

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

March 2023

President's Byline



The 88th Legislative Session has begun. The biggest focus of this session is property taxes relief. Finally, something we all can get behind. Property taxes currently are the largest source of funding that local governments and school districts use to pay for schools, streets, roads, police, fire protection and many other services. Texas law currently established the process followed by local officials for determining the property's value, ensuring that values are equal and uniform, setting tax rates and collecting taxes. However, over the past 20 years it can be argued that the process does not feel fair, or uniform because Texas has one of the highest property tax rates in the nation.

Because Texas doesn't have a state property tax, instead the Texas Constitution and statutory law authorizes your local government to collect property taxes to support these systems. The state of Texas does not set tax rates, collect taxes, or settle disputes between property owners and local governments. Instead, local governing bodies know as taxing units oversee the collection and rate increase of these taxes. There are several types of local taxing units used by cities, county, school districts, junior colleges, and special districts. These units set local tax rates, collection, and levy property taxes to fund public services. Our school districts rely on local property tax, state, and federal funding.

But somehow property taxes in Texas have become crippling for homeowners especially in larger cities. You can pay off your house but still own a large yearly property tax. For those paying a mortgage, the property tax depending on your lending rate can be more than your mortgage payment. This is especially true if you are senior, after working hard to pay off your mortgage, you are stuck paying a large yearly sum that has forced some senior out of their homes into retirement communities or rental properties. Here in Collin County especially, the yearly appraisal of your home and other properties give you sticker shock. It's become so bad that even the local news has yearly pieces of what to do about your property taxes and how to fight them. There are also seminars you can take to learn how to reduce your property taxes and many local politicians have free how to reduce or fight your new appraisal on your home. Fighting property taxes has become a state pastime.

Gov. Greg Abbott drafted a 25 page document outlining his 2023-24 budget plans that includes a large property tax relief. Critics point out Abbot's plan depends largely on using funds collected in 2022. Abbott recommended the 88th Legislature utilize \$15 billion to compress tax rates in a sustainable manner. He also recommended senior citizens be automatically receive an additional \$10,000 homestead exemption from school property taxes and that their county property taxes be frozen. Also, small businesses would receive additional relief with an increased exemption for business personal property. *"Lowering property taxes has been a high priority not only for Texans generally, but for the legislature specifically, for the last twenty years,"* Abbott said in the proposal. *He also wants to require local government debt be passed by a two-thirds supermajority of the local governing body and require local bond issues not included on the November ballot be passed by a two-thirds supermajority of voters.* Texas currently has a record-setting \$188.2 billion in collected tax revenue, including a \$32.7 billion surplus available for general-purpose spending for the upcoming budget, an increase of 26% from 2021.

What is happening now?

In the latest update on the 88th Legislature, on Feb 13th, Lt. governor Dan Patrick announced his 30 top priorities. Providing property tax relief was number one. Gov. Greg Abbott gave his State of the State address on Feb. 16 also listed property tax relief as his number one priority. But not everyone is on board, Glenn Hegar, Texas Comp-

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Calendar of Events

Board Meeting
March 7, 2023
11:30
Napoli's Restaurant

Next Meeting
March 21, 2023
11:30
Saltgrass - East Plano

PRW Presidents Byline

Continued from Page 1

troller said in a statement on Jan 9th, "The revenue increases that we've seen have been, in many ways, unprecedented, and we cannot reasonably expect a repeat." Other critics feel the money should go to teachers. According to the Texas State Teachers Association, the average annual salary for a Texas teacher is \$59,000 a year, \$7000 below the national average.

These priorities will be introduced under the following bill numbers, they are a part of the 30 major senate proposal from Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. He gave them low numbers because he feels these and the other 27 proposals are very important for all Texans moving forward for the 88th Legislature.

SB 3 – Increasing the homestead exemption to \$70,000. A proposed homestead exemption increased from \$40,000 to \$65,000 has recently increased again to \$70,000. Senate Bill 3 will be used to advance homestead exemption this session.

SB 4 – Adding additional property tax relief.

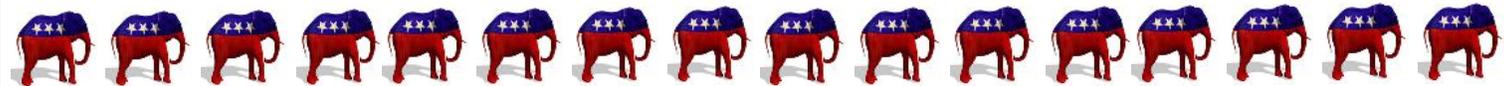
SB 5 – Increasing the business personal property tax exemption because the fiscal and administrative burden of paying the property taxes of the business personal property unfairly disproportionately affects Texas' smallest businesses.

"This session, I could have used 50 low bill numbers because there are so many issues that need to be addressed," Patrick said in a statement Monday. "Just because a bill does not make the priority list does not mean it is not a priority for me or the Senate."

Let's hope of these legislative priorities pass and become bills soon. Tax relief is something all Republicans can get behind.

Cleo Marchese

prw_president@planorepublicanwomen.org



Connections was formed to help members get to know one another over a glass of tea and to complete a common goal. Please join other PRW members for *Connections*, following our General Meeting.

Let's plan to work together for an hour or so. Come and go as your schedule allows. Bring your staplers, scissors and pens and you will be prepared for whatever we tackle!

Our projects continue to evolve. Whatever we do, we will get to do it together.



Senator Bob Hall presents the Thank You for Your Service cards and letters written by PRW Connections team.

"The tasks may change, but the *Connections* will last."



PRW March Meeting



**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:
March 21st, 2023**

PATRIOT PAWS and The Traveling Trunk Show



The mission of Patriot PAWS is to train and provide service dogs of the highest quality at no cost to disabled American veterans and others with mobile disabilities in order to help restore their physical and emotional independence. Patriot PAWS intends to build partnerships with state and community organizations to help develop and support this goal.

The journey of a Patriot PAWS Service Dog usually begins when the pup is about 8-weeks-old. Training starts at our Main Campus in Rockwall, TX, and is completed 1 1/2 – 2 years later when that fully trained, certified service dog is ready to be placed into a life-changing partnership with a disabled veteran. This amazing animal is accompanied on its journey by the entire Patriot PAWS Nation including staff, volunteers, donors and partners who are spread out all over the great state of Texas and beyond! From prison cells to college campuses, Patriot PAWS has developed innovative and effective partnerships to support our mission and help us train service dogs of the highest quality for disabled veterans.

Patriot PAWS Service Dogs is dedicated to providing highly trained service dogs to disabled American Veterans. Each dog trained at Patriot PAWS is customized to the individual needs of the Veteran with the goal of increased independence. Our dogs are trained to assist Veterans with both **visible and invisible disabilities**, and can help with many tasks that would otherwise be difficult or impossible. It takes about 2 1/2 years to train one service dog at a cost of approximately \$35,000, but we provide these dogs at no cost to the Veteran.

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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

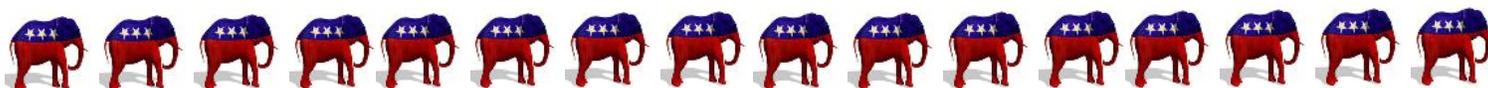
**Lunch is available for \$25.00 with RSVP, cash or check payable to PRW on arrival
RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm Friday, March 17th, 2023**

RSVPs to attend without lunch may be made up to 5pm the Monday before the Tuesday meeting

We welcome guests and visitors to our General Meeting. Members, please bring a friend!

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



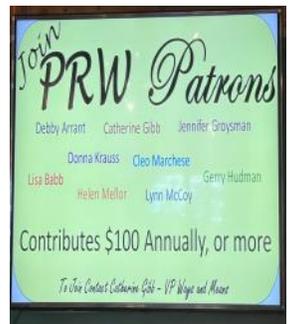
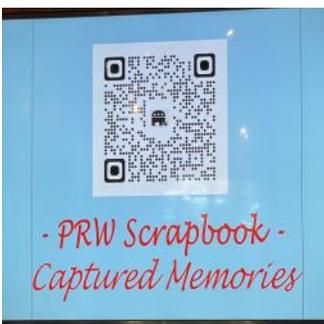
PRW February Meeting Photos

February's Speaker



The Honorable Jason Isaac

"What is Social Credit Score, and How Will it Harm Conservatives?"





Legislative Report



2/17/2023 - As House District 89 is growing like crazy, and I have to drive I-35 back and forth each week (not my favorite part of the job), I think a lot about the transportation needs of Texas.

Back in the 1990's the State of Texas was experiencing a terrible lack of funds dedicated to our transportation needs. Our population growth far exceeded our federal and state dollars- usually gas tax revenues- in transportation both for maintenance of current highways and our needs for building new roadways. The need was so great in our area, that desperate voters approved a flurry of tollways. At one time, Robert and I had five vehicles on our toll tag account (my parents, my driving age kids and our two personal cars). One crazy month we had a \$500 toll bill. That was, and is, a road tax. Texans finally put the kibosh on building more tollways as a funding mechanism, realizing that we would be paying for those roads in perpetuity.

In 2013 (83rd legislative session [SJR 1](#)) and also in 2015 (84th [Proposition 7](#)) lawmakers proposed two constitutional amendments to Texas voters to provide funding for state non-tolled projects. Both passed ensuring that specific state revenue be dedicated to only transportation needs.

When Texans pass a constitutional amendment, it sometimes takes a while for the implications and results to be apparent. But with this one, there have been some pretty amazing changes from 2015-2022. We have implemented a \$117 billion ten-year plan, including \$85 billion for the [Unified Transportation Program](#). We have awarded more than 16,500 new construction, maintenance and local contracts. More than 200 rural connectivity projects have been completed. Currently, there are \$33 billion in projects underway. And there are more than \$61.3 billion in [Texas Clear Lanes](#) projects that are either completed, under construction or planned

There are currently two funds that receive deposits from oil & gas production severance taxes: [the State Highway and Rainy Day Funds](#). Believe it or not, there's a cap on just how much money may be put into the two funds, and that cap grows to reflect the growth in population and inflation. We are nearing that cap. As it stands now, these two funds will cap out leaving more than \$.69 billion unable to be deposited into the funds in 2024, and an additional \$3.79 billion expected in 2025. With Texas' record income, a lot of folks are at the Capitol asking for increases in the budgets of various state expenses. But I must remind everyone: our constitutional limits spending in the state budget. Our budget may only grow the same amount as population plus inflation.

