Honorable Larry D. Gonzales, MPA, CPM

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Elected Official - Texas House Leadership

Nationally Recognized

Extensive Media Exposure

Professor/Guest Lecturer

Businessman and Entrepreneur

www.desk138.com

Matthew 5:8 Foundation, Inc.
www.matthew58.com

BIOGRAPHY

The Honorable Larry Gonzales began his tenure in the Texas House of Representatives in 2011. Throughout his career, he has been featured in national publications, TV news, and radio talk shows, playing a key role in shaping public policy at the national and state levels.

Rep. Gonzales served on the influential House Appropriations Committee three times, twice as Subcommittee Chairman, overseeing the appropriation of funds for forty-two state agencies. He was also appointed twice to the budget conference committee, one of only five House members responsible for drafting the final versions of the 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 state budgets.

After serving as a Member of the Sunset Advisory Commission, Gonzales was appointed Chairman of the Commission. In this role, he led the restructuring of twenty-four state agencies to ensure their missions were met effectively and efficiently.

In 2017, Larry founded Desk 138, LLC, a public affairs and business development company specializing in issue advocacy and strategic planning.

Chairman Gonzales began teaching at Texas State University in the Spring of 2026. Professor Gonzales teaches Public Finance 3310 to mostly junior and senior Public Adminstration majors and minors. As a thirty-six year practioner, his class focuses on learning objectives wrapped around anecdotes, helping to bring theory to practice.

Together with his wife, Marie, Gonzales founded the Matthew Five Eight Foundation, Inc., a family foundation. The Foundation has financially assisted church youth groups, activities for the special needs population, and academic scholarships.

Larry graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1993 with a B.A. in Government and earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Texas State University in 2014. He also achieved Certified Public Manager (2012) and Certified Mediator (2007) status from Texas State University and participated in the UT Austin School of Law Fellows Program in Dispute Resolution (2012).

Larry and his wife Marie have been married for 31 years and have two children: Leah, 25, a doctoral student at UT Health Science Center in San Antonio, and Alexander, 23, a Visual Communications student who helps run Lazarus Graphics, a graphic design firm Larry started in 1996.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Texas House of Representatives

January '11 – June '18 ***Elected Member of the Texas House of Representatives, House District 52***
82nd, 83rd, 84th, and 85th Legislative Sessions

- Chairman, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, 2016-2017
- Member, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, 2014-2015
- Subcommittee Chairman, House Appropriations Committee (Articles VI, VII, and VIII), 2015-2018
- Member, House Appropriations Budget Conference Committee, 2015-2018
- Member, House Appropriations Committee (Articles I, IV, and V), 2013-2014
- Member, Select Committee on Dedicated Accounts (2013)
- Member, Conference Committee on House Bill 5 (HB5), the most comprehensive K-12 education rewrite in 30 years (2013).
- Delegation Member - Led a delegation to Mexico City to meet with Mexico's Ministry of Energy to discuss Texas' role in the global energy marketplace.
- Vice Chairman, "Texas House Longhorn Caucus;" help advance the mission and advocacy of The University of Texas at Austin.
- Emerging Leaders Program – 1 of 50 legislators nationwide selected for public policy discussions at The University of Virginia.
- Featured in the January 2013 issue of "Parade" Magazine – "How Latinos are Changing America."
- Recognized as a national leader in technology, cyber security, and big data public policy issues.
- Extensive media experience - television news shows and interviews, radio, key note addresses, panel discussions, and more.
- Guest lecturer, "Texas Government" at McNeil and Hutto high schools, and at Austin Community College.
- Guest lecturer, "Public Finance" at Texas State University, Certified Public Manager Program.
- Guest Lecturer, variety of issues and topics, The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs

Texas State University System

March '08 - October '09 ***Assistant Vice Chancellor for Government Relations, 81st Legislative Session***

