping billions of dollars off the tax rolls outside of their jurisdiction, empowered residents to leave municipality Extraterritorial Jurisdictions (ETJs), protected children from pornography in schools, and much more. We would need extra pages in this newsletter to tell it all to you!

My Senate office team operated at "warp speed" during this session. Sometimes committee hearings and floor debates spilled into the early morning hours. However, we did occasionally "stop" for a bit of fun too! Some of our favorite memories included working with Houston icon Jim McIngvale, "Mattress Mack", on election reform, talking with actress Jennifer Garner about developing kids' early reading skills, greeting former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson as he entered the Capitol, and getting to meet and hear from actor Dennis Quaid about his narration of the "Grid Down, Power Up" documentary.

At the time of writing, there may be another Special Session on education in the fall where my bills on special education funding, truancy, and virtual learning will hopefully be considered.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you and be the voice for Senate District 7 here at the Texas State Capitol. God Bless Texas!

Sincerely,

Senator Paul Bettencourt



Lt. Governor Dan Patrick joins the photo of my Senate District 7 Staff members!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 88th TEXAS LEGISLATURE

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

We passed a record \$18 billion property tax reduction plan! To paraphrase one national publication, "One state is doing an \$18 billion property tax reduction bill, and it's the State of Texas." I'm proud to have authored SB 2 and SB 3, two huge bills in this outstanding \$18 billion property tax reduction deal. SB 2, SB 3, and HJR 2 are a WIN-WIN-WIN! All residential and commercial real property taxpayers WIN! All 5.72 million homestead owners win, with an eye-popping average 41.5% savings of \$1373 year after year! This package is the largest property tax reduction plan in the history of Texas and the United States. It's Texas-sized nationally! That's what we do in Texas, we come up with Texas-sized solutions to Texas-sized challenges. There is nothing better than to be able to say to every Taxpayer in the state, "Your ISD property tax rate is coming down substantially!"

The huge WIN is SB 2, a self-described Texas "two-step," that will increase the Texas homestead exemption to \$100k for school ISD property tax bills and has \$7.3 billion of school ISD property M&O tax rate compression (23.8%) statewide, plus give a 20% circuit-breaker on appraised value increases to non-homesteaded real property valued at \$5 million and under as a 3-year pilot program. School districts will be held harmless on these changes and they will get \$642 million I&S debt relief with the \$100k homestead exemption. So, that's a WIN for school districts too! But wait, there's more!

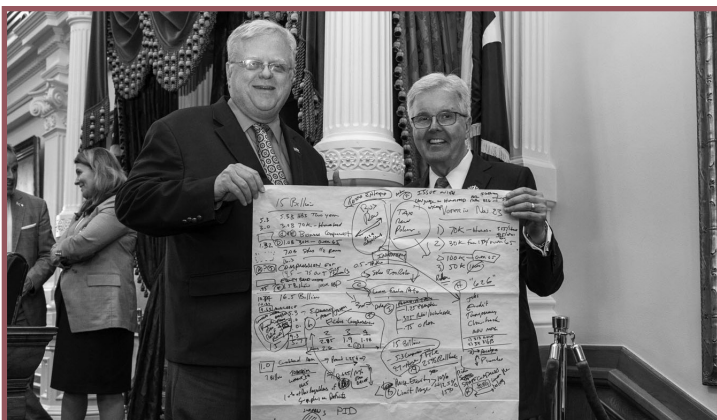
Three county citizens will be elected county-wide to each County Appraisal District (CAD) board of directors in non-partisan positions. The CAD board of directors will now select Appraisal Review Board (ARB) members in each county of 75k population or greater. We're not done yet!

SB 3, joint-authored by Senator Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound), will double the franchise tax exemption resulting in an estimated 67k businesses no longer paying a franchise tax. It will also eliminate a "nuisance tax" for 1.7 million taxpayers filing the no-tax-due forms for franchise taxes.

The Texas Senate and House have passed the largest property tax cut in Texas history, and the final approval will be from the voters of the State of Texas on November 7, 2023. Below are the bullet points of what is on the November 7th ballot for voter approval.

