



Tarrant County: Our North Texas Home



Tarrant County Judge
B. Glen Whitley

86th Texas Legislative Session

TACKLING SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM

Recently, I had the opportunity to hear former Secretary of Education Tom Luce speak to his latest passion, [Texas 2036](#), which focuses on the needs of Texas between now and 2036 when Texas celebrates its bicentennial. One major emphasis in the presentation was the need for increased investment in public education.

School Finance Reform

Over the past year, there has been a lot of discussion about the need to provide additional funding for public education and to fix the broken education finance funding formula. As the legislative session began, it was great to see the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker all agree more money needs to be allocated to public education. Both chambers have proposed additional spending of over \$9 billion.

The Senate Proposal

The Senate is proposing an across the board pay raise for teachers and librarians only. This means the rest of the education team is left out and the raises are given not based on merit but only on being employed.

The House Proposal

The House is proposing to lower the school tax rate by four cents statewide, claiming that it will reduce the dreaded Robin Hood system. They are also establishing a program to fund full-day Pre-K for low income students and raising the basic allotment by almost \$900 per student. This bill also adheres to the philosophy that each district is best suited to make local decisions on how to spend the additional funds.

What's Missing?

Fixing the finance formula! The legislature has yet to address any significant change in how schools are funded. Neither of these plans will make the state an equal long-term partner in public education funding.

Ten years ago, the legislature reduced school property taxes and became an equal partner in education funding for that one year, bringing them the closest they had been to being an equal partner in a long time. However, since they still did not address the formula back then, we are back to you and me paying more than our fair share for public education. The House bill is a step in the right direction but until the state fixes the formula, history is doomed to repeat itself.

If the state really wants to solve the problem and not just kick the can down the road again, the legislature needs to determine what total funds to spend on public education, budget half for the state, and then figure out how to allocate those state funds among our local school districts. I know this is not simple, but if everyone (local educators, administrators and our legislative representatives) will work together we can all figure it out.

**Online Tools To Keep Up With
The 86th Texas Legislature**

Texas Legislature Online
<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

Legislative Reference Library
www.lrl.state.tx.us/

<https://legiscan.com/TX>



Public Safety

Time to Close the Hole in Text-to-911

Fifty-eight 9-1-1 call centers within the North Texas region either have or are implementing the ability to send a text message to 911. Tarrant County is the hole in this donut.

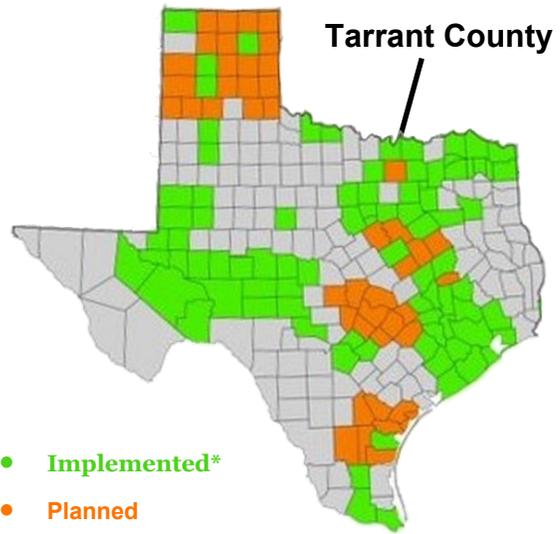
Improving access to 911 provides all citizens an additional avenue to reach first responders in the event of an emergency. In addition, it would provide a unique benefit to the deaf and/or hearing impaired, victims of family violence, victims of mass shootings, and people with medical emergencies which cause temporary speech impairment.

The Tarrant County 911 District is on schedule to fully implement next generation technology by the end of this year which would make Tarrant County text-to-911 ready. Funding to activate the text-to-911 feature and provide subsequent years maintenance and operations could be made available within the existing TC 911 District budget.

The Tarrant County Commissioners Court and the Mayors' Council of Tarrant County have passed resolutions urging the Tarrant County 9-1-1 District to begin the process of planning and installing text-to-911 service in an expeditious manner. The respective TC 911 Board of Managers representatives for Arlington, Grand Prairie, Irving, and Fort Worth are waiting for direction from

their respective City leaders to move forward with the project.

Please contact your city leaders and let them know you want to see text-to-911 implemented in Tarrant County as soon as possible.



*At least one district within the county has implemented text-to-911.

Map reflecting counties in Texas which have implemented, planned, or have no Text-to-911 as of June 6, 2018.

Tarrant County Legislative Delegation

Texas House

District 90 Representative: Ramon Romero, Jr., D-Fort Worth	ramon.romero@house.texas.gov	512-463-0740
District 91 Representative: Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth	stephanie.klick@house.texas.gov	512-463-0599
District 92 Representative: Jonathan Stickland, R-Bedford	jonathan.stickland@house.texas.gov	512-463-0522
District 93 Representative: Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth	matt.krause@house.texas.gov	512-463-0562
District 94 Representative: Tony Tinderholt, R-Arlington	tony.tinderholt@house.texas.gov	512-463-0624
District 95 Representative: Nicole Collier, D-Fort Worth	nicole.collier@house.texas.gov	512-463-0716
District 96 Representative: Bill Zedler, R-Arlington	bill.zedler@house.texas.gov	512-463-0374
District 97 Representative: Craig Goldman, R-Fort Worth	craig.goldman@house.texas.gov	512-463-0608
District 98 Representative: Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake ...	giovanni.capriglione@house.texas.gov ...	512-463-0690
District 99 Representative: Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth	charlie.geren@house.texas.gov	512-463-0610
District 101 Representative: Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie	chris.turner@house.texas.gov	512-463-0574

Texas Senate

District 9 Senator: Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills	kelly.hancock@senate.texas.gov	512-463-0109
District 10 Senator: Beverly Powell, D-Fort Worth	beverly.powell@senate.texas.gov	512-463-0110
District 12 Senator: Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound	jane.nelson@senate.texas.gov	512-463-0112
District 22 Senator: Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury	brian.birdwell@senate.texas.gov	512-463-0122