- Coordinate communications with state and local officials regarding legislative and policy matters affecting higher education in Texas on behalf of the TSUS Board of Regents, the Chancellor and the eight component higher education institutions.
- Develop the System's legislative and appropriations priorities and helping to ensure the System's message is communicated effectively to the state's elected leadership.
- Provide input, strategic planning and analysis on pending legislation.
- Monitor and provide strategic input on legislative appropriations requests and budget related matters.
- Monitor and track pending legislation and communicating with senior executives by providing verbal and written updates.
- Respond to inquiries about the System and its eight component schools from all levels of government officials and the public.
- Deliver presentations to university leadership and alumni groups on the legislative process.
- Knowledge of the higher education infrastructure and campus administrative policies and procedures.

Texas State University - San Marcos

January '26 - Present ***Associate Professor of Practice***

- Teach PA3310 (Public Finance) to upper-division Public Administration majors/minors, translating fiscal-administration theory into practical decision-making about what government does, why it budgets, and how budgets drive service outcomes.
- Equip students to analyze and defend budget choices across federal, state, and local governments.
- Build fluency in public revenue systems by guiding students to evaluate revenue options using core criteria.
- Strengthen applied skills through exercises in revenue forecasting/estimation, tax expenditure analysis, and intergovernmental fiscal relations, preparing students to anticipate fiscal stress and communicate budget impacts.
- Apply practitioner experience to teach capital budgeting and debt fundamentals, using AI-enabled, multimodal instruction to increase engagement, reinforce concepts in multiple formats, and support diverse learning styles while meeting state-mandated objectives.

Office of the Attorney General, State of Texas

February '01 - December '01 ***Attorney General John Cornyn, Legislative Liaison, 77th Legislative Session***

- Serve as a liaison between the Office of the Attorney General and members/staff of the Texas Legislature regarding legislation.
- Provide input, strategic planning and analysis on pending legislation.
- Respond to inquiries about the agency from all levels of government officials and the public.
- Serve in a public relations capacity, speaking to visiting civic groups and schools about the duties and responsibilities of the Office of Attorney General.

Office of the Lieutenant Governor, State of Texas

January '99 - June '99 ***Lt. Governor Rick Perry, Research Assistant, 76th Legislative Session***

- Facilitate communication between the Lt. Governor's Office and members/staff of the Texas Senate regarding legislation.
- Research legislative history and drafting bill analysis.
- Analyze, monitor, and track pending legislation and provide verbal and written updates to executive staff.
- Collaborate and coordinate with Senate Committee Chairman and their staff on the status of legislation referred to their committee of jurisdiction.

Texas House of Representatives

January '05 - February '08 ***State Rep. John Otto, Chief of Staff, 79th and 80th Legislative Sessions***
January '03 - June '03 ***State Rep. Robert Talton, Legislative Assistant, 78th Legislation Session***
January '97 - Sept. '98 ***State Rep. Wayne Christian, Chief of Staff, 75th Legislative Session***
January '95 - August '95 ***State Rep. Kevin Brady, Administrative Assistant, 74th Legislative Session***
June '93 - April '94 ***State Rep. Huey McCoulskey, District Office Director***
January '93 - May '93 ***State Rep. Jim Pitts, Administrative Assistant, 73rd Legislative Session***
February '92 - Dec. '92 ***State Rep. Tim Von Dohlen, Research Assistant, 72nd Legislative Session (Special Sessions)***

- Research, track, draft bill analyses, and provide strategic planning on pending legislation.
- Copy writing for press releases and opinion editorials on topics relevant to the office/office holder.
- Public relations work with community leaders, elected officials, constituents, lobbyists and the media on pending legislation.
- Represent the office by attending civic activities, public/state agency hearings, and lobby/fund raising events.
- Responsible for oversight and supervision of multiple legislative offices, budget, and employees; including hiring and terminating.
- Facilitate constituent service and problem solving casework with various state agencies.

