

State of Texas
Texas Senate

PO Box 12068
Austin, Texas 7871-2068
512-463-0107
512-463-8810 Fax



11451 Katy Freeway, Suite 209
Houston, TX 77079
(713) 464-0282
(713) 461-0108 - fax

Paul Bettencourt
DISTRICT 7

Paul.Bettencourt@senate.state.tx.us

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Contact Information:
VA Stephens
(512) 463-0107

Harris County Celebrates Grand Opening of New Tax Sale Venue

Legislation by Senator Bettencourt and Representative Huberty allows people to get online, not in line

HOUSTON – Harris County celebrated the grand opening of the new delinquent property tax sale venue today. The venue will allow tax sales to be held inside, instead of on the steps of the downtown courthouse. In addition to the new location, Harris County also will implement a system that allows delinquent properties to be sold online, and to pre-register bidders, making the process easier and more user friendly.

“When I was the Tax Assessor Collector my motto was ‘get online, not in line’,” said Senator Bettencourt. “I am pleased that, together with Representative Huberty, we were able to put this motto into action and pass legislation to streamline and speed up the process, expand the pool of possible buyers, and make it more efficient for county taxpayers.”

During testimony on SB 1452, by Bettencourt, it was stated that Harris County had roughly 58,000 delinquent accounts that owed \$1,000 or more in taxes. At the current pace, it would take almost 40 years to clear that backlog.

“We live in a world where everything is online,” continued Senator Bettencourt. “Allowing these auctions to be held online, opening them up to the largest pool of bidders that we can, and speeding up the process to eliminate this backlog is just common sense.”

Senator Bettencourt also was the Senate sponsor of HB 3951, by Representative Huberty, which will help facilitate the bidding and deed issuance process in conjunction with the sales of these properties.

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