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Gov. Perry praised for stance on budget

AUSTIN — The president of an Austin-based public policy organization praised Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday for his stand on holding down state spending.

The governor and others in state leadership positions are protecting taxpayers, not special interests, during the budget crisis now being addressed by the Texas Legislature, said Brooke Leslie Rollins, president of the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Rollins made the comments following a briefing at the Governor's Mansion.

"Since 1978, the state budget has risen more than 600%, and has increased almost 125% in just the last decade," Rollins said.

"In tough economic times, government should look 1st for ways to cut costs and maximize efficiency so that taxpayers are protected — not soaked. I'm proud that Gov. Perry and so many of our state's leaders are doing just that. Finally, the taxpayer — instead of the status quo — is being represented in state government."

New taxes are not an option if the people of Texas hope to see the economy rebound, Rollins added.