- Increase Texas homestead exemption to \$100k on 5.72 million Texas homeowners' ISD property tax bills, effective on this year's property tax bill.
- Approve a "catch-up" for those over-65 and disabled for the \$15k homestead exemption increase adjustment in the May 2022 state-wide election.
- Approve a 20% "circuit-breaker" on appraised value increases for non-homestead real property valued at \$5 million and under as a 3-year pilot project.
- Three county citizens will be elected county-wide to each County Appraisal District (CAD) board of directors in non-partisan positions. The CAD board of directors will now select Appraisal Review Board (ARB) members in each county of 75k population or greater.
- Make sure property tax relief does not exceed the constitutional spending limit.

So, Let the People Vote on Prop 4!



Lt. Governor Patrick and I holding my notes from our first joint meeting on property taxes after the record \$18 billion passed both the House and Senate.

Average Homestead Relief from SB 2 & HJR 2, 88th Legislature, 2nd Called Special			
Senate Bill 2 Plan	Policy	Year 1 Relief	Year 2 Relief
1	GAA SCP Decrease (\$0.0939 cut in 2024, \$0.1098 cut in 2025)	\$273.51	\$319.52
2	MCR Reduction (10.7 cent cut in 2023-2024 school year, continuing)	\$311.37	\$311.37
3	+\$60k HE	\$681.42	\$681.42
4	+\$15k tax ceiling adjustment for May 2022 relief	\$170.36	\$170.36
	Avg. Regular Homeowner Total Savings (1+2+3)	\$1,266.30	\$1,312.31
	Avg. Over 65/Disabled Homeowner Total Savings (1+2+3+4)	\$1,436.66	\$1,482.67
	Avg. Homeowner Property Tax Savings	\$1,373.00	

Note 1: Calculations assume savings on a \$331,000 homestead, and a total school district taxing rate of \$1.1357.

*Prepared by the Office of Senator Paul Bettencourt

The chart above shows the expected SB 2 savings for 5.72 Million Homeowners on their ISD tax bills.

ELECTION INTEGRITY

Voters should have confidence in their elections. When they see botched election after botched election, that confidence gets crushed. For example, a botched primary election in Harris County caused the first appointed Elections Administrator (EA) to resign. Then in the 2022 November general election, numerous election problems occurred in Harris County, where the second appointed Elections Administrator managed the election. Polls weren't supplied enough ballot paper, polling locations opened late, and voting equipment malfunctioned according to a report by KHOU 11. At that point I knew major reforms needed to happen this session to restore public trust in the election system.

When we originally filed SB 1750, it was set to revert the management of elections back to elected officials in counties with populations over one million. However, after receiving feedback from almost all of the affected counties, and listening to troublesome testimony from the public, it was clear Harris County elections needed to be returned to the County Tax Assessor Collector and Clerk. During a hearing in the Senate Committee on State Affairs, a Harris County Election Judge testified that she was spit on by a voter who was upset they ran out of paper ballots at the polls. During another hearing in the House a different Election Judge testified that they weren't resupplied with paper ballots from their Elections Administrator's office until 9:00 p.m. You can't write this script! SB 1750 passed with bipartisan support and will revert the management of elections in Harris County back to elected officials who will be accountable to the public. This bill is truly about performance, not politics.



Sen. Bettencourt talks election integrity with Chairman Hughes.

After the November 2022 general election in Harris County, citizens wanted to discover what happened concerning the election fiascos. Houston icon Jim McIngvale, affectionately known as "Mattress Mack," and Wayne Dolcefino filed a lawsuit against Harris County's elections office for information. According to Mr. McIngvale and Mr. Dolcefino, they tried six times to get public information from Harris County about the election and were denied each time. The Elections Administrator's Office claimed that they couldn't release any public records by claiming the litigation

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 88th TEXAS LEGISLATURE

exception, which delays releasing the records to the public by seeking a Texas attorney general opinion on whether or not to produce documents. The AG ruled to release the records, and another of my SBs, 1910, passed as part of HB 3033 that eliminated this litigation exemption entirely.