Just three years ago, during Covid, Texas expected a budget deficit of \$4.6 billion. We tightened our belts and made the two year budget as lean as we could. It is exciting to note that by the end of the current budget, we will have an additional \$32.69 billion over what the Comptroller estimated two years ago. That is \$32.69 billion left over of unspent tax revenue. This time around, Comptroller Glenn Hegar, who is always very conservative in his estimates, anticipates a [Biennial Revenue Estimate](#) (the next two years) of at least a 26% increase over the last two years.

So what to do with the extra tax money collected?

It isn't the state's money. It's your tax dollars. It would be great if we could just do a rebate to everyone, but that, sadly, would be federally taxed. None of us what to pay more Federal Income Tax, so that's out.

One option, definitely on the table, is to cut taxes. It's time to evaluate the taxes that we collect as a state, including the [Franchise Tax](#) (also referred to as the Margins Tax) and the [Business Personal Property Tax](#) which requires Texas businesses to pay a tax on their office supplies and inventory. Another tax (which makes some people uncomfortable even to think about) is the tax Texas collects on most feminine hygiene products. That particular tax definitely needs to be eliminated.

So this brings me to the remainder of the excess revenue. We have a real opportunity to create a new, or add to the existing Property Tax Relief Fund. The idea is that this fund would be used both now, and in the future to buy down property taxes. In future years when we have unused funds left over from the budget, they would be deposited into this fund. Specifically, this proposed fund would be used to buy down the Maintenance and Operation (usually called M&O) of all property owner's school taxes- the most expensive portion of every property owner's taxes. I think this idea is really gaining momentum in Austin, so I'm getting hopeful that we can do it. It would be exciting to look back someday, as those legislators who passed the Transportation Fund back in 2013 may be doing today, and see that we finally did something lasting to protect the investments of our Texas property owners.

Did you know that it was 200 years ago this year that Stephen F. Austin and the Texas colonists organized a group to protect the 600 to 700 Texans who had come here to live? He called the group the Texas Rangers. Happy Bicentennial [Texas Rangers!](#)

I wanted to end today with a Texas brag. This is the 10th year in a row Texas leads the nation in high-tech exports. Take that, California.

Till next time....

2/10 -The House is now organized into [committees](#). When the Speaker announced committee assignments this week, he told us that the plan was to announce them last week, but the freeze and ice kept the House from meeting. Getting our committee assignments is good news, as now we can all



Legislative Report

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figure out the best strategy for each of our proposed bills.

In addition to the 34 current committees, two new committees were established by Speaker Phelan. The first is the House Select Committee on Health Care Reform. Their purpose is to look at our state's health care systems and determine ways to improve cost, access, competition, and patient outcomes. The other new committee is the House Select Committee on Youth Health and Safety. This committee's task will include school safety and improving our state's youth-related agencies and resources (CPS, mental health, education and juvenile justice). Both of these committees are temporary and will expire with the beginning of the 89th Legislative Session.

I am honored to be appointed to continue to serve on both the House Human Services Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee for the 88th Legislature. Our task in Human Services is clear: continue to improve our CPS system and provide for our most vulnerable Texans' needs. In Ways and Means, we have the opportunity to enact meaningful property tax reform so that property owners will not bear the overwhelming cost and burden of our school, city and county operations. I will also continue my service on the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Community-Based Care Transition. This committee is composed of members from both the House and the Senate with the goal of ensuring our children and families in the Texas foster care system are served at the local level.

Now the nuts and bolts process of committee work begins. All the newly appointed House Committee Chairmen will select a day of the week, a set time and a room to hold their weekly hearings. The bills that have already been filed will begin to be referred to the appropriate committee. Each committee's first hearing will consist of testimony from the various Texas state agencies that the committee oversee. The agencies will provide helpful updates and note needed changes.

A good source of all the bills filed and their progress can be found at [Texas Legislature Online - MyTLO](#). Now that many bills are coming back from the drafters and are being filed, you may want to do some research on topics that interest you, or follow the bills filed by specific House members.

In a past Noble Report, I've shared information about three of the bills I've filed: [HB 61](#), [HB 158](#), and [HB 793](#). So far I've filed a total of 11 bills, and quite a few more are in drafting. This week I'm going to cover two of those for you. You'll get the idea, when you look at them all together, just the breadth and scope of state government.

If you attended or graduated from one of our Texas Public Universities, and you request a transcript, you are not charged a sales tax, even if that university charges you a fee for producing your transcript. However, if you attended or graduated from a private university (as did I, Go Hardin-Simmons Cowboys!), and need a transcript, you will be charged a sales tax because that falls under "Information Service" in our Texas Sales and Use Tax code. Since Government entities are not included in that part of the tax code, and our state universities are considered part of government, they do not charge a sales tax. [HB 105](#), which I have filed, is supported by the Comptroller and will eliminate any sales tax on transcripts in Texas.

When it comes to election integrity, we have found that if something isn't clearly spelled out in our Election Code, bad actors will find a way to circumvent our laws. [HB 1299](#), if passed, will clarify that each signature on a ballot by mail must be original and with ink on paper. This simple bill makes it clear that photocopied signatures are not permitted.

For those who are following what's going on at our southern border, I wanted to mention that Texas recently awarded a contract for \$224 million to build nearly 10 miles of 30 feet tall border fence in the Laredo and Del Rio area. I get a lot of questions about why we haven't done this already. [This Breitbart article](#) does a good job of showing the enormous logistics involved for both the landowners and the state involved in building a fence. Texas does not own the land along the border, individual Texans are the owners. The U.S. Government has the authority and ability to protect that land, but is monumentally failing to do so. Texas may, with the landowner's permission, build. But the logistics of allowing a fence to be built and then being able to reach both sides of a fence on one's property makes it tricky for those landowners. The Rio Grande river is not a straight river, so the path for that fence is not a straight line on the map. If only the federal government would do their constitutional duty to protect our nation, we wouldn't need both the expense and the complication of building on individual Texan's lands.

In Mission, the DPS Brush Team apprehended three Chinese nationals, who told troopers they each paid \$35,000 to cross into the United States. In another incident, DPS troopers were led on a high-speed pursuit along I-35 of a stolen vehicle driven by a 15-year-old smuggler from San Antonio. The 12-year-old passenger of the car was a reported runaway and involved in human smuggling. The victims of the cartels are from all over and are all ages.

Meanwhile, Texas has bused more than 9,100 migrants to Washington DC since that program started in April. We've bused over 5,200 migrants to New York City since August 5, more than 1,500 migrants to Chicago since we began that on August 31, and over 890 to Philadelphia since November 15. This sounds like a lot until you realize that border agents have caught 180,034 people crossing into the U.S. from our southern border in just May alone. "Paroling" individuals into our country is not working, and the costs to us are far too high. Texas has spent more than \$4 billion to stem the flow of drugs and people into Texas in just the last two years. Yikes.

It's been a busy week at the Capitol. I have had visits from so many folks from home, and I love seeing y'all here. I can't express how honored I am to serve on your behalf in Austin.

God Bless Texas.

Till next time....





Legislative Report

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2/24 - Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well. I can't believe March is around the corner and the Capitol has been busier than ever. This past week, we saw many bills being referred to committees and committees beginning to meet. The Criminal Jurisprudence Committee which I serve on, had their first meeting this past Tuesday and the committee I chair, Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence will be meeting for the first time next week on March 1st.

COMMITTEES – WHAT THEY DO AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED

After a bill is introduced on the House floor, the Speaker's office then refers those bills to specific committees and a hearing will be scheduled. This is where YOU can get involved. It is invaluable to have constituents, advocates and experts testify on bills in front of the committee members. This is where the Members are able to ask questions and get clarity on how bills might effect Texans. I encourage you to get involved on bills that are important to you by either testifying in person or following along online. Here are some quick tips and tricks on testifying in front of a House committee.

- ✦ Bring at least 20 copies of your testimony
- ✦ Write out remarks and come prepared
- ✦ Be concise – there is often a time limit
- ✦ Provide a unique perspective – try not to repeat what others have said before you

Be respectful and avoid using combative language – this will help your case

As always, my Capitol office staff is ready and available to help you and answer any questions you might have on testifying. If you aren't able to head to the Capitol to testify but still want to stay up-to-date and informed, you can watch all committee hearings [live through this link](#).

THIS WEEK AT THE TEXAS CAPITOL

It was my pleasure to honor Hayden and celebrate his 14th birthday on the House floor this week. Hayden is the Protect Texas Fragile Kids Capitol Ambassador and is an inspiration to everyone he meets. I hope you had an awesome birthday Hayden!

I also had a chance to sit down with Brian Phillips at the Texas Public Policy Foundation to discuss some of the important legislation coming up this session. We talked thoroughly about my bill, House Bill 1738 – also known as the "Golden Parachutes" bill. Essentially HB 1738 would protect taxpayers' hard-earned wages by capping public employee severance packages, known as "golden parachutes", at 20 weeks of their prior salary. Additionally, the bill mandates the elimination of severance pay when public officials, as well as those who have contracts with political subdivisions, are terminated due to misconduct. I'll be sure to share the full podcast once it is released!

I also had a chance to sit down with the Dallas Regional Chamber and their business leaders to discuss the issues that are most important to them. We talked in depth about criminal justice reform and how investments in public safety technology, law enforcement and re-entry programs can greatly improve their community and Texas as a whole.

I hope you and your family have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing you at the Texas Capitol soon!

All My Best,

2/17 -Dear Friends,

We're almost 40 days into the 88th Legislative session and we have been busy writing legislation, filing bills, and meeting with constituents. The deadline for bills to be filed is Friday, March 10th and so far I've filed 32 bills and 2 Joint Resolutions. These bills encompass many of the issues we have heard straight from you – including substantial property tax relief, criminal justice reform, the protection of our children and the support of our teachers and veterans. You can [follow this link](#) to see a detailed account of each bill I've filed.

