

Biography

Dr. Gary VanDeaver is serving his second term as State Representative for Texas House District 1, which includes Bowie, Lamar, Franklin, and Red River counties. He is the vice-chairman of the House Committee on Administration and also a member of the Public Education Committee and the Appropriations Committee, which is charged with the important responsibility of writing the state budget.

Raised on a small family cattle operation near Clarksville, Texas, in Red River County, Gary learned the importance of a strong work ethic, a love for the land, and faith in God from an early age. Traditional values and a commitment to service continue to drive Gary in his daily work on behalf of the families and communities of his district.

Inspired by a deep-seated belief in serving others and investing in our rising generation, Gary embarked on a 33-year career as an educator. After beginning his career as a vocational agriculture teacher, he became a school principal and completed a Doctorate in Educational Administration. He most recently served as Superintendent of New Boston Independent School District before his retirement and initial election to the Texas House in 2014.

Crafting the state budget during the 2017 session was more challenging than the budget adopted in 2015, due to the decline in prices in oil and gas and their related industries. Despite this, as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, Gary helped draft a responsible state budget that holds overall state spending below the rate of inflation and population growth. He also worked closely with his House and Senate colleagues to enact several pieces of legislation specifically for interests in House District 1 including bills relating to the election of trustees for Paris Junior College; dissolution of a local hospital authority in Red River County; appointment of bailiffs in Bowie County courts; additional powers for TexAmericas Center; and overweight truck permits for Domtar.

Gary and his wife, Pamela, have been married for 34 years. Their two grown daughters carry on the family tradition of public service as a schoolteacher and criminal prosecutor. In 2016, the VanDeavers welcomed their first granddaughter to the family. Locally, Gary is involved with the Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club, having served as president of both. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Texas FFA, Red River County Farm Bureau, Bogata Rodeo Association and Red River County Fair Association. The VanDeavers are members of the First Baptist Church of New Boston, where Gary serves as a deacon and teaches adult Sunday school.