



The STAR Republican News

September 2023

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September 19th Luncheon Meeting featuring guest speaker Cindi Castilla

President, Texas Eagle Forum

Progress through Preservation of Traditional Values

Cindi's parents introduced her to political activism as a child and she has been involved in the conservative movement ever since.

After becoming a follower of Jesus, she began to understand her political positions based on our Constitution and God's Word. "As I was growing as a believer, I did a better job of putting my faith into my politics, and that got me more interested in issues," Cindi said. "That's where I really started loving it, because I have this sure foundation that I stand on with everything I do politically. It has to be Constitutional and Biblical." We are unashamedly pro-life and stand on strong conservative and morally-bound principles.

Cindi loves researching issues and going over bills to determine their impact on the people of Texas. Some of the issues she's worked on at the State Capitol are education, taxes, election security, and protecting children; she helps inform citizens of what's happening and encourages them to engage with their lawmakers. "We really work on everything that affects the family—which is everything,"

Cindi became a precinct chair and election judge in her early 20's. While she has been a leader in and is currently a member of several Republican groups, she found her best fit in Texas Eagle Forum.

September Caring for America Project

This month's project is to collect bird feed, bird feeders and/or hanging hooks to distribute to local memory care facilities, Celeste Care and The Brixton, in Horseshoe Bay. Residents will enjoy watching the birds from their windows.

Please bring a bag of bird feed, a bird feeder, or a hook to hang a feeder and join Sherry Olson in taking the supplies to the two facilities after the Star meeting.

Text Sherry Olson at 830.596.3021 with questions.



Membership News

Star Republican Women is now 117 strong! Help us keep our status as a "Jumbo Club" and get your dues in as our new year starts soon.

We will gladly accept your membership dues checks for \$40 (\$30 for Associate Members) and your membership forms by mail (print directly from our website) or at our September 19th meeting.

Invite a friend or two to attend our meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Text or call Debbie Lambert, VP Membership, at 512.748.0814 with questions.

New Star T-Shirts



New "Star Republican Women are the life of the Party" tee shirts are available for purchase. Choose your size and place an order at the September meeting. Shirts are v-neck (not pictured), soft, lightweight 100% cotton and fit true to size. Bring \$15 cash or check and your shirt will be available before the October meeting.

LET'S KEEP TEXAS RED!



Sara Speaks

What, me Worry?

As I searched for an inspirational message for September and saw news of Trump's arrest and viewed his mug shot, Alfred E Neuman's quote "What, me Worry" came to mind. Regardless of your Republican primary choice, it is time for each of us to get serious and answer this question with a resounding NO! This familiar iconic image and face likeness was used in advertising as early as 1915 and reminds me of the fictional image from Mad Magazine that turned 67 in 2023. This year is clearly the year for those who say they are "not political" to tune into the Brics move away

from the dollar, the rumored pandemic, and the threat of war to come and prepare to fight for our values. For those who are saturated with news of questionable voting practices, party politics and corrupt politicians, it is not time to fold. So, as president of Star, am I worried? No way! We must stand on our constitution and not surrender to a new world order, not accept open borders and not allow the sexualization of our children. Come visit us and stay informed by joining Republican women in Horseshoe Bay who have vowed to trust God, be involved and do the right thing to take our country back, one vote at a time.

New Texas Laws (effective 9/1/2023)

Gender concerns:

Health care ban: Texas will ban gender-affirming care, including medication and surgery, for minors. As part of [Senate Bill 14](#), the state will revoke medical licenses of doctors who [provide treatments like puberty blockers](#), hormone therapy or surgery to patients under the age of 18 "to transition a child's biological sex." Families have [sued the state](#) to block implementation of the law, arguing that it is unconstitutional.

Drag shows, sexually explicit performances: A new law penalizes performers and businesses that host sexually explicit shows performed in front of children. While [Senate Bill 12](#) is intended to target drag shows. Violators could face up to a year in jail,

and businesses hosting performances deemed illegal could be fined \$10,000 for each violation.