THE STATE OF THE STATE

In case you missed it, Governor Abbott shared his vision for the Legislative session last night during his State of the State address. During his speech he listed out a number of emergency items that he wants the legislature to begin working on right away. Emergency items like cutting property taxes and permanently ending COVID restrictions provide an even better climate for businesses in our state and allow for great economic prosperity. These seven emergency items all work towards the same goal – leaving Texas better for the next generation.



Legislative Report

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- ✦ Cut Property Taxes
- ✦ Permanently End COVID Restrictions
- ✦ Education Freedom for All Texans
- ✦ School Safety
- ✦ End Revolving Door Bail
- ✦ Secure the Border
- ✦ Fight the Fentanyl Crisis

If you would like to read his full speech and hear him talk about each of these priorities in more detail, you can [follow this link](#).

THIS WEEK AT THE TEXAS CAPITOL

While we're working hard down in Austin, we also get a chance to have a little fun! One of my favorite days each session is when Sweetwater Jaycee's brings their team of rattle snakes to the Capitol.

It was great to welcome Miss Texas 2022, Averie Bishop, to the Capitol as well. Averie is Collin County's own and is the first Asian American to ever represent the Lone Star State in the Miss America Pageant. Congrats, Averie!

It was my honor to speak at an energetic rally at the Capitol yesterday hosted by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault and the Texas Council on Family Violence. Make no mistake: this session we will continue our fight for justice for all survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence.

2-/10 Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well! There was a lot happening down at the Capitol this week including the announcement of committee assignments by Speaker Phelan.

I am honored to continue my service as Chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence and also looking forward to serving on the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence. The House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence oversees the judicial system in Texas as well civil procedures and laws. The House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence is charged with overseeing criminal law and procedure as well as probation, parole and the penal code.

It is not lost on me the tremendous responsibility I have to lead the House Judiciary Committee to ensure the Texas Justice system is fair, open, transparent and reliable and a beacon for the rest of the Nation. I look forward to locking arms and working diligently with my House colleagues and Committee members to strengthen the rule of law and to protect the Constitutional rights, freedoms and liberties of the Texans we are elected to serve.

To learn more about these committees or the other 32 committees and 2 select committees, visit [this page on the Texas House website](#).

THE FIRST 60 DAYS OF SESSION

Did you know that the Texas Constitution limits the business conducted by the Legislature during the first 60 days? The first thirty days of each legislative session are devoted to the introduction of bills and resolutions. Legislators may also act upon emergency appropriations and any emergency matters submitted by the Governor to the Legislature. During the succeeding thirty days, the various committees of the Texas House will hold hearings to consider bills and resolutions and other matters. Once the first sixty days elapse, legislators are able to act upon bills and resolutions through debates on the House floor, votes, and sending legislation to the Governor's desk.

I also had the privilege of meeting with some members of Prison Fellowship. These men (and women) minister to people who are incarcerated, advocate for justice reform, care for prisoners' families, and prepare prisoners for reentry. I'm proud of the work they are doing, and I'm amazed by their strength and passion for their calling.

It was great to speak at Texas Public Policy Foundation's Right on Crime Event as well. As Chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence as well as serving on the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence, I see firsthand the importance of creating an environment in Texas where those that have served their time – who have paid their debt to society – can re-enter the workforce and rejoin their families in a manner that builds up our communities and reduces recidivism. I'm eager to lock arms with my fellow legislators to help tear down some of the bureaucratic red tape that is a hindrance to this cause and pass legislation that provides second chances for well-deserving Texans.

As always, my door is open and I would love to see you down in Austin. Please stop by anytime!

All My Best,





Legislative Report

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HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN TEXAS

As session rolls on, I wanted to make sure you were aware of the process of how a bill becomes law and how you can register to receive real-time updates on bills that are important to you.

The 140-day legislative process has many steps. From the introduction of a bill to its delivery to the Governor's desk, check out this flow chart so you know how a bill becomes a law in Texas. For even more information on this process, visit house.texas.gov/about-us/bill/.

I also encourage you to visit Texas Legislature Online and follow the steps to help track bills you are interested in during the Legislative Session. By signing up for legislative alerts, you have the opportunity to receive real-time updates as bills move throughout the lawmaking process. It is an incredibly useful tool available to the public and is one that we highly recommend to constituents.

We expect committee assignments to come out any day now and as soon as they do, I'll be sure to update you!

Until then, I hope you have a great (and warm) weekend!



How a bill becomes a law in Texas

Introduction

BILLS CAN BE INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE. A LEGISLATOR MUST FILE A BILL WITH THE CHIEF CLERK FIRST. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE BILL IS READ ON THE HOUSE FLOOR, AND IT IS THEN REFERRED TO A COMMITTEE.

Committee

IN COMMITTEE, MEMBERS LISTEN TO TESTIMONY AND DISCUSS ISSUES THAT PERTAIN TO THE BILL. IF A MAJORITY OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPROVE, THE BILL MOVES TO THE HOUSE FLOOR.

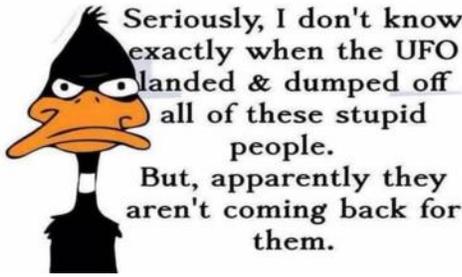
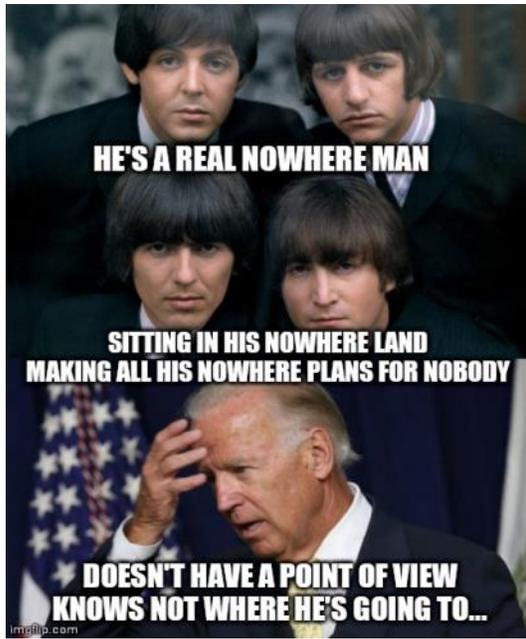
Floor Action

THE BILL IS READ FOR A SECOND TIME AND THE BILL IS THEN DEBATED. AMENDMENTS MAY BE ADOPTED TO CHANGE THE BILL IF THERE ARE ENOUGH VOTES. A BILL OR RESOLUTION MUST PASS ON SECOND AND THIRD READING BEFORE IT GOES TO THE SENATE CHAMBER FOR APPROVAL.

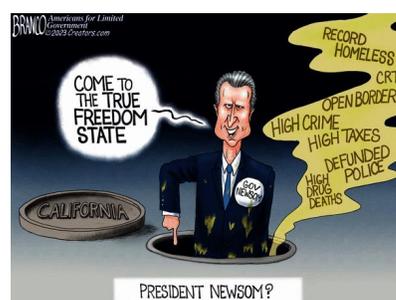
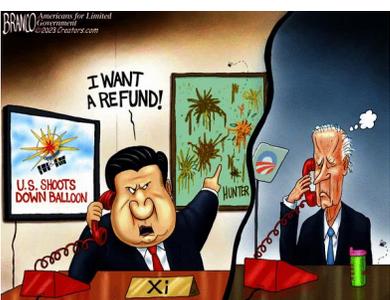
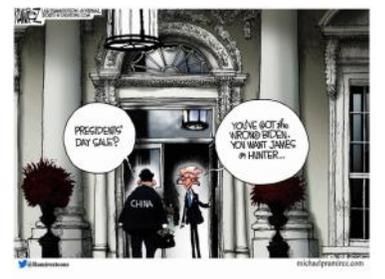
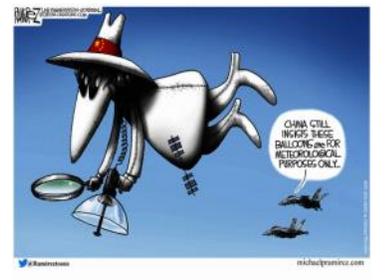
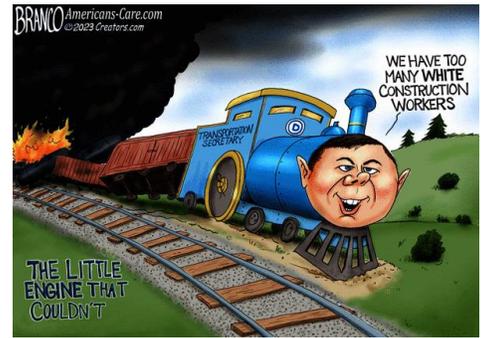
Bill Sent to Governor

IF THE BILL IS APPROVED BY BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE, IT GOES TO THE GOVERNOR'S DESK FOR HIS SIGNATURE, OFFICIALLY MAKING THE BILL LAW. THE GOVERNOR HAS 10 DAYS TO VETO THE BILL OR ALLOW IT TO BECOME A LAW WITHOUT SIGNATURE.

Political Cartoons



GoodYear was pretty creative today, flying over the Daytona 500! 🤪



Wait until your enemy's spy balloon completes its mission before shooting it down. Bonus: shoot it down over waters too deep to recover the payload.

~JOE TZU

HELLER'S ART WAR

amazon



AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



One reason America is an exceptional nation is because our founding father and first president, George Washington, was an exceptional man. Here are some thoughts from his farewell address, which he wrote to the American public near the end of his second term as president.

How timely the relevancy of his warnings are for us today.

Three particular dangers stand out . . . because we face all of them right now. I invite you to see how Washington's advice can help us overcome them.

Danger #1: Loss of religion and morality.

"Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness ..."

Virtue makes better citizens of any country. But in a country like the United States, with a government of, by, and for the people, **virtue is essential for preserving our liberty**. As an example, Washington pointed out that our justice system can't properly function if someone feels no moral duty to uphold the oath they swear in court to tell the truth.

