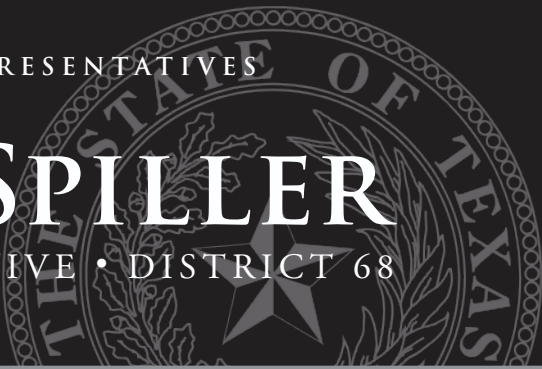




TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DAVID SPILLER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 68



89TH INTERIM UPDATE

Dear Friends,

The 89th Legislative Session delivered major victories for House District 68 (HD 68), and I am proud of what we accomplished together. But as you well know, the work does not stop when session ends.

We are now in the interim period, which lasts until the beginning of next year, and this is where the foundation for the next session begins. Committees are holding hearings, gathering testimony, and developing recommendations that will shape the 90th Legislative Session. My staff and I are already working with bill-drafting attorneys to begin forming the policies that will matter most when lawmakers return to Austin. Across the district, we are staying engaged by visiting facilities, meeting with community leaders, attending local events, and bringing those conversations back to the Capitol.

The issues being worked on right now in the interim are not abstract. They affect your daily life: the rising cost of property taxes and homeowner’s insurance, whether your county EMS can afford a new ambulance, whether your local hospital stays open, and whether the land and water in our communities remain protected.

Two of the biggest issues in HD 68 this interim are the proposed 765kV high-voltage transmission lines and the rapid expansion of data centers. Both raise serious questions about property rights, water, electricity, and the future of our rural communities. I want you to know that your concerns have been heard and that action is being taken. You will find the details inside this newsletter.

As your State Representative, I remain committed to protecting the conservative values of House District 68 and ensuring our rural communities continue to have a strong voice at the Capitol.

Thank you for the blessing and opportunity to serve as your State Representative.

Respectfully,

David Spiller



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STAGES OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION

 PRE-FILING Nov – early Mar	 EARLY SESSION Jan – Mar	 MID-SESSION Apr – May	 END OF SESSION Late May – Sine Die	 POST-SESSION Jun
	Tuesday, January 12, 2027 1st Day 90th Legislature convenes at noon.		Wednesday, May 26, 2027 House Last Day to Consider Senate Bills (Third Reading)	
	Friday, March 12, 2027 60th Day 60-day deadline for bill filing.		Sunday, May 30, 2027 Last Day for Either Chamber to Consider Conference Committee Reports	
	Friday, May 14, 2027 House Las Day to Consider House Bills (Third Reading)		Monday, May 31, 2027 140th Day Sine die. (Last day of the 90th Regular Session)	

765KV TRANSMISSION LINES

In 2023, the Texas Legislature directed the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to evaluate the state's electric infrastructure needs as demand reached record levels. The result was Texas' Strategic Transmission Expansion Plan, a major grid expansion built around a new class of high-voltage 765kV transmission lines. The PUC is the state agency that decides whether a transmission line is needed and what route it will follow. Oncor proposes the routes. The PUC makes the final decision.

While the need for a stronger grid is real, two of the first proposed projects run directly through House District 68, raising serious questions about routing, landowner rights, ratepayer costs, and whether all proposed infrastructure is truly needed right now. My staff and I have been closely monitoring both projects since they were first announced, hearing directly from landowners, ranchers, local officials, and community members across the affected counties. We have remained in sustained contact with the PUC and with Oncor throughout this process. My goal has been consistent: not to take sides on any particular route, but to ensure the process is fair, transparent, and that every affected landowner has a meaningful opportunity to be heard.

PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW : 765kV Projects

Dinosaur–Longshore Project

Counties affected: Comanche, Brown, Eastland, Shackelford.

PUC Decision Expected: August 2026

Bell County East–Big Hill Project

Counties affected: Lampasas, San Saba.

PUC Decision Expected: September 2026

Concerns Raised by Constituents

- Landowners, ranchers, local officials, and community members across HD 68 have raised serious concerns regarding:
- Private property rights and fair treatment of landowners.
- Impacts on farms, ranches, and rural communities.
- Whether all proposed infrastructure is needed immediately.
- Potential costs to Texas ratepayers.
- Adequate notice and transparency throughout the routing process.
- Equal treatment for landowners in counties added to proposed routes after the process was already underway.

