

Committees:  
Business & Industry, Chairman  
State Affairs  
Redistricting



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## **State Rep. Rene Oliveira Seeks Re-election to Texas House of Representatives District 37**

State Representative Rene O. Oliveira filed for re-election to the Texas House of Representatives Saturday, turning in the appropriate paperwork and filing fee to the Cameron County Democratic Party on the first day to file for a place on the ballot in the March 4 Texas Democratic Party Primary election.

Oliveira currently chairs the House Committee on Business and Industry, and is a member of the House State Affairs Committee which oversees electric and other major utilities. He also serves on the House Committee on Redistricting. He is the fifth-ranking member of 150 Texas House members, and the dean of the Rio Grande Valley legislative delegation.

Thursday in Austin, Oliveira was recognized by the Sierra Club for his work in environmental protection receiving the organization's 2013 Legislative Service Award.

"This year, we established infrastructure for a new Rio Grande Valley super university, offered incentives to create new local jobs, brought home new money for beach protection, and paved the way for new electric power generation for Cameron County. I look forward to returning to the Legislature to continue to create more opportunities for our students, teachers, retirees, and working families."

Oliveira currently represents House District 37 which encompasses the majority of Brownsville, Port Isabel, Los Fresnos, South Padre Island, Laguna Vista, Bayview, and portions of Rio Hondo.

His work this year led to the creation of a new University of Texas super university and medical school in the Rio Grande Valley; legislation that allows for commercial space launches at Boca Chica Beach and an incentives package to attract SpaceX to Cameron County; legislation that paves the way for the new Tenaska power plant north of Brownsville, and legislation that will provide an estimated additional \$1.5 million annually for the cleaning and maintenance of South Padre Island beaches.

The 83rd Texas Legislature further restored \$3.4 billion in cuts to public education, overhauled high stakes public school testing, directed new funds to transportation, and put a State Water Plan before voters which they approved in Tuesday's Constitutional Amendment election.

"We had a very strong session with active community involvement. Working together, we have proven that we can accomplish great things for the Valley and Texas," he said. "Next session, we will be faced with finding new revenue to pay for our public schools. Nothing impacts the Valley's economy than our public schools. We must also continue to aggressively address the state's ongoing water crisis."

Oliveira counts among his most significant achievements in office as the passage of landmark legislation that allows for the garnishment of wages for the payment of child support, a measure that has generated more than \$10 billion for Texas children.

He has further authored past legislation which provides franchise tax relief for thousands of Texas small businesses; provided water and wastewater infrastructure for Texas colonias; and continued the international commerce truck corridor to keep job-producing steel products moving through the Port of Brownsville.

Oliveira previously served as House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman, and as a member of the Legislative Budget Board and the Legislative Audit Committee from 1999 to 2003. He also chaired the Ways and Committee in 2011 and 2012.

Oliveira is also a past chair of the House Committee on Economic Development and the House Committee on Land and Resource Management. He is also a past vice chairman of the House Committee on Public Education.

First elected to the Texas House in 1981, he has served on the House Appropriations Committee, Public Health Committee, Regulated Industries Committee, and the Insurance Committee. He also served as past co-chairman of the Joint Select Committee on NAFTA and GATT, and the Legislative Workforce Oversight Committee.

Oliveira has also served on the national board of directors for the National Petroleum Council, the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, and the National Council of La Raza. He is a former chairman of the Cameron County Democratic Party, and has served as a Cameron County delegate to several Democratic National Conventions. A senior partner in law firm of Roerig, Oliveira, and Fisher, he is a father of two adult children. He is a graduate of Brownsville High School, the University of Texas, and the University of Texas School of Law.