

The Senate of The State of Texas



BRIAN BIRDWELL

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BIRDWELL TAPPED AS HIGHER ED. VICE-CHAIR

AUSTIN—Senator Brian Birdwell officially began his role as Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher Education today, serving alongside Chair Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and five other senators.

After a series of committee shifts made by Lt. Governor David Dewhurst in January, Sen. Birdwell was appointed as a vice-chairman and remained on the committees for Economic Development, Government Organization and Veteran Affairs.

"I am pleased to have remained on all of my previously assigned committees, and I am especially delighted to have been selected to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Higher Education," said Sen. Birdwell. "These assignments will allow me to focus on a variety of important issues, and I look forward to the important work that lies ahead."

Sen. Birdwell believes this appointment will provide an opportunity to address matters facing the numerous institutions of higher education within Senate District 22. The senator's related priorities include but are not limited to:

- Increasing transparency of expenditures by public institutions of higher education
- Supporting results-based funding measures
- Helping community colleges continue their tradition of being affordable, cost efficient options for students, families and working adults
- Standing as an advocate for our state's technical institutions
- Ensuring private universities maintain the freedom to maneuver

"Better schools make better Texans," said Sen. Birdwell. "I see my role on this committee as an opportunity to continue to improve our universities, community colleges and technical schools and their ability to afford Texans the opportunity to excel."

The Senate Committee on Higher Education meets Wednesdays at 8 a.m. in room E1.012 of the Texas Capitol.

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Retired Army Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell is a native Texan, lifelong conservative Republican, proud husband and father. After winning a special election in June, Senator Birdwell was re-elected in the November general election to serve a full term. Sen. Birdwell represents Senate District 22 which includes Bosque, Coryell, Ellis, Falls, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Navarro, McLennan and Somervell counties.