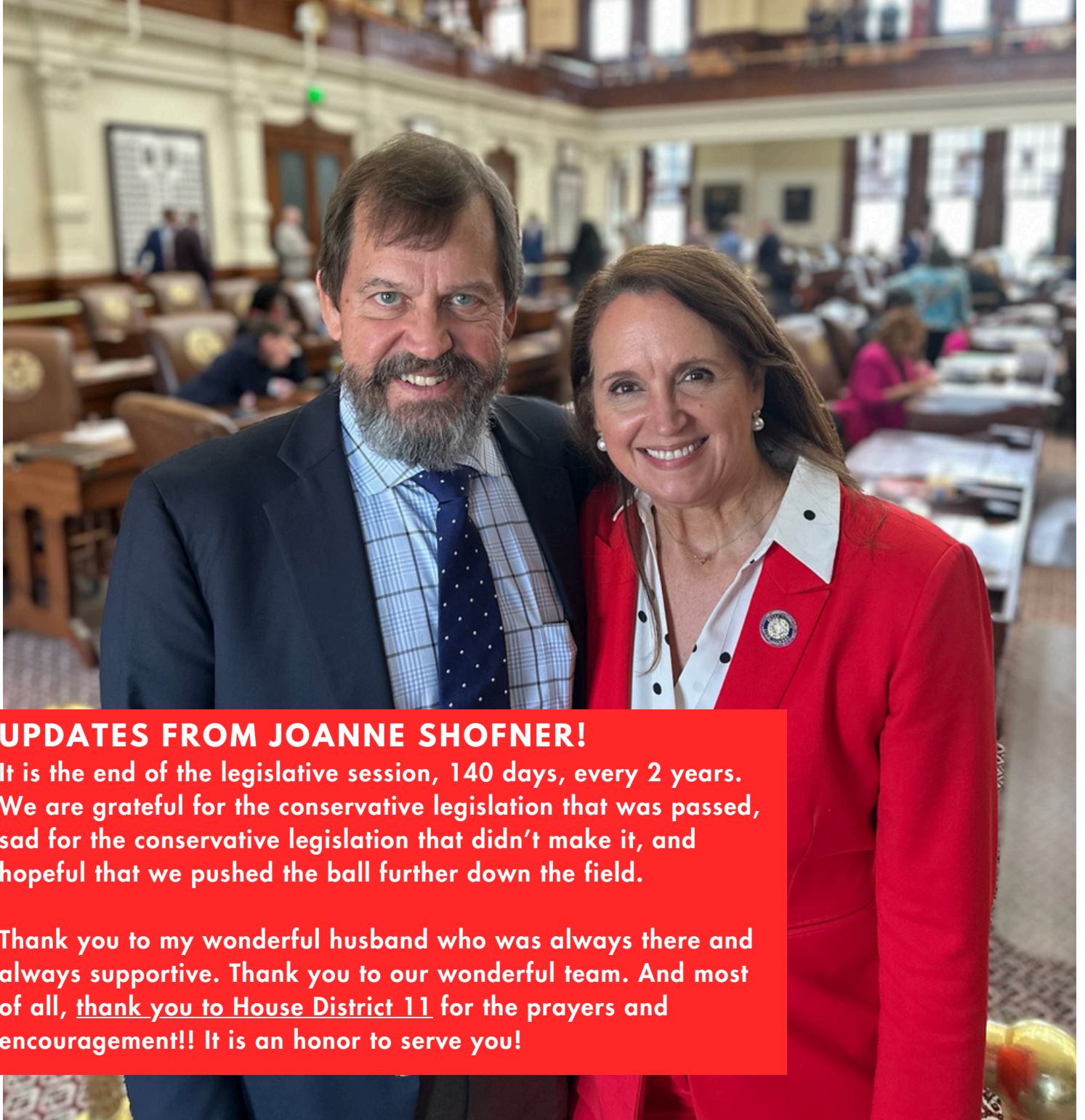


— JOANNE- SHOFNER

Texas State Representative, HD 11



UPDATES FROM JOANNE SHOFNER!

