

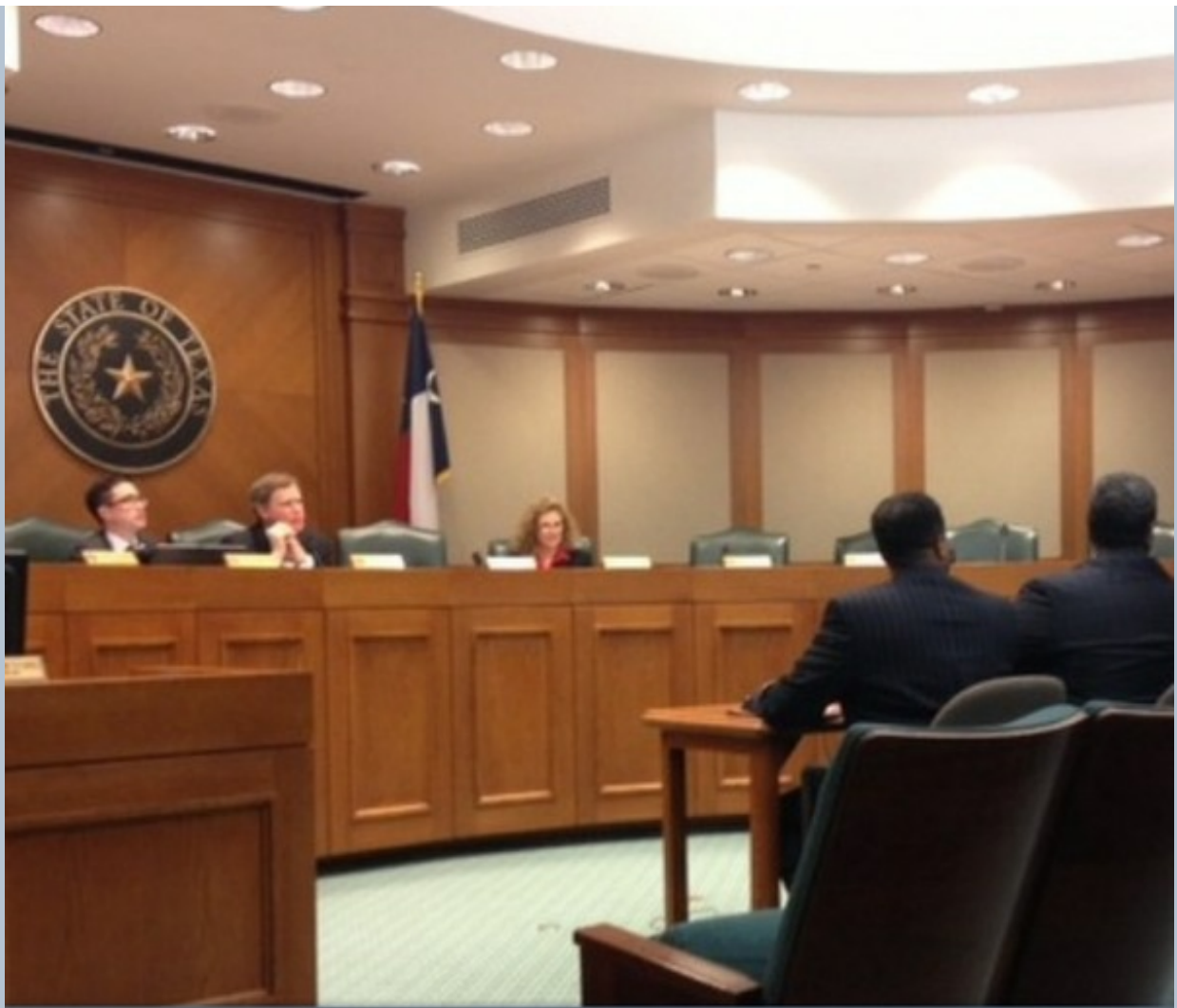


June 2013 (Legislative Edition)



*Commissioner Grady Prestage's*  
**PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

Commissioner Testifies Before The Texas House Higher  
Education Committee for House Bill (H.B.) 3659



**Pictured Left to Right: State Representative Ron Reynolds and Commissioner Precinct 2 Grady Prestage**

Commissioner Grady Prestage traveled to Austin, Texas to speak before the State House Higher Education Committee regarding House Bill (H.B.) 3659.

Commissioner Prestage provided testimony in favor of the bill to be passed and the benefits that it could bring to residents who reside in parts of the City of Houston that are located in Fort Bend County. “The passage of this bill would be the first step in our long-term goal of officially including other areas in Fort Bend County in the Community College District”, says Commissioner Prestage.

