



STATE OF TEXAS BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

Rissie Owens
Presiding Officer

Budget Statement

The 82nd Legislature has convened to discuss and approve a balanced budget for the State of Texas. Due to the current economic conditions funds are not available to maintain the current level of activity for any State agency. The Board of Pardons and Paroles is not immune to this economic shortfall.

Recently both the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate issued drafts of a proposed budget for the coming 2012 – 2013 fiscal years (Biennium Budget). It is important to remember that these two budget documents are starting points and that neither document as it is written is complete. They will be debated and changed throughout the Legislative Session and the final version will not be complete until May. The final budget must pass both houses and signed by the Governor before it becomes law. The Board will have many opportunities to provide input and suggestions to the final budget, and will highlight the importance of your work and the integral nature of our activity to reducing costs throughout the Criminal Justice system.

Recently the Board was instructed and submitted a plan to reduce our current year, FY 2011 budget by 2.5% or \$650,000. This plan was submitted and with your hard work to help reduce expenditures, no loss of staff was realized.

The Board's Biennium Budget for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 were reduced. The House Budget version reduced the Boards budget a total of \$8,201,904. The Senate Budget version reduced the Boards Budget by \$4,261,985. The actual amount of the Board's budget is yet to be determined and over the next 5 months the Board's legislative team will be fighting to gain additional dollars to reduce the impact of the statewide shortfall.

The Board's strategy is in TDCJ's Legislative Appropriation Request (LAR) for the Fiscal Years 2012 – 2013, Goal E, and Strategy E.1.1. This consists of the Board of Pardons and Paroles, Clemency, Administration (Central) and the Institutional Parole Operations. The total Senate Budget reduction for these activities was \$3,072,837, and the House Budget reduction was \$5,942,740. In Strategy E.1.2, Hearings and Revocations, the total Senate Budget reduction was \$1,189,148. The House Budget version was a reduction of \$2,259,164 in this area.

Due to the large variance between the two versions and a great deal of uncertainty as to the real amount of the reduction to the Board's budget, no meaningful estimations of the impact can be made at this time. However, the Board and all of its activities are heavily dominated by employees and the real impact to current staffing will be determined as the Legislative Session continues. The Board's management will be reviewing all processes currently in place and decisions will be made on every position that becomes vacant now and in the future.

The Board values the employees that make us the best Agency in the State of Texas and every effort will be made to retain every employee currently employed in all of the Board's functions.