

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

November 13, 2014

AUSTIN - November 4th was a historic election day for Texas and America. Republicans were given a clear mandate to oppose Obama-like liberal policies at all levels of government. This will be a difficult task and requires unprecedented unity among Republicans as we enter the 84th Legislature in January.

We are proud of the accomplishments of the Texas House in recent years. Among those are:

- Passage of the Sonogram bill and HB2 (by far the most comprehensive pro-life bill of any state).
- The defunding of Planned Parenthood.
- We tripled border security funding and ensured that only legal residents can obtain a driver's license or register a car.
- Unlike most states, we denied Medicaid expansion under Obama Care and refused to establish a State Obama Care Insurance Exchange.
- Passage of Voter ID.
- We balanced the last three budgets without raising taxes while also keeping Texas the 4th lowest in per capita spending.
- We reduced taxes and fees by \$1.4 billion in 2013 alone and exempted thousands of small businesses from the state franchise tax.

Other states long to have Texas' record of legislative success. But for this to continue we must work as a Republican team in order to combat the Democrat liberal agenda. Ronald Reagan said it best, "The person who agrees with you 80 percent of the time is a friend and an ally..."

No action of the Legislature is more divisive than a Speaker's race. This is particularly true when, as in the current situation, the challenger has less than 20 votes out of 150 under any legitimate scenario. Over 80% of the Republican members of the Texas House support the reelection of Speaker Straus and we are among those ranks.

As members with strong conservative voting records, we acknowledge that there is much work yet to be done. We commit to focusing on the important issues of advancing freedoms, limited government and the values that have made Texas great. Toward that end, we look forward to working with Speaker Straus, Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick and all our Republican colleagues.

May God Bless Texas,

Tan Parker
Ron Simmons

Phil King
Myra Crownover

Drew Springer
Giovanni Capriglione

James Frank

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