Dear friends,

After a productive session featuring property tax relief and public education as the headliner issues, I am writing to update you on actions taken by the 86th Legislature.

The Texas economy continues to thrive as our state leads the nation in job creation and is experiencing historic lows in unemployment. Our economic strength is providing prosperity and opportunities — and healthy revenue to fund the needs of our growing state. As chair of the Senate Finance Committee, I worked to ensure that a significant portion of our revenue — $5 billion — was returned to the taxpayers in the form of property tax relief. Another $6 billion was invested in public education — which, as a former teacher, I believe to be the great equalizer.

In addition to passing a balanced budget that stayed within all constitutional spending limits, the Legislature passed over 50 bills I authored or sponsored — many based on constituent suggestions. Among them is legislation to combat human trafficking, address the backlog of sexual assault kits, support rape crisis centers and strengthen programs to help survivors of domestic abuse. In addition, I sponsored bills — now signed into law — to bolster our cybersecurity defenses, reduce opioid abuse and provide early intervention for students at risk of suicide, substance abuse or becoming a danger to themselves and others.

This newsletter provides additional information about these and other initiatives approved by the Legislature this session. I have also included a survey and would love to hear back from you on these or any other issues on your mind. Government works best when there is an open dialogue between elected officials and the people they represent.

Please know that I will continue working every day to earn the faith you have placed in me to serve as your State Senator. It is an honor to represent you in the Texas Senate!

Very truly yours,

Senator Jane Nelson
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In her introductory budget, Senator Nelson
made human trafficking a priority
by funding every agency working
related to this issue – nearly $50M
in investments, she said SB 72 establishes a
Human Trafficking Coordinating Council to ensure that these new
resources are strategically coordinated
“Human trafficking is a form of mod-
ern-day slavery that cannot be toler-
ed,” Senator Nelson said.

CYBERSECURITY

Having chaired the Senate Select Committee on Cybersecurity over
the interim, Senator Nelson took this
step to protect against cyber attacks – which are occurring at a rate of over 1 billion per week
across state government. The budget
invested over $3B to replace legacy systems and upgrade cyber defenses.
She authored SB 6 to help secure the
electric grid, grow our cybersecurity
workforce and strengthen cyber
security oversight.

“Data is the new oil, and the state
must lead the way in protecting defense across state government.
This is the new oil, and the state
possesses highly sensitive, highly
valuable information that must be
protected,” Senator Nelson said.

INCOME TAX PROHIBITION

SB 2 allows the Texas Education Agency to create a pilot program to ultimately replace the
STAAR test. “We need to prioritize
providing a learning environment
that aligns with the Sunset Commission,” Senator Nelson said.

“We should be allowing an education
that thrills children, and I’m glad
we showed teachers how much
we appreciate them,” Senator Nelson
told those gathered.

The Legislature approved SB 2, bringing to the Tarrant County del-
ected pensioners a constitutional
vote. “This new law, SB 2, will
allow these organizations to pro-
vide services to every area of the
state and handle caseload growth;
new investments include
anti-gang squads at the Department
of Public Safety; and provides
oversight of risky procurement
laws and procedures on state
contracts. SB 65 increases conflict-
fessionalism of the quality of care
inmates receive in state facilities. It
also strengthens the assessment of
bidders and vendor performance
tracking to high “Breakthroughs in combating state
government cannot con-
tinue. These contracts involve tax-
payer dollars, and we must
hold agencies accountable and
ensure the state is not getting ripped
off,” Senator Nelson said.

CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SB 1, sponsored by Senator Nelson, provides a constitutional
amendment to reauthorize the Cancer Preventive and Research Institute of
Texas (CPRT) for another 10 years.

“Cancer impacts all Texans, and our
efforts to prevent and find cures for
this terrible disease must continue,”
Senator Nelson said.

SEXUAL ASSAULT & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Having authored more than 30 bills to help
victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in her career, Sen-
ator Nelson added SB 65 in the bud-
get to address the backlog of untested
sexual assault kits. She sponsored SB 71 to establish a tele-health program
providing services with compas-
sionate, expert care from famil-
ian nurses. She authored SB 234 maki-
ing it easier for domestic violence victims to terminate their lease early
to escape domestic violence, and she
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1. Rank the issues you consider the greatest challenge facing our state:

Respondent #1  

Respondent #2

_____  _____  A. Jobs & The Economy
_____  _____  B. Property Taxes
_____  _____  C. Quality of Education in Public Schools
_____  _____  D. Crime & Drugs
_____  _____  E. Health Care Costs & Patient Access to Care
_____  _____  F. Transportation
_____  _____  G. The Environment
_____  _____  H. Illegal Immigration
_____  _____  I. Other: ______________________________

2. Do you support/oppose:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RESPONDENT 1</th>
<th>RESPONDENT 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support Oppose</td>
<td>Support Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giving teachers an across-the-board pay raise?</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limiting the growth of property appraisals?</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
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<tr>
<td>The use of taxpayer dollars to recruit new businesses to Texas?</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
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<tr>
<td>Securing our border by any means, including a physical barrier?</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
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<td>Red flag laws that increase the court system’s ability to limit access to firearms for persons deemed a threat?</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
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<td>Making college tuition-free at taxpayers’ expense?</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
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<td>Giving consumers greater choice in how their data is collected and used online?</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
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<td>Replacing private insurance with a universal government run program similar to Medicare?</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana?</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing or broadening the state sales tax to lower school property taxes.</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
<td>❏ ❏</td>
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</tbody>
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Additional Comments:

_______________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

TO MAIL QUESTIONNAIRE PLEASE CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE, FOLD, TAPE AND PLACE POSTAGE STAMP.
Please return your completed survey, along with any additional comments, to P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711. Or by email to: jane.nelson@senate.texas.gov.

Name (s) ____________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ TX Zip __________________________

Primary Phone __________________________ Email: __________________________