Additionally, I passed SB 1933, which will further address issues listed above with elections in Harris County by creating a process to provide the chief elections officer of the State of Texas, the Secretary of State, with the ability to investigate election administration problems, provide administrative oversight, and have a process for removing ineffective county election officials. SB 1933 was originally encompassing the entire state but was amended to only Harris County during the legislative process. I'm proud of the work we've done this session to shine a light on Texas elections so Texas elections can forever be open & transparent! These bills will be codified into Texas law September 1st.



Mattress Mac, Pastor Buntrock, & Wayne Dolcefino testify for my Senate Bill.

EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTIONS (ETJs)

No regulation without representation! That's why I passed SB 2038, sponsored by Representative Cecil Bell (R-Magnolia) and Representative Mike Scofield (R-Katy). No government should be able to impose rules and regulations on your property when you have no say on the laws or regulations, no say on who's creating the laws and regulations, and no pathway to remove yourself from it. For a long time, property owners in ETJs had no way out.

Originally, the State of Texas expanded the power of municipalities to enforce municipal rules and regulations "to promote and protect the general health, safety, and welfare of persons residing in and adjacent to the municipalities." However, municipalities were given a broad authority to accomplish their original objective, opening a door for abuse. This abuse culminated with involuntary annexation, a practice where a municipality would annex land around it without consent from the annexed residents.

However, beginning September 1st, 2023, SB 2038 creates a universal de-annexation process allowing residents who are unsatisfied with their ETJ to leave through letter, petition, and election procedures.

PUBLIC FACILITY CORPORATIONS (PFCs)

The Texas Legislature created the Public Facility Corporation (PFC) tax exemption tool to allow charitable organizations to develop affordable housing as a public benefit. However, the PFC tool was being abused creating property tax shelters that were taking billions of dollars off the tax rolls. The public testimony heard in our Senate Local Government Committee on PFCs was disturbing. Many of these deals produced no affordable housing units and often left smaller taxing jurisdictions surprised when the valuable property was suddenly made tax-exempt without notice or the approval of the taxing unit's governing body.

For example, the Williamson County Treasurer, Scott Heselmeyer, talked about the city of Jarrell not knowing that value was being taken off their tax rolls. Then, Mayor Hughson of San Marcos testified about a luxury apartment complex in Hays County that paid \$366,000 in property taxes in 2021—then turned into a PFC with a 99-year lease, claiming a total property tax exemption of \$463,000 for 2022.

I sponsored HB 2071 by Representative Jacey Jetton (R-Richmond) in the Senate to slam guardrails on PFC acquisitions. Now PFC development must be located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the sponsoring entity. A developer must hold a public hearing at a meeting of the authority's governing body to approve the development. A PFC must be approved by a majority vote of the city council or commissioner's court. PFCs will also have rent restrictions enacted based on family size adjustment and income restrictions enacted based on family size adjustment. PFCs have been reformed.

JENNIFER GARNER VISIT

When actress Jennifer Garner came to the Texas Capitol, it was to discuss education policy. We discovered our "Shell-brat" and "Carbide-brat" connection as we share a joint history of families that worked and moved around the industry towns across America. It was great to see our joint interests in early education as well. Not only is "Jen" a talented actress, but she is also an informed advocate for helping kids learn to love reading!



Sen. Bettencourt with actress and education activist Jennifer Garner on the Senate Floor.

CHILD SAFETY

It's appalling that it must be said, but pornographic material shouldn't be distributed to students. Unfortunately, parents across the state reported finding pornographic materials in school libraries and classrooms. For example, a story by Texas Scorecard reported that in Fredericksburg, a concerned parent testified to the school board that inside FISD schools' books were passages normalizing student and teacher sexual relationships, graphic detailed sex scenes between minors, etc.

Saving children from predatory behavior like this can't take a backseat, and the Legislature acted fast. Working together as the Senate sponsor of HB 4520 with its author Representative Cody Harris (R-Palestine), we passed this bill with the intent to punish any debauched public school employees showing pornography to students. Under HB 4520, educational personnel who provide harmful material to a minor will have their educator license revoked, lose their pension, and be placed on the Do Not Hire Registry. Additionally, HB 4520 adds a felony offense of selling, distributing, or displaying harmful material to a minor to the list of offenses that disqualify a person from receiving retirement benefits from the Teacher Retirement System.

