

# Q&A *with Dan Patrick*

*Texas Senator Dan Patrick has represented District 7 since 2007. His district encompasses the entire Cy-Fair area, and when he's not in Austin, he can be seen in the Cy-Fair community. He recently produced the Christian film, *The Heart of Texas*, and is the author of *The Second Most Important Book You Will Ever Read*.*

**Tell me about your family?** I've been married to my wife, Jan, for 35 years. We have two children - our son, Ryan, whose wife, Kellie, is expecting our first grandchild, and our daughter, Shane.

**What inspired you to run for public office?** I'm concerned about the future of our state for my children and our next generation. I want to be sure Texas is strong and provides them the same great opportunities as it has for us.

**How do you balance work, civic responsibilities, and family?** It is very difficult, as there is so much to do. The state considers us part-time employees earning \$600 a month. The truth is, serving in the Texas Senate is a full-time, 24/7 job. I also have to earn a living. That usually takes a back seat to my senate work. I love serving the people of our district and state and so I spend about 80% of my time on senate business.

**What are the toughest challenges you have faced as a senator?** Having the time to study so many issues, while balancing my time. I cast 4,101 votes out of 4,105 votes in only two months in 2007 and had a perfect 100% voting record this session casting 4,779 votes. That's a lot of votes and a lot of bills. Keeping up with every bill and issue is a challenge.

**What are Cy-Fair's strengths?** We are in the epicenter of Texas growth. Cy-Fair ISD is the third largest school district in the state and the fastest growing. The people of the district are hard-working family folks and are our most valuable asset. We will double our population in the area in only 30 years. That growth brings great challenges and great opportunities.

**What is Cy-Fair's role in District 7?** Cy-Fair represents about a third of my total district. A state senate district is larger than a Congressional district in Texas. Cy-Fair issues are a major part of the district.

**What has surprised you during your time as senator?** The quality of people who I work with behind the scenes at the Capitol is extraordinary. The staffers, experts, bill drafters, researchers, and others help us do our job better.

**What is the best part of being a Texas state senator?** That's easy to answer. I have met so many great people, many who have become good friends, across the district. The people of the district have been very kind and very supportive of my family and me. It is a blessing and honor to be the voice of over 700,000 people in our district.

**What motivates you?** I am motivated by the many blessings the Lord has granted me and the truth of His word. I am also motivated by those who have come before me in handing over the baton of peace and prosperity to my generation. It is now my turn to do that for the next generation.

**What is your greatest accomplishment?** I give almost all of the credit to my wife, but I am proud of my children. Both have chosen public service. My son is a very successful assistant district attorney in Harris County and my daughter will be a registered nurse in a few months.

**How can Cy-Fair residents become more involved in the community?** People need to take an active role in local elections. Turn-out in local elections is usually very low. People need to get involved in their schools, chambers, [and] local charitable organizations as much as their time allows.

**What do you like best about representing Cy-Fair?** The people of the district are great folks to represent. Because our district is located all in one county, it gives me a chance to really get to know the district. Because all senators represent the same number of people, some have 10 to 40 counties to represent.

**What is your vision for Cy-Fair?** I believe Cy-Fair will be a leader in higher education for the entire area. I worked with Lone Star College to help develop the University Center on the HP campus on [Hwy.] 249. This is going to be the model for higher education. Students can go to community college and if they want a four-year degree, [they can] take courses from University of Houston, Sam Houston, Prairie View, and other schools on the same campus. **CFM**



“I’m concerned about the future of our state for my children and our next generation. I want to be sure Texas is strong and provides them the same great opportunities as it has for us.”

**-Senator Dan Patrick**