How can we uphold virtue in our country? **Education, Washington said, is key**. And he was correct. A study conducted in 2020 showed that the growing departure of Americans from religion can largely be traced to the content taught in our public schools, paid for by our tax dollars!

Just one reason why school board races are critical.

Danger #2: Disregard for the Constitution and its check on power

"the Constitution ... till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all."

The Constitution safeguards our liberty by dividing the legislative, executive, and judicial powers into separate branches which check and balance each other, *"constituting each [branch] the Guardian of the Public Weal against invasions by the others,"* Washington said.

When that structure begins to break down, government makes more decisions **without regard** for the will of the people.

We face this danger today in the form of **judicial activism** - judges redefining the law to mean something different from its original intent, effectively turning judges into policymakers. Also, a long-time danger is regulatory requirements from unelected bureaucracy.

For this reason, citizens must carefully evaluate and rate candidates according to how closely they will follow the law's original intent. America cannot remain free without activism. Citizens must be informed and engaged.

We also face this danger from **executive overreach**, where the president makes decisions that fall outside the authority granted by laws, essentially creating a law without going through the constitutional process of the legislative branch.

Complying with unlawful, unconstitutional authority is surrendering our God-given rights and our freedoms.

Through voting wisely and holding our elected officials accountable, we heed Washington's warning:

"To preserve [the checks and balances] must be as necessary as to institute them ... let there be no change by usurpation ... it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed."

Danger #3: Factions driven by slander and a "spirit of revenge"

"The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge ... is itself a frightful despotism ... The disorders and miseries, which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual [grant power to a tyrant]"

Disagreement on political principles - and resulting political parties - are inevitable and have always been part of our nation. But Washington wisely saw how our sin nature can take the "spirit of party" too far. He compared it to a fire that can either consume or give warmth - it can provide a useful check on government power, or it can destroy our nation.

We know people who are so tired of the political process being marked by slander and a vengeful spirit that they are discouraged and disheartened. As Washington warned, **it tempts us to accept an overbearing government and forgo our civic responsibilities**.

Religion and morality, as Washington said, are "indispensable supports."



AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



Continued from Page 11

No wonder Patrick Henry said, "if you speak of solid information and sound judgment, Colonel Washington is, unquestioningly, the greatest man on the floor"! -Adapted from an iVoter Guide email newsletter.

Quotes to remind us and to inspire us:

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that **this great nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ.** For that reason alone, people of other faiths have been afforded freedom of worship here."

- Patrick Henry

"I shall earnestly and persistently continue to urge all women to the practical recognition of the old Revolutionary maxim. **Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God.**"

- Susan B. Anthony

"I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning..."

- Ben Franklin

"I do not believe that the Constitution was the offspring of inspiration, but I am as satisfied that it is **as much the work of a Divine Providence as any of the miracles recorded in the Old and New Testament.**"

- Benjamin Rush

"I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

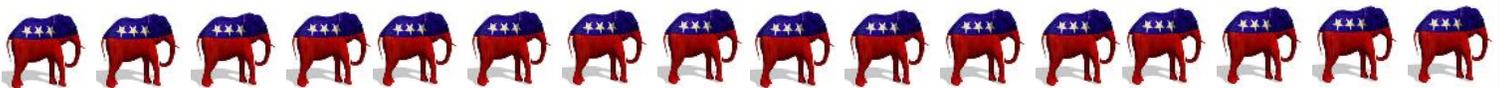
- Thomas Jefferson (inscribed around the inside of the dome of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington)

"For my own part, I sincerely esteem it [the Constitution] a system which without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests."

- Alexander Hamilton (1787 after the Constitutional Convention)

"Without God there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience...without God there is a coarsening of the society; without God democracy will not and cannot long endure...**If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under.**"

- Ronald Reagan



Plano Legislative Day in Austin



Plano Republican Women members
Kathy Ward, Heather Wang and
Staci Weaver attended
Plano Legislative Day in Austin.

Memorial Tribute to PRW Founding Member Ann Harrington



REMEMBERING

Ann Cordell Harrington

February 12, 1934 – February 10, 2023



Ann Harrington, 89, of Plano, Texas, died February 10, 2023, in Keller, Texas. She is survived by her four children, Robin Brady (Scott) of Meridian, Ginger Ellis (Kirby) of Southlake, Bill Harrington (Evelyn) of Plano and Suzan Harrington of Boerne. She is also survived by her grandchildren Shara Harrington, Tori Deaver (Chad), Heather Rogers (Ryan), Matthew Brady (Danielle), Caroline Brady, Meredith Ellis, Julia Zakrzewski and J. D. Zakrzewski and one great grandchild, Rhiannon Rogers. She is survived by her sister, Gretchen Wilson (Shelby) of Bloomington, Indiana, and her cousins, Elizabeth Cagnon of Hillsboro and Frank Hildebrand of Austin as well as numerous nieces and other loved ones.

She was born Sara Ann Cordell February 12, 1934, in Wabash, Indiana, to William Hubert Cordell and Mildred Woodin Cordell. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lee Harrington, Jr (Rob) in 2010, her sister, Pat Cordell Love and her parents.



Because her father was a geologist and landman, the family lived in many towns in many states before Ann graduated from high school in Abilene, Texas. She met her husband at Texas Technological College as Texas Tech University was then named. She quit college to support her husband until his graduation and then they moved to Abilene where Rob taught school. They moved to Plano in 1954 so Rob could farm the family place after his brother, Don Harrington, was injured in an automobile accident.

Ann decided that she wanted to work for the best and that was Stanley Marcus. She applied and was hired at Neiman-Marcus at the Preston Center location. She waited on many famous people including Greer Garson and Elvis Presley. She was offered an opportunity to become a buyer but turned it down because she and Rob wanted a family.

Ann was a very involved and loving mother and well known as one of the best roommothers. She faithfully attended almost all of the many activities of her four children including chaperoning band trips and getting to know the friends of her children. Many considered her to be a second mother. She was creative with beautiful handwriting. Ann was a good friend and a faithful member of the Chat & Chew and DAHM Good group of fun friends. Ann was also involved in many civic groups helping Plano grow.

She loved antiques, books, linens, Victorian scrap and other beautiful things and enjoyed having her booth Harrington Unlimited at Cobwebs Antique Mall. Ann and her friend Diane Morgan could often be found out at thrift stores and garage sales finding treasures.

While Rob Harrington was the one elected to public office, it was Ann who was first interested in politics. Ann's involvement in Republican politics began with President Dwight D. Eisenhower's first term who she saw at a rally in Lubbock, Texas when a freshman in college at Texas Tech. She worked for his election, but could not vote for him until his second term when she was 21. She campaigned for every Republican candidate for president since Eisenhower.

Although, John Tower had been elected to fill the Senate seat held by Lyndon Johnson in 1961,



In Memorandum - Ann Cordell Harrington

Continued from page 13

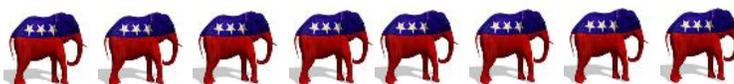


there were no Republican elected officials in Collin County. When Democrat Sam Rayburn died in November of 1961, Plano's Conner Harrington decided to run for his Congressional seat. As one of the founders of Plano Republican Women (first meeting was held on July 17, 1962), Ann worked in Conner's campaign and was the very first Campaign Chair for Plano Republican Women. Since then, she campaigned for local, state and national Republican candidates by serving as the precinct chair for her precinct for many years, block walking, phone banking, fundraising, mailing postcards, etc. She also served as an election judge for many years.

She was presented many awards from local and state Republican organizations including the John McVeigh Award in 1987 and Texas Federation of Republican Women 10 Outstanding Women of 1999. She was one of the first members of the Collin County MHMR Board (now LifePath Systems serving individuals and families impacted by behavioral health, intellectual or developmental challenges) and served as Chairman of the Board for five years.

Ann was a longtime member of First Christian Church in Plano, participating in many Bible studies and always requesting prayer for "our children, our grandchildren and our country."

Funeral services were held Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 1 pm at First Christian Church in Plano, under the direction of Ted Dickey Funeral Home. Graveside services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Benevolence Fund of First Christian Church of Plano are requested.



Ann Harrington was a founding member of the Plano Republican Womens Club.

PRWC's initial meeting was held July 17, 1962, with 25 women present. Mrs. C.O. (Eloise) Gradin was elected President, Mrs. Leo (Carole) Fitzgerald served as Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, and **Mrs. Rob (Ann) Harrington** was Campaign Activities Chairman during the Club's first year. During the next two decades PRWC's efforts at building the Republican Party and working for Republican candidates were important in achieving today's Republican majority in Collin County.

Ann Harrington served as the President of PRWC in 1981 and 1982,. Ann was the recipient of the John McVeigh Award, the highest award given by the Collin County Republican Party, in 1987.

Ann received the Texas Federation of Republican Women 10 Outstanding Women Award in 1999.

Plano Republican Women renamed the Presidents Award to the Ann Harrington Award in 2008.

Ann was recognized as a Finalist for the Legacy Leadership Award by the Texas Federation of Republican Women in October of 2021.



CCRP Lincoln Day Dinner 2023 - PRW Photos

COLLIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY



LINCOLN DAY DINNER

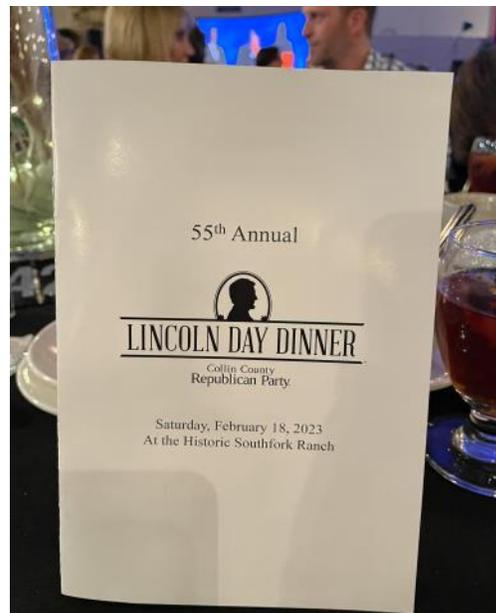


Keynote Speaker
SEAN SPICER

Former Press Secretary for the Trump Administration
Host of Spicer & Co. on Newsmax at 6p weekdays.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18TH 2023
VIP RECEPTION 5:30P DINNER 7:00P

PURCHASE TICKETS NOW
COLLINCOUNTYGOP.ORG



Bill Gates Hosts 'AMA' - Hounded for Gobbling Up Farmland, Then It Got So Much Worse for Him

By Jared Williams, January 15, 2023, Western Journal

Billionaire technocrat and devout Globalist Bill Gates hosted an AMA — Ask Me Anything — on Reddit Wednesday and his answers, or lack thereof, are very telling.

