



Tommy  
**Williams**

**Texas Senator**

## **SENATOR WILLIAMS FOCUSED ON CUTTING GOVERNMENT SPENDING AS TEXAS LEGISLATURE CONVENES**

As the 82nd Legislative Session of the Texas Legislature began last week, I was very encouraged to see so many constituents stop by my office on opening day, and returning this week for the inaugural ceremonies.

Unlike the federal government, Texas is required to balance our state budget, and with sharply declining state revenues, the budget for this next biennium promises to be **THE signature issue of the 82nd legislative session**. Just like you and your family budget, when income decreases we must cut spending.

Texas continues to attract new residents and new jobs with low taxes and a pro-business approach to governing. For years now, thousands of people from all over the other 49 states have moved to Texas. They are tired of living in states operating with a tax and spend mindset.

Texans have been fortunate to experience a fairly robust economy in the last several years when compared with other states. However, this growing population presents a unique set of challenges in a period of falling revenues. This current revenue shortfall demands extensive and immediate action because state government should do what is necessary, **but ONLY what is necessary**. The shortfall may be significant, but it is not insurmountable.

We've been down a similar road before. In 2003 we faced a \$10 billion deficit. We didn't ask Washington for a bailout. We balanced the budget without raising taxes. **And, we'll do it again.**

The next few months will require some very difficult decisions. Cuts are often accompanied by pain, but higher taxes and bigger government kill jobs and stagnate economic growth. It's time for Texas to do again what our families have to do in tough times – scale back and live within our means. That's how we will continue to attract more new jobs and build a brighter future for all of Texas. After all, our work should be about growing the economy and opportunity, not growing government.

I'm looking forward to working hard and delivering significant results for you this session.

Tommy