



News Release

Joan Huffman

State Senator ★ District 17

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Huffman Begins Third Term Representing Senate District 17

Senator seeks sensible solutions to the state's education, fiscal, law and order, and health care challenges

AUSTIN—Senator Joan Huffman, R-Southside Place, was sworn in for her third term in the state Senate Tuesday as the 83rd Texas Legislature convened. Huffman represents a redrawn District 17, comprising Harris, Brazoria and Fort Bend counties. On Monday, she was elected chairwoman of the Senate Republican Caucus.

“It is an honor to continue serving the people of District 17,” Senator Huffman said. “We have many big challenges and some very complex issues ahead of us, but I am energized and optimistic about what we can accomplish.”

In preparation for the 140-day legislative session, Huffman spent countless hours over the interim listening to invited and public testimony at hearings, meeting with constituents and learning about the everyday issues facing the citizens of District 17 and the state. Huffman said her top priorities this session include:

- Public safety
- Fiscal discipline
- Economic development
- Issues impacting children's health and education

Reflecting Huffman’s commitment to law and order, the former prosecutor and judge has championed numerous bills strengthening the criminal justice system and protecting children from child predators. Senate Bill 12, which Huffman pre-filed in December, allows evidence of prior similar offenses to be admitted in cases of sexual assault and sexual abuse of children—thus providing greater resources to prosecutors and underage victims.

The senator will carry legislation in the upcoming session that requires specialty court programs to register with the governor's office and follow best practices to ensure that the programs are effectively accomplishing their intended purpose. The bill will also clarify that judges participating in specialty courts are afforded the same immunity as a district court judge. (Legislators have until March 8th to file their bills.)

“I will continue to stand strong on conservative principles and seek sensible solutions to our state’s challenges,” Huffman said.

Senator Joan Huffman represents District 17, which comprises Brazoria, Fort Bend and Harris counties. Huffman currently serves as vice chairwoman of the Criminal Justice Committee. She is also a member of the State Affairs, Jurisprudence, Higher Education, and Health and Human Services Committees, as well as the Sunset Advisory Commission. Huffman and her family reside in Southside Place.

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