



THE ELEPHANT'S EAR

Ellis County GOP's Monthly Newsletter
Get informed!

August 2023 Edition

A Message from the Chair

Ellis County Republicans,

As we are in the dog days of summer here at the end of July with the temperatures reaching 100+ degrees each day, it is hard to get into the campaign mode. However, a lot of campaigns have already started. With the March 5, 2024 Republican Primary only seven months away, these candidates have a lot of ground to cover. They will have to file their applications to be on the ballot from mid-November to Mid-December.

With all the county, state, and national campaigns going on, we must not forget the Constitutional Amendment Election on November 7, 2023. Early voting dates are October 23-28 and October 30-November 3. There will be fourteen amendments to consider which will call for spending billions of dollars, so vote wisely.

Next Tuesday, August 2, 2023, will be our next meeting. It will be held at 1511 Ovilla Rd, Waxahachie. The social hour starts at 5:30, and the meeting starts at 6:30. Along with party business like how to clean up the voter rolls, one of the main topics we will discuss the censure of the Speaker of the House, Dade Phelan. Please join us.

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



Congressman Ellzey Statement on National Defense Authorization Act
July 17, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Defense Authorization Act authorizes \$886.3 billion for national defense, funds over \$2 billion in service chief and combatant commander priorities left unfunded by the President's budget, and saves the taxpayer \$40 billion on current defense spending levels.

"The primary job of any government, whether that be local, state, or federal is the protection of her citizen," **said Ellzey**. "Today, with the passing of the National Defense Authorization Act, we are ensuring that our military focuses on the care and lethality of our troops and no longer on ideological teaching that impede our ability to protect the United States." **Ellzey continued**, "This bill shows that responsible spending works. The NDAA was crafted for mission effectiveness. We provided the largest pay raise for our service members in 20 years and sent a clear message to our adversaries that our nation's military remains strong, all while saving the American taxpayer 5% on current military spending."

Key provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act:

- Authorizes a 5.2 percent military pay increase;
- Requires the DoD to report on its support provided to DHS at the border and provides \$25 million over the president's request for the National Guard to work with local law enforcement to disrupt production and trafficking of illicit drugs like fentanyl;
- Repeals the position of the Chief Diversity Officer for the Department of Defense ;
- Prohibits funding for teaching of Critical Race Theory (CRT) in the military;
- Protects and helps reinstate servicemembers who were discharged due to refusal of the COVID-19 vaccine;
- Blocks the administration from reducing the size of the Navy and expands capacity of U.S. nuclear forces;
- Works to track and prevent Chinese Communist Party (CCP) espionage within the homeland;
- Reaffirms U.S. support of Taiwan and fully funds military exercises with our allies and partners in the Pacific; and
- Encourages and enhances U.S. security cooperation with Israel.

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BRIAN HARRISON

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 10

Press Releases & Announcements

August Agenda

Ellis County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday August 1, 2023
Social Hour 5:30-6:30
6:30 Executive Committee

Executive Committee (All are welcome.)
Welcome – Randy Bellomy, County Chair
Invocation and pledges to the flags

Officer's Reports:

Secretary's Report -Terry Todd: Report of Quorum, request approval of minutes

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance – Tom Manning

Precinct Chairman Development -Sharon Tryon

Headquarters and volunteers- Kay Dunn

Events & Fundraising – Paula Anz

Victory -Jennifer Zarate

Bylaws – Nelson Baird

Legislative and political priorities-Kathy Ponce (state), Dan Altman (federal)

Parades – Bettie Gray

New Business

Resolution: Dade Phelan Censure – Kathy Ponce

General Session

Old Business

General Public comments and Questions

Adjournment.

Legislative Update

The Legislature finally passed Property Tax Relief for Texans after 2 Special Sessions.

I would be taking up too much space on this recap if I laid out all the provisions. So I want to give y'all a link to the weekly TAD Zoom meetings. On July 21st we had a great meeting on the new Property Tax Relief with a very detailed explanation by Rep. Klick. State Senator Hughes also gave some great information. It is barely an hour long but worth the listen.

Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/QxSaCe9nfhE>

In November, Texans will be asked to go to the polls and vote on 13 Constitutional Amendments. Of those, seven will cost Texans a LOT of money:

- HJR 2/HB 600 – Cost of Living Adjustments for Retired Teachers. Cost: \$3.3 billion in 2024-25, and \$900 million plus annually after that.
- SJR 93/SB 2627 – Creation of the Texas Energy Loan Program. Cost: The bill transfers \$5 billion from general revenue into the fund to be used to back loans for dispatchable generation.
- HJR 125/HB 9 – Creation of the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund. Cost: \$1.5 billion. The Bidden Administration is already allocating \$3.3 billion for Broadband Infrastructure.
- SJR 74/SB 1648 – Creation of the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund. Cost: \$1 billion
- SJR 75/SB 28 – Creation of the Texas Water Fund and the New Water Supply for Texas Fund. Cost: \$1 billion
- HJR 3/HB 1595 – Renaming the National Research University Fund to the Texas University Fund. Cost: \$273 million in 2024-25
- SJR 87/SB 2289. Granting a Property Tax Exemption on Medical Equipment and Inventory. Cost: \$29 million in 2024-25, and about \$40+ annually after that.

