



THE ELEPHANT'S EAR

Ellis County GOP's Monthly Newsletter Get informed!

May 2023 Edition

A Message from the Chair

Ellis County Republicans,

We are in the middle of School Board, City Council, Mayor, and bond elections throughout our county. The endorsement of several of our candidates by ECRP is on our website, EllisCountyGOP.org. Please get out and vote on these very important positions that affect your more directly. Voting locations and hours are also on the website. Early voting is April 24-29 and May 1-2; Election Day is Saturday, May 6.

Our State Legislature is in its last thirty days of the regular session. Many of the Republican Party Priorities are stalled in the House of Representatives committees where they will die if not sent to the House by Thursday, April 27, for a vote. This is why the Speaker of the House and his committee chair appointments are so important. Most of these subjects will not be considered for two years unless the Governor calls a Special Session.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 2 at 1511 Ovilla Rd (The After Church), Waxahachie. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., and the meeting commences at 6:30 p.m. We will be hearing from Congressman Jake Ellzey and several of our local candidates that are on the May ballot. We will also talk about many of the bonds that the school districts and cities are trying to pass.

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

Legislative Update

When you receive The Elephant Ear there will be only 28 days left in the Texas Legislative session. If your bill did not get a Public Hearing in the respective committee consider it dead.

While there are a few Senate Public Hearings scheduled in the Texas House, for Monday, May 1st (Middleton's Ban Men in Women's Sports) the majority of hearings are over.

We are now in the process of trying to get the Senate bills passed in the House and some of the more important House bills out of Calendars (SB14 Ban Transgender Mutilation).

I truly hope we do not have to hear the words "this was the most Conservative Session Ever" talk, because it has been one of the most lackluster sessions ever, with the exception of Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and the Texas Senate. At the beginning of the session, Lt. Governor Patrick made the promise to pass 30 of 30. The promise was to pass all 30 bills that line up with the Texas Legislative priorities. He has done just that. Attached is the list of bills the Texas Senate has passed and have sent to the House.

Meanwhile in the Texas House, where great bills go to die, we have Election Integrity, important Border bills, and numerous other great bills that have been left to die in committee. The Texas House has only passed 1 legislative priority at the time of this report.

Now do not get me wrong, some good bills have passed the House: HB900-The Reader Act; HB44 & HB609-both Medical Freedom bills; HB3-The School Safety bill mandating an armed person at every school in Texas; HB2127-The Texas Municipal Regulatory Act, and a few other bills. The work of the House is nowhere near the work the Texas Senate has done.

Lt. Governor Patrick has made the public statement that if the Senate bills die in the House he can push for a Special Session, and that he is willing to do so.

While the Texas House voted to expand their pensions (Harrison was a no vote) both the House and Senate continue to bicker back and forth on how to give YOU a break on YOUR property tax bills. A \$35 billion dollar surplus that was our money to begin with is having a problem finding its way back into YOUR pocketbook.

Big government exists everywhere including in Austin.

We had to fight to get SB14, the Ban Transgender Bill, out of The Texas House Public Health Committee. (HB1686 the identical House bill is dead). Once passed, it took almost 3 weeks to get the Committee report to the Calendars Clerk to be filed in the Calendars Committee. Meanwhile the Democrat bill to eliminate taxes on diapers and feminine products took 1 day to get to Calendars and went straight to the House floor and passed as one of the first bills of the session.

We will need help to get some of the good bills out of the Calendars Committee. There is still time to help with these important phone calls that will need to be made.

Email me at texaspoliticstx@gmail.com for Action items for the last leg of the Legislative session.

Kathy Ponce

214.334.5087

texaspoliticstx@gmail.com



Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor of Texas
President of the Senate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, April 17, 2023

CONTACT:
512-463-0715

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick Statement: Top Legislative Priorities On-Track

AUSTIN – Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick issued this statement today applauding the Texas Senate for its hard work in already passing 26 of his 30 priority bills for the 88th Legislative Session:

"At the beginning of this legislative session, I laid out the strongest, most conservative agenda ever brought forward in the Texas Senate. Once again, the Texas Senate is firing on all cylinders and has already passed 26 of my 30 priority bills. Final bills are set to pass this week. Texans should know that their Senators are working hard to deliver for them. I am so proud of their work. All credit goes to the Senators.

"I look forward to the Texas House's swift passage of these needed reforms so Texas can continue to be America's juggernaut for centuries to come."

Priority Bills Already Passed:

- Senate Bill 1 – State Budget – Will pass today
- Senate Bill 2 – Restoring Illegal Voting to a Felony
- Senate Bill 3 – Increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$70,000
- Senate Bill 4 – Adding Additional Property Tax Relief
- Senate Bill 5 – Increasing the Business Personal Property Tax Exemption
- Senate Bill 6 – Adding New Natural Gas Plants
- Senate Bill 7 – Continuing to Improve the Texas Grid
- Senate Bill 8 – Empowering Parental Rights – Including School Choice
- Senate Bill 9 – Teacher Pay Raise – Empowering Teacher Rights
- Senate Bill 10 – Supplemental Funding for Retired Educators
- Senate Bill 12 – Banning Children's Exposure to Drag Shows

- Senate Bill 13 – Protecting Children from Obscene Books in School Libraries
- Senate Bill 14 – Ending Child Gender Modification
- Senate Bill 15 – Protecting Women’s College Sports
- Senate Bill 16 – Banning Critical Race Theory (CRT) in Texas Universities
- Senate Bill 19 – Creating the Texas University Fund
- Senate Bill 20 – Removing District Attorneys Who Refuse to Follow Texas Law
- Senate Bill 21 – Removing Judges Who Refuse to Follow Texas Law
- Senate Bill 22 – Assisting Rural Law Enforcement Funding – Increasing Pay and Needed Equipment
- Senate Bill 23 – Creating A Mandatory 10-Year Prison Sentence for Criminals Committing Gun Crime
- Senate Bill 24 – Thriving Texas Families Act
- Senate Bill 25 – Creating New Scholarships for Nursing Students
- Senate Bill 26 – Expanding Local Mental Health Care Access Through Innovation and Accountability
- Senate Bill 28 – Addressing Texas’ Future Water Needs
- Senate Bill 29 – Banning Local COVID-19 Mandates
- Senate Bill 30 – Supplemental Budget

The Texas Senate has also passed Senate Bill 2424 – State Authority to Enforce Our Border. Those with criminal records crossing illegally could face up to life in prison. All others crossing illegally could face jail time just for crossing.

