



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Zach Vaughn
254/420-2801; zach@sibleycampaign.com

February 21, 2008

Jonathan Sibley Withdraws Support for Speaker Tom Craddick
Cites Vouchers and Illegal Immigration

WACO -- Today, Jonathan Sibley, Republican candidate for House District 56, announced his decision to withdraw his support for House Speaker Tom Craddick in the attached letter. The letter was sent to Craddick via fax and certified letter.

Dear Speaker Craddick,

As we discussed many months ago, I do not feel District 56 has been well represented by Charles "Doc" Anderson. I believe that he has made many votes against the best interests of the families in McLennan County. Public education and illegal immigration reform are the most important issues in my district. Unfortunately, on both of these important issues, Anderson has either voted against the district or offered only sound bytes rather than working for solutions. Another issue that has consistently surfaced in my district involves who I plan to support for Speaker of the Texas House. As you know, I strongly disagree with your assertion of absolute authority during last year's legislative session. Mr. Speaker, although I have respect for your long career of service to the state of Texas, I have come to realize that we disagree on many of the most important issues in my district. During this campaign, I have learned about your failure to support our teachers and public schools. I have also been disappointed with your choice to allow illegal immigration reform to continually fail and not even receive a vote on the house floor. After reviewing Rep Anderson's record, I realized that he has consistently agreed with you on these issues, even when it is not in the best interest of the people of McLennan County. I have come to believe that Rep. Anderson would rather have your approval than that of his own constituents.

During his time in the legislature, Rep Anderson has supported taking money out of our public schools to subsidize private school vouchers. An issue which you have repeatedly and unsuccessfully forced on the legislature to appease one of your large contributors from San Antonio. What's worse, you and Rep Anderson have increased the regulation of our public schools with unfunded state mandates that place unnecessary burdens on our schools and takes money out of the classroom. In short, Doc Anderson has chosen time and time again, to vote with you and your contributors and against our local public schools.

On illegal immigration, Rep Anderson has followed your failed course of action too. Illegal immigration reform is absolutely necessary to the future of our state. The federal government has failed us on this issue and so has our state legislature. While our borders hemorrhage, our legislature under your Speakership has done nothing. Lack of action on illegal immigration by our legislature is irresponsible and should not be tolerated. It is disingenuous to the people of Texas to fail to act on immigration during the legislative session and then tell voters it is a priority during election season. Because the residents of my district want action, not disingenuous rhetoric, I want a new Republican Speaker of the Texas House.

Throughout this campaign, I have knocked on doors and looked thousands of voters in the eye and told them I will succeed where Rep. Anderson failed. Rep. Anderson failed by voting against McLennan County superintendents and teachers. Rep. Anderson failed by his continuous failure to act on illegal immigration reform. Rep. Anderson also failed by supporting leadership that pushes agendas that are against the best interest of his district. It is time for a change. Because the residents of my district want action, not disingenuous rhetoric, I want a new Republican Speaker of the Texas House *and I am working hard to become our new State Representative.*

As of February 20, 2008, I formally withdraw my support for your continued service as Speaker of the House. I am committed to supporting a new Republican speaker. I wish you success in your race to maintain your seat and represent Midland and hope we can work together as Republican colleagues under a new Speaker.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Sibley

###