It is the end of the legislative session, 140 days, every 2 years. We are grateful for the conservative legislation that was passed, sad for the conservative legislation that didn't make it, and hopeful that we pushed the ball further down the field.

Thank you to my wonderful husband who was always there and always supportive. Thank you to our wonderful team. And most of all, thank you to House District 11 for the prayers and encouragement!! It is an honor to serve you!



For Immediate Release: June 6, 2025

AUSTIN, TX – State Representative Joanne Shofner (HD-11) marked the conclusion of the 140-day of the 89th Regular Legislative Session this week and reflects on the accomplishments for House District 11.

“We are grateful for the conservative legislation that was passed, sad for the conservative legislation that didn’t make it, and hopeful that we pushed the ball further down the field,” Shofner said. “Thank you to our wonderful team, our supportive families, and most of all, thank you to House District 11 for the prayers and encouragement. It is an honor to serve you.”

Notable accomplishments this session included historical educational achievements, infrastructure improvements, and tax relief legislation.

Shofner reflected on the end of her first term in office as an experience rooted in faith, hard work, and a deep commitment to the people of East Texas.

“From day one, I have stayed focused on representing the values of House District 11 with integrity and determination. I’m incredibly thankful for the trust my constituents have placed in me. Every vote I cast and every decision I make is guided by the responsibility I feel to honor that trust.”

“From empowering parents to investing in our teachers, defending our values, and delivering tax relief, this session moved Texas forward,” said Shofner. “We’re just getting started—and I look forward to continuing to be a strong voice for our communities, our families, and our shared Texas values in the work ahead.”

Joanne Shofner

89TH REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS RECORD BREAKING ACHIEVEMENTS PUBLIC EDUCATION \$8.5 BILLION IN PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING



JUNE 4, 2025: PROUD TO STAND ALONGSIDE HUNDREDS OF EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS AT SALADO MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SALADO, TEXAS WHILE THIS HISTORIC LEGISLATION WAS SIGNED INTO LAW.

Governor Abbott signed House Bill 2 into law to provide a record \$8.5 billion in new public education funding – the largest single increase in state history. The massive public education investment includes \$4.2 billion for the largest teacher pay increase for teacher and staff pay raises, ensuring every eligible teacher sees a raise while providing support to retain teachers in areas most needed. The perpetual fund for teacher pay raises will provide permanent raises for teachers with 3+ years of experience, incentivizing those educators to remain in the profession. House Bill 2 expands career and technical education, especially in rural areas, by increasing funding for high-demand fields and career training facilities. HB 2 also empowers educators to maintain discipline in classrooms, and invests in methods to recruit, train, certify and reward the next generations of teachers.

[READ HERE!](#)

PUBLIC EDUCATION \$8.5 BILLION IN PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

The historic \$8.5 billion in new funding for public education includes key investments:

- \$4.2 billion for teacher and staff pay raises and expansion of the Teacher Incentive Allotment, Texas' merit-based pay program
- \$153 million to expand career and technical education opportunities
- \$834 million for special education reforms
- \$648 million targeted to strategies for improving early literacy and numeracy
- \$187 million for teacher preparation and certification programs
- \$430 million to increase the school safety allotment
- \$1.3 billion for school district operational costs, including insurance, transportation, and utilities
- \$199 million to expand the charter school facilities allotment
- \$318 million to provide additional funding to small and rural schools
- \$296 million for adjustments to the Tier II funding formula, which provides a \$55 basic allotment increase per student