In our second letter, we identified specific procedural fairness problems: Shackelford County was incorporated into proposed routing options after initial outreach had already occurred in other affected areas, resulting in significantly later notice to landowners there. Mills County appeared in a related proceeding despite not being included in the original study area, with no clear record of what notice had been provided to landowners. We formally requested that the Commission clarify how notice requirements apply when additional counties are added mid-process, and whether affected landowners in those counties would receive notice and participation opportunities consistent with those provided earlier.

In our third letter, we escalated our concerns to the broader question of project timing, necessity, and cost. ERCOT's own Permian Basin studies indicate that not all proposed infrastructure is necessarily required at the same time. We formally asked the Commission to explain how it is evaluating the timing and necessity of each project, what analysis supports any decision to proceed now rather than phase the buildout, and what safeguards are in place to ensure Texas ratepayers are not bearing disproportionate costs for infrastructure built ahead of demonstrated need.

Our office remains actively engaged with the PUC, Oncor, local officials, and affected landowners as both projects continue to move forward toward final decisions.

Action Taken

Since these projects were first announced, my office has maintained sustained and escalating engagement with the PUC on behalf of affected constituents. That engagement has included three formal letters to PUC Chairman Thomas Gleeson and Commissioners, each building on the last as new concerns emerged:

In our first letter, we raised the volume and consistency of constituent concerns across Brown, Comanche, Eastland, Lampasas, and San Saba Counties and formally requested additional time for public input and review of proposed routes. We also contacted Oncor directly with the same request.

Rep. Spiller Signs Amicus Brief Urging Full Review Before Irreversible Decisions

Most recently, Rep. Spiller joined 42 fellow Texas legislators, including nine state senators and 33 state representatives, in signing an amicus brief before the PUC supporting a motion filed by American Stewards of Liberty for limited procedural relief. The brief does not seek to halt the 765-kV projects. It asks the Commission to evaluate all five proposed projects statewide together before making determinations on any individual project, while allowing routing studies, environmental reviews, and landowner proceedings to continue. This step builds directly on the concerns raised in our three prior letters to the Commission: ensuring adequate time for public input, fair treatment of landowners added to routing areas after the process began, and a clear accounting of project timing, necessity, and cost. Our office remains in active contact with the PUC, Oncor, and affected landowners as both projects move toward final decisions.



Representative Spiller joined local law enforcement officers and first responders in Graham to recognize their service and discuss public safety priorities.

DATA CENTERS AND RURAL TEXAS

Texas should remain a place where investment, innovation, and job creation can thrive. But responsible growth and rural protection are not opposing values — they are both worth fighting for. Across House District 68, a groundbreaking has already occurred in Shackelford County, and additional projects are being discussed across the region. The question is not whether growth is coming. The question is whether the right protections are in place when it does. Growth should work with rural Texas, not happen to rural Texas.

The concerns being raised across HD 68 are real, widespread, and consistent. Constituents, county officials, landowners, farmers, ranchers, business owners, and community leaders have all raised serious questions about the rapid expansion of large-scale data center development into rural Texas. Our office is hearing these concerns directly, and we are taking them seriously.

Rural communities should not be asked to absorb major impacts to water, infrastructure, electric reliability, and quality of life without meaningful transparency, planning, and local input. Unlike cities, rural counties often have limited regulatory tools to manage large-scale development. That reality makes transparency, accountability, and responsible planning even more important.

Concerns Raised by Constituents

Community members across HD 68 have consistently raised concerns regarding:

- Water usage and long-term groundwater impacts.
- Increased strain on the electric grid and potential costs to ratepayers.
- Infrastructure burdens placed on rural roads, utilities, and emergency services.
- Protection of private property rights.
- Lack of transparency and early communication with affected communities.
- The capacity of rural counties to meaningfully participate in development decisions.

Unlike cities, rural counties often have limited regulatory tools to manage large-scale development. That reality makes transparency, accountability, and responsible planning even more important.



Representative Spiller joined state and local leaders at Howard Payne University to discuss the future of higher education, workforce development, and rural Texas priorities. Robert Porter, Rep. Spiller, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, President Dr. Cory Hines, State Senator Phil King.

What Is Being Done

The House State Affairs Committee and House Natural Resources Committee are currently studying data center development during the interim, including:

- Grid reliability and electricity demand.
- Water usage and infrastructure needs.
- Economic and national security impacts.
- The current regulatory framework for large-load developments.

Our office is actively monitoring these discussions, working with counties and local officials, engaging with stakeholders, and following ongoing interim committee work related to water, energy infrastructure, and rural development. We are closely tracking that work while preparing legislation for the 90th Legislative Session focused on protecting rural communities, safeguarding water resources, improving transparency, and ensuring large-scale developments are responsible for their own infrastructure impacts.