Restricting transgender athletes: The [Save Women's Sports Act](#) prohibits collegiate transgender athletes from competing on college teams that match their gender identity. Athletes are required to compete on teams based on their "biological sex" stated on their birth certificate.

Local Government Issues:

Ban on Covid mandates: [Senate Bill 29](#) bars local governments from issuing Covid-related mandates related to masks, vaccines and business shutdowns.

Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice Issues:

Fentanyl: Prosecutors will now be able to [pursue murder charges](#) against people who illegally manufacture or distribute fentanyl, leading to someone's death. The new law is one of a handful aimed at combating the [growing fentanyl crisis](#).

Street takeovers: The state will try to [curb illegal street racing and takeovers](#). A pair of House bills provides additional ways to prosecute illegal street racing and takeovers and allows law enforcement to impound vehicles of people who have been arrested for reckless driving exhibition or racing on the highway.

Education:

Book restrictions: Under this new law, [booksellers and vendors](#) will be required to assign ratings books with sexual content before selling them to school districts. Books deemed "sexually explicit" cannot be sold to school districts. Schools would also be required to get parental consent before a child could access "sexually relevant material" in the library. [Booksellers have sued to block the law](#), arguing that a "sexually relevant" rating could extend to health books, historical works, encyclopedias, dictionaries and religious texts.

Armed guards at schools: One new state law requires armed personnel at all schools. The change represents legislators' most significant response to the Uvalde massacre, where 19 children and two teachers were killed at Robb Elementary in 2022.

Diversity, equity and inclusion ban: Senate Bill 17 [dismantles diversity, equity and inclusion](#), or DEI, offices, training and programs at public colleges and universities. This bill goes into effect January 2024, but several universities have already begun [complying with the law](#).

Chaplains in school: A new law would allow school districts to place [unlicensed religious](#)

[chaplains](#) in schools. Volunteer chaplains would provide support, services and programs for students, according to the law. Districts must vote whether to implement the chaplain program within the next six months.

Driving and Roads:

New tax: Owners of [electric vehicles](#) must pay \$400 to register a new electric vehicle on top of other fees, as well as \$200 a year to renew registration. Owners of hybrids and gas-fueled vehicles do not pay such fees, but they do pay a 20-cent per gallon gas. tax.

Changing speed limits: Under this new bill, the Texas Department of Transportation can temporarily change speed limits on portions of roads and highways due to construction or inclement weather. This comes in response to the [deadly 133-vehicle pileup](#) on Interstate 35 in Fort Worth in 2021.

Temporary license plates: Car dealerships will now keep metal license plates to give to people who buy vehicles, eliminating the need for temporary paper plates. The new law aims to [curtail widespread issues with fraudulent tags](#), which are made with false names, VIN numbers and addresses and can be difficult for police to trace.

Other notable laws:

Tampon tax: Texas has repealed the [state sales tax on period products](#), diapers, baby wipes and other feminine hygiene and baby products.

Hair discrimination: [Discrimination based on hair texture](#) or hairstyle associated with race is now illegal. The new law is in response to high-profile incidents involving two Black high school students in the U.S. who were forced to cut off their dreadlocks or face consequences.

Medicaid for new mothers: Low-income mothers in Texas will receive a [full year of health insurance](#) after they've given birth under a new law that extends Medicaid

Houston elections: A new law will abolish the [Harris County elections administrator's office](#). The law turns over election oversight to the tax assessor and county clerk. The Texas Supreme Court denied a request from the county, home to the Democratic stronghold Houston, to stop the law from taking effect.

***The laws above represent a few of the 774 new laws that took effect on September 1, 2023.**

Texas Election Day - November 7, 2023

Important dates to remember:

- **October 10, 2023: Last day to register to vote**
- **October 23, 2023: First day of early voting by personal appearance**
- **October 27, 2023: Last day to apply for ballot by mail**
- **November 3, 2023: Last day of early voting by personal appearance**
- **November 7, 2023: Last day to receive ballot by mail at 7:00 p.m.**

**Save the Date: Horseshoe Bay Mayoral Candidate Forum
October 17, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Quail Point Lodge**