Two other bills I passed to make sure our kids are protected are SB 1469 and SB 1471. SB 1469 requires applicants at childcare facilities to disclose whether they have been charged with, adjudicated for, or convicted of having an inappropriate relationship with a minor.

SB 1471 allows private schools to do national background checks from any Texas law enforcement or criminal justice agency to ensure all pertinent criminal history is known. This is accomplished by requiring TEA to track individuals in the DPS clearinghouse that are applicants for employment and current and former employees at private schools that the Texas Private School of Accreditation Commission accredits.

HB 4520, SB 1469, and SB 1471 are important additions to make sure our most innocent and vulnerable Texas school children are safe.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

Texans will have the opportunity to approve the following amendments with a majority vote:

★ Proposition 1 (HJR 126)

“The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.”

★ Proposition 2 (SJR 64)

“The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a childcare facility.”

★ Proposition 3 (HJR 132)

“Proposing a constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual net worth or wealth tax.”

★ Proposition 4 (HJR 2, Special Session)

“The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the governing body of certain appraisal entities.”

★ Proposition 5 (HJR 3)

“The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy.”

★ Proposition 6 (SJR 75)

“The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.”

★ Proposition 7 (SJR 93)

“The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.”

★ Proposition 8 (HJR 125)

“The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.”

★ Proposition 9 (HJR 2)

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.”

★ Proposition 10 (SJR 87)

“The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain.”

★ Proposition 11 (SJR 32)

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.”

★ Proposition 12 (HJR 134)

“The constitutional amendment to abolish the office of county treasurer of Galveston County.”

★ Proposition 13 (HJR 107)

“The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.”

★ Proposition 14 (SJR 74)

“The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund.”

— MORE BILLS PASSED BY THE SENATE —

Harris County Sheriff Deputy Darren Almendarez was shot and killed when he interrupted three men attempting to steal the catalytic converter from his truck. Almost a year after his passing, the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice listened to his wife recount the horrific event during testimony on Senator Carol Alvarado’s (D-Houston) SB 224, a bill that cracks down on these violent crime rings stealing catalytic converters for the precious metals inside them. During her heart wrenching testimony, Deputy Almendarez’s wife told us that Darren told her to “never give up.” That’s the attitude the entire committee adopted to ensure this bill, named after Deputy Almendarez, crossed the finish line. Dean John Whitmire summarized it well: “No pride of authorship, let’s just get the job done.”

Senator Alvarado and I agreed to a suggestion by committee chair John Whitmire (D-Houston) to add my SB 465, which included new enforcement statutes for law enforcement by adding a criminal mischief statute and engaging in organized criminal activity as enhancements that can be added to offenses committed for converter theft, to Senator Alvarado’s bill. SB 224 passed both chambers unanimously and was

signed by the Governor on May 29, 2023. We got the job done and cracked down on criminal rings stealing catalytic converters.

Additionally, the Legislature also pumped the brakes on the dangerous trend of street takeovers and racing. In viral internet videos from February 2023, the City of Austin suffered seven street takeover events in one night! Suspects threw fireworks as police vehicles backed away from approaching mobs. Meanwhile, other groups blocked and set streets on fire while performing dangerous maneuvers with their cars.

In Houston, it was reported arrests have been made almost weekly through 2023 for street and parking lot takeovers. ABC13 discovered that in 2022, the district attorney’s office handled 1,000 street racing cases, which resulted in 200 cars being seized. It was time to give police more tools to take back the streets. That’s why I sponsored and passed HB 1442 by Representative Ann Johnson (D-Houston), which clarifies that criminal conduct involving reckless driving exhibitions or racing on a highway can lead to forfeiture of any vehicles.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Senate Committee on Local Government passed 266 bills, the most of any standing committee in the Texas Senate. We reformed affordable housing, streamlined city permitting, and even eliminated unnecessary local government entities. This is thanks to the hard work done by the committee staff and members: Vice-Chair Drew Springer (R-Muenster), Senator Sarah Eckhardt (D-Austin), Senator Roland Gutierrez (D-San Antonio), Senator Bob Hall (R-Rockwall), Senator Robert Nichols (R-Nacogdoches), Senator Tan Parker (R-Flower Mound), Senator Angela Paxton (R-Allen), and Senator Royce West (R-Dallas).

