



THE ELEPHANT'S EAR

Ellis County GOP's Monthly Newsletter
Get informed!

February 2023 Edition

A Message from the Chair

Ellis County Republicans,

The 88th Texas State Legislature opened on Tuesday, January 10th; 31 state senators and all 150 house members were sworn in. Now starts the work of our state legislature which only meets every two years. I was very happy to see over thirty people from Ellis County in Austin to participate in the opening. Before and after the ceremony, groups of our citizens were going around to the different legislator's offices in the House and the Senate. Kathy Ponce had arranged for us to meet after 3:00 p.m. with Jill Glover, the RPT Legislative Committee Priority Committee Chair; Michelle Evans, Legislative Director of Texans for Vaccine Choice; and Rachel Hale, Executive Director of Texas Freedom Coalition on behalf of Teri Hall of TURF.

The next day, Wednesday, we were scheduled to attend the luncheon held by Texas Public Policy Foundation. However, Speaker Dade Phelan decided to move the vote on the house rules to Wednesday because he heard over 1000 activists were coming on Thursday to promote *No Democrat Chairs*. We had to leave quickly after the luncheon and hurry back to the House to observe the vote. It's this type of politics that frustrates people, and they walk away which makes this type of politics effective. The Speaker of the House is a very powerful position, as this case demonstrates. When an objection was raised, he twisted it to kill a vote on *No Democrat Chairs*. The speaker also appoints committee chairs who determine how or whether legislation will move through their committees. Chairmen who oppose RPT priorities can make it harder for us to get good legislation through the committees. This will require more effort on our part to show these committees we need this legislation.

The Senate has released its appointed committee chairs, and you can find them on our website. As of this date, Speaker Dade Phelan has not released his committee chairs, but he has said he will appoint democrat chairs.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 7th at The Enchanted Point, 1511 Ovilla Rd., Waxahachie. Social hour is 5:30-6:30; the meeting begins at 6:30. The Ruston Cattle Company truck will be there so you can enjoy some good food while you socialize.

Hope to see you there,
Randy Bellomy
Chairman
Ellis County Republican Party

Legislative Update

Although it does not feel like it, we are in the midst of the 88th Legislative session.

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick has announced his Committee Chair's and Committee members.

This information is on the Ellis County website under Austin updates.

We are eagerly awaiting Governor Abbott's State of the State address. This is where the Governor's priorities will be announced. These priorities will be passed first. Per the Texas Constitution, the governor's emergency items are the only topics the legislature can act on for the first 60 days of a legislative session.

We are also awaiting the Texas House Committees to be announced and the Committee calendar to be put into place. Once this happens it will be full swing into Public Hearings to fight for our bills and against the bad bills (yes, they are many we need to be aware of).

Just a reminder: the RPT approved bills are on the RPT website. Go to the tab #TXLEGE. then scroll to 88th LP BILL LIST. These are the bills that have approved RPT language.

While our priorities are important. We must pay close attention to some very good bills that have been filed that will help to Keep Texas Texas.

A few of my favorites are HB1350 by State Rep David Cook (Senate companion bill SB378) to rein in rogue DA's that fail to follow state laws. HB914, by State Rep Cole Hefner, to eliminate paper license plates. As they are a big issue when dealing with human trafficking and retail crime rings.

And of course State Senator Kolkhorst SB147 which would only allow American citizens to purchase land in Texas. This one is getting a lot of media attention and pushback from the left.

While it seems we are in a waiting period. We really are not. Some things you can do to be ready when the craziness starts is:

- **Update your TLO account to get alerts for your bills and committee's.
- **Start contacting State Reps to co-author any bills you are supporting.
- **Make trips to Austin to help educate and discuss your issues to State Reps/Senators. We have people in Austin every Tuesday and many groups have action days coming up.

Attached is the link to the Texas Tribune's Officials Directory. Yes, I know it is a liberal news media source, but it is the best directory out there. For links that you will need as we start to make phone calls and send data driven emails, [click on the Texas Tribune Directory](#).

