

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

September 2025

President's Byline



If the Texas legislature repealed property taxes, we could improve the lives of all Texans and increase homeownership. Republicans could create a blueprint for Texas inspired by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis's bold move towards eliminating property taxes; the Texas legislature could take a similar approach to reshape our economy and government.

This isn't only about tax relief for Texas families and seniors, it's also a chance to cut government waste, strengthen taxpayer rights, and promote free-market growth. You have heard plenty of critics say why property taxes are needed, but if we abolish them, what are the advantages?

1. Driving Economic Expansion Through Tax Freedom

Property taxes represent one of the largest recurring costs for Texas homeowners and small businesses. Eliminating them would immediately:

- Increase disposable income for families and retirees.
- Boost small business investment and entrepreneurship.
- Texas would become an even greater magnet for individuals and companies seeking economic freedom from high tax states such as California, New York and Illinois.

Lowering the tax burden isn't just about fairness to taxpayers, it's about fueling a pro-growth environment that rewards hard work, innovation, and personal responsibility.

2. Promote Efficient and Accountable Government

One of the strongest conservative arguments for eliminating property taxes is that it forces local governments to operate more efficiently. Without a guaranteed revenue stream that increases yearly -counties, school districts, and municipalities would need to:

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Calendar of Events

Next Board Meeting
Sep 2, 11:30
Napoli's Restaurant
West Plano

Next General Meeting
Sep 16, 11:30
Saltgrass - East Plano



Continued on Page 2

PRW President's Byline (continued)

- Cut unnecessary spending and eliminate bloated bureaucracies.
- Prioritize essential services like public safety and infrastructure.
- Adopt performance-based budgeting and measurable outcomes.
- Use private-sector partnerships to encourage competition and reduce costs.

Instead of defaulting to yearly tax hikes, governments would be incentivized to innovate, streamline operations, and justify every dollar spent. Public school districts are an example; taxpayers have expressed frustration at the grandiose sports stadiums and other projects that seem to have little to do with education.

3. Empowering Taxpayers and Protecting Property Rights

Property taxes are, at their core, a perpetual lien on private property. Even if your mortgage is paid off, you never truly own your home if the government can tax it away. Eliminating property taxes would:

- Strengthen individual property rights.
- Allow families to build and pass on generational wealth without fear of tax-driven displacement from rising yearly property taxes.
- Making retirement a reality for seniors by ensuring their greatest asset stays under their control.

It's also about truly embracing conservative principles of personal freedom, limited government, and economic self-determination. Property taxes make true homeownership impossible, as annual increases can force some people to leave their homes or create unplanned-for retirement financial hardships.

4. Maintain Texas's Economic Appeal

Texas already leads the nation in population growth, business relocations, and job creation. Eliminating property taxes would supercharge that momentum:

- Retirees and families fleeing rising tax burdens elsewhere would find Texas even more attractive.
- More residents mean a broader tax base, stronger consumer demand, and faster economic development.

This advantage would position our state as a top choice for investment and growth.

5. Encouraging Smarter, Smaller Government

By removing an automatic revenue source, Texas would create powerful incentives for government at all levels to live within its means. Local and state leaders would be pushed to:

- Eliminate overlapping agencies and redundant programs.
- Seek market-driven solutions instead of continuously expanding government.
- Focus on core services, reducing wasteful spending and mission creep.

PRW President's Byline (continued)

This isn't just tax reform—it's structural reform that could reshape Texas governance for decades. If Texas followed Florida's lead and repealed property taxes, the benefits would extend far beyond taxpayer relief.

We pride ourselves as being one of seven states with no state income tax but our property taxes have become so high that they have become the same financial burden as state income taxes. Our representatives have promised us property tax relief for years, but most Texans are not seeing or feeling it in our pockets. We have seen some legislation that was supposed to protect seniors and some minor adjustment to existing tax laws, but only completely repealing property taxes will solve this problem.

For conservatives, this is more than a tax debate. It's about redefining the relationship between government and the people—putting power back where it belongs: in the hands of Texans.

Cleo Marchese

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THE AMERICAN'S CREED

"I do not choose to be a common man. It is my right to be uncommon. I seek opportunity to develop whatever talents God gave me -- not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me. I want to take the calculated risk: to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for a dole. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence: the thrill of fulfillment to the stale calm of utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout. I will never cower before any earthly master nor bend to any threat. It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid; to think and act myself, enjoy the benefit of my creations and to face the world boldly and say -- This with God's help, I have done."

