



REPRESENTATIVE WARREN CHISUM
CANDIDATE FOR SPEAKER OF THE TEXAS HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chisum to Straus: "Let our people go."

Today Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, candidate for Speaker of the House, called on his opponent, incumbent Speaker Joe Straus III, R-San Antonio, to immediately release all members from so-called "pledge cards."

Chisum noted, "Some Republican members of the House accepted huge campaign donations from Speaker Straus. The Speaker had them agree to sign 'pledge cards' to vote to reelect him as Speaker. That exchange has the unfortunate effect of creating the perception -- just a perception, mind you -- that leaves members trading votes for campaign donations. Personally, I don't think the members did that. But there is no denying the perception is there. "

Chisum called on Straus to protect the members. "It seems to me the Speaker should forget about gathering up all these so-called 'pledge cards.' What Mr. Straus should be doing is first and foremost protecting the members of the House from any perceived stain on their integrity. He can and should release every member from any so-called 'pledge' and nip this perception problem in the bud. Republican to Republican, I have to ask the Speaker to 'Let our people go.'"

Chisum outlined his vision for Speaker: "First, I am taking a very different approach to running for Speaker. I am talking to each member, one on one, and simply making a case for why I would be, this year, the best choice for Speaker."

Chisum insisted on No More "Business as Usual": "No more wink and a nod about committee assignments, no threats and no promises of campaign cash, and no one is going to be in the doghouse if they wait till the last minute or vote against me. I think this is a new era in Texas politics, and I am willing to take my case directly to my fellow Republicans in the House."

Chisum called for a Republican Caucus: "We should caucus together and come out united behind one conservative Republican candidate for Speaker. Then in January we will have a vote of the whole House of Representatives."

Three priorities for Speaker, Chisum outlined his philosophy: "Number one: Keep our promises to the conservative voters of Texas who just elected the largest Republican majority in history. Number two: Protect the integrity of the House of Representatives as an institution. That means an open process, fairness to all members, supporters and opponents alike, Democrat and Republican. If I am Speaker, I will expect each member to vote their own conscience and district. Number three: Protect the integrity of the members. It is not leadership to sacrifice your members for your own political agenda. My opponent, Mr. Straus, must take action to erase any perception that he has traded campaign cash for votes. That perception will taint the reputation of every Republican member of the House if nothing is done. Again, I ask that Mr. Straus let our people go, release the pledges."

Chisum concluded, "It is a new day in Texas, and all across America. The people are watching as never before, and the people will hold us accountable. And that is a good thing. As the next Speaker of the House, I will promote a principled, free market, conservative and honest agenda strictly following our constitution. I would appreciate your prayers for me and for each member of the House."

For more information see Warren Chisum on Facebook
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