Whilst most of the questions posed to Gates involved drivel about climate change, taxing the rich, and vaccines, two very specific questions seemed to rattle the billionaire.

The first question that Gates half-heartedly attempted to dodge was in regard to his gobbling up of American farmland.

A Reddit user asked, “Why are you buying up so much farmland, do you think this is a problem with billionaire wealth and how much you can disproportionately acquire?”

Gates replied, “I own less than 1/4000 of the farmland in the US. I have invested in these farms to make them more productive and create more jobs. There isn’t some grand scheme involved — in fact all these decisions are made by a professional investment team.”

While Gates may believe that reducing numbers to fractions disarms many Redditors, the fact remains that this number would still mean that Gates owns more American land than any other individual in the nation.

MarketWatch confirmed that as of January of 2021, Gates is the largest private farmland owner in America.

The fact that Gates would say “there isn’t some grand scheme involved” when no schemes were implied or asked by the Redditor also doesn’t help his attempt to display benevolence with his land purchases.

There are many that believe Gates and other billionaire globalists like him are enthralled with the ideology of “Neo-Feudalism” which heavily leans on the ownership of land and food production for control.

While Gates was consistently responsive to nearly every question posed during the AMA, Gates ignored the popular question entirely.

Gates gave an almost threatening answer to this very same question last year during a PBS interview in which he was asked if there was any sort of “lesson to be learned by you (Gates) or anyone looking at this.” The second question that made Gates look less than innocent was in regard to his former relationship with the deceased human trafficker, Jeffrey Epstein.

One of the most heavily “upvoted” questions was, “What about your friendship with Epstein? Why did you spend time with this guy?”

While Gates was consistently responsive to nearly every question posed during the AMA, Gates ignored the popular question entirely.

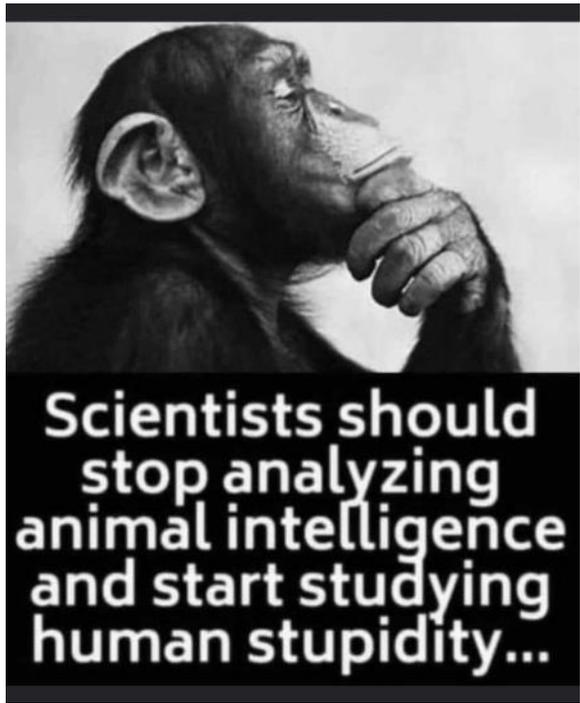
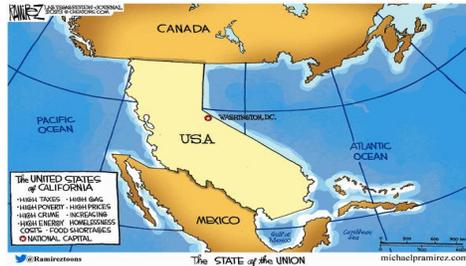
Gates gave an almost threatening answer to this very same question last year during a PBS interview in which he was asked if there was any sort of “lesson to be learned by you (Gates) or anyone looking at this.”

Gates gave an unsettling smile and simply said, “Well, he’s dead, so ... you know, in general, you always have to be careful.”

It seems that Gate’s suspicious relationship with Epstein continues to be the thorn in the side of his pathetic attempts at appearing sympathetic as he apparently doesn’t actually mean “ask me anything.”

Gates may want to stay out of the spotlight in the future as the American public continues to be justifiably suspicious of the billionaire and his “grand schemes.”

Political Cartoons



The Seven Dwarves of Liberalism



Nasty, Angry, Vulgar, Offended, Victimized, Privileged & Hypocritical

Constitutional Minute Series

By Jennifer Groysman

Montana Governor Informs Feds State Won't Enforce New Pistol Brace Gun Control Rule

By: [Mike Maharrey](#) Published on: Feb 13, 2023

On Feb. 8, Montana Governor Greg Gianforte sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland informing him the state will not enforce the recent ATF rule on pistol braces based on a state law prohibiting enforcement of some federal gun control that was passed in 2021.

Pistol braces serve as stabilizers that enable a shooter to fire with one hand. On Jan 13, the ATF issued a *rule* authorized by an *unconstitutional executive order* requiring potentially any gun equipped with a pistol brace to be registered with the feds.

According to the ATF rule, guns with pistol braces are now subject to a new “*factoring criteria*” point system, which will be used to determine if the firearm and pistol brace combination are now categorized as “short-barreled rifles” under the National Firearms Act. This is the same law used to regulate machine guns and sound suppressors. The rule doesn't ban pistol braces, but it requires anybody that has a gun equipped with one to register the firearm with the feds if it goes beyond a certain threshold in the point system. Or destroy it. The registration process will come with a tax, and if history provides any indication it could take up to a year to complete the registration process.

Additionally, the ATF still claims the right to classify a firearm and accessory as a short-barreled rifle under the NFA even if it does not cross the threshold of their point system.

In 2021, Montana *passed a law* prohibiting police officers, state employees, and employees of any political subdivision of the state from enforcing, assisting in the enforcement of, or otherwise cooperating in the enforcement of any new “federal ban” on firearms, magazines, or ammunition. A “federal ban” is defined as any federal law, executive order, rule, or regulation that was enacted after Jan. 1, 2021, “that infringes upon, calls in question, or prohibits, restricts, or requires individual licensure for or registration of the purchase, ownership, possession, transfer, or use of any firearm, any magazine or other ammunition feeding device, or other firearm accessory.”

The pistol brace registration rule clearly falls under the law's definition of a “federal ban.”

Gov. Gianforte's letter informs the U.S. attorney general that, “As a matter of law, the State of Montana and its political subdivisions cannot enforce, or assist the ATF with enforcement, of this rule.”

Gianforte also writes that the pistol brace rule “further erodes the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Montanans.”

“Our right to keep and bear arms is integral to Montana's and our nation's rich heritage, and this rule directly violates our long-held traditions. The rule also ignores the design and intent of stabilizing braces – to help disabled veterans fire large format pistols.”

Gary Marbut of the Montana Shooting Sports Association and many others *worked tirelessly* for years to get this first-step ban against federal gun control passed in 2021.

Three other states – *Missouri, Arizona and Idaho* – also have laws on the books that prohibit state or local enforcement of specific federal gun control, including this pistol brace registration scheme.

EFFECTIVE

The federal government relies heavily on state cooperation to implement and enforce almost all of its laws, regulations and acts – including gun control. By simply withdrawing this necessary cooperation, states and localities can nullify many federal actions in effect. As noted by the National Governors' Association during the partial government shutdown of 2013, “states are partners with the federal government on most federal programs.”

With just a few thousand enforcement agents, the ATF doesn't have the personnel or resources to enforce its gun control regulations without massive support from the states. That means every time a state refuses to cooperate with the enforcement of federal gun control – including this new rule – it sets the foundation for the people to nullify those acts in practice and effect.

Based on *James Madison's advice for states and individuals* in *Federalist #46*, a “refusal to cooperate with officers of the Union” represents an extremely effective method to bring down federal gun control measures because most enforcement actions rely on help, support and leadership from state and local governments.

Fox News senior judicial analyst Judge Andrew Napolitano agreed. In a televised discussion on the issue, *he noted that a single state taking this step* would make federal gun laws “nearly impossible” to enforce.

“Partnerships don't work too well when half the team quits,” said Michael Boldin of the Tenth Amendment Center. “By withdrawing all resources and participation in federal gun control, states and even local governments can help bring these unconstitutional acts to their much-needed end.”

Constitutional Minute Series

By Jennifer Groysman

Continued from Page 18

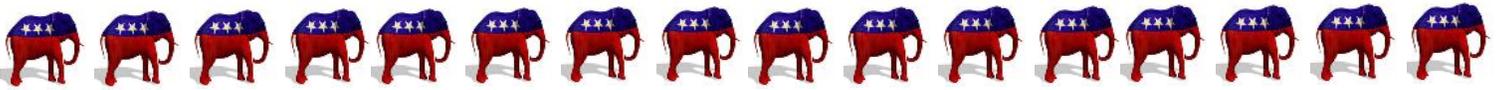
LEGAL BASIS

States can legally bar their employees and agents from enforcing federal gun control. They can also prohibit the use of state resources for the same. Refusal to cooperate with federal enforcement rests on a well-established legal principle known as the [anti-commandeering doctrine](#).

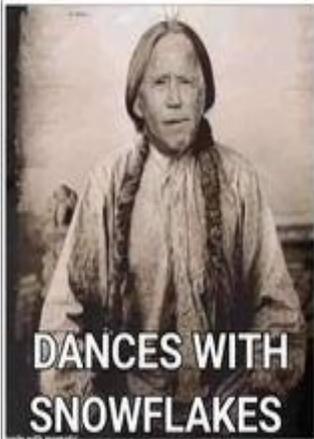
Simply put, the federal government cannot force states to help implement or enforce any federal act or program. The anti-commandeering doctrine is based primarily on five Supreme Court cases dating back to 1842. *Printz v. U.S.* serves as the cornerstone.

