



NEWS RELEASE

Senator Robert Nichols

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Nichols speaks to DETCOG

Austin, TX – This week, Senator Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) met with the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) at their monthly Board of Directors meeting in Nacogdoches County.

"I was happy to have the opportunity to speak to the members of DETCOG today at their meeting," said Senator Robert Nichols. "Through working closely with the organization and its members, I am better able to represent the interests of my district in the Legislature."

Nichols gave an overview of the 85th Legislative Session and shared some of the budget successes, including funding for mental health and an increase in transportation funding. Over the next four to five years, this funding increase will bring over \$500 million in road projects to Senate District 3. As well as other significant improvements to safety on state highways.

"I am proud of the Legislature for prioritizing mental health. We allocated \$300 million to improve our state hospital system. With some facilities, like Rusk State Hospital, being more than 100 years old, it was important to ensure we were providing modern facilities with adequate capacity to address local needs." said Nichols.

Nichols also discussed the Legislature's efforts to deliver property tax reform. "I supported Senate Bill 2, which would have lowered the rollback tax rate from eight percent to five percent, and will support it in the upcoming special session," said Nichols. "Texans need relief from the escalating appraisal valuations in the state, to ensure they will be able to afford to continue living in their homes."

Nichols represents all counties within DETCOG, which include Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Trinity and Tyler counties.

First elected to the Texas Senate in 2007, Robert Nichols represents 19 counties including the greater part of East Texas and Montgomery County.

In the Texas Senate, Nichols serves as Chairman for the Transportation Committee. He also serves on the Senate Finance, Business and Commerce, and Administrative Committees. He is a member of the Legislative Audit Committee and currently serving his second term on the Sunset Advisory Committee.