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### Working in Austin

With the deadline for filing bills behind us, I am pleased to report that your County Tax Office has 14 on the table with two others very similar to our proposals AND another 12 that support our policy positions (which by the way came from the voters and property owners of Galveston County). I am pleased to report that the Lt. Governor is staying true to his promises and has insured tax relief is the first topic of the day with Senate Bill 1 already having a hearing in Senate Finance. This omnibus legislation will address several aspects of taxes and property owners will be one of the beneficiaries. Yeah!

Short list of our successes and our partners:

HB 639/SB 1062	G. Bonnen/Bettencourt	Restoring professional certification to county tax offices (may be bracketed for Galveston Co. Hope Senator Taylor joins us)
HB 1933/SB 624	Darby/Hinojosa	Correcting issues with my pay agreements & allowing late quarter pay installments
HB 2432/SB 767	Faircloth/Bettencourt	Correcting issues with the Water Code for truth in taxation
HB 3470/SB 884	D.Bonnen/Hinojosa	Extending deadlines for cities and counties to take advantage of
HB2670/HB1953	Paul/D.Bonnen	a simplified tax adoption notice
HB 2431	Faircloth	Cleans up legislation from the last session that has offended and threatened property owners
SB 766	Bettencourt	Simplifies truth in taxation - the first step of a long overdue
HB3614/SB1680	Elkins/Bettencourt	concern for all

I am also excited about HB 1096 and SB 984 (Murphy & Bettencourt) which will finally define residency for voting insuring public confidence in future elections. Also, HB 1257 and SB 511 (Shaheen & Burton) are long overdue for governments - ending taxpayer funded lobbying! I have opposed this for over 10 years and look forward to helping. We have LOTS of appraisal cap bills including two that will help ALL property owners - not just homesteads. Great for Galveston's second home market!

Please join me in working to pass these good bills.

Cheryl E. Johnson  
Galveston County Tax Assessor Collector  
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