All this is what it means to be an American.

USA, USA, USA.



WE are a people of principle and honor.
WE honor our commitments and stand by our allies.
WE defend against aggression by dictators.
WE uphold and defend the Constitution.
WE care for veterans and children.
WE respect our neighbors and trading partners.
WE support a healthy national and international economy, community, and environment.
WE are the world leader trusted to uphold the stability of rule of law.

We are the people of the United States of America.
 The honor, dignity, and integrity of our country is not for sale.
 Show up, attend your town halls, be civil.

PRW August Meeting

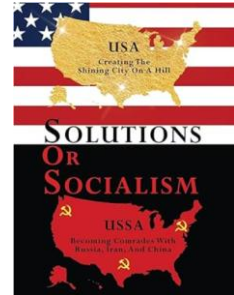
NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

September 16, 2025



“Solutions or Socialism”

Ron Mitori



Ron Mitori has spent over 40 years primarily as a CFO, bringing value to companies in rapid growth or turnaround mode.

Ron started his career in Chicago, but in 1986, Ron and his wife moved to Honolulu. Their daughter was born there, and family vacations often took them to the neighbor islands. After 15 years, they moved to Southern California and later settled in Dallas, where Ron and Barb now live.

Driven by a lifelong interest in government and politics and a deep concern over America's accelerated decline since 2021, Ron turned his attention to the nation's most significant issues. He researched and wrote "Solutions Or Socialism." He advocates for restoring America's Founding Principles and using Solutionism, the five-step problem-solving approach Ron has applied successfully in business.

Location: Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East

3320 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074

Time: 11:15 am: Arrive and check-in, 11:30 am: Meeting, Lunch & Program

Lunch is available for \$25.00 with RSVP, cash or check payable to PRW on arrival.

Lunch will be salad, entree with vegetable, and dessert.

Our Next Meeting is September 16, 2025.

[RSVP here to pay with credit card](#)

Please note: all Online Credit Card Payments include a processing fee.

To RSVP send an email to: rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org.

Include your name in your email and specify whether you will/will not be having lunch.

August Meeting Photos





Legislative Report

The second special session of the TX Legislature is underway. 132 Bills have been filed in the Senate, and 482 were filed in the House. Six bills have already passed out of both chambers and sent to the Governor.

The redistricting bill (HB4) has already been signed by him.

Some important bills to watch are...

SB3 - Outdoor flash flood warning siren. Sent to Governor

SB10 - Lowers the maximum property tax increase entities can raise your taxes before they have to get a vote from the residents.

HB8- Ends the STAAR Test and replaces it with an institutionally supportive assessment.

To read all these bills and others for yourself go to <https://capitol.texas.gov/Home.aspx>

Jennifer Groysman
Political Action Chair





AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



SEPTEMBER IN AMERICAN HISTORY: FOUNDATIONS, FREEDOM, AND FAITH SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

If you don't know, September has been an important month in the history of America. From the first steps toward independence in 1774 to defining moments of freedom, leadership, and resilience, September has time and again marked turning points in our national story. These aren't just dates on a calendar — they are reminders of the courage, vision, and faith that built and sustained this nation. Each September milestone reflects the same truth: America is a country that faces challenges head-on and emerges stronger, united by principle and purpose.

1. The First Continental Congress Convenes (1774)

Delegates from 12 colonies met in Philadelphia to coordinate resistance to British rule. This set the stage for American independence.

Notable fact: George Washington and Patrick Henry both attended, helping to unify colonies that had once acted independently.

2. U.S. Treasury Department Established (1789)

Congress created the Treasury to stabilize the young nation's finances.

Notable fact: This was one of the first major institutions built after the Constitution's ratification.

3. Alexander Hamilton Becomes First Secretary of the Treasury (1789)

Washington appointed Hamilton, who laid the foundation for America's financial system.

Notable fact: Hamilton's policies created the first U.S. national bank and firmly established the credit of the new republic.

4. U.S. Army Established (1789)

Congress created a standing army to defend the new nation.

Notable fact: Initially, the army was capped at fewer than 1,000 soldiers — showing how wary Americans were of large militaries.

