



From the Desk of
Representative
Dan Flynn



The Flynn Report

September 19, 2004

Greetings constituents, supporters and friends:

I was delighted to have the opportunity to attend The Republican National Convention in New York City. Susan, my son, Josh, and my daughter, Tammy, and I spent a most enjoyable week together. Josh and I were honored to be national delegates to the Convention.

I considered doing a special addition of the *Flynn Report* dedicated to the Convention, but most of our email addresses have been saturated. However, I did want to point out that every day from early morning to late at night provided memorable comments around themes of national courage, protection of U.S. interests around the world, this wonderful land of opportunity, compassionate conservatives and hope for the future for our nation and our families.

President Bush recalled Ronald Reagan when he said, "His spirit of optimism, goodwill and decency are in this hall, and in our hearts, and will always define our party." The American people enjoyed hearing Democrat Senator Zell Miller, say, "I ask which leader is it today that has the vision, the willpower and, yes, the backbone to best protect my family? The clear answer to that question has placed me in this hall with you tonight, for my family is more important than my party. There is but one man to whom I am willing to entrust their future and that man's name is George W. Bush. ... He is not a slick talker but he is a straight shooter and, where I come from, deeds mean a lot more than words. I have knocked on the door of this man's soul and found someone home, a God-fearing man with a good heart and a spine of tempered steel."

Opportunity in America depends on a vibrant, growing economy. When President Bush came into office, the nation was sliding into a recession, with workers overburdened with federal taxes. The events of September 11th, hit our economy very hard. President Bush provided the greatest tax reduction in a generation, and the results are clear to see. Businesses are creating jobs. People are returning to work. Mortgage rates are low, and home ownership in this country is at an all-time high. The tax cuts are working.

I believe the President has made it very clear, there is a difference between leading a coalition of many, and submitting to the objections of a few. I am glad that this President will never seek a permission slip from anyone or any country to defend the American people. He has restored honor and decency to the White House and has proven he is a leader who is worthy under the most difficult of circumstances. He is plainspoken and does not speak with a Massachusetts dialect and his honor and humility resonate with the majority of Americans.

President Bush is a **defender of life** and believes **marriage is only between one man and one woman**. Since 2001, President Bush has **increased funding for veterans by over \$20 billion**, and funding for veterans' health care has increased by 40 percent since he took office. Funding for veterans has gone up twice as fast under President Bush as it did under the previous President, and those who accuse the President of cutting funding are simply not being honest.

I am proud that our country remains the hope of the oppressed, and the greatest force for good on this earth. President Bush said, "Freedom is not America's gift to the world; it is the Almighty God's gift to every man and woman in this world." I agree with him and am proud to stand with him and I encourage you to work towards his reelection and to vote to re-elect George W. Bush as our President in November.

DISTRICT COURT RULES ON PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE

Judge Dietz's and the District Court came out with the long awaited School Finance Ruling last week and the Court declares that **for the plaintiff districts and others**, the costs of meeting the constitutional mandate of adequacy and/or the statutory regime of accreditation, accountability, and assessment exceeds the maximum amount of revenues that are available under the State's current funding formulae. **Therefore, the State's school finance system fails to provide an adequate suitable education as required by Article VII, section 1 of the Texas Constitution.**

The Court went on to declare that for some plaintiff districts and others that are forced to tax at the \$1.50 statutory cap on the M&O tax rates, the districts have lost all meaningful discretion in setting the tax rate for their districts, thereby violating Article VIII, section 1 (e) of the Texas Constitution.

The Court declared that the State's school finance system is neither financially efficient nor efficient in the sense of providing for the mandated adequate education nor the statutory regime of accreditation, accountability, and assessment.

The Judge stated that he would enter an injunction that state funding of public schools cease unless the legislature conforms the school finance system to meet these constitutional standards. The effective date of the injunction could be as soon as October 1, 2004.

This ruling is in line with the action of the 78th Legislature when we voted to sunset the current system of financing public education. Many have said that “Robin Hood” is a flawed and broken system for public school finance, and Judge Dietz’s ruling simply confirmed that fact.

The Texas House tackled many of the education issues contained in the judge’s ruling during this year’s special legislative session. They will be addressed again in the coming regular session of the legislature in January. The Governor has said this will be a priority issue. To succeed, we will need the support from Texas homeowners, parents, the education establishment and the business community.

I am sure the Texas Attorney General will be appealing the ruling, and additional courts may well examine the school finance issue. However, the ruling does provide some direction to the Legislature on addressing the achievement gap, improving accountability and funding for poor and bilingual students, and the dropouts in Texas.

It’s important to remember that Texas legislators already make public school funding a top priority. Texas spends approximately \$30 billion per biennium on public education. State funding for public schools has increased \$7 billion since 1999.

In the 2004-2005 state budget passed last year, legislators dedicated 58.4% of all general revenue dollars to Texas public and higher education. Public school funding was increased \$1.1 billion in all funds over FY ’02-’03 levels.

My pledge is and will continue to be to press in future legislative action on school finance for cutting property taxes, improving education accountability and equity, helping Texas teachers and improving public school funding.

Wall Builders Event

A special fund raising event will be held this Saturday night, September 25th, at the Wyndham Arlington for David & Cheryl Barton for the Wall Builders Dinner Gala in Arlington. Governor Rick Perry is the keynote speaker. Seating for the main dinner will begin at 6:30p.m. and dinner will begin at 7:00p.m. in the Champion’s Ballroom on the second floor. If you have an interest in attending or being a part of this event please call 817.441.6044 or cell at 817.992.1439.

Golf Tournament

The second annual Dan Flynn First Monday Golf Tournament will be held at the Twin Lakes Country Club in Canton on Friday, October 1st. Everyone is invited to participate in the golfing event or a fun day of shopping at the world famous First Monday Trade Days. For additional information give Susan Flynn a call at 903-963-7611 or 903-520-0770. I look forward to seeing you there.

Change in Staff

With mixed feelings I announce that my Chief of Staff Rhita Koches has left my staff to become the Van Zandt County Judge. Rhita was an important part of my staff and we will miss her very much. We wish Rhita and her husband Gary the greatest success and know she will do an outstanding job for Van Zandt County.

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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God bless you and God bless Texas,

Dan Flynn
State Representative, District - 2

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