

# Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition



"Texas-style liberty cannot survive if its leaders are driven by a spirit of pragmatism, which divorced from principles, makes decisions based on political expediency.

**The Texas House Freedom Caucus was made to be a Gideon Army.**

Through the faithfulness of a few, truth, justice and freedom are kept alive, and their light pushes back against the darkness of deceit, injustice, and tyranny. Remember from where your values, strength, and wisdom come, then –  
**Stand Your Ground!"**



Texas Eagle Forum



December 18, 2018

The Honorable Texas House Freedom Caucus Members:

First, thank you for the sacrifices you and your family make to serve the people of Texas and for your past efforts to steer Texas House debates and legislative outcomes toward the limited government "first principles" that are the underpinnings of freedom and liberty.

**Yours is no easy job, and the current political climate makes it all the more difficult.** The media and a myriad of political voices – on both the left and the right – proclaim conservatism on its last legs – if not completely dead in Texas. The prognosis fits their self-focused, self-justifying narratives, which declare our demise – **based solely on the results of one mid-term election.**

Just as the political class wrongly declared that grassroots conservatives only existed to oppose President Obama, they now say that the Texas



Freedom Caucus and the conservative grassroots only existed to oppose Joe Straus. **These voices are working overtime to construct a narrative that will quite simply provide a glide path for more Big Government and less Texas-style Freedom.** That FAKE narrative will only become true if we allow it!

While we cannot speak for you, the undersigned partners of the growing Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition can assure everyone that **we have NO intention of walking off the battlefield just because Joe Straus is gone!** Anyone with a modicum of political awareness cannot honestly believe that the only thing the Texas grassroots conservative movement ever cared about was ending the reign of Joe Straus and his lieutenants. Those who cling to such ridiculous claims – while ignoring our record of consistent engagement on a wide array of public policy issues – are simply affirming their political stupidity, intellectual dishonesty, and/or wishful thinking. After all, it would be so much easier for the elite-driven political class in BOTH parties if they could only return to the days when what happened in Austin stayed in Austin. They long for the days when not so many “outside voices” weighed in on the issues!

**For the long-term good of Texas – as the beacon of freedom in this nation, the Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition offers the following advice for Freedom Caucus members:**

- 1) The “idol of politics” sometimes turns people into traitorous predators. When cornered, they will make any deal and sell out any friend, constituent, principle, or cause to save their own political backside and will do so with the most elaborate of rationalizations. **Some will even quote Scripture while doing it. *Don't let them change who you are!***
- 2) This Coalition is not cowed by the Austin Swamp and its mouthpieces. Instead, we are focused on advancing conservative principles. There will be NO surrender and NO retreat on conservative, limited government principles – no matter who the House Speaker is, who the committee chairs are, and no matter how loud the voices get to moderate and “just get along.” ***We urge you to lead with consistent emphasis on conservative principles.***
- 3) We certainly believe Chairman Bonnen deserves a chance to establish his own brand of leadership as Speaker. Many House members assure us that he has made strong promises for positive change; however, we all know that promises come cheap at the Capitol. **Results matter. We urge you and all “right of center” legislators to remember that and do what you promised!**



- 4) Our 86<sup>th</sup> Texas legislative priorities, policy support, and focus will – as always – be based on limited government first principles of liberty. These principles and priorities do not come from some extra-terrestrial, intergalactic zip code. They are found in the [Texas Republican Party Platform](#). We urge the TFC to refocus on these priorities and plan your strategy to advance those priorities – **first within the House Republican Caucus. If they refuse, then stand your ground as Texas Freedom Caucus leaders, and do what you promised!**
- 5) Conservative standards are not based on what Big Media says, what consultants advise, what special interest ruling class elites want, or who the legislative leaders are. If the House Republican Caucus puts together a conservative legislative plan based on the Texas Republican Party Platform, and if those bills are allowed to come to the floor for a vote, there will be no need for this Coalition and the Texas Freedom Caucus to raise a fuss. However, based on the new partisan make-up of the Texas House, and the records of your fellow moderate Republicans, we anticipate clashes on pro-life bills, religious liberty protections, gun rights, tax hikes, spending, expansion of state government, ending magnets for illegal immigration, and watered down property tax reforms. **Our principles don't change.**
- 6) Based on a narrower GOP House majority, if at least nine liberal/moderate/progressive Republicans side with Democrats, they can kill conservative bills and pass government-growing legislation. If liberal Republican House members push tax increases (a gas tax hike is already being promoted), push drivers licenses for illegals (yes, those bills are back), work to thwart property tax and election reforms, attack gun rights, life, and religious liberty, and the House leadership and GOP Caucus just sit back and won't fight, then they will get push back from this Coalition, and we will urge you to join us! **We will not accept quashing debate and subverting conservative values for the sake of a fig leaf façade of party unity and harmony.**

