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Senate District 10

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS by Bill Crocker, Republican National Committeeman for Texas

The time to recruit Republican candidates is here again. And the last few months should have made it crystal clear that we need to be careful who we recruit to run under the Republican banner. If you want a standard to use in deciding who to recruit and who to support, let me offer one I found a while back in an old book.



- 1) The candidate must be able to do what is required to carry out the duties of the office. An incompetent elected official will not be able to serve the people and will discredit our party.
- 2) The candidate must share our values. Too many people want to be Republicans who do not hold Republican values. We have the good fortune to be the winning ticket in most of Texas, and have begun to attract what we call RINOs, Republicans In Name Only. In office, they do not serve the people or our party well.
- 3) The candidate must tell the truth, all the time, as a matter of commitment and habit. Too many candidates, and too many elected officials, try to win, please people or just stay out of trouble by simply lying. The result is that people do not trust politicians, elected officials, or governments. Republicans have to be better than that.
- 4) The candidate must be willing and able to reject the temptation to seek personal profit from office. Nothing is more repugnant or destructive than an office-holder, especially a Republican, "on the take".

It is such a simple, but profoundly complete, standard. The old book in which I found it is the Book of Exodus, chapter 18, verse 21. I invite you to check it out, and consider using it.

Legislative Wrap-Up

By Cathie Adams, President, Texas Eagle Forum

The 2007 Texas Legislative Session was a marathon race from January through the end of May. As the clock started ticking, legislators hoped their 6,190 bills would maneuver the committees and pass both chambers to become law, but only 1,480 bills passed.

Texas families reaped many victories. The HPV vaccine mandate was rescinded by an overwhelming majority of both chambers. Religious liberties of school children were codified into Texas law. Our Second Amendment right was enhanced with passage of the Castle Doctrine; and the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund, a tax created to put broadband into schools and libraries will be repealed next year because it had fulfilled its purpose. Using the budget surplus, legislators set aside funds early to assure the state budget would buy down property taxes.

We stopped any expansion of gambling, a “dual language” education project and several environmental extremist measures. After judicial activists on the U.S. Supreme Court decided to approve taking private property from one owner and giving it to another private owner called the Kelo decision, it became necessary to pass a new Texas law to protect pri-

vate property rights. An eminent domain bill was passed to do just that, but the governor vetoed it. We will need to take up the issue again in 2009.

The House Speaker’s race was the first order of business in January, but even after Speaker Craddick won re-election when his opponent dropped out of the race, many legislators carried grudges throughout the session, which led to a walkout in the final days of the session.

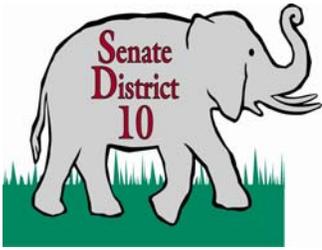
It was sad to watch both social and economic issues suffer because of the factions. The Senate, for example, passed two strong pro-life bills, but they died in the House. A bill that would have disallowed state taxpayer funds for embryonic stem cell research never made it to the House floor. It was tragic to watch bills die by points of order, not because they were bad bills, but because those calling the points of order were lobbing bombs at the work of those associated with Speaker Craddick. For example, the border security bill was killed by a point of order, even though it would have penalized municipalities that protect illegal aliens as “sanctuary cities.”

Other bills passed the House, but failed in the Senate. For example, a bill that



would have extended the ten-day time period a family has to find alternative health care for a loved one at the end of life was defeated in the Senate as was a voter’s photo identification requirement.

The session lived up to the classic political phrase, “No man’s life, liberty, or property are safe while the Legislature is in session.” But now that it is over and we enter the campaign season, let us continue to work together to elect more conservatives to every level of government. You will find a helpful legislative scorecard of votes cast during the 140-day session at www.texaseagle.org, a good tool with which to thank those who voted for our conservative ideals. Thank you for staying involved in the political process in order to protect our families and our liberties.



Political Action Presidential Straw Poll

The Republican Party of Texas is holding its first ever Texas Presidential Straw Poll over the upcoming Labor Day Weekend in Fort Worth. This will be a wonderful opportunity for grassroots/campaign training, socializing with fellow Republicans, learning about our 2008 Presidential candidates, and voicing your opinion about who should be our Party's Presidential nominee in the 2008 General Election.

We are in need of volunteers and sergeants at arms. If you would like to be a volunteer, please contact Karen@tcgop.org. If you would like to be a sergeant at arms, please contact MattHayesSD10@HazyAcres.net.