This is the time for ALL groups, work together to get Conservative legislation passed to strengthen Conservative values in our state. With everyone working together we will be able to get the Calls to Action out quicker and be able to make the impact we need to make on our legislators. Sometimes we only have a couple hours, often times just minutes, notice to get those calls made.

Please periodically check the [Austin Updates, on the Ellis County GOP website](#) for any current news or updates.

The Grassroots are more organized this session than any session past.

Please contact me if you have any questions.
Join us on this journey of #TXLEGE23

Kathy Ponce

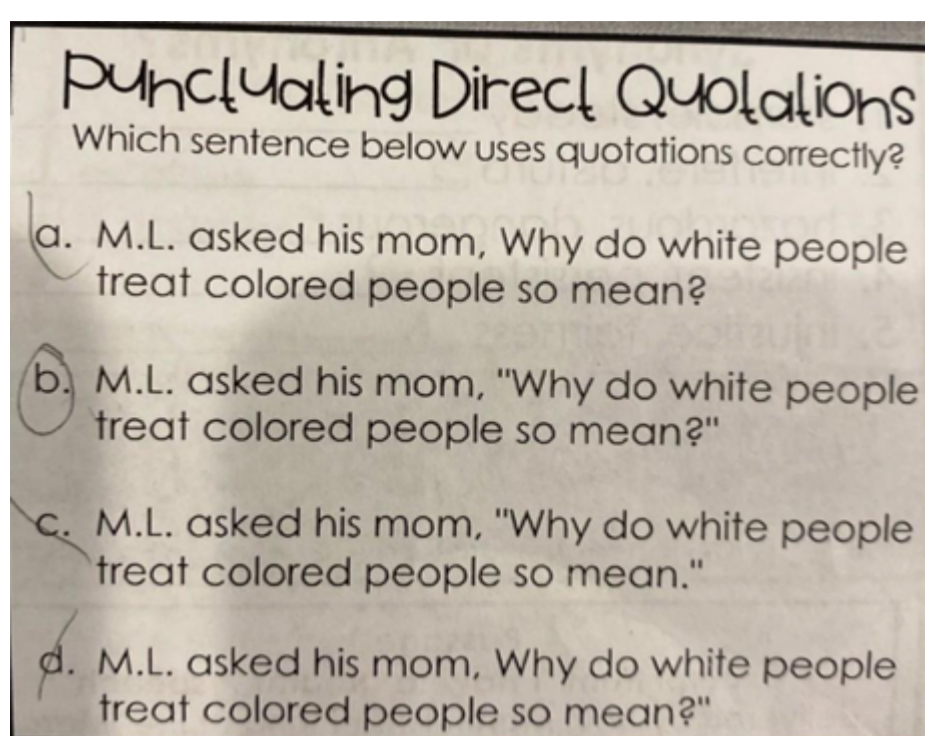
214.334.5087

Ellis County GOP Precinct Corner

[Precinct maps and Chair listing found HERE.](#)



What if the teacher gave this to your 4th grader?



This is not from San Francisco or Chicago. This is from Prosper ISD (about an hour North of Ellis County).

May will see multiple local elections throughout Ellis County. These positions will include Mayors, City Council Representatives and School Board Trustees. These are considered "non-partisan", with candidates not identified on the ballot as a member of a particular party. If history is any indication, we will see candidates claiming to be "moderate" or "conservative" when in fact they have a history of supporting positions that are neither. I believe it is important for the Ellis County Republican Party to encourage Ellis County voters to support conservatives across the board.

We must first vet candidates then get the word out to voters. This means we have to broaden our ability to communicate with voters. Please encourage your neighbors, friends and family to join us at our monthly meetings and events and to subscribe to this newsletter.

Each time an election approaches, pollsters refer to voters who plan to support a particular candidate early on as the "base". This base is the foundation on which campaigns are built.

