

For Immediate Release

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REPUBLICAN SENATE NOMINEES WARN TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION OVER POTENTIAL ABUSE OF  
THEIR RULE MAKING AUTHORITY

AUSTIN—With strong suggestion that the Texas Ethics Commission plans to overstep their authority to implement rules that would impact freedom of speech in Texas, today six Republican Texas Senate nominees submitted a letter to the Texas Ethics Commission.

In a letter authored by Republican nominee Bob Hall, and signed by Rep. Van Taylor, Sen. Charles Perry, Paul Bettencourt, Konni Burton, and Don Huffines, the nominees inform the TEC that legislating in their role as commissioners would be a clear violation of the constitutional authority of the Texas Legislature. The potential controversy surrounds the debate over Senate Bill 346, which was recalled by the Texas Senate but passed through the Texas House. The bill was later vetoed by Governor Perry for its “chilling effect” on free speech in Texas.

“I’m proud to be joined by other Senate Republican nominees in sending a clear message to the Texas Ethics Commission,” commented Senator-elect Hall. “It’s the duty of the Texas Legislature to decide these matters, and the TEC should take care to not overstep its constitutional authority. We have many important issues to tackle in the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature, and I look forward discussing issues of free speech and reporting requirements in the proper arena, that of the Texas House and Senate.”

Bob Hall is a Citadel graduate and a military veteran. He was a Captain in the United States Air Force. Bob is small business owner, an avid sportsman and pilot, and proud father to three grown sons. Bob and his wife Kay attend Lakeside Baptist Church.

For more information, please visit [www.votebobhall.com](http://www.votebobhall.com)

(TEC Letter Attached)

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REPUBLICAN NOMINEES FOR THE TEXAS SENATE 84<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

October 4, 2014

Texas Ethics Commission  
ATTN: Chairman Jim Clancy  
P.O. Box 12070  
Austin, TX 78711-2070

Texas Ethics Commission Chairman:

As we look forward to the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, legislators will be faced with a myriad of important issues to tackle. Education, transportation, immigration and many other subjects all loom large. While finding common ground and passing common sense legislation might be difficult, it is our duty as elected representatives to do so in order to protect the life, liberty and property of the people of Texas

Last session, the legislative process played itself out over Senate Bill 346, including the rare act of the Texas Senate attempting to recall from the House a piece of legislation that the Senate had previously passed. Ultimately, the House ignored the wishes of the Senate and passed the bill. Governor Perry vetoed the bill and issued a stinging rebuke regarding the intent of the bill.

No doubt, next session, the Legislature will again debate the definition of a political committee and their reporting requirements. Whether it is in Committee, or on the floor of the House or Senate, we can expect this debate to be detailed and deliberative. ***Most importantly, this debate is the Legislature's duty and our task alone.***

In his veto, the Governor described the "chilling effect" the passage of Senate Bill 346 would have on free speech in the State of Texas. We agree with the Governor and intend to promote our view in all debates on the subject next session.

Freedom of speech is perhaps the most essential freedom in our Republic and should be protected from intimidation by any government or individual seeking to abuse power. This truth should weigh heavily in the minds of every Texan, as more is revealed about the federal government's repeated attempts to stifle dissenting political voices – even through the IRS. ***Texas must not become Washington DC.***

It is strongly suggested the Texas Ethics Commission will attempt to supersede both the role of the Legislature and the Governor's clear veto by enforcing some or all of the tenets of Senate Bill 346 through the TEC's rule-making authority. We the undersigned strongly discourage the TEC from any attempt to usurp the constitutional authority of the legislative and executive branches by overstepping your authority. Legislating from the TEC bench – seeking to go around the legislative process to enact a law that failed the legislative process -- is not something we will support.

Regards,

Bob Hall

Don Huffines

Van Taylor

Charles Perry

Konni Burton

Paul Bettencourt

CC: Texas Ethics Commission Members

The Honorable Rick Perry

The Honorable David Dewhurst

The Honorable Joe Straus