Location:

Fort Worth Convention Center
1201 Houston Street
Fort Worth, Texas

Date/Time:

Pre-registration opens online Monday, June 4, 2007; closes August 24, 2007

Registration - Friday, August 31, 2007 & Saturday, September 1, 2007. Exhibit Hall Annex, Commerce Street Entrance.

Campaign School Friday - August 31, 2007. Grand Ballroom, Level 2, \$20.

Fundraising Dinner, keynote Michael Steele - Friday, August 31, 2007. Hall A, \$75.

Straw Poll Event - Saturday, September 1, 2007. Arena.

Delegates who have not registered AND picked up their credentials by 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 1st will not be allowed to vote!

Who can attend:

Delegates to the Straw Poll - Must have been a Delegate or Alternate Delegate to at least one of the last 4 Republican State Conventions (2000, 2002, 2004 or 2006) or one of the last 2 Republican National Conventions (2000 or 2004).

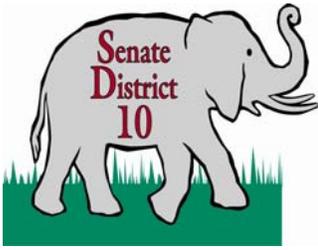
Cost:

Each Delegate will be assessed a \$50 Pre-registration fee when pre-registered online at www.texasgop.org prior to Friday, August 24, 2007. Those registering onsite will be assessed a \$75 fee. All guests will be assessed \$25.

***Please note that Delegates will have first seating in the Arena. Guests may be moved to an overflow seating area. This includes children.

Contact: Republican Party of Texas

Phone: 512-477-9821



Political Information

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' MOTION TO VACATE THE CHAIR

Whereas the 80th legislature in the Texas House has adjourned Sine Die amid great controversy concerning the attempt to vacate the chair, and

Whereas a minority of elected Republican State Representatives claimed that joining with the Democrats to vacate the chair would be beneficial for Texas Republicans, and

Whereas the timing of such a procedure came at the busiest time of the session and was detrimental to focusing on key legislation before the Texas House, and

Whereas the overwhelming majority of elected Republican State Representatives who resisted the motion to vacate the chair and remained focused on the end of the current session, and resolved to take up leadership issues at the proper time of the beginning of each new session.

Be it resolved that the Republican Party of Texas takes exception to the claim that vacating the chair would have been beneficial and commends and thanks those Representatives who acted in the best interest of the voters of Texas and the Republican Party of Texas by resisting the motion to vacate the chair, and

Be it further resolved that the SREC expresses its dismay with those Republican State Representatives who chose to focus on a vacating the chair motion and thereby obstructing important legislation valuable to Texas voters, and aided Democrats in seeking to damage the Republican Party.

Be it further resolved that the expression of dismay makes clear that many Democrat State Representatives, especially Jim Dunnam, share much of the blame for this

obstruction, and that a minority of Republican Representatives joining with them was **not** in the best interest of Texas voters, or grassroots Republicans.

Be it further resolved that we encourage and endorse local Republican leaders in either praising or expressing concern with their State Representatives regarding their actions in the attempt to vacate the chair.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Texas Republican State Representatives and all Texas Republican County Chairmen.

Adopted by the State Republican Party of Texas the 2^d day of June 2007

RESOLUTION CONCERNING COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2007

Whereas, the 2006 Republican Party of Texas Platform unequivocally states:

Illegal Immigration—No amnesty! No how. No way. With growing impatience, the American people in overwhelming numbers have asked our government to secure our borders. They now demand it and we as a party agree with the American people. Illegal aliens have, by definition, committed a criminal act. We oppose illegal immigration, amnesty in any form, or legal status for illegal immigrants. The American people remember the broken promises of 1986 and will not be misled again.