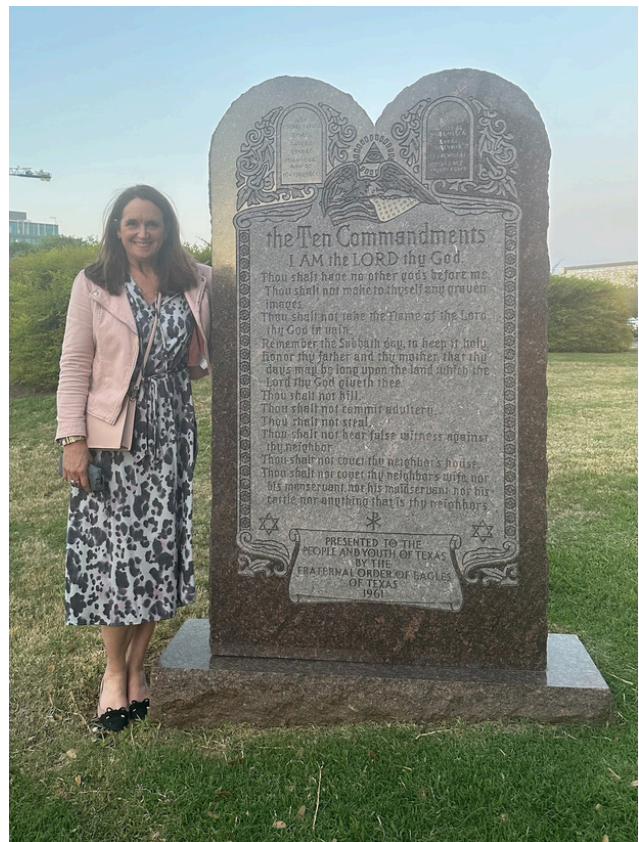
Texas' 2025 legislative agenda will be remembered for its education agenda. From education savings accounts (ESAs) to a public school funding boost, through a heavier emphasis on student discipline, to bans on cellphones and diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, lawmakers advanced bills that will have a lasting impact on students, teachers and parents for years to come.

Another priority of Governor Abbott's this legislative session was SCHOOL CHOICE. Senate Bill 2, by Senator Creighton and Rep. Buckley, authorizes the creation of the Education Savings Account for Universal School Choice in Texas.

The \$1 billion investment empowers parents to customize their child's education using state funds. The program is open to all Texas students with priority for low-income and special needs. Governor Abbott signed this historic legislation on May 3, 2025 and it will be effective on September 1, 2025. However, the program will official launch at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

House Bill 4 by Representative Brad Buckley, a proposal that would have scrapped the state standardized test (STAAR), failed during the final days of the session. Legislators in the House and Senate agreed that Texas schools needed to do away with the STAAR test. But, in the end, the two chambers could not agree on a compromise.

Additionally, the legislature passed Senate Bill 10 by Senator Phil King, allowing every public school classroom to visibly display the Ten Commandments beginning in September of this year.



SO GRATEFUL THAT SENATE BILL 10, 10 COMMANDMENTS IN THE CLASSROOM, PASSED THE 3RD READING AND IS ON ITS WAY TO THE GOVERNOR! THIS MONUMENT IS ON THE GROUNDS OF THE CAPITOL!

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Improved infrastructure was also a priority of Governor Abbott's this legislative session. It included an improved power grid reliability, invested in critical water infrastructure projects, advanced Texas as a leader in nuclear energy innovation and fortified existing infrastructure against external threats, weather or environmental or geopolitical.



Senate Bill 7 by Senator Charles Perry and House Joint Resolution 7 by Rep. Cody Harris will enable a Texas-sized investment in water infrastructure modernization and management to support our State's water resources. This is critical to our future developments and economic longevity as a global powerhouse in both business and agriculture. This will also safeguard our population from excessive water loss. A ballot proposal prompted by HJR 7 will be presented to the voters of Texas at an election on November 4, 2025, and would read:

"The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived the constitutionally dedicated funding for the Texas Water Fund. Once approved by the voters, HJR 7 would amend the Texas Constitution to require the comptroller, in each state fiscal year, to deposit to the credit of the Texas Water Fund the net revenue derived from taxes under the Limited Sales, Excise, and Use Tax Act in excess of the first \$48 billion of that revenue in the fiscal year. The total amount deposited into the Texas Water Fund could not exceed \$1 billion." The deposit would be subject to constitutional provisions on the appropriation and allocation of revenue from the state sales and use tax on sporting goods. More information to come on this historic legislation.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF: \$51 BILLION

This legislative session delivered historic property tax relief totaling \$52 billion. Senate Bill 4, authored by Senator Bettencourt, would increase the school district residence homestead tax exemption and provide state assistance to school districts for funding reductions related to property tax adjustments. Therefore, Senate Bill 4 would increase the school district residence homestead tax exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000 of the appraised value of a residence homestead.

Senate Joint Resolution 2, by Senator Bettencourt, is proposing a constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of resident homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2025. The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000."

Senate Bill 23 and Senate Joint Resolution 85, by Senator Bettencourt, enables and proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by school a district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled. Senate Joint Resolution 85 would amend the Texas Constitution to increase the additional school district residence homestead tax exemption from \$10,000 to \$60,000 of the market value of a residence homestead of a person who was disabled and of a person 65 years of age or older. A ballot proposal would be presented to voters at an election on November 4, 2025, and would read: "The constitutional amendment authorizing he legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by school a district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who was elderly or disabled." The amendment would take effect for the tax year beginning January 1, 2025.



THE 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE'S PLAN FOR

Property Tax Relief

THE STATE BUDGET DEDICATES

\$51 BILLION

FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

128%

OF TOTAL RELIEF IN
THE PREVIOUS BUDGET

15%

OF TOTAL
BUDGET SPENDING

OVER \$11B

MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS BUDGET

\$3 BILLION

RATE COMPRESSION

works through existing
mechanisms to buy down
property tax rates by 6.8c

\$140,000

**HOMESTEAD
EXEMPTION**

Increased by \$40K,
pending voter approval
(SB 4 & SJR 2)

\$200,000

**EXEMPTION FOR
SENIORS & DISABLED**

Increased by \$90K,
pending voter approval
(SB 23 & SJR 85)

\$125,000

BUSINESS EXEMPTION

Increases the personal
property exemption from
\$2,500, pending voter
approval (HB 9 & HJR 1)

What does this mean for Texas homeowners?

Texas lawmakers just passed a plan to raise the homestead exemption to \$140,000 for most homeowners and \$200,000 for seniors and individuals with disabilities, significantly reducing the taxable value of homes and Texans' property tax bills, especially for those on fixed incomes.

If voters approve these measures this November, more than 60% of senior and disabled homeowners could see their school property tax bill wiped out entirely.

What does this mean for Texas businesses?

In Texas, businesses not only pay property taxes on land or buildings, they also pay a "personal property tax" on any tangible item used to generate income, such as inventory, machinery, and equipment.

Currently, the state only exempts \$2,500 in the taxable value of that property. This new plan increases that exemption to \$125,000, making it the nation's second largest exemption of its kind if voters approve the measure this November. This will free up thousands of dollars annually to be reinvested into Texas businesses.

There's More!

- Closed loopholes that allowed local governments to raise property taxes after a disaster without voter approval (HB 30)
- Eased financial burdens by extending the time in which taxpayers may make split property tax payments (HB 2742)
- Protected agricultural land that is transferred to a new owner from losing its reduced appraisal distinction if the use of the land stays the same (HB 1244)
- Stopped appraisal districts from forcing residents to reapply for a homestead exemption without a clear reason (HB 2730)
- Eliminated taxes on intangible personal property, including stocks, crypto, trademarks & more (HB 22)

**THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE:
ALLEVIATING PROPERTY TAX BURDENS ON
TEXAS HOME & BUSINESS OWNERS**



A MESSAGE FROM REP. JOANNE SHOFNER!

LISTEN HERE!