To be clear, the Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition strongly supports the declared mission of the [Texas House Freedom Caucus](#), *"The Texas Freedom Caucus was founded by members of the Texas House of Representatives [who are] committed to amplifying the voice of liberty-minded, grassroots Texans who want bold action to protect life, strengthen families, defend the U.S. and Texas Bills of Rights, restrain government, and revitalize personal and economic freedoms in the State of Texas."*



**That plain language was necessary back in 2017, and it remains so today.**

In fact, the Freedom Caucus is needed now more than ever as a clear voice for the conservative grassroots and for the Republican Party Platform – in case things don't go as promised with the new Speaker.

While it is wisdom to give the new Speaker a chance to make good on his promises as you await the appointment of committee chairs and committee assignments, **this Coalition strongly opposes neutering or dissolving the Freedom Caucus.** Why? Because some of us have been around long enough to know that the Big Government Swamp always finds a way to protect itself. There will always be Big Government Republicans somewhere in power. That is the nature of unprincipled men and women.

The Freedom Caucus will be successful if its members refocus on the mission statement, remembering the “forgotten citizens” that are not represented by special interests. You will succeed if you work with your House colleagues on those issues you can agree upon, sharpen your organizational, strategic, and persuasion skills, and strive to ensure the grassroots are informed as the legislative session unfolds. ***Do not allow the enemy to undermine you with bitterness and infighting. If you wrong a colleague, apologize. If your colleague wrongs you, forgive. God is not obligated to hear our prayers if we ignore His methods of settling differences among members of the household of faith.***

We are aware that there are many voices urging you to be pragmatic – based on the November General Election outcome. They say you must be careful because you face political headwinds if you are too “far right,” and that you must take great care not to appear to be in opposition to the Republican Caucus. (The wizards of smart said the same thing about the US House Freedom Caucus.) **Opposition to the Republican Caucus will be unnecessary if it pursues a principled, conservative path.** Perhaps they will, but perhaps – as history demonstrates – they will readily exchange their stated principles and values for pragmatism and political expediency. Should their principles fall by the wayside and truth be redefined as “that which easily works,” **Texas will depend on you to speak with a clear, unwavering voice.**

Texans want, need, and deserve leaders who are more concerned for the welfare of this great state and nation than for their own political war chest and the next election. **Without principle, liberty decays.**

The Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition stands ready to support the Freedom Caucus as long as YOU are willing to stand for and fight for that which is right. We need to hear your agenda, your goals for the session,



Fredericksburg TEA Party



and how you intend to advance the conservative cause while you wait to see how the new Speaker and leadership team conduct the People's business in the House.

We close this heartfelt letter with two very appropriate quotes that are as true today as when they were first uttered:

**“If ever a time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin.”**

**Samuel Adams**

**“Peace if possible. Truth at all costs.”**

**Martin Luther**

Sincerely, the undersigned Texas grassroots political leaders,\*



JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

C. R. “Dick” Saulsbury, Saulsbury Companies, SD 31

Cathie Adams, 1st Vice President, National Eagle Forum; former Chair of the Texas Republican Party

Sam Anderson, Flower Mound Area Republican Club

H. Scott Apley, Vice Chair, Clear Lake Tea Party; Galveston County Republican Party

Sharon Armke, Concerned Parents of Texas

LaDaune Ashley, Brazoria County Conservatives

Deborah Bailey, San Angelo TEA Party

Bill Baker, former Kaufman County Republican Party Chair

Dottie Barnes, co-founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party

John Beacom, President, Hill Country Tea Party Patriots

Annette Bennett, Fredericksburg Tea Party

Geri Bentley, Treasurer, Clear Lake Tea Party

Beth Biesel, leader, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum



Bill Bingham, Vice President, Bryan/College Station Tea Party

Tammy Blair, past Chairman, Cherokee County Republican Party

Joanna Bowen, Secretary, Lake Country Republican Club

Scott Bowen, Clear Lake TEA Party

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum

Judy Brady, President, Central Texas TEA Party

Sherry Breedlove, East Texans for Liberty

Janie Brittain, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party

KC Broyles, Vice President, Clear Lake Tea Party

Wes Brumit, Voices of Conservatism and Liberty PAC (VOCAL)