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Ellis County GOP Precinct Corner

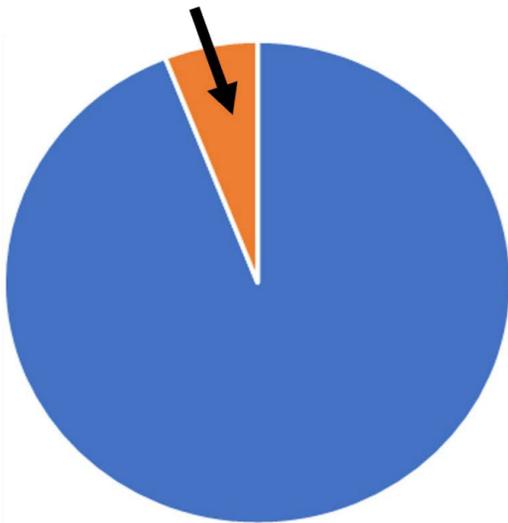
[Precinct maps and Chair listing found HERE.](#)



“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors”

The above quote is credited to Plato about 340 BC. Merriam-Webster defines *Participate*: “to take part or have a share in something in common with others”. The following represents votes cast as of today. This equates to a turnout of under 7%.

8,379 Votes Cast (as of April 30th)



**132,686
Registered
Voters**

Currently less than 7 out of every 100 registered voters are participating and this minority will determine who will be elected to city council, school board, mayor, etc... and ultimately who will govern. I urge you to do your research (visit EllisCountyGOP.org/vote) then cast your ballot. Please don't stop at voting, urge your fellow Ellis county residents to get informed, get involved and get out to vote.

The upcoming ECRPEC meeting will feature our congressman, Jake Ellzey. Please join us for the meeting and invite others to join you.

Date: Tuesday, May 2nd

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

Food Available from: [Good Directions BBQ](#).

Please patronize the food vendor. They are providing this service without any guarantee or cost to the Ellis County Republican Party.

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

From the Midlothian Wine & Arts & Craft Beer Festival

Serving the community by registering a new voter



Ellis County GOP endorsed candidate, [Ed Harrison \(MISD School Brd - Place 7\)](#)



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



To Bond or Not to Bond, That is the Question

The political landscape in Texas has heated up over the past few weeks. Appraisals have come out, we are still in Legislative Session, and local elections are underway. As I have told the folks who I politically evangelize to, the most hotly contested races this time around seem to be the bonds on the ballot. The campaign for "Vote Yes" is an expensive one. While I don't expect everyone to agree with me on the use of tax dollars, when a person who has never seen a property tax statement, nor has any children, comments it's good bonds are broken into subsections to allow for critical thinking on the voter's part, it doesn't exactly leave me scratching my head wondering how we got here in the first place. My husband works in banking and says all the time, "People can live a long way on credit." It seems we are constantly being asked to invest our resources into efforts that have little to no return to the functioning and well-being of society. It's difficult for me, as a former public educator, not to have a well informed opinion on the education-field and how we got here. The overarching question: Should we, as tax-payers, approve more funding to a place churning out, a majority sufficient in mediocrity? We can play the "Spiderman pointing" game all we want, with teachers pointing to parents and administration, parents pointing to teachers and administration, and administration pointing to teachers and parents, when really we should be playing Scooby Doo and unmasking the true-villain which is Big Government reaching its tentacles into our communities saying, "And we would have gotten away with it if it weren't for you meddling kids."

What I'm saying is, whatever our opinion is on how to spend tax-dollars, we should not forget that our first priority is education, not just our own kids, but other folks in regards to the current state of affairs that is the landscape of the United States. It's not coming down to just property taxes, it should also be coming down to our morals deciding on which way to vote on these bonds. Don't shoot the messenger, but I have a hard time funding somewhere that will allow the inmates to run the asylum. The sad part is, we ALL know it's happening-including those who vote for it. I know I'm preaching to the choir. We don't just need "yes-men," we need scrutiny at the ballot-box and the willingness to say, "No."

Holly Freeman
Editor

For more ways to stay Red visit www.elliscountygop.org

Food for Thought

[Scorecard: Harrison: Are Buildings Free](#)

[Texas GOP: State Board of Education Rejects Woke Ethics](#)

[Texas Tribune: Texas House Advances \\$4.5 Billion in School Funding Bill](#)

[Op-ed West: We Need a Definition of the Word "Freedom"](#)

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](#)

Shop Ellis County Merchant Program

Please support the Ellis County merchants listed below:

Ruston Cattle Company

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Ellis county's oldest family owned and operated local brewery.



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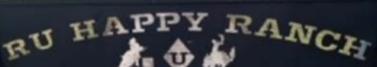
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Epic Medical Research
Haresh Boghara, M.D., MBA.
Principal Investigator
hboghara@epicmedresearch.com
106 Plaza Dr, Red Oak, Texas 75154
Ph: 972-777-6956 Fax: 972-777-6922



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Cheyenne Fitzgerald
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Midlothian, TX 76065
Call or text me
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