“We held in *New York* that Congress cannot compel the States to enact or enforce a federal regulatory program. Today we hold that Congress cannot circumvent that prohibition by conscripting the States’ officers directly. The Federal Government may neither issue directives requiring the States to address particular problems, nor command the States’ officers, or those of their political subdivisions, to administer or enforce a federal regulatory program. It matters not whether policy making is involved, and no case by case weighing of the burdens or benefits is necessary; such commands are fundamentally incompatible with our constitutional system of dual sovereignty”

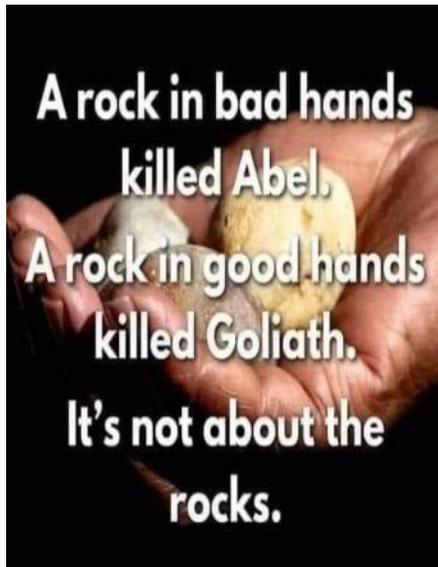
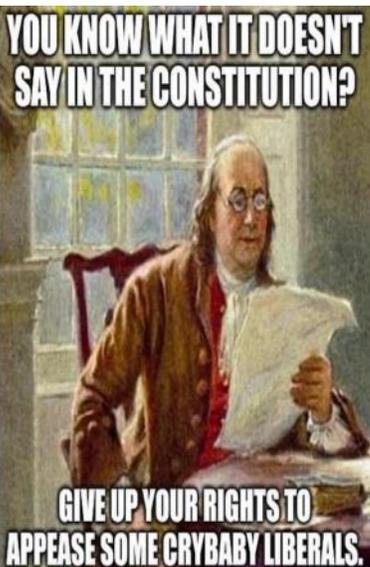
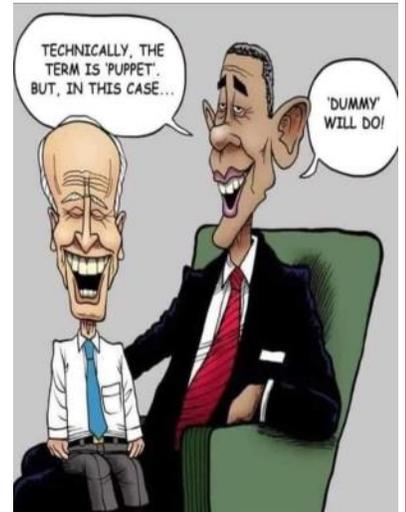
No determination of constitutionality is necessary to invoke the anti-commandeering doctrine. State and local governments can refuse to enforce federal laws or implement federal programs whether they are constitutional or not.



Chief Shit For Brains



Biden getting ready to pay \$80 per barrel to refill the Strategic Oil Reserve - Two years after Democrats blocked Trump from filling it at \$24 per barrel. Are you awake yet?



Freedom of Religion on the Chopping Block

By Wesley J. Smith, February 3, 2023, Updated February 6, 2023

Commentary

Intolerant secularism is on the march. In a blatant campaign of cultural imperialism, secularists and their leftist allies aim to shrivel the “free exercise” of religion to mere “freedom of worship.”

Freedom of religion and freedom of worship aren’t the same concepts. Indeed, free exercise was ably described by the late Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy as having “a double aspect—freedom of thought and action.” In other words, we aren’t merely free to believe, but (generally speaking) to also act in the public square according to our faith precepts.

Freedom of worship is more limited. The Catholic Church can teach that the Eucharistic bread and wine transform into the literal body and blood of Christ, while Protestant denominations are equally at liberty to believe that Communion has a symbolic purpose. Mosques and Orthodox synagogues can require women to be segregated from men during services. Pentecostal Christians can speak in tongues. You get the idea.

Both free exercise and freedom of worship are important to religious liberty. We might even say, they’re mutually dependent to freely living a life of faith.

Unfortunately, outside of explicitly worshipping contexts, federal and state laws and legislation are increasingly bent on forcing religious believers to act consistently with the values of reigning secular morality when outside the home, church, synagogue, temple, or mosque. The message is clear: Those with traditional religious views of morality had better keep their beliefs behind closed doors—or suffer the consequences.

Gutting the First Amendment

What about the First Amendment, you ask? Alas, it isn’t what it used to be. In 1990, the Supreme Court significantly weakened the Constitution’s free exercise clause in Employment Division v. Smith. The case involved two Native Americans who were denied unemployment benefits after being fired for ingesting peyote during a religious ceremony. The men sued, claiming that they were being unconstitutionally punished for participating in a Native American religious ceremony. But a 6–3 court ruled that because the Oregon drug law was one of “general applicability”—meaning it didn’t explicitly target the men’s faith—and that their right to “free exercise” wasn’t violated.

This ruling opened the door to oppressing faithful people by simply enacting laws of general applicability that are consistent with contemporary secular beliefs but also known to be offensive to certain religions. A perfect example of this suppression is ongoing in California. When the administrators of a Catholic hospital in the Dignity Health chain were informed that a patient’s planned hysterectomy was a gender transition, the surgery was canceled as a violation of Catholic moral teaching.

Dignity Health was sued for violating California law requiring facilities to “provide full and equal access to medical procedures without regard to gender.” The trial court dismissed based on religious freedom issues. But the Court of Appeals reinstated the case, a ruling affirmed by the state’s Supreme Court and allowed to remain in effect by the U.S. Supreme Court. Thus a Catholic hospital may soon be forced to pay considerable damages for adhering to Catholic dogma because the law being enforced wasn’t specifically aimed at suppressing Catholic institutions.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act

Employment Division was unpopular on the left and right, leading to the passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), which was signed by President Bill Clinton in 1993. The RFRA protects religious freedom by stating that the government “shall not substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion” unless it can demonstrate that the law “is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest.”

The RFRA only applies to federal laws and regulations. Thus, it’s of no help to Jack Phillips—the “Colorado Wedding Cake Baker”—who has been repeatedly attacked in Colorado courts for refusing to create cakes containing messages that violate his

Freedom of Religion on the Chopping Block

By Wesley J. Smith, February 3, 2023, Updated February 6, 20

Continued from Page 20

faith beliefs.

Yes, Phillips previously won a narrow victory in the U.S. Supreme Court based on the First Amendment—but only because Colorado’s Human Rights Commissioners investigating his refusal to design a cake for a same-sex marriage celebration made bigoted anti-Christian statements during its administrative proceedings. Phillips was soon sued again in state court for refusing to design a cake celebrating a gender transition and found liable for violating the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, a verdict just upheld by the Court of Appeals. Since Colorado has no RFRA—and the law in question applies generally—Phillips’s legal goose may truly be cooked for remaining true to his religious beliefs in the conduct of his business.

Private Sector Attacks Against Religious Freedom

The private sector may pose an even more potent threat to religious liberty by blackballing religious organizations and institutions. Former Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback—the U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom during the Trump administration—has a passion for protecting religious liberty. So after leaving government service, he formed the National Committee for Religious Freedom (NCRF) to advocate for freedom of religion for all Americans.

At one time, such a group wouldn’t have been controversial. Today, social progressives, including some who manage many of the country’s most powerful corporations, scorn religious freedom because they see it as an excuse to discriminate against LGBT individuals—which may explain why Chase Bank closed all NCRF accounts last year. Notably, Chase never warned the NCRF that its relationship with the bank was imperiled, nor did it ask for information that might have clarified a legitimate business concern. Thus, it’s reasonable to suspect that Chase “de-banked” the NCRF because it defends religious freedom, including in LGBT controversies such as the Phillips cases.

Private acts of discrimination such as de-banking open a new front in the religious freedom wars. Indeed, Brownback worries that Chase’s actions against the NCRF may reflect a growing trend.

“Some corporations are stealthily discriminating against people of faith and faith-oriented groups,” he told me. “This must stop.”

If he’s right—and I think he is—such private-sector discrimination poses a potent threat to faith institutions that would be difficult to counter, since the Constitution only applies against the government. Think about it: If a religious organization can’t bank or, say, buy insurance, it would be hard to remain in operation.

The effectiveness of this threat was just highlighted in a successful lawsuit brought by an individual against a Maryland Catholic hospital for refusing to perform a transgender hysterectomy. The trial judge ruled that the hospital’s refusal was illegal sex discrimination under both Maryland law and the Affordable Care Act ([pdf](#)). (The case was complicated by the unusual fact that the Catholic hospital is owned by a state-run network.)

Pertinent to this discussion: The judge applied other cases finding that the federal RFRA doesn’t protect against suits involving private parties. Thus, the government could readily circumvent the RFRA by authorizing private lawsuits against religious institutions that refuse services such as abortion, same-sex couple adoption, or gender transitions.

A gauntlet has been thrown. Secularists are determined to impose their progressive beliefs on conservative faith communities. Those of us who believe that freedom of religion is the “first liberty” had better gird our loins. Because if the right to free exercise of religion is effectively suppressed, freedom of worship will be the next religious liberty on the chopping block.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

Award-winning author Wesley J. Smith is host of the Humanize Podcast (Humanize.today), chairman of the Discovery Institute’s Center on Human Exceptionalism and a consultant to the Patients Rights Council. His latest book is “Culture of Death: The Age of ‘Do Harm’ Medicine.”

Guest GOP Elected Official Article

STEVE SCALISE
MAJORITY LEADER

The Republican Recap: Week of February 27, 2023 Washington, March 1, 2023

Here's a recap of what Republicans achieved on the House Floor this week:

Retirement Savings Are Not a Political Football

In November 2022, the Biden Department of Labor released a final rule allowing financial managers to factor environmental, social, and governance (ESG) into investment decisions and even automatically enroll retirement savers into ESG investments, affecting the retirement funds of more than 152 million Americans.

Retirement plans should be delivering maximum returns for the men and women who depend on their 401(k)s for their retirement, not advancing Democrats' woke ESG agenda.

[H.J. Res. 30](#), introduced by Rep. Andy Barr, will block the Department of Labor's rule green-lighting ESG investing in retirement plans by utilizing the Congressional Review Act's expedited procedures to allow Congress to consider whether to block newly enacted federal rules.