Desk 138, LLC

September 2017 - Present ***President/Owner***

- A public affairs and business development company specializing in issue advocacy and business strategic planning.
- Works to cultivate partnerships and other commercial relationships, as well as identify new markets for products or services.
- Successfully lobbied the Texas Legislature on business, tax, economic development, municipal government, technology, first responder, and health care issues, among many more.

Matthew Five Eight Foundation, Inc.

September 2020 - Present ***Founder***

- A Family Foundation whose mission is: "To provide social, educational, and spiritual life experiences for individuals of all ages and abilities so they can be vibrant, successful, contributing members of the community."
- Grant recipients include first generation college students, church youth groups, activities for special needs youth and adults, legislative ingternships, grants for public school teachers, and more.
- To date, the Foundation has donated over $270,000.00

Lazarus Graphics

July 1996 - Present ***President/Owner***

- Own and operate a communications and public relations company.
- Services include creative design, strategic planning, research, production of collateral materials, copy writing and editing, messaging, social networking, social media, and image branding for campaigns, initiatives, and issue advocacy.

Todd Smith & Associates, Inc.

September '95 - December '96 ***Political Consultant/Graphic Artist***

- Provide general campaign strategy and consulting for candidates for political office.
- Communicate campaign policy by drafting and distributing press releases, radio scripts, and opinion editorial pieces.
- Manage direct mail campaign including copy writing, design, and coordinating efforts with print and mailhouse vendors.

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin

- Bachelor of Arts Degree, School of Government (1988 - 1993)
- UT School of Law Fellows Program (2012 Class, Dispute Resolution)

Texas State University

- Master of Arts Degree, School of Public Administration (2007 - 2014)
- Certified Public Manager (2012)
- State Certified Mediator (2007)
- "Distinguished Alumnus Award - Masters in Public Administration," Texas State University MPA Program
- "Distinguished Alumni Award, 2023" from the CENTEX Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, Texas State University MPA Program

Higher Education Classroom Instruction Experience

- Guest lecturer, "Track 4: Public Finance," Texas State University, Certified Public Manager Program, 2020-present
- Guest Lecturer, "Introduction to Public Policy and Administration" undergraduate class, Texas State University, 2025
- Guest Lecturer, variety of issues and topics, The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs 2015-present

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

- Associate Professor of Practice, PA3310 - "Public Finance"
- State Representative representing the Texas State University Round Rock campus
- State Representative, state appropriator and budget conferee, funding the Texas State University Round Rock campus for 6 years
- Assistant Vice Chancellor, Texas State University System Office
- Lecturer, Public Finance - Track 4, CPM Program, Texas State University
- Member, Leadership Council for the Center for Research, Public Policy, and Training (CRPPT) at Texas State University
- Keynote speaker, CPM graduation, Texas State University
- Guest Speaker, Texas State RR Campus Health Professions Building Ribbon Cutting
- Guest Lecturer, undergraduate "Introduction to Public Policy and Administration" class, Texas State University
- Sponsor, Capitol Cats (Texas State University Legislative Intern program)
- Member, Texas State University Master of Public Administration NASPAA Reaccreditation Alumni Team
- Member, Texas State University Certified Public Manager NACPMC Reaccreditation Alumni Team
- *"Rising Star of Texas"* Certificate of Accomplishment - Texas State University Round Rock Campus

MEDIA PRESENCE

News Television

- "Texas House Debates Budget" (Texas Tribune):
  http://bit.ly/larrygTTBudget
- "State of Texas: In-Depth - Budget Negotiations" (KXAN):
  http://bit.ly/larrygBudget

Panel Discussions

- "Rep. Larry Gonzales Discusses Tuition Revenue Bonds:"
  http://bit.ly/larrygTRB
- "Video: Privacy, the Cloud and State Government" (Texas Tribune 7:16, 16:00, 46:57 and 49:37 marks):
  http://bit.ly/larrygCloudFirst