Whereas, the U.S. Senate is now debating S.1348 entitled "Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007"; and

Whereas, in Title VI, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007 offers amnesty—a general pardon for a criminal offense—and legal status to virtually all of the 12-20 million illegal aliens in the United States, thereby dwarfing the amnesty

granted to 2.7 million illegal aliens in 1986; and

Whereas, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007 does not provide measures to effectively secure our borders;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Republican Party of Texas unalterably opposes passage of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007, and respectfully urges U.S. Senators Kay Bailey Hutchinson and John Cornyn to oppose passage of the Act; and

Be it further resolved, that the Republican Party of Texas calls upon Republican members of the U.S. House of Representatives to oppose any similar "comprehensive" immigration reform legislation should it be introduced; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be delivered to U.S. Senators Kay Bailey Hutchinson and John Cornyn and to all Texas Republican members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Adopted by the Republican Party of Texas this 2nd day of June, 2007



Leslie Recine (4th from left) at the SREC Ballot Security Subcommittee meeting on June 1st



Leslie Recine & Jim Borchert at the State Republican Executive Committee meeting on June 2nd



Political Understanding

Uncommon Wisdom and Unflinching Virtue

by Jim Borchert

The primary thing in politics is the combination of moral virtue and rational wisdom in public persons. Both factors; virtue and wisdom, are well within the reach of every citizen. Even so, they are not as universal in practice as they are in possibility. Finding men and women of moral integrity and sober reason in the political arena is rare indeed. Many politicians simply talk the talk, but not so many actually walk the walk.

We are all inclined to believe that we ourselves are such qualified persons. We like to think of ourselves as both wise and virtuous. But the truth is, that many political activists are continually surprised that these qualities are not everywhere in evidence. It does little good to bemoan the fact. How often have we trusted some political activist or some “trusted office holder”, only to discover later, to our dismay, that they were not worthy of our trust, nor were they able to maintain their pledge of office.

Cynicism and apathy have weakened many a political movement, because so called “trusted political individuals” have proven unworthy of our sacred confidence. It is axiomatic that many elected officials lose significant numbers of their political followers almost as soon as they get into positions of power. “Corrupt officials” is almost a single word, rather than an adjective modifying an unqualified noun. It is not difficult to be bribed by pride, pleasure, money, or power. Ambition and greed attach quickly to political officeholders. As the founders often pointed out, public life and political discourse is basically a commentary on human nature itself.

I do not deny that many public persons have proven unworthy of the people’s trust, but I do not believe we should give up hope, or fall into cynicism and apathy. Indeed, it is important that we not

give up, simply because things are not as we hoped or expected them to be. Politics is always related to that which is less than ideal or less than perfect. Politics is a human activity. Human beings are not ideal. And they are certainly less than perfect. We have to accept that reality.

Now that the election cycle is well under way, we must resist the temptation to become discouraged or overly critical. Political activists and candidates and civil officeholders are not ideal beings. They are simply individuals just like you and me. They have their good points, and their not-so-good points. But, the fact that many of those seeking office or holding office are imperfect, should not make us angry or disappointed. We should stay active and remain involved with our neighbors and intelligent friends. It is important to continue the fight for our values and to maintain our sense of moral justice and truth. Quitters are derelict in their duty, that is, their natural duty, to be active in the political arena. We have a rational and a moral duty to care for the safety and happiness of our neighbors. But, after our duty to God and our duty to other men, we have a duty to live together in harmony and peace in civil society. It is not our duty to gripe and complain. If public affairs go awry, we must simply re-group and try again.

Ideal candidates do not exist. But wise and virtuous officeholders can actually be found. Even if they are rare, we should work hard to find them. Monarchies, aristocracies and democracies can function without individual wisdom and virtue in the political officeholders. But no republic of laws will ever succeed unless and until our elected officials merit our full public trust. Every office holder should be as wise as he or she is virtuous. If our current office holders have betrayed us, we should look again, until we find someone who merits our

trust. Is that hard? Yes! Is that impossible? No. And it is well worth it to keep trying, until we finally elect those who will be true to our just and lawful interests, both private and public. Corruption may not be completely eradicated, but it need not rule us, if we are diligent in electing wise and virtuous office holders.

I cannot agree with those who say, “Everything is fine!” and who say “things couldn’t be better”. These “positivists” are either naïve or liars. But neither do I agree with the “negativists” who complain about everything or who want to fix the blame for everything bad on the Liberals or on the Compromisers in our midst.

A wise and virtuous citizen is aware that there are indeed problems, but he or she is never depressed or discouraged. He or she continues to care about social improvement, and to gather together publicly, in order to set out the vision for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and . . . then to implement those good principles.

Political parties, of course, differ in their vision and in their values. One party thinks its vision is best. Another party disagrees and thinks its vision is better. As conservative Republicans, well within the main stream of American life, and politics, you and I are convinced that our traditional message of smaller government, lower taxes, individual liberty, free market capitalism, constitutional limitations, separation of powers, institutional federalism, strong defense, private property, national sovereignty, Constitutional federalism, and judicial restraint, in the service of faith, family and freedom should be implemented for the common good of all and the betterment of society. We have even made some gains, quite a few. We need to make more. We have also made mistakes, not so few. But, we are learning.

