

## Welcome to Veritas!

While the cold of winter is finally upon us, the heat of public policy debates rages on. In this *Veritas* you will find a sampling of the issues that will be debated and discussed in Austin and around the state in 2004, as we prepare both for a special session this Spring on school finance, and for the 79th Legislature in 2005.

For many, state policy questions do not have the appeal of federal issues. However, it is policy at the state and local level that most directly affects the lives of people. Whether it is the roads we drive, the schools our children attend, or the phone calls we make, state policy has a deep, personal impact on the lives of everyone, every day.

This, of course, is why the Texas Public Policy Foundation is so important. In order for the right decisions to be made, policymakers need the best, most up-to-date information and research. Day in and out, the Foundation studies the most pressing issues to provide policymakers, opinion leaders and the public with the ammunition it takes to battle for a better Texas.

Our values are your values: free markets, private property rights, individual liberty and responsibility. These are the cornerstones upon which we build our research, and the boundaries that mark our actions.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Veritas*!

For Texas,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brooke Leslie Rollins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and end.

Brooke Leslie Rollins, President