

From the office of
Texas State Representative Dan Flynn
THE FLYNN REPORT
Legislative Newsletter
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Greetings Constituents, Friends and Supporters:

The pace around the Capitol has been non-stop with committees underway. Nevertheless, the session is progressing along smoothly. Governor Perry's State of the State address was received warmly by a majority of the officials in attendance with his comments on balancing the State budget and his commitment to end Robin Hood receiving the most applause. Perry showed that the State can, and will balance the budget without a tax increase. Other key proposals included:

- ◆ Adopting key recommendations in Comptroller Strayhorn's e-Texas reports to save \$1.7 billion.
- ◆ Improving estimates of higher education income.
- ◆ Reducing special item projects and asking junior colleges to pay a proportionate share of insurance costs for a \$1.1 billion savings.
- ◆ Reducing agencies' 2003 appropriation level by an average of 9 percent to save \$3.8 billion.
- ◆ Closing tax loopholes and changing the collection of the gas tax thereby generating \$700 million in additional revenue without new taxes.

The majority of the Members continue their commitment to their pledges of 'no new taxes' this bi-annual budget of which I support.

On the legislative front, a homeowner's insurance bill dealing with insurance filing procedures will likely come to the House Floor for a vote as early as Monday, February 17. In addition to public school finance, homeowner's insurance and budgetary concerns there has been much debate on malpractice legislation and tort reform. The House Committee on Appropriations is making great headway in their ongoing budget analysis. On February 18 the House Committee on Public Education will have a hearing on school accountability and the public is welcome to attend.

This week Gov. Rick Perry and Attorney General Greg Abbott issued a warning to Texas businesses against gasoline price-fixing. The vast majority of businesses conduct their business legally and ethically, however, there have been complaints of gasoline selling in Texas for over \$2 per gallon prompting an investigation. The two leaders noted that the preliminary investigation will focus on gasoline producers, wholesalers, distributors and retailers.

My staff and I welcome your input and your questions. You can reach us in our office located in the Capitol extension: **E1.324**. Mailing address: **P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768** and our phone number is **512/463-0880**. Email **dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us**.