



Resolution to Censure State Representative House District 1 – Gary VanDeaver

Whereas, Texas House District 1 Representative Gary VanDeaver ("VanDeaver") was re-elected in the General Election of 2024 to represent the people and values of the Morris County Republican Party; and

Whereas, during his current term, he has committed eight (8) actions that rise to the level of censure pursuant to the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) Rule No. 44, surpassing the minimum threshold of three (3) actions required before the consideration of censure.

Whereas, on January 7, 2025, on the final Republican Caucus ballot for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, Representative David Cook was elected by a majority of Republican Representatives as the nominee for Speaker; and

Whereas, Representative VanDeaver has publicly stated his support for the appointment of Democrats to Texas House of Representatives Committee Chair and Vice Chair leadership positions; and

Whereas, during the 89th Texas Legislature Regular and Special Sessions, Representative VanDeaver voted with Democrats on more than 55% of contested votes; and

Whereas, during the 89th Texas Legislature Regular and Special Sessions, Representative VanDeaver has authored 30 Bills but no RPT Legislative Priority Bills; and

Whereas, the following votes cast during the 89th Texas Legislature Regular Session by Representative VanDeaver are in opposition to the Core Principles defined in the Preamble of our RPT Platform and as described in Rule No. 43A and / or to the Legislative Priorities adopted at the 2024 RPT State Convention:

(1) on January 14, 2025, Representative VanDeaver did not vote for the elected Republican Caucus nominee David Cook for Speaker of the Texas

House, but instead voted for Representative Dustin Burrows who was not the Republican Caucus nominee for House Speaker, a disregard for RPT Core Principle 5 (Personal accountability and responsibility) and a violation of 2024 RPT Platform Plank 213, which calls for Republican House Members to vote as a "unified body" for the Caucus-selected Speaker.

(2) on January 23, 2025, Representative VanDeaver voted for a motion on the "Previous Question" enabling the so-called Nuclear Option wherein debate was cut off to exclude Republican perfecting amendments to the "new" Rules of the 89th House Legislative Session, and approving Democrat-only Committee Vice Chairs, in opposition to RPT Legislative Priority No. 4 (No Democrat Chairs) adopted at the 2024 RPT State Convention.

(3) on January 23, 2025, Representative VanDeaver voted in favor of HR 4, a "Rules Package" that required compulsory appointment of solely minority party Committee Vice Chairs, awarding them sweeping new powers and authority (per HR 4, Rule 4, Sec 4A), a disregard for the intent of RPT Legislative Priority No. 4 (No Democrat Chairs) and Platform Plank 213(b).

(4) on January 15 through July 30, 2025, Representative VanDeaver voted in favor of the following Senate Concurrent Resolutions (SCR) granting the Legislature permission to adjourn for more than three days, failing to comply with RPT Core Principle 5 (Personal accountability and responsibility):

- January 15, 2025 - SCR 7; House adjourned Jan .15 to Jan. 22, 2025 (7 days)
- February 4, 2025 - SCR 11; House adjourned Feb. 5 to Feb. 11, 2025 (5 days)
- February 12, 2025 - SCR 14; House adjourned Feb. 13 to 18, 2025 (5 days)
- February 19, 2025 - SCR 16; House adjourned Feb. 20 to 25, 2025 (5 days)
- April 14, 2025 - SCR 47; House adjourned April 16 to 22, 2025 (5 days)
- July 30, 2025 - SCR 1; House adjourned July 30 to August 4, 2025 (6 days).

(5) on March 10, 2025, the last action on HB 1304 was referral to the House Public Health Committee, where Committee Chairman VanDeaver allowed the bill to die. His failure to advance HB 1304 in the Committee was in opposition to the RPT Legislative Priority to "End Federal Overreach" regarding medical freedom. The bill would have required labeling of certain products containing or derived from aborted human fetal tissue.

(6) on April 23, 2025, Representative VanDeaver voted in favor of HB 805 (relating to a study by the Public Utility Commission of Texas on the interconnection of electric transmission service facilities with the United Mexican States). This vote for a Democrat-sponsored bill that was unanimously opposed by the SREC Legislative Priorities Committee (Record Vote 392) was an action in opposition to the RPT Legislative Priority to "Secure the Electric Grid."

