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VOLUME I
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ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR

Thank you, Governor Dewhurst, it’s great to see you again at the helm of this distinguished body. It’s my honor, and my pleasure, to be with you all again today at the commencement of a historic legislative session. As we begin, it’s fitting to reflect for a moment on the shootings Saturday in Arizona and continue praying for those forever affected by this senseless tragedy. Incidents like that one provide a stark reminder of the fragility of life and the importance of making one’s mark on the world every single day. As elected leaders, we’re called to make an even bigger mark. The decisions we make shape economies, affect employers, and touch the lives of all Texans. The actions we take can make the difference between success and failure for people in all walks of life all across this state.

Now I’ll be speaking to the House in a little bit and I expect to see a whole lot of new faces over there which is a nice balance with the more "seasoned" group here. I know a thing or two about being "well-seasoned" and it ain’t all bad. Whether you’re a newcomer or an old hand, we all heard the message Texans sent us on Election Day. They expect us to balance this budget without taking more money from employers and working families. They want state government leaner and more efficient. I’m confident we will heed that message. Many of you can attest that we’ve handled similar challenges before in the not too distant past. In 2003, we heard the same doom and gloom about the budget from many of the same sources; 2003 was no cakewalk, but we balanced that budget and set the stage for our state’s job creation and economic success throughout the rest of the decade. That growth helped us weather the recent economic storms in better condition than anywhere else in the country. As we did in "aught-three," we'll balance the budget this time, too, by setting priorities and making tough choices, not by raising taxes. Together, we can make government work leaner and smarter and set the stage for Texas to emerge even stronger in job creation and educational achievement, in public safety and quality of life. While the budget is our top responsibility, there are other pressing issues that have waited too long already. That’s why I’m declaring emergency items for the upcoming session starting with the pressing need for tougher eminent domain laws. Property ownership remains an essential freedom for Texans, and we must continue our efforts to properly protect it. I’ve been working with Senator Estes and Representative Geren and other stakeholders on this issue for years, and we agree that their bill will resolve the key issues of eminent domain in Texas for now and the future. Next, we must abolish sanctuary city rules and free up our peace officers to do their job keeping our families and neighborhoods safe. Immigration laws and their enforcement are the responsibility of the federal government. We cannot compound their failure by preventing Texas peace officers from doing their jobs. We must empower officers to apply their training, experience, and judgment to enforcing the laws by keeping municipalities from tying their hands. These are just a few of the issues we’ll address in the next 140 days, but they merit our closest attention as they relate to the safety and security
of our citizens and, most of all, their liberty. I look forward to working with Governor Dewhurst and each of you in doing the people's business over the next 140 days. Will that work be easy? Probably not. Will there be disagreements within this building? I’d call that the safest bet in town. At the end of the day, though, I’m certain you’ll work together in the best interest of our state and merit the faith placed in you by the millions of Texans who put you here. May God bless you, and, through you, may He continue to bless the great State of Texas.

(Note: Prepared text)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NOTIFIED

The Committee to Notify the House of Representatives that the Senate was organized and ready to transact business appeared at the Bar of the Senate and Senator Hegar notified the President and Members that the committee had performed its duty.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
EIGHTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION

The President announced that the time had arrived for the election of President Pro Tempore of the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session.

Senator Duncan placed in nomination the name of Senator Steve Ogden of Bryan for the office of President Pro Tempore of the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session.

On motion of Senator Eltife and by unanimous consent, the nominating speech by Senator Duncan and the remarks made to second the nomination were ordered reduced to writing and printed in the Senate Journal as follows:

Senator Duncan: Thank you, Mr. President and Members. I rise to nominate our good friend, Senator Steve Ogden, the Senator from Bryan, to serve as President Pro Tempore of the Texas Senate. Steve Ogden has been a friend of all of us for a long time, has served ably in the Texas House, and then came over here in 1997, in the best freshman class the Texas Senate ever knew, to serve in the Texas Senate. The President Pro Tempore of the Texas Senate is a position that is mandated by the Texas Constitution. The Member who serves in that position serves and is third in succession to the Governor's Office, should something happen, or should the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor be out of the state at the same time. Senator Ogden deserves this position, not only because of his seniority and length of time in the Texas Senate, which is one of the factors, but also because of the respect that he has earned from each and every one of us in the Texas Senate. Steve has been, I think, a friend of all of us, but also a steady hand in times of chaos and trying to determine when and where we’re going to spend the state’s dollars or cut the state’s dollars and come up with a budget that’s good for all of Texas. Budgeting process and his job as Chairman of Senate Finance is the hardest job in the Texas Legislature. Not only does he have to balance the competing interests of this state but he also has to solve the problems of each and every one of our districts. He also has to deal with Members of the Texas Senate and Texas House that sometimes have a little bit of a different idea about the way to do things, and he always has a calming way to do it. He has a great sense of humor, which makes him a fun person to be around with and work through