

The Texas House of Representatives



W.O. "Bill" Harrison, Jr.

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Committees:
Appropriations
Business and Commerce
Chairman - Budget
and Oversight

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

My primary task the next thirty days is to convince the voters that I will be the most effective state representative for District 36; I need your help in getting that message across.

Please allow me to review what I believe are the relevant issues in this critical race:

Our area has not had a chairman of a legislative committee since 1973. In Texas, all legislative initiatives begin in committee. As I prepare for my third term as your representative, I am perfectly positioned for a leadership role in the 69th legislative session. I also had the honor of being the first representative from our area since 1959 to serve on the powerful Appropriations Committee. Since this committee is responsible for allocating all funds to state agencies, the impact of serving on this committee is obvious.

Our state has limited funds and a growing number of deserving requests for those dollars. Having served on the Appropriations Committee and being on the path to a committee chairmanship, I am in a position to wield considerable influence in the allocation of these funds. As always, my primary responsibility will be to keep the cost of government down; however, I also will be a vigorous advocate for our area.

I have worked for some time to persuade Parks and Wildlife to fund a study of a boat pass on Mustang Island. This week, the executive director of Parks & Wildlife and I announced a boat pass feasibility study to begin immediately. The study will be completed by February 1, 1985, in time to introduce legislation to make the boat pass a reality for Mustang Island.

C.C.S.U. competes each biennium with other state colleges and universities for funds for construction, maintenance and new programs. In fact, last session I successfully fought an attempt in committee to decrease funding to C.C.S.U. by over one-half million dollars. During the upcoming session, I will intensify my

efforts to promote C.C.S.U. as a healthy, important and vibrant institution of higher education, with a vital role in the growth of our community.

The water problem that confronts us has reached the crisis level. Many plans and alternatives have been proposed, both locally and statewide. I believe efficient use of our available resources is extremely important. I currently am working with the Governor's office and a number of state agencies to set up a pilot program in Corpus Christi to conserve over 15 million gallons of water a day.

The boat pass, C.C.S.U., and state assistance for our water crisis are just three examples of my experience, judgment and hard work paying dividends for District 36.

As noted in Corpus Christi Magazine's October issue, my record in the legislature leaves few points open to attack from a conservative point of view." Therefore, the primary question in this campaign is which candidate can be the most effective representative in Austin? More specifically, I believe that with my experience and capabilities, I can be more effective for you than an inexperienced freshman member, a fact noted later in the same article:

"With Harrison likely to promote his seat on the House Appropriations Committee and the likelihood of his being named chairman of a committee - perhaps a major committee - next year, it may be hard for Roberts to show himself as a more effective legislator than the incumbent."

I am not comfortable with self-aggrandizement, and do not intend to spend this campaign "patting myself on the back." However, I believe this message is important to our area. The fact is, we don't need to send another first-termer to Austin. This upcoming session, facing the critical issues of education, taxes, and water, is not the time to provide "on-the-job training" to our representative. Can an unknown freshman be the most effective advocate for your interests?

I sincerely believe that this election is an important crossroad for District 36, and would appreciate your support and help in getting this message across to the voters in District 36.

Sincerely,



W. O. "Bill" Harrison, Jr.

P.S. As the campaign progresses, I would appreciate your feedback and advice. Please call if you have any suggestions.