(7) on April 30, 2025, Representative VanDeaver voted in favor of HB 366, a bill that "creates a criminal offense on certain political advertising that contains altered media." This is a violation of RPT Core Principle 1 ("strict adherence to the original language and intent of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutions of the United States and of Texas," which declare no law will be enacted restricting the freedom of speech), and in opposition to RPT Platform Planks 1, 11, and 181, which further assert our First Amendment rights, including free speech. HB 366 represents encroachment upon the free speech rights of Texas citizens.

(8) on May 1, 2025, Representative VanDeaver voted in favor of HB 1359 (relating to the creation of a program to provide income-based assistance for certain retail electric customers). This vote for a Democrat-sponsored bill that was unanimously opposed by the SREC Legislative Priorities Committee (Record Vote 1149) was an action in opposition to the RPT Legislative Priority to "Secure the Electric Grid." Additionally, the HRO (House Research Organization) Bill Analysis states that the bill would have a negative impact of \$8.5 million to general revenue-related funds through the biennium.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Morris County Republican Party Executive Committee formally censures Representative Gary VanDeaver for the eight Censurable Actions noted above as well as his continuing failure to represent the interests of Morris County Republican voters by violating the House Republican Caucus Rules and ignoring the RPT Core Principles and Legislative Priorities.

Be it further resolved, the Morris County GOP Executive Committee validates the aforementioned eight violations and does hereby declare and affirm them to be censurable actions under RPT Rule No. 44 after approval of this Censure Resolution by two-thirds (2/3) of those constituent Executive Committee Precinct Chairs present and voting (but in no case by less than a majority of the County Executive Committee in full).

Be it further resolved, the Morris County Republican Party Executive Committee formally requests the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) and the RPT State Executive Committee to censure State Representative VanDeaver by imposing all applicable penalties set forth in RPT Rule No. 44, including but not limited to, refusal to accept any application from him for a place on the ballot of a Republican Primary Election for a period of 24 months.

Be it further resolved, the Morris County Republican Party Chair shall submit this Censure Resolution, using formal letterhead and with the County Chairman's signature, to the RPT Chairman, RPT Vice Chair, Resolutions Committee Chair, and the Texas Senate District 1 SREC Committeewoman and Committeeman.

Therefore, be it finally resolved, that the Morris County Republican Party shall execute all penalties imposed by the SREC and approved by the Republican Party of Texas and shall deliver its final executed version in accordance with all applicable requirements deemed appropriate by the RPT and shall ensure that version be made available to the public for full transparency.

Executed and adopted by the Morris County Republican Party Executive Committee on September 5, 2025.



Belinda McLaughlin
Morris County Republican Party Chairwoman

(1) Speaker vote:

<https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89R/pdf/89RDAY01FINAL.pdf>

(2) Vote on nuclear option cutting off debate:

<https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89R/pdf/89RDAY05FINAL.pdf>

(3) HR 4 vote establishing only minority party Vice Chairs:

<https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89R/pdf/89RDAY05FINAL.pdf>

(4) SCR votes to adjourn legislature for more than 3 days:

<https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89r/pdf/89RDAY02FINAL.PDF#page=2>

<https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89r/pdf/89RDAY09FINAL.PDF#page=9>

<https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89r/pdf/89RDAY13FINAL.PDF#page=3>

<https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89r/pdf/89RDAY16FINAL.PDF#page=3>

<https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89r/pdf/89RDAY43FINAL.PDF#page=3>

<https://house.texas.gov/journals>

(5) HB 1304 died in House Public Health Committee (Chairman Gary VanDeaver):

<https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/history.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB1304>

(6) Vote on HB 805:

<https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89r/pdf/89RDAY48FINAL.PDF#page=25>

(7) Vote on HB 366:

<https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89r/pdf/89RDAY53FINAL.PDF#page=49>

(8) Vote on HB 1359:

<https://journals.house.texas.gov/hjrn/89r/pdf/89RDAY54FINAL.PDF#page=46>

Voted with Democrats on more than 55% of contested votes:

https://grassrootspriorities.com/q2_dem_record_vote.php?pid=twi21

Authored 30 Bills, but zero GOP Legislative Priority bills:

<https://capitol.texas.gov/reports/report.aspx?ID=author&LegSess=89R&Code=A2540>

RPT Core Principles, Platform, Rules, and Legislative Priorities:

<https://texasgop.org/official-documents/>