Total cost in 2024-25: \$12.1 billion.

After passing the largest spending budget in Texas history, please be wary of adding billions more in debt, especially via means of altering the Texas Constitution.

Have no fear for another Special Session is near.

We will keep you updated on all the going ons and Call To Actions.

Be sure to sign up for the alerts:

texaspoliticstx@gmail.com

#Onward #TeamEllisCounty #TeamTexas

Kathy Ponce

Ellis County GOP Precinct Corner

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



Senator Cruz Comes to Ellis County

This time last year I received permission from the Ellis County Republican Party Executive Committee to join the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the Ellis County GOP. Not long after gaining membership, I was welcomed by Chamber leadership as the newest member of the Legislative Committee. One of the more important projects of this committee is to plan for the annual "Legislative Luncheon" series. This includes one luncheon focused on Ellis County issues, one on State issues and one focused on Federal topics. We invite elected representatives from each respective level to give a presentation at each.

With the ongoing "Special Session" in Austin, it has been a challenge to schedule a State issue luncheon since our elected representatives, Senators Birdwell and Hall and Representative Harrison are having a difficult time knowing when they will be available.

Less than 48 hours ago we received confirmation from **Senator Cruz's** office that he would be able to **visit Ellis County on August 8th** and be the keynote speaker in our Federal Issues Focused Legislative Luncheon. The Midlothian Chamber is coordinating with the Chambers of Commerce for Red Oak, Ennis and Waxahachie so as to maximize attendance for this important event. At this time I can confirm that the luncheon will take place on Tuesday, August 8th but we won't have details to include location, start time and ticket/RSVP information until tomorrow (July 31st) afternoon.

Please make sure you save the date (Tuesday, August 8th) and visit the [events page on the Ellis County GOP website](#) for details which will be posted as soon as they are available. With Senator Cruz facing a Democrat challenger in next year's election, I can't over emphasize how important it is that we have a good showing for this important event.

Normally I would reiterate this information in my Communications/Marketing Subcommittee report at the monthly meeting but, unfortunately I have a "it's your job and you will be there" event out of town that conflicts with the meeting time. I look joining many of you, your friends, neighbors and fellow Ellis County voters on August 8th at Senator Cruz's presentation wherever that may be.

One Team, Many Fights!

J.J. Brookshire

Chair - Communications & Marketing Sub-committee & Pct 1034

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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](#)



Try that in a Small Town

Just like everybody else, I turned on Jason Aldean's "controversial" song "Try that in a Small Town." I listened to it, and can see why it resonates with most of us above the age of 30. Whatever your opinion is of Millennials, a lot of us didn't grow up in huge cities. We had the chance to be raised in one of these small

towns. Now we are seeing an overrun of big city ideals, buildings, and population overtaking our slow-medium paced life. If you live in Waxahachie and drive down Farley, you know there is a part where people park on the side of the street because they don't use their driveways. When you drive down that part, usually one way of traffic has to pull over and wait for the other side to pass. This happened to me Friday, as it typically does. I stopped and waited for 3 vehicles to pass. The first car waved, the other two didn't. I pulled around and as I did, a sleek black car pulled out from one of the side streets out in front of me and pulled onto the side, busted open their doors and looked at me like I was about to run them over. They waved me past, and I held my hand up in a wave of "thank you" because I was taught how to drive in a small town. One of these two men kind of put his hand halfway up like he didn't know what was going on with a "thank you" wave. We have so many people moving into our County, it seems like our small town way of life might be coming to an end. I for one will continue to wave at a truck letting me pass through, in hopes they will do the same to the next person. Is this the way to preserve our small town? By playing pass-it-on? It's one thing to say, "bless their heart," and another thing taking the time to show folks how it's done here. I've been watching the "asylum seekers" in Europe this past week and how the folks in Europe are reacting. I can't help but empathize with the Europeans being forced to accept people into their home provinces, while fellow countrymen are put out on the street and nursing homes are being shut down to house these mostly male, who are military-aged by the way, "asylum seekers." Europe is getting their own version of "Try that in a Small Town."

For funsies, if you haven't listened to it, give it a listen. Even if you don't like Country Music, it will resonate.

Listen here:

[Try that in a Small Town](#)

Holly Freeman

Editor

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

Food for Thought

[Bell County Commissioner Flouts New Flag Policy](#)

[Abbott Signs Property Tax Compromise into Law](#)

[Ben Shapiro Breaks Down the Real Impact of Judicial Reforms in Israel](#)

[Internal Facebook Emails Reveal White House Pressured Social Media Platform to Censor COVID 'misinformation'](#)

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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