Builders will tell you that all buildings are only as good as their foundation. Those who designed and built the great pyramid of Giza understood this and therefore excavated to bedrock before laying the foundation blocks. The many volunteers who keep the office open; prepare for events; block walk or make phone calls for candidates; those who attend the GOP meetings and events along with the subscribers to this newsletter are this bedrock.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our monthly meeting:

Date: Tuesday, February 7th

Time: 5:30PM Social and Supper Hour (BYOB) 6:30PM Meeting

Food Truck: [Ruston's Cattle Company](#)

Location: [The After Church, 1511 Ovilla Rd, Waxahachie, TX 75167](#)

One Team, Many Fights!

J.J. Brookshire
Chair - Communications & Marketing Sub-committee & Pct 1034
media@EllisCountyGOP.org
Tel: 415-VOTE-GOP (415.868.3467)

[PS: Please encourage your fellow Ellis County residents to visit the Ellis County GOP website and subscribe to the Elephant's Ear](#)



It's That Time Again

It's about to be that busy time again. Tax season, Legislative Session, and, of course, election season. Yes, almost unbelievably, it's time for local elections, again. I would be remiss to say I'm still recovering from campaigning a year ago. Every time these local elections come up, we talk about ushering in candidates who hold Conservative values. With the amount of newcomers to the Ellis County area, we must be ever vigilant to continue to vet candidates and to continue to attract new or dormant Conservative voters. We have great leaders in our Precinct Chair Committee and Victory Committee who have been working diligently on the aforementioned areas. As well as there are folks within the Party working organically to grow our Conservative values in the County. There is no better way than developing relationships with others within our County. As well as, part of the job is holding those we elect accountable, and if they aren't sticking to Conservative values, remove them from office with our votes. Republicans in name only are detrimental to Conservative values. Let's look forward to another exciting and hopefully not too dramatic election season. After all, it is always election season in Ellis County.

Holly Freeman
Editor

Food for Thought

(Submitted articles from subscribers)[Fox News: Ellzey- Border](#)

[SecurityWaxahachie Daily Light: Harrison Files Bill, Border SecurityHall: Grid](#)

[SecurityRiskTexas Lawmakers File Bill to Open Casinos](#)

Join the Legacy Circle!

When you become a Legacy Circle member of the Republican Party of Ellis County you will be a vital part of helping us build a powerful and influential presence.

Your contribution will help keep Ellis County and the great state of Texas, RED!

Your valuable contribution will go directly to providing a permanent location for our GOP Headquarters in Ellis County which allows us to do the following:

1. Hold our GOP monthly meetings open to all citizens
2. Have training for Precinct Chairman and volunteers
3. Host our 'Get Out The Vote' efforts at election time
4. House our resources such as our candidate campaign signs and literature
5. Be a center for town hall meetings to educate and inform our citizens

There are several levels of membership – please choose the one that is right for you!

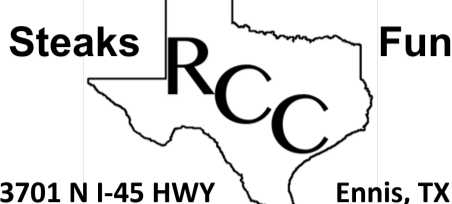
Bronze level contribution - \$100
 Silver level contribution - \$200
 Gold level contribution - \$500
 Platinum level Contribution - \$1000

[To Join the Legacy Circle CLICK HERE](#)

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Please support the Ellis County merchants listed below:

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Ellis county's
 oldest family
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 The Ellis County GOP will be sent in your name!

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 Haresh Boghara, M.D., MBA.
 Principal Investigator
 hboghara@epicmedresearch.com
 106 Plaza Dr, Red Oak, Texas 75154
 Ph: 972-777-6956
 Fax: 972-777- 6922

RU HAPPY RANCH
 Providing hay for livestock and assisting others with hay production and brush control throughout Ellis County area.

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