Under this bill, the Houston Community College Service Area would be extended to areas of the City of Houston and Pearland that are in Fort Bend County. With the inclusion of the City of Houston area, students at Willowridge High School will be considered “In District” and would not have to continue to pay the “Out of District” fees to attend HCC. Students will also have a better opportunity to receive access to the essential services and resources that HCC offers to high school students. House Bill (H.B.) 3659 was sponsored by State Representative Ron Reynolds (District 27) and State Senator Rodney Ellis (District 13). “We’ve been working on this bill for a long time and are glad to finally be able to see it passed”, says State Representative Ron Reynolds. “Students in the Willowridge area will be able to enroll into additional courses that will make them better prepared for the workforce by having this piece of

legislation enacted.”

House Bill (H.B.) 3659 was sent to the Governor on May 26<sup>th</sup> for his signature after passing through the Texas House and Senate. The Governor will then have 30 days from the date he received the bill to either ratify or veto it. With no action (no ratification or veto) from the Governor after 30 days, the bill will automatically become law and will take effect on September 1, 2013.

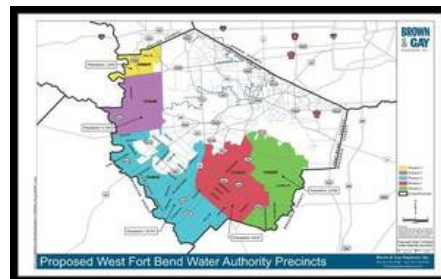
### **Commissioner Prestage Advocates for County Assistance Districts With House Bill (H.B.) 3795**

Commissioner Prestage has also been diligently working on the passage of House Bill (H.B.) 3795, which deals with County Assistance Districts. Under Chapter 387 of the Local Government Code of Texas, County Assistance Districts allow counties to levy voter-approved sales and use tax to provide adequate public infrastructure to support population growth in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

“The passage of this bill will provide us the necessary tools needed to help finance new infrastructure projects in portions of the County that lack county services”, says Commissioner Prestage. Recently enacted legislation sought to clarify the law governing the creation and powers of County Assistance Districts, but ambiguity about whether a county could create more than one County Assistance District per Commissioners’ precinct remained.

H.B. 3795 gives effect to the Legislation’s intent and grant counties flexibility to effectively use County Assistance Districts to provide needed infrastructure and stimulate economic development in

### **House Bill (H.B.) 3920 Addresses Clean Drinking Water In Fort Bend County**



House Bill (H.B.) 3920 establishes the creation of the West Fort Bend Water Authority. This Water Authority will serve the unincorporated areas in Fort Bend County plus nine small cities that mostly operate on an aging well system to provide their water needs. The continued uses of wells are threatened by subsidence, which is the gradual caving in or sinking of an area of land.

The purpose of the Water Authority is to provide efficient water planning for the future and to ensure residents continue to have clean, drinkable ground water. A recent survey of Texas citizens revealed that Texans are very concerned about the quality and quantity of water in our state. The survey was led was by Dr. Arnold Vedlitz, Director of the Institute for Science, Technology and Public Policy in the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University.

and stimulate economic development in their respective jurisdictions.

H.B. 3795 was sponsored by State Representative Garnet Coleman District (147), State Representative Ron Reynolds (District 27), and State Senator Glenn Hegar (District 18). The bill was sent to the Governor on May 23<sup>rd</sup> for his signature. Once the bill passes through the Governor's office, the voters in the potential County Assistance District will then have to vote for its creation in the November election.

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**[\\*Save The Date\\*](#)**

**Date: Saturday, July 27, 2013**

**Time: 9am-2pm**

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This event is generously hosted by the  
**Fort Bend County Criminal Defense  
Attorneys Association  
Commissioner Grady Prestage and  
Judge Joel C. Clouser Sr.**

It is estimated that 55% of Texans rely on groundwater for drinking purposes and that number will increase as Texas' population continues to grow. Nationally, water issues ranked fifth among a list of 10 major issues facing the country, after government spending, health care, the economy, and national security. "The creation of the West Fort Bend Water Authority will help address the increased demand that population growth will have on our water needs now and into the future," says Commissioner Prestage.

House Bill (H.B.) 3920 was sponsored by State Representatives Rick Miller (District 26), Ron Reynolds (District 27), John Zerwas (District 28), and Phil Stephenson (District 85). The bill was sent to the Governor's office on May 25<sup>th</sup> and was signed on June 14<sup>th</sup> of this year. Fort Bend County's Commissioners Court will appoint the inaugural 5-member board comprised of five precincts under the West Fort Bend Water Authority. Once a precinct reaches a total population of 20,000, it will become an elected position.

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