



BRIAN BIRDWELL

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## SENATOR BRIAN BIRDWELL TAPPED FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS

*Birdwell to spearhead border security initiatives of Texas Senate*

AUSTIN—Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick announced Texas Senate committee appointments on Friday, including his selection of State Senator Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) to serve as Chairman of both the Committee on Nominations and the Subcommittee on Border Security. Additionally, Birdwell was appointed to serve as part of the Committees on Natural Resources and Economic Development; State Affairs; and Veterans Affairs and Military Installations. He issued the following statement on the announcement:

"I am humbled by the significance of these committee assignments—particularly the two chairmanships. The security and management of our massive southern border is perhaps the most important issue facing Texas today, and I am honored by the opportunity to play a leading role in this area. Additionally, I am eager to head up the constitutionally-charged duties of the Senate in its confirmation process of gubernatorial appointees. I appreciate the confidence Governor Patrick has placed in me, and as such, I am ready to get to work on behalf of the citizens of Senate District 22 and the State of Texas."

In addition to duties associated with his 2011-2015 term on the Sunset Advisory Commission, Birdwell will serve in the following five roles during the 84<sup>th</sup> legislative session:

- **Senate Committee on Nominations, *Chairman*** — The authority to make governmental appointments is one of the powers given to the Governor by the Constitution of the State of Texas. During a four-year term, a Governor will make approximately 3,000 appointments of state officials; members of state boards, commissions and councils; members of task forces that advise the Governor or executive agencies; and state-elected and judicial offices when vacancies occur. The constitutional appointments process for the vast majority of these boards and commissions requires that nominees must be approved by the Senate Committee on Nominations and confirmed by the Texas Senate.
- **Senate Subcommittee on Border Security, *Chairman*** — New to the Texas Senate, this committee will craft, review and submit legislation focused on securing and managing the porous Texas-Mexico border, and through those steps, enhancing the security of all Texans. The failure of the federal government to fulfil its constitutional obligations of controlling our southern border has forced the State of Texas to take actions to stem illegal immigration; sex-, drug- and gun-trafficking; and the potential inflow of terrorists and dangerous criminals. This committee is a subcommittee of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Military Installations.
- **Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development, *Member*** — The Natural Resources portion of this committee will handle all legislation related to oil and gas, alternative energy, air quality, and waste, as well as some water issues. The Economic Development component will focus on legislative actions that remove unnecessary governmental barriers so that individuals and businesses may compete in the free and bustling Texas economy.
- **Senate Committee on State Affairs, *Member*** — This comprehensive committee deals with legislation affecting Texas state government, including its interaction with state and federal entities. In addition, the committee covers state audits and reviews, insurance, workers compensation, workforce programs, pensions/retirements, and issues of individual state authority.
- **Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs & Military Installations, *Member*** — With approximately 1.7 million veterans residing in Texas, this important committee focuses on the coordination of state and federal resources applicable to veterans of our armed services and their families. Additionally, VAMI oversees the state's role in national defense, emergency preparedness, and the realignment, creation or closure of military bases.

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Brian Birdwell is a native Texan, decorated military veteran, lifelong conservative Republican, survivor of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, and a proud husband and father. He currently represents the Bosque, Ellis, Falls, Hill, Hood, Johnson, McLennan, Navarro, Somervell and Tarrant [partial] Counties in Senate District 22.

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