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S T A T E O F T E X A S
T h e T e x a s S e n a t e

Chairman Chris Harris announces he will not seek re-election to the Texas Senate

Harris says he intends to spend more time practicing law and supporting the community; encourages Victor Vandergriff to seek Senate District 9 seat.

ARLINGTON, Tex. - Chairman Chris Harris, the longest serving Republican in the Texas Senate, announces today he will not seek re-election in 2012 and will return full time to his law practice and serving his community locally.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to the people of North Texas and to my family for allowing me to serve," says Senator Harris. "It has been the greatest honor of my life that my friends and neighbors have asked me to represent them alongside so many amazing men and women for almost three decades."

Harris began his public service in the Texas House of Representatives in 1985 where he immediately distinguished himself as a budget hawk and advocate for children and families. After his election to the Texas Senate in 1991, Harris became that body's authority on matters of civil and criminal jurisprudence, specifically in the area of family law.

"Since my time serving with him in the Texas House of Representatives and as Lieutenant Governor and Governor, I have not seen a stronger advocate for his constituents than Chris Harris," recalls Texas Governor Rick Perry.

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Harris announces retirement in 2013

Harris has consistently kept a watchful eye on education and the state budget, paying particular attention to identifying more resources for local school districts and the University of Texas at Arlington, Tarrant County's only public 4-year university.

"UTA would not be the quality academic institution it is today if not for the relentless efforts of Senator Harris," says UTA president James Spaniolo.

"I began this job 26 years ago with a goal of making Texas a better place," says Harris. "I am proud of the results we have achieved working together, but there is more to be done. Senate District 9 needs strong leadership and I am encouraging Victor Vandergriff to step in and take over where I will leave off in the next legislative session."

Senator Harris will serve out the remainder of his term ending January 2013. After retirement Harris plans to return full-time to his law practice working on behalf of the community and public entities, and enjoying more time with his wife Tammy, his children and particularly his grandchildren.

Harris' Law partner and Mansfield mayor David Cook reminds everyone, "I have watched Senator Harris fight for the citizens of DFW for years, both as a lawyer in the courthouse and as a legislator in the statehouse. That warrior will keep fighting for what is right for the people of this region and this state."

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