



*Friday, August 5, 2011*

### **Governor Signs SB 7 to Improve Health Care**

Governor Rick Perry was joined by Senator Nelson, author of SB 7, for a ceremonial signing of the bill that achieves \$500 million in health care savings. The legislation contains costs in the Medicaid program, focuses health care dollars on keeping patients healthy and gives Texas flexibility to develop our own health care solutions. "Texans expect us to make efficient use of their tax dollars as we meet our responsibilities to those who rely on state services," Senator Nelson said. "These reforms will produce a more effective, capable system that focuses our health care dollars on the outcomes we want for patients, and contains the unsustainable growth in our health and human service budget."

### **Senator Nelson Receives Awards From Conservative Groups**

Texas State Senator Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, has been recognized by two leading conservative groups for her commitment to Texas families on both social and economic issues. Texans for Fiscal Responsibility chose Senator Nelson for its "Legislative Freedom Fighter" award for authoring health care compact legislation authorizing Texas to join a multi-state compact agreement to seek permission from the federal government for Texas to design its own health care programs. The group also named her a "2011 Taxpayer Advocate" for her overall voting record. Texas Eagle Forum listed Senator Nelson as one of four "Most Conservative Senators" for her votes during the 82nd Legislative Session. "I am proud of my conservative voting record, which supports the fiscal policies that have made Texas as an economic beacon during our national economic downturn," Senator Nelson said.

### **Texas 114 Flyover Opens**

Marking another milestone in the DFW Connector project, the new flyover bridge for eastbound Texas 114 heading north onto Texas 121 is open. "This project is progressing on schedule and will result in much improved mobility through the Grapevine areas," Senator Nelson said. "I would urge drivers to be careful when traveling through the construction areas." Find updates on lane closings and sign up for email alerts at [http://www.txdot.gov/project\\_information/projects/fort\\_worth/dfw\\_connector/default.htm](http://www.txdot.gov/project_information/projects/fort_worth/dfw_connector/default.htm).

### **Drought Ushers in Calls to Conserve Water**

More than 90 percent of the state is experiencing extreme or exceptional drought. North Texas cities are responding with calls for conservation and watering restrictions. Governor Perry has

renewed the disaster proclamation that was originally issued in December 2010 because of the extreme fire danger. This renewal extends the disaster to include the effects of prolonged drought and extreme high temperatures. View the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's [legislative drought briefing](#) for more information.

**Host Deadline for Birthday Party Aug. 12**

Please note that if you would like to be listed as a host on the invitations for Senator Nelson's Annual 40th Birthday, we need your pledge by Friday, August 12, 2011. Visit our Annual 40th Birthday online headquarters for details, <http://www.janelson.org/contribute>. The party is on the eve of Texas-OU weekend -- from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, October 6, 2011.

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*Paid Pol. Adv. Friends of Senator Jane Nelson P.O. Box 608 Grapevine, TX 76009*