5. Judiciary Act of 1789

Congress passed the law creating the federal judiciary and the office of the Attorney General.

Notable fact: This act allowed the Supreme Court to hear appeals from state courts, cementing federal judicial power.

6. John Jay Becomes First Chief Justice (1789)

President Washington appointed Jay as the Supreme Court's first leader.

Notable fact: Jay also co-wrote *The Federalist Papers*, which helped secure ratification of the Constitution.

7. The Bill of Rights Passes Congress (1791)

First passed in the House and then the Senate, guaranteeing fundamental freedoms to Americans.

Notable fact: The first 10 amendments were ratified in December 1791, ensuring protections like free speech and trial by jury.

8. Washington Lays the Capitol's Cornerstone (1793)

George Washington placed the first stone of the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Notable fact: Masonic rituals were used at the ceremony, symbolizing the new republic's emphasis on reason, order, and liberty.

9. Francis Scott Key Writes "Defense of Fort McHenry" (1814)

Witnessing the British bombardment in Baltimore, Key penned the lines that became *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Notable fact: The poem became the national anthem more than a century later, in 1931.

Continued

Americanism Report

Continued

10. Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation (1862)

Lincoln declared that slaves in rebelling states would be freed if those states did not return to the Union by January 1, 1863.

Notable fact: This shifted the Civil War from solely preserving the Union to also ending slavery.

11. The First Labor Day Parade (1882)

Workers marched in New York City to honor labor's contributions to the nation.

Notable fact: This grassroots celebration paved the way for Labor Day becoming a federal holiday in 1894.

12. Mary Louise Smith Chairs the Republican National Committee (1974)

She became the first woman to head a major political party convention.

Notable fact: Her leadership symbolized the expanding role of women in American politics.

13. Sandra Day O'Connor Appointed to the Supreme Court (1981)

President Reagan nominated O'Connor as the first woman on the Court.

Notable fact: She often cast the deciding vote in closely divided cases, shaping U.S. law for decades.

14. September 11, 2001 — Terrorist Attacks

Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four planes, striking the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing nearly 3,000 Americans.

Notable fact: The attacks unified Americans in grief and resolve, leading to the War on Terror and long-lasting security reforms.

And then came September 11, 2001 — a day of unimaginable loss, yet also of undeniable American resolve.

From the ashes of tragedy, our nation stood together, proving that freedom cannot be destroyed by terror.

Looking across these September moments — from the founding of our institutions to the defense of liberty, from progress in equality to the triumph of unity in crisis — one thing is clear: September tells the story of America itself. We are a people defined not by what threatens us, but by how we rise, rebuild, and carry forward the promise of liberty for generations to come.

Today, America faces new trials — divisions at home, challenges abroad, and attacks on the very principles that make us free. In these times, Americans must not fail her. We must stay informed, speak up, and stand strong together, for the strength of this Republic has always depended on the courage of its citizens.

America endures because she is One Nation under God, built on faith, liberty, and the courage of her people. As John Adams reminded us, our Constitution depends on a moral and religious people, and as Margaret Mead observed, it takes only a handful of determined citizens to change the course of history. Let us be those citizens — informed, engaged, and unwavering — so that America's September story of resilience continues for generations to come.



Political Action Hours

by Political Action Chair Jennifer Groysman

Keep the challenge going! 10 hours per month!



Ladies, you can submit your hours on our website here:

[Political Action Hours](https://www.planorepublicanwomen.org)



What counts as

Political Activity Hours

- **Attending Political Meetings**
 - Political Events & Fundraisers
 - County or State GOP meetings
 - School Board or City Council meetings
- **Campaign Activities**
 - Block walking, sign waving, phone banking, digital work
 - Running for office

- **Travel**
 - Any time you spend traveling to and from political events and meetings.
- **Election Support**
 - Election Judge, Election Clerk, Deputy Voter Registrar

- **Legislative Advocacy**
 - Time spent calling, writing, about legislative issues
- **Appointed or Elected Service**
 - Prep time, travel time, and attendance at meetings you were appointed or elected to serve at any level

Any political activity you do that is not for your primary job counts!

