

The Senate of The State of Texas



BRIAN BIRDWELL

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Senator Brian Birdwell Comments On Key Committee Assignments
Named to Economic Development, Higher Education, Government Organization, Veterans and Military Affairs, and the Select Committee on Veterans Health

Austin – Senator Brian Birdwell has been named to five key senate committees which will allow him to hit the ground running on behalf of the citizens of Senate District 22 and the State of Texas. Yesterday, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst announced changes to Senate Committee assignments for the 81st Legislature. The changes included a shuffle of eight committee chairmanships, and the addition of Senator Birdwell to the Veterans and Military Affairs, Higher Education, Economic Development, and Government Organization Committees, as well as the Select Committee on Veterans Health.

Senator Birdwell stated, "I want to thank Lt. Gov. Dewhurst for these important assignments, and I look forward to working with him. These Senate assignments will allow me to focus on a variety of important issues including promoting jobs and economic development, representing the needs of our many veterans, and serving as an advocate for the interests of our district's numerous institutions of higher education. I look forward to the important work ahead in the weeks and months to come."

The Higher Education Committee will look at all issues surrounding institutions of higher learning including financial aid, cost drivers in higher education, accountability systems, and the operation of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Economic Development Committee oversees economic development programs, local government economic development, workforce development, and encouraging small business growth. The mission of the Government Organization Committee is to examine ways to streamline and eliminate overlapping workgroups across state government agencies and programs. The committee will also look at ways to increase transparency and access to the government.

"Economic development is important to the State of Texas now more than ever. In these challenging economic times, it is important that the state continues to take steps towards maintaining Texas' business friendly climate," said Senator Birdwell. "On the Government Affairs Committee, I will look for ways that government can operate in a more efficient and transparent manner."

The Veterans and Military Affairs Committee will examine many areas ranging from promoting jobs for veterans to examining potential risk factors for returning veterans. The Select Committee on Veterans Health is tasked with reviewing the availability and quality of federal and state health care benefits for veterans.

Sen. Birdwell said, "I believe that my military background will provide the opportunity to assist our active duty servicemen and women as well as the many veterans who call Texas home. On these two committees, my goal will be to serve my fellow veterans and ensure that they are receiving the respect – and benefits – that they have rightfully earned."

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