"Americans are suffering from a \$3.8 trillion savings gap that is jeopardizing retirement for millions. That's why Congress must dig in and prevent the Biden Administration from greenlighting any attempt to elevate a political agenda ahead of delivering maximum financial security so that seniors can live comfortably in retirement," said **Representative Andy Barr, Chairman of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy.**

What Members Said:

"ESG, simply, is a woke capitalist scam posing as responsible corporate governance, which robs Americans of their hard-earned retirement investments. It's time to stand against the progressive mob who only want an inch but seem to take a mile. So, today we are going to say no. We are going to draw the line and say it ends now," said **Representative Aaron Bean.**



Click [here](#) or on the image above to view Rep. Bean's remarks.

Rep. Juan Ciscomani [slammed](#) the Biden Administration for playing politics with the retirement funds of hard-working Americans.



Rep. Juan Ciscomani 
@RepCiscomani

...

Today, I voted in support of legislation to stop @POTUS from playing politics with our seniors' hard earned retirement funds.

@HouseGOP is standing up for our seniors:

-  Defending Medicare and Social Security
-  Rejecting Biden's woke investment agenda

Guest GOP Elected Official Article

Continued from page 22

Taking Steps to Rein In Bidenflation ✓

Since President Biden has been in the White House, inflation has gone from [1.4 percent](#) in January 2021 to [6.4 percent](#) in January 2023.

Because of President Biden's and the Democrats' radical spending, Americans have [lost](#) roughly \$10,000 in savings, and are seeing double-digit price increases at the grocery store and the gas pump.

House Republicans are taking action to hold the Biden Administration accountable for their wasteful spending and reverse Democrats' self-made inflation crisis.

House Conference Chair Elise Stefanik's legislation, [H.R. 347, the Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act](#), requires the Office of Management and Budget and the Council of Economic Advisers to provide an inflation estimate for each Executive Order that is projected to cause an annual gross budgetary effect of at least \$1 billion.

"As every hardworking family is forced to pay more for almost everything due to Bidenflation, I am proud to pass my bill, the REIN IN Inflation Act, to hold the Biden Administration accountable for their reckless spending causing prices to skyrocket," **House Conference Chair Elise Stefanik said.**

"During the past two years of Far Left one-party Democrat rule in Washington led by Joe Biden, inflation skyrocketed to the highest level in my lifetime. It is a tax on every American, and it continues to be the number one concern I hear across my district in Upstate New York," **continued Chair Stefanik.** *"By passing the REIN IN Inflation Act, House Republicans are providing a critical check on the Biden Administration and taking a step forward in fulfilling our Commitment to America to create an economy that is strong for every hardworking family."*

What Members Said:

"Americans are navigating an inflation rate not seen in generations, and their dollar isn't going far enough because wages aren't keeping up. It's no wonder that a recent Gallup poll found that 50 percent of Americans said they are worse off financially than just a year ago and that's a level not seen since the Great Recession. Let me be clear: We have this generational inflation thanks to two years of runaway spending," **said Representative Rudy Yakym.**



Click [here](#) or on the image above to view Rep. Yakym's remarks.

Rep. Ben Cline [highlighted](#) how American families are suffering under Bidenflation.



Congressman Ben Cline ✨

@RepBenCline

Inflation is a tax on every American & that tax keeps going up— families are now paying an extra \$395 PER MONTH.

It doesn't have to be this way. This week, [@HouseGOP](#) will vote to REIN IN Joe Biden's inflationary executive orders that are causing the problem.

Texas Humor

Native Texans love that great Republicans have moved here to help us keep Texas Red! If you are new to Texas these may explain some things, if you are a native you will enjoy seeing these rules in print!

WHEN YOU MOVE TO TEXAS ...know these rules:

1. Save all bacon grease. You will be instructed later how to use it.
2. If you do run your car into a ditch, don't panic. Four men in the cab of a four-wheel drive with a 12-pack of beer and a tow chain will be along shortly. Don't try to help them. Just stay out of their way. This is what they live for.
3. Remember: "Y'all" is singular. "All y'all" is plural. "All y'all's" is plural possessive.
4. Get used to the phrase "It's not the heat, it's the humidity". And the collateral phrase "You call this hot? Wait'll August."
5. Don't tell us how you did it there. Nobody cares.
6. If you think it's too hot, don't worry. It'll cool down ~ in February.
7. A Mercedes-Benz is not a status symbol...a Super-Duty pickup is.
8. If someone says they're "fixin" to do something, that doesn't mean anything's broken.
9. The value of a parking space is not determined by the distance to the door but the availability of shade.
10. If you are driving a slower moving vehicle on a two-lane road, pull onto the shoulder. That is called "courtesy".
11. BBQ is a food group. It does NOT mean grilling burgers and hot dogs outdoors.
12. Weddings, funerals, and divorces must take into account the Rodeo & Parade schedules.
13. Everything is better with hot sauce or BBQ sauce.
14. DO NOT honk your horn at us. It is obnoxious and we will sit there until we die.
15. We do pull over and stop for emergency vehicles to pass.
16. We also pull over for funeral processions, turn our music off, and men remove hats or caps. Some people put their hand over their heart.
17. "Bless your Heart" is a nice way of saying you're an idiot.
18. No matter what kind, Sprite, Coke, Pepsi, Mountain Dew, it isn't called soda or pop. It is all called coke or drink!
19. There will always be a tractor on the two lanes when you are running late, so allow time for that.
20. If you don't like the weather, wait 15 minutes, it will change.
21. We respect and consider heroes, first responders, veterans, parents, and teachers.
22. The American, Texas, POW, and Gadsden flags are considered sacred.
23. The Constitution is sacred...ALL of it!
24. Unless you're prepared to fight for it, your political opinion may be best kept to yourself.
25. Many of us carry firearms, all of us carry knives.
26. Don't mess with Texas. Pick up your trash.
27. God is sovereign, and we PRAY!

The Source of American Exceptionalism

Written by David Barton for [The Founders Bible](#)

Alexis De Tocqueville, a famous French Statesman and historian, witnessed the amazing growth of a young America and wanted to see for himself what made the new nation so special. In 1831, he traversed America for eight months, returning home to report what he had learned in a work now known as *Democracy in America*. Thoroughly impressed with what he saw, he extolled:

The position of the Americans is quite exceptional, and it may be believed that no democratic people will ever be placed in a similar situation. ¹

That statement resulted in the phrase “American Exceptionalism,” describing the unprecedented stability, prosperity, and liberty produced by the institutions and policies based on concepts such as God-given inalienable rights, individualism, limited government, full republicanism, separation of powers and an educated and virtuous citizenry. But where did our Founding Fathers find these unique ideas?

In an attempt to answer these questions, political scientists embarked on an ambitious project to analyze some 15,000 writings from the Founding Era (1760-1805) with the goal of isolating and identifying the political sources referenced in each work. If the source of the references could be determined, the origin of the Founders’ political ideas could be determined. The researchers identified 3,154 quotations and documented the source of each, finding that the single most-cited authority was the Bible: thirty-four percent of the documented quotes were taken from the Scriptures—a percentage almost four times higher than the second most-cited source. ²

What parts of the Bible were most frequently invoked? According to the researchers:

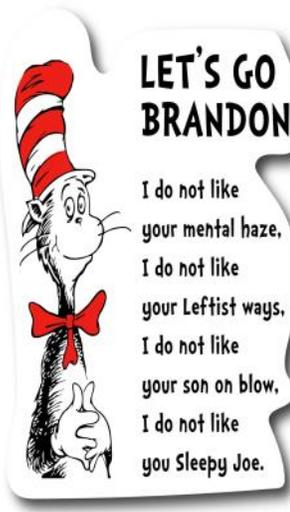
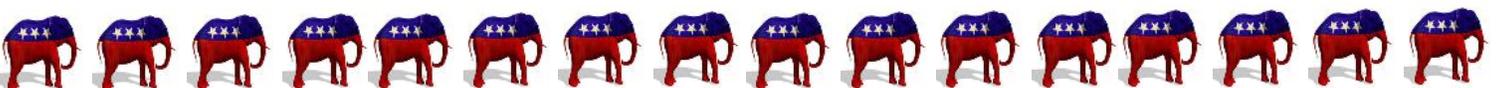
Although the citations came from virtually every part of the Bible, Saint Paul was the favorite in the New Testament...Saint Peter was next, and then John’s Gospel. Deuteronomy was the most-cited Old Testament book, followed by Isaiah, Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus... Other prominently cited books of the Bible were Psalms, Proverbs, Jeremiah, Chronicles, and Judges. ³

Notice that the Old Testament book cited most was Deuteronomy. So as you read this book, keep your eyes open for passages that could have had a direct application to the formation of our constitutional republic.

¹ Alexis De Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, tr, Henry Reeve (New York: J. & H. G. Langley, 1840), /vol. 2, pp. 36-37.

² Donald L.S. Lutz, “The Relative Influence of European Writers on Late Eighteenth Century American Political Thought.” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 78 , Issue 1, March 1984, pp. 191-193. See Also Donald Lutz, *The Origin of American Constitutionalism* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1988) pp, 141-142.

³ Lutz, *The Origin of American Constitutionalism*, p. 140.



PRW Members at Re-Election Campaign



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Interested in finding out more about what is happening in the Texas Legislature this session?

This is a screen shot of the Texas Legislature Online website. You can find it here: [TLO \(texas.gov\)](http://TLO (texas.gov))

Here you can track bills from filing, through committee, floor votes and to the governors desk if they make it that far.

You can look for bills on topics that interest you, track specific legislators, specific committees and watch videos of votes and hearings.

I encourage you to click the links and become familiar with this wonderful resource. It will help you learn more about the areas of the law that interest you.

If you are interested in finding out the process in which bills become law please check out this website:

[Texas House of Representatives - How A Bill Becomes A Law](#)

Political Action Hours

By Political Action Chair Jennifer Groysman



The filing period has closed for School Board, City Council, and Collin College Board of Trustee elections. While these are non-partisan elections, we know that Republicans and Democrats run in these races. Local elections should not be ignored. You are more likely to deal with decisions your local elected officials make than those that the federal government makes. So, research each candidate and vote for the Republican you think is best.