Dennis Cable, Precinct Chair, Smith County GOP; past SREC SD 1

Adam Cahn, Austin political blogger, Cahnman's Musings

Kelly Canon, VP Arlington GOP Club; Tarrant County GOP Precinct Chair

David Carruth, leader, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

David Carter, Central Texas TEA Party; Bell County Election Judge, Prec. 311

Eva Carter, Llano County Republican Club

Cindi Castilla, President, Dallas Eagle Forum

Janna Castloo, Chair, Wood County Republican Party

Ernie and Della Clark, Past President; Charter members Grassroots America

Dr. Dwayne Collins, Founder and Chairman, Edom TEA Party

Craig Cosgray, President, Highland Lakes TEA Party

Bill Culpepper, Smith County GOP Prec. Chair; Grassroots America – We the People PAC, SD 1

Connie Curry, Founder, West Texas Conservative Leadership, SD 28

Nancy Dillard, President, Denton County Conservative Coalition

Don Dixon, longtime transportation reform activist & blogger, San Antonio

Jim and Char Doonan, Lake Country Republicans, Wood County

Carol Doucet, Co-Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Jack and Terri DuBose, Real County GOP Chair and past SREC SD 19

Trevor Dupuy, Founder & Coordinator, Horseshoe Bay Conservative Caucus

Sheri Edwards, Precinct Chairman, Brazoria County Republican Party



Rick Eisenbach, President, Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Maria Espinoza, Co-Founder & National Director, The Remembrance Project

Sue Evenwel, State Republican Executive Committeewoman, SD 1; Chair, Titus County GOP

Toni and Tom Fabry, Chairman and Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party

Joyce Ferguson, Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Davis Ford, 1st VP, Central Texas TEA Party

Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall

Rena & David French, Patriot Members, Grassroots America – We the People

Pat Fry, Fredericksburg Tea Party

Bill Gallagher, Primadata Liberty Center, Mabank, SD 2

Patty Gallagher, Primadata Liberty Center, Mabank, SD 2

Gary Gentz, Member, Henderson County Tea Party

Gerry Gorman Schilling, Founder, Kilgore Conservatives, SD 1

Daniel Greer, Executive Director, Direct Action Texas

Suzette Griffin, Past President, Clear Lake TEA Party

Suzanne Guggenheim, President, Coastal Bend Tea Party

Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)

Joe Harrison, Founder and Organizer, Cass County Patriots

Carole Haynes, Ph.D., Founder, American Citizens Matter

Mary and Dale Huls, Past President and current Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party

Jeremiah Hunter, Chairman, We the People – Longview TEA Party

Bill Hussey, Founder and Vice President, Llano TEA Party

Rick Jackson, Steering Committee, Kaufman County TEA Party

Robert Kecseg, State Republican Party Executive Committeeman, SD 1

Albert Kelln, Steering Committee Member, Llano Tea Party

Sandra Kindt, Washington County GOP Chairman; Washington Co. TEA Party

Michael Kinzie, Founder, TEAParty911.com

Larry Korkmas, President, Texans for Immigration Reduction and Enforcement (TFIRE)

Robin and Jim Lennon, President and Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc.



Emmanuel Lewis, Irving Conservatives

Craig Licciardi, Smith County GOP Precinct Chair; Grassroots America - We the People PAC, SD 1

Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party

Dr. Ivette Lozano, former President, Dallas County Republican Assembly

Josh Machiavello, Board Member, Grassroots America - We the People PAC

William Marsalis, Past President, Panola County Conservatives

Karen Marsalis, President, Panola County Conservatives

Maria Martinez, Houston Inner Loop Grassroots

Jerry Maston, Founder, Leadership Always

Carroll Maxwell, Past President, Collin County Conservative Republicans

Janet Mayne, Steering Committee Member, Llano Tea Party

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party

Lyleann McClellan Thee, President, San Angelo TEA Party

Gloria McDonald, Technology Chair, Denton County Conservative Coalition

Dennis McKee, PAC Treasurer, Kaufman County TEA Party

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director/President, East Texans for Liberty, SD 1

