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After the inauguration, patrons and other Austinites enjoyed Eddie Deen barbecue inside tents on Colorado Street near the Capitol grounds.

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## Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. sworn into office during Capitol ceremony

**By: Michelle West**

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A large stage and thousands of metal chairs stood frozen and abandoned on the south steps of the Capitol Tuesday, as the weather put a freeze on many festivities planned for the 2007 Texas Inauguration.

As a result, hundreds of family, friends, constituents and colleagues crowded the House Chambers to hear Gov. Rick Perry and Lt. Gov David Dewhurst take the oath of office Tuesday. The weather was slightly less supportive.

Below-freezing temperatures forced the cancellation of the inaugural parade, and the swearing-in ceremony had to take place indoors.

The incumbent state leaders took their oath of office, placing a hand on a Bible once belonging to Sam Houston, and each gave a speech after their oaths.

Dewhurst brought attention to "Texas Children First," a legislative package he promoted during his campaign that would pass a number of bills regarding children's safety and education.

The lieutenant governor said he plans to introduce a Jessica's Law in the Legislature, which would seek the death penalty for two-time sexual predators and require a minimum jail sentence of 25 years for first-time offenders.

"My plan, created with the help of some key legislators," said Dewhurst, regarding education, "will allow us to build on what we've done the last few years to improve scholastic performance, reward good teachers, lower drop-out rates and expand college readiness programs for high school students.

Perry called attention to topics such as conflicts in Israel and Iraq and the necessity for bipartisan cooperation during the legislative session.

He also stressed a need for stricter border control through additional manpower while also providing plans for illegal immigrants already in the country.

"We must have a guest-worker program that recognizes the economic contributions of foreign workers and the desperate conditions that bring them here," he said.

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