



THE FLYNN REPORT

December 21, 2006

Greetings constituents, supporters and friends:

As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas and the beginning of the New Year I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the outpouring of strong support I received in the 2006 primary and general elections. I appreciate the many volunteers and workers that made these victories possible. I am honored to have the opportunity to again serve House District 2 as your State Representative and will do so to the best of my abilities.

Governor Rick Perry, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst and Speaker Tom Craddick have provided insight into the issues they feel will be important priorities in the coming session.

Governor Perry has said education will continue to be one of his highest priorities, and indicated he will be working with the Legislature to increase higher education accessibility and affordability. He has also expressed the need for increased border security and reduction in crime. He mentioned he would like to see the states constitution amended so that surplus tax dollars could be returned to taxpayers. The Governor recently said he would like to simplify the state's spending limit formula, which presently is tied to growth in citizens' personal income and said he believes the formula should be based on population growth. He has already formed a task force, the Pauken Commission, to study property tax reform to provide the reduction on the promised property tax cuts and possible appraisal and revenue caps.

Lt. Gov. Dewhurst has indicated he wants to pass a Texas version of “Jessica's Law” -- a Florida law that increased penalties against sex offenders whose victims are children. He has discussed proposing that a first-time offender convicted of a sexual assault against a child under age 14 would get a 25-year sentence and lifetime monitoring after release. A second-time offender could be subject to the death penalty. I think we will see a strong effort to hold adults who commit sexual offenses against children accountable by passing tougher laws. Reports have indicated the Lt. Governor would like to see teachers and support personnel in Texas' public school system subject to background checks under a child-protection agenda.

Speaker Craddick has stated it is possible the estimated \$15 billion surplus projected by outgoing Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn is closer to \$7 billion. Since appropriations bills must originate in the House, I think we will see the House focused on the budget and money issues. Members have already been provided a list of the state constitution's spending controls that suggest many overlapping mandates that must be consider. The past Legislature's recent shifting of billions of dollars in funding responsibility from local government back to the state will force the need to coordinate the mandates. The increased need for Medicaid spending as the state population grows and as medical costs increases will also present a major challenge that must be solved.

Since the Texas constitution requires budgets be based on economic growth and must meet the states pay-as-you-go requirements it would be helpful for state agencies to post detailed budgets online for review by the Legislature and the public. The State Comptroller may be asked to publish their method for making revenue estimates. Universities and other state-supported institutions of higher learning may also be asked to publish detailed cost breakdowns for instruction and their maintenance and operations.

As we move towards the beginning of the 80th Legislative Session of the Texas Legislature my staff and I are making plans for the coming session. Border security, illegal aliens', public schools and higher education issues, with a continued effort towards property tax reform and overall demand for more efficiency in state agencies and spending

will be our priorities as we prepare for this coming session. I will be working on strengthen the laws on 8-Liners slot machines to provide our local prosecutors better tools to enforce existing law and will seek to have steroids testing mandatory to protect the health of our young men and women that participate in high school athletics events.

I feel very blessed to have a very experienced staff as we approach the 80th Legislative Session. Jenni Franks will be serving as my Legislative Director and Ashlei Leck will be our Administrative Assistance in the Capitol office. They will be assisted by several interns as the session begins on January 9th 2007. Janice Melton will continue to be over the Canton district office and Debbie Mclain will be in the Greenville office.

My staff and I welcome your input and questions. You can reach us in our offices located in Austin at the State Capitol in the capitol extension: E1.302. The Canton District office located in The American National Bank Building on Highway 243: The Greenville District office is located in The Paul Mathews Exchange Building, Suite 802, 2500 Stonewall Ave. Phone: 1-800-734-9515 Mailing address: P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768. Email District2.Flynn@house.state.tx.us

God bless you and God bless Texas,

**Dan Flynn
State Representative, District – 2**

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