Protecting private property rights, preserving our natural resources, ensuring reliable infrastructure, and keeping local voices at the table remain priorities for House District 68. Texas should continue to welcome responsible investment and economic growth — but that growth should work with rural Texas, not happen to it.



Representative Spiller toured a local pharmacy in Eastland to hear directly from healthcare providers about challenges facing rural healthcare access.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Flag Requests - Texas flags flown over the State Capitol make great gifts and are available for purchase. All flags are accompanied with a beautiful state certificate encompassing the seal of the Texas House of Representatives.

Certificates of Achievements - At no cost to you, we're equipped to assist you in marking a special occasion by crafting an official proclamation by the Texas House of Representatives. Whether you are commemorating a birth, marriage, retirement or a special event, you can contact our office to learn more.

GROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (GCD) AND RURAL WATER PROTECTION

Across House District 68, water is not an abstract policy issue. It is a practical, daily concern for ranchers, farmers, and rural homeowners who depend on wells their families have relied on for generations. As data centers, transmission infrastructure, and large-scale commercial development expand into our region, the conversations I am having with constituents about water have become more frequent and more urgent.

Right now, seven of our twelve counties have no local groundwater protections in place. Five HD 68 counties — Cooke, Montague, Comanche, San Saba, and Lampasas — already benefit from Groundwater Conservation District protections. My office has been working directly with the remaining counties and with existing GCDs to help local leaders understand their options, because the best time to establish protections is before a crisis, not after one.

Groundwater Conservation Districts are locally governed, locally controlled, and focused on the threats that matter most to rural communities: high-volume commercial pumping that can deplete the wells neighbors and ranchers depend on. These are not state mandates. They are tools, and our job is to make sure every county in HD 68 knows how to use them.

What is a Groundwater Conservation District?

Groundwater Conservation Districts are locally governed entities designed to help communities manage groundwater resources. They provide tools to:

- Protect residential and agricultural wells from interference by new large-volume commercial wells.
- Establish spacing and permitting requirements before a water crisis develops.
- Regulate not only what is pumped out of the aquifer, but also what is injected or disposed of into it — protecting water quality, not just supply.
- Improve long-term water planning and give counties a seat at the table in regional groundwater decisions.
- Increase local input regarding high-volume commercial water usage.

Importantly, GCD regulations are not aimed at ordinary homeowners or ranchers. Domestic, livestock, and low-volume agricultural wells are generally exempt. The focus is on higher-impact commercial production — the kind of pumping that poses the greatest risk to existing rural wells.

Counties currently without GCD protections have two primary options.

1. They may petition to join an existing adjacent district
2. They may pursue the creation of a new district through a local election process. Both paths require local initiative and community support.



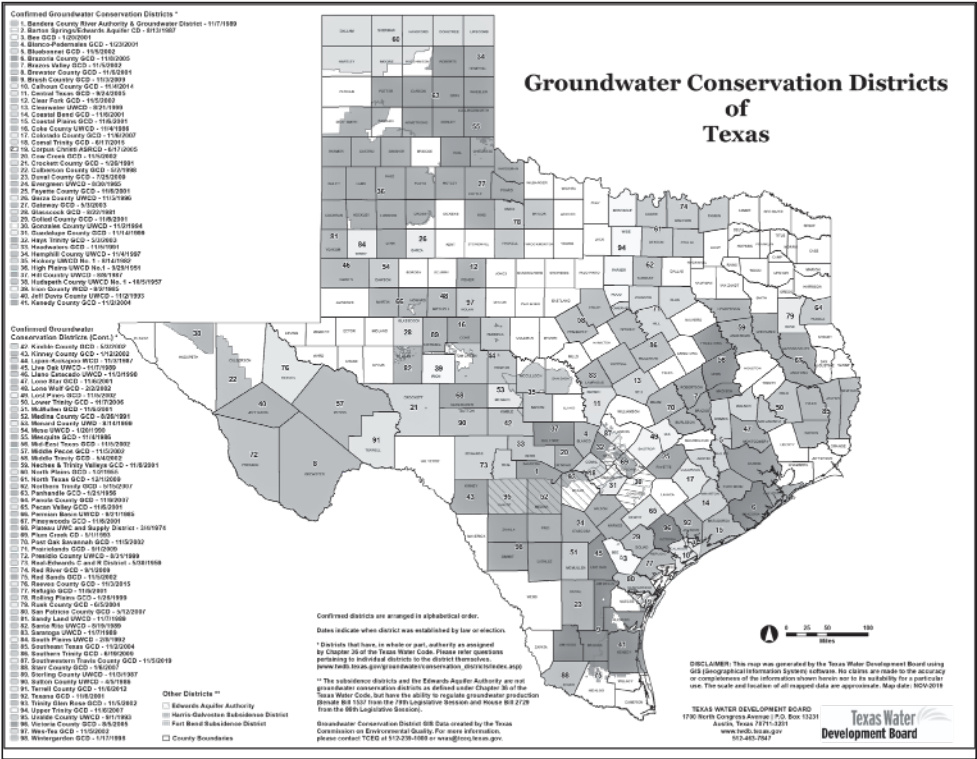
Representative Spiller joined local water leaders to discuss legislative priorities and the future of water infrastructure in rural Texas

