



From the office of
Texas State Representative - Dan Flynn

THE FLYNN REPORT

June 30, 2004

Greetings constituents, supporters and friends:

Will there be another special session of the Texas Legislature? When do you think the next special session will be called? The answer? Only Governor Rick Perry knows if and when. He has been consistent in saying he does not want to call another special session unless the House and the Senate have a consensus in what they can agree upon. I agree with that position and continue to support the efforts of the House to arrive with a plan that will give the citizens of Texas much needed property tax relief while continuing to strive to give the students of Texas excellence in education. This can only be done by revamping the tax code of Texas and therein lays the challenge.

The lawsuit filed by some school districts challenging the constitutionality of the present school finance system has been rescheduled for hearing Aug. 9. This lawsuit has added additional burden to the process as the outcome of that lawsuit could have a significant impact on legislative action.

The good news is both the House and the Senate in an effort to develop consensus among educators and the business community continue to work as they have for the last eighteen months. They have been taking public testimony and holding discussions with the major chambers of commerce and business leaders throughout the state to develop common areas of agreement on a business-backed school finance plan. These groups have also been working with education leaders to build a plan that will satisfy their needs and desires and one that can be agreed upon by both Houses the Governor and will be acceptable to the public.

For your information I have been attending and participating in these meetings and believe we are making progress. Everyone agrees that we want Texas to provide the best education possible for our students recognizing there are limits of funding and our citizens are demanding much need property tax relief.

Of all the plans I have heard I continue to believe the most fair method would be closing the loop holes in the existing Franchise Tax (only one in six business currently pay this tax) and provide property tax relief with an additional \$.01 sales tax that would be broad based and fairer than the current property tax system. I am on record that I will only support a revenue natural plan and am not in favor of creating a NEW tax without the elimination of an existing tax. Many groups are continuing to work towards this end and I will continue to be a part of efforts to solve this challenge.

I want to thank the Greenville Rotary Club's President Bill Rolston and President-Elect Rich Carter for allowing me the time to honor two of our local heroes, Stephen Hatchel and Jud Dozier. They were recognized for their efforts in saving Stephen's brother, Ben, from drowning during a recent fishing trip. What a joy to have fine young men like Stephen and Jud in our community.

During the month Representative Wayne Smith and I were privileged to represent Speaker Tom Craddick and Texas at a Governing Conference in Boston, Mass. We were again reminded we do things well (and even better!) in Texas.

Jeannie Prendergast of our Greenville District Office and I were able to visit with the mayors in their cities and listen to their concerns, challenges and opportunities. We visited Caddo Mills, Quinlan, Campbell, Celeste, Lone Oak and West Tawakoni. I really enjoyed spending time with the mayors in their cities and feel the meetings were most beneficial.

Former State Representative Rick Green and his staff are to be commended for their efforts in sponsoring the second annual Patriot Academy this month at the Capital in Austin. Thirty-five of the finest young men and women, ages 16 through 25, were in Austin as though they were the elected officials. They came having prepared their bills and went into the committee rooms to begin the debate process. If their bill passed out of committee they were sent to the actual House floor for debate. **This is a week of intense action of politics.** Volunteer State Representatives and some of the strongest minds in Texas on public policy mentor them. These cadets were taught the genius of our Patriarchs who crafted our Constitution. Green, the founder of Patriot Academy and his board is committed to educating our young people in the principals of our Founding Fathers. This is one of the greatest civic lessons our young people can learn by having hands on opportunities in committees and on the House Floor with State Representatives teaching them to learn and debate issues. Patriot Academy is worthy of your time, effort and money to assure it remains ongoing in educating our leaders of tomorrow. House District 2 was well represented with four cadets as well as my wife Susan assisting in making this a memorial week. I would challenge all to get involved in this worthwhile project. For additional information on Patriot Academy go to www.patriotacademy.com and think about assisting a worthy young person to next years Academy by being a mentor and financial supporter.

My staff and I welcome your input and your questions. You can reach us in our office located in the Capitol extension: E1.324. Mailing address: **P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX, 78768** phone number **512-463-0880**. **Canton District office** is located in The American National Bank Building in Canton on Highway 243: **P. O. Box 999, Canton, TX, 75103** phone number **903-567-0921**. **Greenville District office** is located in The Paul Mathews Exchange Building, Suite 802, 2500 Stonewall, Greenville phone number **903-455-0971**. Email: **dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us**.

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allow you to view updates on news, issues and photos. If you know someone who is not receiving our report please forward this email to them and let them know they can sign up

God bless you and God bless Texas,

Dan Flynn
State Representative, District - 2

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