



Austin Landline Report December 2019

This month, both Lt. Governor and the House Speaker released their interim charges. Notably the Lt. Governor combined charges to the Natural Resources, Economic Development, and Water and Rural Affairs Committees. In highlight of his charges, he wants the committees to study how to get a better balance between landowners and the oil and gas industries regarding eminent domain and to explore future water supplies and better ways to manage groundwater. Disappointingly, but not unexpectedly, the Speaker only asked for attention to buy-back provisions and reviewing the landowners' bill of rights on the issue of eminent domain reform. Besides flood control, the Speaker's charges on water focused mainly on monitoring implementation of laws passed last session.

In advance of the coming holiday season and the December 9th candidate filing deadline, fundraising by legislators has continued at a breakneck pace. Photos from two such recent events are included below:



Robert Howard (far left) with State Rep. Todd Hunter and former House Speaker Joe Straus (both center).



Robert Howard and State Senator Judith Zaffirini.