Our office is available to help any interested county navigate that process and connect with the right resources.

These remain local decisions made by local communities.

Several counties in and around HD 68 are currently evaluating whether joining an existing GCD is right for them. Our office has worked to connect interested counties with existing districts and provide information about the process and available options. The goal is not to force any county into a particular approach, but to ensure rural communities have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about their own water future.

As growth pressures continue across Texas, protecting rural water resources while preserving local control will remain a major focus for us moving forward.



LOOKING AHEAD: LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 90TH SESSION

The interim period is a time for listening, studying, and preparing — and that work is already underway. When the 90th Legislature convenes in January 2027, my office and I will arrive with a clear set of priorities shaped directly by the concerns heard across House District 68.

- **Guardrails for Data Centers:** Legislation establishing reasonable requirements around water usage and electricity demand for large-scale data center development in rural Texas, ensuring these facilities are responsible for their own infrastructure impacts.
- **Transmission Line Ratepayer Protections:** Legislation to ensure the cost of new transmission infrastructure is not passed on to Texas ratepayers when that infrastructure is built primarily to serve large corporate users rather than existing communities.
- **Groundwater Protection:** Legislation to expand access to Groundwater Conservation District protections for rural communities currently operating under the Rule of Capture, giving local residents real tools to protect their wells before a crisis develops.
- **Rural Infrastructure and Emergency Services:** Pursuing solutions that support rural hospitals, EMS districts, and first responders across HD 68, ensuring growth does not come at the expense of communities that depend on these services most.
- **Rural Firefighting and Regulatory Overreach:** Developing legislation to support rural firefighting resources and rein in regulatory overreach by cities and counties into rural areas.
- **Upholding the Rule of Law and Religious Freedom:** Protecting the constitutional rights of every Texan and ensuring the laws of the United States and the State of Texas remain the governing standard for all — no exceptions. Religious freedom is a fundamental right worth defending.
- **Border Security:** Remaining a strong advocate for Texas's right to protect its border and its communities, including continued monitoring of ongoing litigation related to SB 4 as it works its way through the federal courts.
- **Property Tax Relief:** Continuing to advance meaningful property tax relief that keeps land in the hands of the families who have worked it for generations. Thanks to a constitutional amendment approved by Texas voters in late 2025, the general homestead exemption for school district taxes has been raised from \$100,000 to \$140,000 for 2026, and seniors and disabled homeowners now receive a combined \$200,000 exemption. The process is free using Form 50-114, available through the Texas Comptroller's website or your county appraisal district. The exemption can be claimed retroactively up to two years back. Additionally, between 60 and 80 percent of property value protests statewide result in a reduction — if your value seems too high, it is worth challenging.



Rep. Spiller traveled to New Orleans during proceedings related to SB 4, legislation aimed at strengthening border security and protecting Texas communities.

Fighting Illegal Immigration: SB 4 Spiller Sponsored Bill Update

Texas's landmark law making illegal entry into the state a state crime — as it continues to work its way through the federal courts. After years of legal battles, the full Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals delivered a major victory in April 2026, lifting an injunction that had long blocked the law's enforcement. While a federal district court has since moved to block certain provisions, the core arrest authority took effect in May 2026, and the fight continues in the courts. I am still keeping a close eye on this litigation and remain a strong advocate for Texas's right to protect its border and its communities.



VISIT THE CAPITOL

If you have plans to visit Austin, please be sure to contact my office.

Austin Office: (512) 463-0526

We can assist with the following:

- Researching Legislative Information
- Scheduling Capitol Tours
- Arranging School Performances
- Assisting with State Agencies
- Ordering Congratulatory Certificates, Resolutions, Letters, and Texas Flags

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments or concerns.



Jacksboro ISD 7th graders visit the State Capitol.