Texas is booming, but the continued growth leads to municipal building and planning departments backlogged with permit applications. Homebuilders and remodelers are frequently delayed, watching costs increase while waiting for a city to review plans, plats, and permits while also waiting for building code inspectors to visit projects to approve in-process and completed work. It's important to be able to streamline the permitting process so developers can keep up with the Texas economy, or else we will fall behind. As the Senate sponsor of HB 14 by Representative Cody Harris, this bill will allow builders and remodelers to utilize licensed third-party reviews and inspections. It also requires cities to accept certified, independent third-party reviews in inspections when projects become delayed by a city's planning and building department. These changes will help slash bureaucratic red tape and ensure our housing market keeps up with our economy!

During the 86th Legislative Session SB 2 property tax reform discussions, local government units were granted the authority to "bank" unused increment "pennies" of tax that can be levied in future tax years to incentivize local governments to minimize property tax increases in current tax years. However, the unused increment rate confused government officials and taxpayers in its calculation and levy. In certain circumstances, the levy of unused increment pennies on an inflated tax base in future years created shocks for certain taxpayers. SB 1999 was passed to simplify the unused increment to a fixed dollar amount that a local government may carry so that the incentive to keep tax levies low in the current tax year remains for local governments while minimizing shocks to taxpayers in future tax years if the increment is levied.

ALAN VERA MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

On May 4th my friend and constituent Alan Vera came to testify at the Texas Capitol and passed away. As a U.S. Army Veteran, he brought his sense of service to the Capitol, where he was a standard fixture at Senate State Affairs and House Elections Committee hearings. The

Texas Senate came together only hours after Alan's passing and honored his life on the Senate floor. At my request, DPS officers pulled down the Texas Flag because of a death in the Capitol for the first time in 37 years and Pastor James Buntrock delivered it to his widow, Colleen.

S.R. No. 520
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 520
In Memory
Alan D. Vera

WHEREAS, Family and friends have suffered an immeasurable loss with the untimely passing of Alan D. Vera of Houston on May 4, 2023, at the age of 75, having recently celebrated his birthday on April 20 in the House Elections Committee; and

WHEREAS, Before beginning his successful business career, Alan Vera graduated magna cum laude from Cornell University with a degree in political and military science; Alan valiantly served his country as an airborne paratrooper in the United States Army from 1970 to 1974 and received multiple awards and unit citations for his service; during the Vietnam War, Mr. Vera completed 22 nighttime jumps behind enemy lines; and

WHEREAS, After his military career, Alan Vera served as the president and chief executive officer of Quest Business Agency beginning in 1984; he received many honors over the course of his distinguished business career, including his success and innovation in his field, including such accolades as Marketeer of the Year from the American Marketing Association and Vendor of the Year from FedEx Retail Operations; and

WHEREAS, Alan Vera was one of the original founders of Free the Vote and served as the Ballot Security chairman for the Harris County Republican Party since 2014; he worked with members of both chambers of the Texas Legislature to write legislation to improve election integrity and was named legislator of the Year for Senate District 7 by the State Republican Executive Committee; Mr. Vera and his wife, Colleen, were honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Harris County Republican Party at the Lincoln Reagan Dinner on March 23, 2022; Mr. Vera practiced his strong Christian faith for the good he had accomplished in his life; and

WHEREAS, Although his journey on this earth ended too soon, Mr. Vera found great fulfillment in his work at the State Capitol, where he was present at the time of his passing to contribute his testimony on election integrity bills; Alan Vera made a positive impact in the lives of countless people through his compassion, empathy, and kindness, and his memory will forever be cherished by his family and friends and by all who were privileged to share in his life; and

RESOLVED, that the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Alan D. Vera and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: his wife, Colleen Vera; his seven children; his six beautiful grandchildren; and his many loving extended relatives; and, be it further:

S.R. No. 520

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Alan Vera.

