



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brent Connett, 512-474-6042 (Office); 512-799-8360 (Cell)

Balanced, no-new-taxes budget a major achievement

Conservative legislators applaud Gov. Perry

July 26, 2011

AMARILLO, TX – As Governor Rick Perry signs the state budget in Amarillo today, conservative state legislators offered their gratitude to Governor Perry for his leadership in helping balance the budget without raising taxes, which was a signature achievement of the 82nd Legislature.

With the State of Texas facing a multi-billion dollar revenue shortfall, conservative state leaders made balancing the 2012-2013 state budget without raising taxes a top priority. They succeeded.

State Senator Tommy Williams (R-Woodlands), a TCCRI Director who co-chaired the TCCRI State Budget Task Force, said of the state budget: "As our nation's leaders in Washington debate extending even greater borrowing authority to the federal government, the State of Texas continues to serve as a beacon of fiscal sanity and an example to the federal government. By exhibiting strong and consistent leadership that the state budget must be balanced without raising taxes, Governor Perry helped legislators produce a balanced state budget that accomplished that task. It's never easy, but it was a job well done."

Sen. Williams' continued: "To overcome the challenge posed by the revenue shortfall, conservatives did the necessary yet difficult work of paring down the budget while protecting the state's commitment to public education." Sen. Williams serves on the Senate Finance Committee, the budget-writing committee in the Texas Senate.

The general revenue shortfall for the 2012-13 biennium was met through spending reductions across the entire state budget: \$1.6 billion was cut from the general revenue budget in total (or 2 percent of general revenue spending compared to 2010-11), resulting in a total general revenue budget of \$80.5 billion. State general revenue spending on public education (K-12) increased by nine percent compared to the 2010-2011 state budget. The All Funds budget (which included federal and other funds) was reduced by \$15.1 billion, or 8.1 percent compared to 2010-11.

State Representative Warren Chisum (R-Pampa), TCCRI President & co-founder and co-chairman of the TCCRI State Budget Task Force, stated: "Even with the challenges posed by a sizable

revenue shortfall, the state must live within its means. The 2012-2013 state budget is the best possible outcome for the Texas taxpayers, businesses, and families." Rep. Chisum serves on the House Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Chisum concluded: "New or higher taxes would have stifled the Texas economy, which is beginning to recover from the impact of the national economic recession. Instead, the Governor and the Legislature overcame the chief challenges facing the state by adhering to our principles, and by sticking to our record of fiscal responsibility. We thank Governor Perry for his leadership, which was instrumental in helping us pass this balanced budget which does not raise taxes on Texas families or businesses."

###

The final report of the TCCRI State Budget Task Force, Blueprint for a Balanced Budget, is available online at txccri.org. [Click here for a PDF copy of the report](#), which provided a range of budget proposals and made the case that the 2012-13 general revenue budget can and must be balanced without raising taxes.