

**From:** Spring Branch Speaks <updates@springbranchspeaks.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2011 11:46 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Spring Branch Speaks - Call To Action #6 - URGENT-Contact the Budget Conference Committee NOW

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## Spring Branch Speaks ... to make our voices heard in Austin.

**While the Spring Branch district contributes tax revenue at a higher rate than 99% of Texas, our SBISD neighborhood schools could receive one of the largest cuts in the state.**

### State Budget Update:

The state of Texas' budget is in the final stage of development. Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed their versions of the budget. The Senate budget cuts public education funding (known as the Foundation School Program) by \$4 billion and the House cuts it by \$7.8 billion. As a reminder, the recent cuts by SBISD were modeled off the "best case scenario" of the Senate budget.

Since the Senate and House are so far apart on their proposed budgets, they have appointed five members each to a Budget Conference Committee to negotiate the final budget numbers. **It is anticipated that the Budget Conference Committee will come out with their final recommendation by Wednesday of this week.** Unfortunately for SBISD, none of our local legislators sit on this Conference Committee.

Aggravating the situation for public schools, Governor Perry weighed in last week by using a lobbying organization for a phone campaign supporting the House budget. This budget puts our children's education in jeopardy. We cannot let that organization's opinion be the only one the Conference Committee hears.

**We must use our voice, loudly and in great numbers, to demand that this Budget Conference Committee reject the House education budget.**

### Call to Action:

Please call and/or email the following Senators and Representatives on the Budget Conference Committee. Identify yourself as a concerned Texas citizen and tell them in your own words - and emphatically - to:

1. **Support an overall budget that cuts public education by no more than \$4B, even if that involves using a portion of the Rainy Day Fund.**
2. **Support an overall budget that puts every penny of available money into the Foundation School Program so public schools can do their core work.**

**3. Stop politicizing our children's future. We believe the House budget is irresponsible for the children of Texas.**

Sen. Steve Ogden	Steve.Ogden@senate.state.tx.us	1-888-510-4580
Sen. Robert Duncan	Robert.Duncan@senate.state.tx.us	1-888-723-0408
Sen. Chuy Hinojosa	Juan.Hinojosa@senate.state.tx.us	1-888-812-0531
Sen. Jane Nelson	Jane.Nelson@senate.state.tx.us	1-888-514-5807
Sen. Tommy Williams	Tommy.Williams@senate.state.tx.us	1-888-514-8930

Easily copy and paste: steve.ogden@senate.state.tx.us;  
robert.duncan@senate.state.tx.us; juan.hinojosa@senate.state.tx.us;  
jane.nelson@senate.state.tx.us; tommy.williams@senate.state.tx.us

Rep. Jim Pitts	Jim.Pitts@house.state.tx.us	1-888-823-9190
Rep. Myra Crownover	Myra.Crownover@house.state.tx.us	1-888-958-8864
Rep. John Otto	John.Otto@house.state.tx.us	1-888-644-2670
Rep. Sylvester Turner	Sylvester.Turner@house.state.tx.us	1-888-828-0051
Rep. John Zerwas	John.Zerwas@house.state.tx.us	1-888-838-0224

Easily copy and paste: jim.pitts@house.state.tx.us;  
myra.crownover@house.state.tx.us; john.otto@house.state.tx.us;  
sylvester.turner@house.state.tx.us; john.zerwas@house.state.tx.us

Thank you in advance for your quick response to this Call to Action, and your continued work for our neighborhood schools.

**[Spring Branch Speaks](#)**

*Parent-organized community outreach with SBISD in mind.*

(Forward this email to your family and friends - ask them to join, too:  
[www.SpringBranchSpeaks.com](http://www.SpringBranchSpeaks.com))

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**Legislative Committee:**

David Davenport	Pam Goodson
Darci Hubbard	Susan Kellner
Valerie Paul	Chris Vierra