

Ryan Blackburn

Independent Study and Mentorship

Evan Speice

13 April 2018

Policy Execution - Clarity in Local Government

Mentor Visit Assessment 4

Mrs. Dody Brigadier

Director of Constituent Outreach

Pat Fallon for Texas Senate Campaign Headquarters, 2416 N. Griffith Drive, Prosper TX 75034

12 April 2018

3:30 - 4:30

Assessment:

In preparation for my time with Mrs. Brigadier this week, I looked to further my understand of constituent interaction, similar to how I, in my past mentor visit, hoped to realize the actual methods and trends of citizen communication. In contrast, though, this week proved to demonstrate the difference between this level of communication and the policy from which those interactions are derived. Working in conjunction with the work spent with the office, I looked forward this week to see these policies in action, and how the way they are written culminates into its execution at the base level.

My time at the Denton County Government Center this week allowed me the ability to understand in what ways policies that are written in Austin are executed at the local level of government. My greatest lesson from today underlined the degree to which such policies pervade every action in the office; Mrs. Brigadier discussed certain items, such as how the passage of a budget determines whether or not the office even functions, or how a tax code can reciprocate to a greater amount of calls, interactions with visitors, or a need for more staff. An application of a change to the tax code was realized as Mrs. Brigadier introduced me to staff in the tax office, discussing how policy and directions from Austin can relate back to duties locally. Another important aspect of my mentor visit was how the passage of resolutions can be utilized in the local level; though important policy matters are the most significant topic to be passed on resolutions, the majority of these documents are created at the local level for tasks relating to constituent services. Examples of constituent interaction that I had encountered at my visit helped to demonstrate this anomaly, as some of the actions that Mrs. Brigadier had to complete included creating these resolutions for families in respect for passed away relatives, as well as for significant acts of kindness by members of the community.

Each of these tasks demonstrated to me how pervasive the state policy is in the local level of government, and how processes are influenced by their passage. I was most intrigued to learn more about the passage of these policies in the Texas Congress, and how our own state representative carries out policies that are supported or offered by the bills. Indeed, I feel that my time with Mrs. Brigadier this week supported a foundation of understanding for how policy is actually implemented, rather than debated, in our local level of Texas government. I hope to be able to utilize this information as I continue to work towards the creation of my final product,

especially in order to help reciprocate to a potential audience the processes of these bills and how they can influence their execution in their community. The message of having the ability to create an impact is critical to the success of the campaign, and including this idea through flyers, information on the website, and via other means would substantially aid this cause. As I move into the latter half of this month, I am excited to exercise the lessons I have learned in the office with Mrs. Brigadier in the continued structuring of Empower Frisco.