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December 11, 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** DPROA, Dwight Walker, and Boux Bland

**FROM:** Randy Elliston

**SUBJECT:** Legislative Update

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Gentlemen,

With the mid-term elections behind us we are now focused on early bill filings and which Senators and House members will assume the leadership positions for the upcoming 86<sup>th</sup> regular legislative session. This session will begin on January 8, 2019 and run for 140 days to May 27, 2019. On January 15, 2019 Governor Greg Abbott and Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick will be sworn in for another four year term. Committee chairs for Senate and House committees will be selected by the new speaker and the Lt. Governor in the early days of the session.

We are reviewing pre-filed bills now and will begin providing you a list of all pension bills filed as session gets started.

**Texas House: Who will be the next Speaker?**

The question on who will be the next Speaker of the House appears to be settled. The Texas House Republicans caucus has officially endorsed state Rep. **Dennis Bonnen**, the likely next speaker, for the job. Members of the caucus met in Austin and unanimously voted to back the Angleton Republican. The Republicans Caucus vote, which was the result of a bylaws change members passed last year, comes ahead of the lower chamber's vote in January that will officially determine its next leader. Bonnen has named **Mark Bell** as deputy chief of staff. Bell was a longtime aide to former Democratic Speaker **Pete Laney**. Bonnen also announced Sharon Carter and Hugh Brady as House parliamentarians for the next legislative session. The two were picked by a parliamentarian selection workgroup that Bonnen had assembled and will serve jointly.

**Texas Tribune:** Here are two links from the Texas Tribune regarding State Representative Dennis Bonnen you may find informative:

<https://www.texasmonthly.com/politics/dennis-bonnen-claims-texas-house-speakership/>  
<https://www.texastribune.org/2018/11/19/what-speaker-bonnen-would-mean-texas-house-democrats/>

The Speaker election is important as he will select committee chairs for the upcoming legislative session. We will not know who will chair the House Pension committee until the new Speaker makes the announcement.

**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:**

**Senate State Affairs Chaired by Senator Joan Huffman:**

The committee has no future meetings scheduled at this time. Most likely the committee will not meet again until January after the legislative session begins.

**House Committee on Pensions Chaired by Rep. Dan Flynn:**

The committee has no future meetings scheduled at this time. Most likely the committee will not meet again until January after the legislative session begins.

**Pension Review Board of Texas:**

The Review Board has no future meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2018.

The Review Board will meet next on January 24, 2019 starting at 10:00AM.

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Randy Elliston is a retired Chief of the Texas Highway Patrol with over 35 years of experience in Texas State Government Relations. He is now a member of the Ratliff Company team representing clients in areas of public safety, law enforcement, transportation and state administrative processes.