



The Flynn Report

March 27, 2009

Greetings Friends, Constituents and Supporters:

After riding what has seemed like a very fast moving rocking chair that was going nowhere the Texas House now appears to have picked up wheels and is beginning to move.

A record amount of 7,325 bills and proposed constitutional amendments has been filed for the 2009 regular session. This session of the Texas Legislature in the House and Senate we are seeing the largest number of legislative packages filed, in terms of quantity, have come from the Democrats.

Texas House and Senate members have submitted almost a thousand more bills and joint resolutions proposing constitutional revisions than was submitted in 2007 by the 80th Legislative regular session.

Legislative Counsel reported that House members have filed 4,836 measures compared to 2,488 by the Senate. The number of bills could rise even more if a member receives permission to do so from a supermajority of the members even though the deadline for filing bills has passed.

In a meeting in Fort Worth with local business leaders this week Speaker Joe Straus indicated the priorities of the 81st Legislature will continue to be the (1) Budget deficits; (2) Unemployment insurance; (3) Higher education; (4) Water; (5) Education and (6) Voter ID. This coincides with the comments I have been making over the last few reports believing the top priorities of this session will remain Voter Photo ID and the Budget including the Federal Stimulus funds package.

We believe the Voter Photo ID bill filed by Representative Betty Brown and Joint Authored by myself passes the litmus test of the Supreme Court that recently upheld a similar law in Indiana. It is supported across Texas by overwhelming majorities that feel there should be a requirement to have a photo identification to vote. We simply cannot allow Texans to have their votes cancelled out by people who should not lawfully vote or those voting multiple times, whether under a fake name or the name of someone who is deceased. We will work towards that means.

We will balance the budget and our efforts will continue to be to work to pass stronger spending limitations; limit the use of the Rainy Day Fund to only emergency tax relief or one-time emergency spending items limited to disaster-related expenses. We must limit the use of any federal stimulus funds to one-time expenditures and avoid expanding any on-going programs.

On a very positive note Texas was again ranked number one in two very important categories; Government Transparency and Economic Climate. "*Chief Executive Magazine*" for the fourth year in a row based on a survey of CEOs finds that Texas was responsible for approximately 80% of all the new jobs created in the United States last year and our unemployment rate remains below the national rate. In a report by "*Sunshine Week Campaign*", a national group of journalist that focuses on open government and access to information. Texas remains on top of all 50 states in online transparency and meets all of the 20 categories for access to information concerning governments.

It remains my pleasure and honor to represent all the people of House District 2. My staff and I continue to welcome your input and your questions feel free to contact me: P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768. Email District2.Flynn@house.state.tx.us. Toll free number 1-800-734-9515.

May God bless you and our Great State of Texas,

Dan Flynn
State Representative, District 2