Bettencourt

Alvarado	Simpson	Nichols
Airdeell	Huffman	Parker
Blanco	Stephens	Pastor
Campbell	Johnson	Perry
Twight	King	Shelton
Eckhardt	Kolthoff	Sparks
Flower	LaMarra	Springer
Gutierrez	Masden	West
Hall	Middleton	Whitacre
Hancock	Miles	Zaffirini

Patrick, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 4, 2023, by a listing vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

BORIS JOHNSON GREETING

Tally-ho! You never know who you'll run into at the Texas Capitol. Greeting former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson walking in at the East entrance was pretty cool. The Prime Minister asked if I had been passing any good bills lately, and I shared with him a couple of Senate Bills on election integrity, SB 1750 & SB 1933, that had just rocketed out of the Texas Senate! He asked if we had Photo ID to vote in Texas, and I said "Yes, of course!"



Former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson gave me the thumbs up!

— ABOUT SENATOR BETTENCOURT —

First elected to the Senate in 2014, Senator Paul Bettencourt represents Senate District 7, which encompasses most of West Harris County and nine precincts in Montgomery County. Senator Bettencourt is the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Local Government and serves on the Senate Finance, Education, Criminal Justice, and State Affairs Committees. He previously served ten years as the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector and is well known with the nickname of the "Taxman" for his outspoken efforts to cut property taxes. He is also a radio and television personality. A Bachelor of Science graduate of Texas A&M University in industrial distribution, Senator Bettencourt and his wife, Susan, are small business owners in Houston. They are also active members of Saint John Vianney Catholic Church, where Senator Bettencourt is a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus. They have two adult children.



Sen. Bettencourt and his wife Susan on the Senate Floor the first day of the 88th Legislative Session.

Helpful Phone Numbers for District 7 from State Senator Paul Bettencourt

General Help & Services	2 - 1 - 1
Cancer Information Service	(800) 4-CANCER
Child Support Hotline	(800) 252-8014
Consumer Protection Hotline	(800) 621-0508
Governor's Assist. Hotline	(800) 843-5789
Elections Division	(800) 252-VOTE
Social Security Administration	(800) 772-1213
Lawyer Referral Service	(800) 252-9690
Crime Victim Clearinghouse	(800) 848-4284
Immunization Shotline	(800) 252-9152
Medicaid Hotline	(800) 252-8263
WIC Hotline	(800) 942-3678
Nursing Home Complaints	(800) 458-9858
Rehabilitative Services	(800) 792-1109
SSI/Food Stamp Hotline	(877) 541-7905
Injured Worker Hotline	(800) 252-7031
Child Care Information	(800) 862-5252
Unemployment Hotline	(800) 558-8321

Government Resources Online

Texas Senate
www.senate.state.tx.us

Texas House of Representatives
www.house.state.tx.us

Secretary of State
www.sos.state.tx.us

Texas Comptroller
www.window.state.tx.us

Texas Legislature Online
www.capitol.state.tx.us

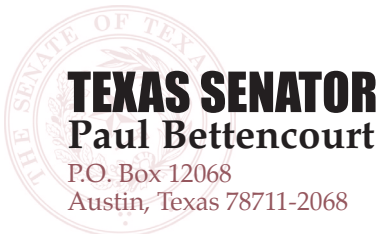
Texas Governor
www.governor.state.tx.us

Texas Attorney General
www.oag.state.tx.us

Texas Department of Agriculture
www.agr.state.tx.us

Texas General Land Office
www.glo.state.tx.us

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If you are interested in having Senator Bettencourt speak to your group or organization, please contact his Capitol Office at (512) 463-0107. He is available to provide legislative updates or speak on specific issues, like his favorite - property taxes.

For additional online government services visit:
texasonline.state.tx.us