I know some of you ladies were politically active during the summer. Don't forget to hand in all those hours. Every hour counts and is important. You don't have to wait until our general meetings to hand in your hours. You can go to our website and submit them there.

www.planorepublicanwomen.org

Political Action Hours

By Jennifer Groysman, Political Action Chair

"Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people."
– John Adams

GOP GUEST ARTICLE

Dear Friends,

This week at the Texas Capitol was one of the most consequential yet. We took bold action to defend life, protect families, secure our elections, strengthen education, expand medical freedom, safeguard privacy, and ensure accountability in law enforcement. I want to share with you just a few of the major victories we achieved together.

I was honored to author and pass **House Bill 7 - the Women and Child Protection Act**. Even though abortion is already illegal in Texas, thousands of dangerous abortion drugs are being trafficked into our state every month. HB 7 closes these loopholes, protecting both mothers and their unborn children from the serious risks posed by these drugs. These are future Texans we are fighting for - and this is a fight I will never back down from.

We also passed major reforms to strengthen our elections and protect the voice of every Texan. **Senate Bill 12** gives the Attorney General authority to prosecute election crimes, making sure our elections remain secure, fair, and trustworthy.

On education, we made a historic move to finally end the STAAR test. **House Bill 8** replaces it with shorter, more transparent assessments that give parents and teachers real-time information on student progress while providing honest, clear accountability for our schools. This is a victory for students, parents, and teachers alike.

We also expanded medical freedom with **House Bill 25**, allowing Texans to purchase Ivermectin over-the-counter without a prescription. The 89th Legislative session has been a grand slam for health and medical freedom!

To further protect privacy and safety, we passed **Senate Bill 8** - the Texas Women's Privacy Act, ensuring bathrooms, locker rooms, and shelters in Texas are designated based on biological sex.

Finally, we took strong action to improve accountability in law enforcement with **House Bill 15**. This bill requires every Texas law enforcement agency to maintain a confidential department file for each officer, documenting all allegations of misconduct. While these records remain confidential, they can be reviewed by agencies and TCOLE when necessary - balancing accountability with protection of sensitive information.

These are not just policy wins, they are victories for Texas families, students, and communities. Every step we take is about building a stronger, safer, and freer Texas for generations to come. I am proud of what we accomplished this week, and I will never stop fighting for the values that make Texas strong.

All My Best,



Jeff Leach

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Membership Report

by Membership Chair Ushma Ferguson

Many Thanks To Our Club Patrons

These members have donated \$100.00 in cash, given items to the club, or paid budgeted expenses valued at \$100.00 or more.

Evelina Davitian-Abounayan	Debby Arrant
Deb Blencowe	Pat Donley
Ushma Ferguson	Catherine Gibb
Jennifer Groysman	Madelon Issaeff
Donna Krauss	Cleo Marchese
Lynn McCoy	Dana Sickler
Merrie Spaeth	Kathy Ward

Membership Month is in October. At that time, you may renew your membership for 2026 at our meeting.

Membership dues can be paid at the meeting, online through our website <https://planorepublicanwomen.org/become-a-member>

Or checks can be mailed to Plano Republican Women, P O Box 940461, Plano, TX 75094-0461.

Memberships:

\$40 Full Active Single Membership (PRW receives \$15, TFRW and NFRW receive \$25)

\$45 Full Active Membership with Spouse

\$25 Associate Membership – for Men or Active Members of other Republican Women Clubs

\$20 Young Affiliate (young woman, age 10-17)

\$140 Patron Member (includes Full Active Single Membership)

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[Become a Member](#)

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Ushma Ferguson, 2nd VP Membership

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Lynn McCoy, 3rd VP Awards

Catherine Gibb, 4th VP, Ways and Means - 214-929-0857

Joan Hart, Recording Secretary

Sheila Patterson, Corresponding Secretary

Debby Arrant, PAC Treasurer

September Birthdays

Kathy Bass	9/1
Judi Neal	9/3
Vickie Palmer	9/4
Lisa Smith	9/5
Christine Drumm	9/11
Ginny Sturm	9/11
Joan Konkel	9/12
Elaine Smith	9/26
Ruth Bressler	9/27
Sherry Griffin	9/28
Marsha Roberts	9/28



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Vision and Mission Statement:

Plano Republican Women is an American political club, bringing together women to positively impact the direction of our nation. We come together as a collective force advancing the power of women through political access and participation. Our mission is to see women from all age groups and walks of life as key players at the political table of national, state, and local issues.



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A Free Country**