Chris McNutt, Executive Director, Texas Gun Rights

Holly Muskus, Grassroots America - We the People PAC, SD 1

Naomi Narvaiz, past State Republican Executive Committee, SD 21

Brian Newman, President, Collin Strong

Michael Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives

Dr. Sheila Page, President, Texas Chapter - American Association of Physicians and Surgeons

Tillie Perkins, President, RED Texas Forum

Peggy Plumlee, Christian Conservative Activist – SD 1

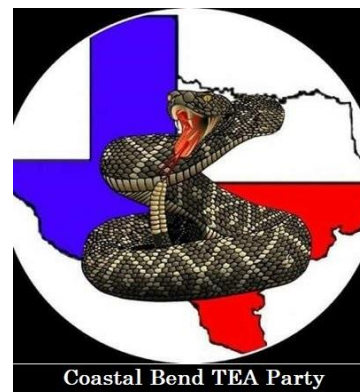
Rene Poe, Vice President, Hood County Tea Party

Kathy Ponce, President, Freedom Tea Party Patriots

Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Founder, True Texas Elections LLC

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cites/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

Connie Ratisseau, Board Member, Clear Lake TEA Party



**Citizens  
Matter**  
*Constitutional Activists*



**Cass County Patriots**

Washington  
County  
TEA  
Party  
**Reclaiming  
the American Dream**

**CHRISTIAN REPORTER NEWS**



Pastor Marty Reid, Grassroots America - We the People PAC, SD 2  
 Jeanette Rhodes, Treasurer/Director, San Antonio TEA Party  
 Fran Rhodes, Vice President NE Tarrant Tea Party  
 Craig Roberts, Board Member, Clear Lake Tea Party  
 Tanya Robertson, State Republican Executive Committeewoman, SD 11  
 Dr. Linda Rosene, Lake Country Tea Party  
 Kat Rowoldt, Founder, Christian Reporter News  
 Barry A. Schlech, Ph.D., a Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party  
 Josie D Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Republican Club  
 Jan Shedd, Events Chair/Webmaster, Kaufman County TEA Party  
 Bryan Slaton, leader, Conservative Grassroots Coalition, SD 2  
 Vicki Slaton, former (term limited) State Republican Executive  
 Committeewoman, SD 2; Conservative Grassroots Coalition, SD 2  
 Jim Speiran, Past Board Member, Grassroots America - We the People PAC  
 Melody Spray, Director, Harrison County We the People  
 CeCelia Squires, We the People – Longview, SD 1  
 Jim Stanley, Chairman, Henderson County Tea Party  
 Barb Stauffer, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party  
 Heather Stoner, President, Smith County Republican Women  
 Penny Story, Founder Constitutional Conservative Activists  
 Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State LLC  
 Paul Sumruld, Fort Worth Conservative Activist  
 Kathy Sweeney, Central Texas TEA Party  
 Mike Sweeney, Bell County Tea Party  
 Jim Thompson, Conservative Grassroots Coalition SD 2  
 John Tweedell, Coordinator, Convention of the States Project  
 Lou Vail, Chair, Knox County Republican Party  
 Mary and Scott Vance, Clear Lake TEA Party  
 Karl Voigtsberger, State Republican Executive Committeeman, SD 8  
 Jay Ward, Conservative Activist, Llano TEA Party, SD 24  
 David Watts, Board Member, East Texans for Liberty, SD 1  
 Desiree Watts, Legislative Committee Chair, East Texans for Liberty, SD 1



Red Texas Forum - Dallas

Ken West, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, SD 1

SFC Walter West II (RET), State Republican Executive Committeeman, SD 4

Gary Whitehorn, We the People – Longview, SD 1

Roy Willis, Conservative Texas Citizen, Fort Worth

Allison Winter, Montgomery County Tea Party; State Republican Executive Committeewoman, SD 4

Maggie Wright, founding member & past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party

Ruth York, Vice President, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County

Pastor Greg Young, Nationally Syndicated Radio host, Chosen Generation

Eugene Ralph, Sr., GameChangers.org

Brendan Bagnell, President, Texas Patriots Tea Party



**Note:** There are **151 political opinion leaders** signed on in support of this message to the Texas House Freedom Caucus. They represent 105 unique organizations and areas of influence across Texas. They are sharing this letter with their members and within their State House and Senate Districts.



**The Texas Conservative  
Grassroots Coalition  
is the premier project  
of  
Grassroots America  
We the People PAC.**

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**\*Organizations listed for  
identification purposes only.**