



October 2010

A Message from Senator Jackson

Dear Friends,

Thank you for subscribing to my monthly electronic newsletter. In this month's *Capitol Update*, you'll find information on how to shop for the best rate on your electric bill as well as a link to a helpful voter website established by the Secretary of State. Please also read the announcement about an important Clean Air Forum event going on in Houston on November 4. And finally, I'd like to thank the Career Colleges and Schools of Texas for naming me a 2010 "Legislative Champion" earlier this month.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about legislative issues in Texas, I encourage you to contact me either by emailing mike.jackson@senate.state.tx.us or by calling my Capitol office at 512) 463-0111. I rely on input from you to best represent Senate District 11.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Jackson".

Mike Jackson
State Senator
District 11

"Power to Choose"...Your Electric Provider

Do you think you're paying too much for your electric bill? Did you know that you have the option to shop for a new rate? The Public Utility Commission has a website, www.powertochoose.org, which allows Texans to see the various electric rate plans available in their area. Because electricity in Texas is a competitive business, we have the opportunity to shop around for a better deal, just like other commodities.

"Electric prices are currently lower than they have been since competition began and lower than they were 15 years ago under regulation," said Senator Jackson. "The Texas market provides lower average rates than the national average and the rates of neighboring states. I encourage consumers in Senate District 11 to search for the lowest rate and consider changing from their current provider if they are not satisfied with their rate."

Energy companies typically offer a fixed rate, calculating your bill based on a predetermined price billed on what is known as a kilowatt hour. A customer will often see this abbreviated as "kWh." This term can be rather confusing, but a simple example can help explain it.

A kilowatt is equal to 1000 watts. Let's assume you are powering a 100 watt light bulb. To figure out how long it would take to consume 1 kWh of power, divide 1000 watts (1 kWh) by the number of watts needed to power the light bulb (100 watts). The answer, 10, is how many hours the light bulb would need to be on to consume one kilowatt hour of power.

Some companies offer what is known as a variable rate. If you know you will use power at off-peak hours, this may be an option to consider. Typically, power is most expensive late in the afternoon and early evening. If you can adjust your power consumption to be less during this time, you can save a significant amount of money on your electric bill. The installation of smart meters in many homes has made it even easier to monitor your current usage and help make adjustments.

Whether you choose simply to shop for a new electric rate, or research a variable rate plan, chances are you can save money by exploring your options. Please visit www.powertochoose.org to take advantage of electric competition in Texas. As a consumer, you have the right to shop for a better deal.

Please Don't Forget to Vote!

If you're a registered voter and have not yet voted this election cycle, please visit the polls on Tuesday, November 2, and exercise your right to vote. If you've already voted, please take this opportunity to help educate your friends and relatives on the importance of voting and encourage them to cast their ballots on Tuesday.

Visit www.Votexas.org for information on everything from voter registration to polling place locations. A list of upcoming elections may be obtained on the website or by calling the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683). Personnel in the Elections Division may also answer any other questions you have regarding the voting process.

"I encourage you to take to heart your civic duty and exercise your right to vote," said Senator Jackson. "It's up to all of us to participate in elections and encourage our children to do so as well. Future generations depend on it."

2010 CLEAN AIR FORUM: Partnering for Clean Air

Thursday, November 4, 2010: 5:00 to 8:00 pm
University of Houston Hilton Hotel



FREE Evening Session Open to the Public
NO Registration Needed ♦ Walk-ins Welcome



Would you like to know more about the status of Houston's air quality?
Do you have concerns about air quality that you'd like to share with community leaders and experts?

Would you like more information about what you can do to help clean the air?



Clean Air Partner Award ♦ Panel Discussion on Benzene Reductions
Conversation on Air Quality Topics Important to You ♦ Booths ♦ Food ♦ Prizes



Evening Keynote Speaker – Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia, Harris County Precinct 2

Air Quality Discussion moderated by Jim Lester, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer,

Houston Advanced Research Center

Panelists:

Elena Craft, Ph.D., Air Quality Specialist, Environmental Defense Fund

Cathy Culpepper, Plant Manager, INEOS NOVA

Michael Honeycutt, Ph.D., Toxicology Division Director,

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

David E. Persse, MD, EMT-P, FACEP, Director,

City of Houston Emergency Medical Services

Bob Allen, Manager, Permits & Technical Services,

Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services



Clean Air Forum Steering Committee Members

City of Houston ♦ East Harris County Manufacturers Association ♦ Economic Alliance Houston Port Region ♦ Environmental Defense Fund Houston-Galveston Area Council ♦ Harris County Mayor's and Council Member's Association ♦ Harris County Precinct 2 ♦ Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services ♦ Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center ♦ Port of Houston Authority ♦ Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ♦ Texas Environmental Research Consortium ♦ Texas Southern University



Need More Information? Contact Beth Whitehead at Greater Houston Partnership:
bwhitehead@houston.org or 713-844-3630

Senator Jackson Named 2010 "Legislative Champion" by Career Colleges and Schools of Texas

Senator Jackson was recently named a 2010 "Legislative Champion" by the Career Colleges and Schools of Texas (CCST) at the group's annual meeting in Galveston. CCST is a state

association dedicated to improving private career schools in Texas. To join, a school owner must subscribe to high standards of education.

"With Senator Jackson's leadership in the Texas Senate, and our schools providing the highly trained workforce for today and tomorrow, Texas will continue to lead the nation in job growth and retention," said John Wood, CCST Chair and President and CEO of the Ocean Corporation.

"CCST relies heavily on Chairman Jackson's perspective on ensuring Texas employers have a ready workforce," said Joe Fisher, CCST Legislative Chair and President of Hallmark College. "Our students and our schools appreciate his valuable role as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Economic Development."

"I am honored by CCST for this recognition," said Senator Jackson. "I appreciate the work CCST members do to prepare our workforce and look forward to collaborating with them this legislative session for the good of our students and employers."