It is also important to volunteer to help your favorite candidate. These candidates often don't have a lot of money or resources. Please reach out to them on their websites, and offer to do what you can to help. Remember to keep track of the hours you work on their campaigns and report your hours to me. You can report your hours at our website. www.planorepublicanwomen.org

I encourage all of our members to get out and work to elect the Republican candidate of their choice.

Remember any work you do for candidates counts as Political Action Hours.

Keep the challenge going! 10 hours per month!

Complete List of Collin Municipal Candidates

City	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
Allen CC	Nathan Polsky	2	npolsky@protonmail.com	(469) 371-6283
	Tommy Baril	2	tommy@tommy4allen.com	(469)682-2745
Frisco CC	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Anwer Azam	5	Rachel@Elliott4MISD.com	
	Laura Rummel	5	laura@lauraforfrisco.com	
	Thomas Jeffrey Cheney, Jr.	Mayor	jeff@cheneygroup.com	
	Jonathan David Spencer	Mayor	laborking00@gmail.com	
McKinney CC	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Tom Meredith	AL2	info@MeredithForMcKinney.com	(214)683-2213
	Michael Jones	AL2	mhjones@gmail.com	(469)307-6695
	Taiwo Ajunwon	AL2	tajunwon@gmail.com	(469)515-6694
	Patrick Cloutier	D2	cloutiermedc@gmail.com	(972)562-5682
Plano CC	Mike Silva	D2	info@MeredithForMcKinney.com	(408)476-4893
	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Colleen Auilar-Epstein	3	colleenforplano@hotmail.com	(972)836-5243
	Rick Horne	3	rick@rickhorne4plano.org	(469)576-2231
	Shelby Williams (I)	5	shelby@shelbyhwilliams.com	(214) 995-6969
Melissa CC	Brett Cooper	5	info@cooper5tx.com	(469)573-3123
	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Lydia Tate	2	ltate2920@gmail.com	(469) 441-0446
	Rendell Hendrickson	2	rjagnd@gmail.com	(971) 998-5876
	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
Allen ISD	Michelle Boren	7	michelleforallenschools@gmail.com	(214) 531-7675
	Dr. Bill Parker	7	DrBill@Parker4Allenisd.org	(940) 595-7267
	James Hollis	7	james.p.hollis13@gmail.com	(916)919-2247
	Brandon Villarreal	7	BrandonV.allenisd.schoolboard	(214)205-8909

Complete List of Collin Municipal Candidates

Continued from page 27

	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
Anna CC	Danny Ussery (I)	5	n5vkm@yahoo.com	(903)450-7747
	Kyle Genneken	5	kgenneken@live.com	(214)709-1017
	Eldon Baker	5	eldenbaker@yahoo.com	(469)278-1742
	Kelly Patterson-Herndon	3		
	Brian Heath	3		
	Stan Carver	3	scarver2@me.com	214-502-4674
Love Joy ISD	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Amy Campbell	4	amy.campbell0892@gmail.com	336-541-4224
	.	4	wheelis4lovejoy@gmail.com	972-824-9201
Frisco ISD	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Mark Hill	5	MarkHillFriscoISD@gmail.com	469-294-4802
	Susan Kershaw	5	BoydSusan@yahoo.com	214-632-8851
	Reid Bond	4	reed.bond@gmail.com	817-832-4139
	Dynette Davis (i) Dem	4	dynetteadavis4fisd@gmail.com	(972)861-2241
McKinney ISD	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Amy Dankel (I)	4	amyDankel@gmail.com	(214) 578-3194
	Brittany Hendrickson	4	Brittany4MISD@gmail.com	(214) 668-5186
	Lynn Sperry (I)	5	LEFT MESSAGE	(972) 672-3413
	Rachel Elliott	5	Rachel@Elliott4MISD.com	(940) 367-4540
	Stephanie O'Dell	6	swodell@gmail.com	(972) 365-6628
	James Westerheid	6	jimellen.w@gmail.com	(972) 989-9382
	Serena Ashcroft	6	serena@serenaashcroft.com	(909) 510-1578
Plano ISD	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Greg Jubenville	5	jubenville4planoisd@gmail.com	(972)467-9412
	Khalid Ishaq	5	khalidishaqisd@gmail.com	(972)836-6016
	Michael Cook	5	cookforplanoisd@gmail.com	(607)592-9520
	Lydia Ortega	4	lydia.ortega.phd@gmail.com	(214)414-2010
	Margaret Turner-Carrigan, Esq.	4	mtc4pisd@gmail.com	(972)978-9062
	Tarrah Lantz	4	tarrah@tarrahlantz.com	I
	Cody Weaver (I)	7	codyweaverpisd@gmail.com	(469)215-1137
	Simon Salinas	7	simon@SimonforPISD.com	(214)624-0352
	Katherine Chan Goodwin	7	kc@goodwinforplanoisd.com	(214)728-9260
	Nancy Schilreff	7	nancy@schilreff.us	972-213-2439
	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Prosper ISD	Aimee Boots	2	bootsforprosper@gmail.com
Dena Dixon (I)		2	denadixon.prosper@gmail.com	214-682-7365
Tommy Van Wolfe		5	tommy.vanwolfe@yahoo.com	254-760-6926
Jim Herblin		5	Jherblin@herblinco.com	214-979-2300
Kurt Kuehn		5	kurtkuehnforprosper@gmail.com	248-891-4777
Eileen Riverside		5	riversideplace5@gmail.com	???
Collin College	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Fred Moses (I)	1	fred@tes85.com	(972)345-1965
	Meghan Wallace	1	none listed - looking for it	none listed
	Jay Saad (I)	2	jay.saad@yahoo.com	469-596-3593
	Philip Timmons	2	philiptimmons@yahoo.com	817-689-7573
	Scott Coleman	2	colemanforcollincollege@gmail.com	none listed
	Stacey Donald (I)	3	staceyforcollin@staceydonald.com	none listed
	Cathy Alexander	3	cathieforcollincollege@gmail.com	469-573-3606
	Joe Minissale	3	JoeForCC@gmail.com	469-565-6553
Murphy CC	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Andrew S. Chase (I)	3	achase4murphy@gmail.com	
	W. Scott Smith	3	scottsmithplace3@gmail.com	972-516-3833
	Sarah Fincanon (I)	5	sarah@fincanon.com	214-223-7439
	Laura Dell	5	lauraformurphy@gmail.com	
Sachse CC	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Chance Lindsey (I)	4	clindsey@cityofsachse.com	214-789-0374
	Richard Chandler	4	rhandler@sacheedc.com	469-429-4764
Farmersville ISD	Candidate	Place	eMail	Phone
	Jim Hemby	5	Left Message	(972)743-2022
	Kiel Cathey	5	kiel.cathey@gmail.com	(903)819-5351
	Ryan Calender	5	rcalender97@gmail.com	(214)973-1723



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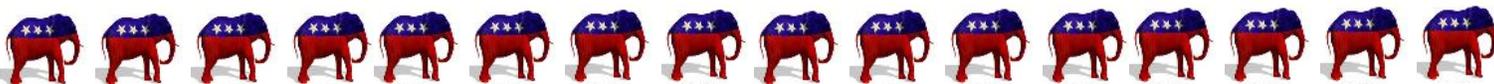


These members have donated \$100.00 in cash, given items to the club, or paid budgeted expenses valued at \$100.00 or more.

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Catherine Gibb
Gerry Hudman
Cleo Marchese**

**Lisa Babb
Jennifer Groysman
Donna Krauss
Lynn McCoy**

Helen Mellor



Membership Update



Now accepting Renewals and New Memberships for 2023!

We hope that 2023 will bring even more women in to network and work together for Republican values and Republican candidates!

Membership dues can be paid at the meeting (via cash or cheque) or can be mailed to the PRW Post Office Box.

The Membership form is included in the newsletter, printed copies are available at the meetings.

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)
- \$145 Patron Member with Spouse

Check out the Frequently Asked Questions on our website:
<http://www.planorepublicanwomen.org/frequently-asked-questions.html>

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Bailliff, Shane Capps

Chris Hill

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Officers and Birthdays

PRW OFFICERS for 2023

- Cleo Marchese, President**
President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org
- Jessica Bartnick, 1st. VP Programs**
- Lisa Babb, 2nd. VP Membership**
RSVP@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org
- Debby Arrant, 3rd VP Awards**
- Catherine Gibb, 4th VP, Ways and Means - 214-929-0857**
- Semida Voicu, Recording Secretary**
- Sheila Patterson, Corresponding Secretary**
- Lynn McCoy, Treasurer**



March Birthdays

Member Birthdays:

Katie Reinhard	3/2
Paula Branum	3/9
Elle Daniels	3/16
Julie Hinton	3/18
Terri Miller	3/18
Jeanne Hurlebaus	3/22

Associates & Sponsors Birthdays:

Chrissy Vorderbrug	3/1
Laura Rippel	3/13
Melissa Baker	3/14
Matt Carpenter	3/18
Keith Self	3/20
David Rippel	3/30
Angela Tucker	3/31

PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG

HONOR THE TEXAS FLAG; I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THEE, TEXAS, ONE STATE UNDER GOD, ONE AND INDIVISIBLE.





Please mail this form with your check made payable to PRW:

Plano Republican Women
P. O. Box 940461
Plano, Texas 75094

CORPORATE CHECKS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

PLANO REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year: 2023

Memberships:

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

_____ \$145 Patron Member with Spouse (includes Full Active Membership with Spouse)

_____ \$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)

Additional (Optional):

_____ \$10.00 Magnetic PRW Name Tag

_____ \$4 Mail Delivery of the annual PRW Membership

TOTAL: _____ **Check #:** _____

PRW Membership Directory

Please provide the information to be included in the PRW Membership Directory

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

Street

City

Zip code + 4

Phone numbers: (home) _____ (Office) _____ (Cell) _____

Email* _____ Precinct# _____ Birthday (month & day) _____

Associate Member Spouse Email* _____ Birthday (month & day) _____

* Email is used for newsletters and other PRW announcements

The information requested below is required by the Texas Ethics Commission:

Occupation _____ Employer _____



Plano Republican Women
P.O. Box 940461
Plano, TX 75094



Plano Republican Women

meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month
(except June, July & December)

Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East

3320 North Central Expressway

Plano, TX 75074

11:15 am check-in

11:30 am meeting, lunch and program

Lunch is \$25 payable to PRW (Cash or Check) at the door.

You do not have to have lunch to attend,

But please RSVP to

rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org

