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State Representative Charles “Doc” Anderson to retire early from Texas Legislature

Long-time McLennan County lawmaker has notified Governor Abbott of his retirement and requested he order a Special Election to fill his unexpired term

Austin, Texas—Today, State Representative Charles “Doc” Anderson announced he had informed Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Secretary of State Jane Nelson, and Speaker of the House Dade Phelan that he was retiring early from the District 56 Texas House seat he has held since 2005.

Anderson, a veterinarian, was first elected in November 2004 and was subsequently reelected nine times. Late last year, he announced he had chosen to not seek an eleventh term in the Texas House.

Today, Representative Anderson notified Governor Abbott that, pursuant to Section 201.001 of the Texas Election Code, he was formally tendering his resignation to allow time for a special election. Anderson urged the Governor to order a special election to fill the vacancy created by his early retirement and recommended he schedule that election for November 5, 2024 in order to align with the general election so as to minimize any additional taxpayer expense associated with holding a separate election.

Anderson said he was motivated to retire from the legislature early in order to help bolster the legislative seniority of his replacement. The incoming freshman class of Texas House members for the 89th Texas Legislature, starting in January of next year, will be one of the largest in recent history and will include thirty some new lawmakers.

“By stepping down now, whomever wins the special and general elections on November 5th will be sworn in soon after, and will be able to hit the ground running working for the people of McLennan County and District 56. My decision will allow he or she to gain seniority over all of their fellow freshmen which, in turn, will help them secure better committee assignments and be able to more effectively serve our constituents,” Representative Anderson added.

“As I step away from my legislative duties, I have a profound sense of gratitude for the good people of this district who entrusted me to be their voice in our state’s capitol. It has been the honor of my life to serve my fellow Texans and my McLennan County neighbors for ten legislative sessions and countless special sessions. I am proud of my record of service in the legislature. Working together with my colleagues and the people of District 56 we have accomplished many great things for our county, our district, and our state,” added Anderson.

“While my service in the legislature is coming to an end, my love of Texas and McLennan County has not. While I look forward to spending more time with Lyn, who has served right alongside me, I will continue to support and champion the issues and causes I have fought for these almost twenty years. We plan on remaining active in our community for many years to come and we will never stop praying that God continue to bless the great sovereign State of Texas and the people who call it home,” Anderson concluded.

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