

Texas Construction Association

REPRESENTING TEXAS SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

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Subcontractor and Supplier Construction Newsletter - June 2008

Remember to File Franchise Tax by June 15th. Texas Comptroller Susan Combs recently extended the filing date of the revised franchise tax by 30 days. Businesses will now have until June 15th to file their taxes or file for an extension. The state's revised franchise tax was approved by the Legislature two years ago but rules regarding the tax were released by the Comptroller's office in December.

As this is the first time the state has collected this tax, this is the first opportunity to learn of the actual impact of the tax on our members. If you have comments or information you want to share on the impact of the tax on your business, particularly in comparison to the amount of taxes paid under the old franchise tax, please send this information to Harold Freeman at hfreeman@texcon.org or via fax at 512-473-3777. The information will be confidential except de-identified information may be used to demonstrate the impact and or combined with others to show aggregate de-identified information.

TEA Releases Proposed Rule for Criminal Background Checks. The Texas Education Agency released proposed rules in response to Senate Bill 9. Senate Bill 9, passed in 2007, requires certain employees of school district contractors to obtain criminal background checks. TEA released rules that will require employees of subcontractors working on school construction projects to undergo criminal background checks prior to beginning a school project. Public comment regarding these proposed rules began May 23rd and ends June 22, 2008. To view these proposed rules please visit the Texas Register at <http://texinfo.library.unt.edu/texasregister/html/2008/may-23/PROPOSED/19.EDUCATION.html#36>.

Senator Janek Resigns May 28th. Senator Kyle Janek, R-Houston resigned his position May 28th. Two Republican candidates, Austen Furse and Grant Harpold have announced candidacy for Senate District 17 and are busy campaigning. Austen Furse is former director of White House policy planning under President George Bush and is now a business man in Houston. Grant Harpold is a Houston attorney and current GOP precinct chair.

Other candidates considering a run for this seat include former Harris County GOP Chairman, Gary Polland, and Chris Bell, 2006 Democrat Gubernatorial Candidate. Representatives Charlie Howard, R-Sugarland and Scott Hochberg, D-Houston could also be contenders for Senate District 17.

Unless Governor Perry calls an emergency election, a Special Election to fill Senator Janek's unfilled term will be held the same day as November's General Election.

TCA Career Center Online. The Texas Construction Association's newly created TCA Career Center now provides a way for its members to easily post jobs and search resumes. Unlike other Job Boards, the TCA Career Center is construction industry specific which gives job seekers one centralized location to search for employment. For more information, please visit <http://jobs.texcon.org>.

New Workers' Compensation Group For TCA Suppliers. TCA has reached an agreement with Texas Mutual Insurance Company to establish a new workers' compensation insurance purchasing group for certain supplier members of TCA. The new group will serve suppliers in the fields listed below. The group will feature an enhanced premium discount and eligibility to share in group dividends. There is no need to change insurance agents. A company can use its current insurance agent to place it in the group. The primary workers' compensation classification code of a TCA member will determine if the member can apply to the group. The classification codes of the new group are:

8058

Building Material Dealer
Lumber Yard
Home Improvement Center

8106

Cement Lining of Tubular Goods
Iron or Steel Merchant
Rebar Dealer

8234

Building Material Dealer
Concrete - Ready Mix Dealer
Concrete Forms, Overhead Doors
Door & Window Dealer
Fence & Gate Dealer
Home Improvement Center
Insulation Dealer
Lumber Yard
Wood Molding Dealer
Paneling & Plywood Dealer
Railroad Tie Dealer
Sand & Gravel Dealer
Door & Sash Dealer
Scaffold Sale & Rental Dealer
Soil Dealer
Steel Building Dealer
Wood Preserving

2009 Key Contacts & Campaigns Survey Due June 20th. TCA made steady progress in the advancement of subcontractors' interests, but we need member participation to ensure continued success. One way for TCA members to get involved in the process is to help out with a candidate's campaign. TCA is seeking members willing to put up yard signs, work a phone bank, distribute mailers, and/or blockwalk for certain candidates. If you would like to be a member contact for your House & Senate district, please complete the 2009 Key Contracts & Campaigns Survey and return it to TCA. *We also gladly welcome any contributions to the TCA PAC, 602 W. 13th, Austin, Texas 78701.*

Mark Your Calendar for TCA 2009 Walk On The Capitol And TCA PAC Reception. The TCA Walk on the Capitol and Round Up has been set for January 26 and 27. TCA staff is busy planning an even bigger and better event than last year. So, mark your calendar and save the date for January 26 & 27!