Uncommon Wisdom and Unflinching Virtue

by Jim Borchert

The political revolution is not over. The world waits to see if our great experiment in liberty and justice is still viable.

The gains of the last two decades were certainly hard fought. They should not be surrendered now, simply because some of our leaders have fallen from grace, or have betrayed our conservative Republican platform or principles. Ambitious politicians who care little or nothing for the people's liberty, safety and happiness are not unknown. Greedy and avaricious business leaders, who hold private or special interests which they hope take precedence over the people's agenda, are forever seeking to subvert our laws and undermine the integrity of our free system of government. This is simply a political reality.

Conservative grassroots are not for 1. Open borders, 2. Big government entitlement programs, 3. Welfare giveaways, 4. Bureaucratic statism, 5. Budget deficits, 6. Trade deficits, 7. Nation building, 8. One-world globalism, 9. Executive orders, 10. Agenda 21, 11. Sustainable development, 12. School to work socialism, 13. Trans Texas Corridor, 14. Trans American Corridors, 15. UN Treaties which remove our liberties or undermine our sovereignty.

But, why wait around for someone to lead us? We need no great heroes or heroines. When Republican leaders deliberately ignore us, they destroy our safety and happiness and deny our legitimate strictures over them. It is our duty, whenever wisdom and virtue are lacking in our public officials to reassume the reigns of political power into our hands. It is never improper for the lawful sovereign to reassert his unalienable rights and his temporal power and prerogative.

All political sovereignty rests and must reside forever in the aggregate people of any nation. This is true, not only by divine right and decree, both in holy writ and in natural law, but it is also true in our own fundamental laws and in our long standing customs and prescriptive laws. If our lives are at risk, and our liberties in jeopardy, there is no point in laying blame on ambitious politicians or greedy special interest groups. The cure lies entirely with us. Let us, then, not walk away in disgust or despair. But let us re-gather and re-group and seek out new representatives and agents and delegates and trustees, until we find those who are willing to serve our trust and do our justice with all wisdom and virtue.

These are the two great qualities of every political activist and office holder in a free Republic. If we ourselves lack these essential, coordinate, qualities, it is not likely we will think to elect men and women of either strong moral character or sound reason. We always get the rulers we deserve.

But I am convinced that we have numerous men and women in our immediate knowledge, who indeed possess sufficient wisdom and virtue. We are not without an adequate supply for these two essential characteristics in our body politic. All, then, who are wise and virtuous, or who at least believe they should be, if we are to succeed in our public affairs, should bestir themselves to be active and involved at this time. We should not turn to our merely personal or private affairs, nor should we neglect our public trust and responsibility. But we must join together for our own personal and private good as it coincides with that which is in fact the common good.

We are a free people because we look to no individual or group of individuals or even a majority of individual and groups, to tell us what is right and

wrong, good and bad. We are free because we are not slaves of monarchs or Oligarchs or faction-ridden majoritarian democracies. We are free because we are and choose to be self-governing. We want to make our own decisions as our maker designed us to do. We want to conduct our personal lives in safety and in the natural pursuit of happiness. We want to conduct our private affairs under the laws of natural and constitutional justice and truth for our own good. And we want to elect our own public officers, from out of ourselves, having men and women whom we know and trust, such as lead by serving, such as rule by first being ruled by higher laws, such as hear our aggregated voice and obey our cumulated will, such as are truly wise and virtuous.

Those whom we elect to public office must be above all else, men and women committed to doing the will of the Sovereign People, not merely saying so, not merely making excuses for not getting much done, but by actually doing so in spirit and in truth. The sovereign must not be offered empty political slogans or palliated with rhetorical electioneering. Where do we see greater safety for our homes and neighborhoods, our towns, our cities, our state, and our Nation? Where do we see greater liberty for our citizens and better opportunities for our inhabitants? Rhetoric is worthless, if it is not implemented in fact. Politicians talk too much, compromise too much, waste the people's resources too much, unjustly enrich themselves too much. Let us have men and women of uncommon wisdom and unflinching virtue who will execute our will and reform our society to be: one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.

Note: All the opinions expressed in the Senate District 10 Newsletter are not necessarily the opinions of Jim Borchert & Leslie Recine, State Republican Executive Committeeman and Committeewoman, SD 10.