



The Texas House of Representatives: A Battleground for Conservative Values

The liberal progressives are experiencing the “perfect storm” as of late and it is up to true conservatives to ensure the winds continue to blow at hurricane strength if we are to take back our country. The battle for our country is on many fronts, and as citizens, we must be prepared to take the fight to our opponents wherever and whenever our liberties and freedoms are threatened. This strategy of total engagement includes both Washington, DC and right here in our home state of Texas.

To win this battle we must be sure our representatives hold true to the conservative values and beliefs our nation was founded upon and they draw upon the Judeo Christian philosophies our US Constitution and Bills Of Rights are founded upon. The days of assuming our representatives are performing their responsibilities as we would expect and hope is a thing of the past. As citizens we must be informed, well educated and engaged in the political process and in all aspects of government.

We as Texans have been given a gift through a recent lawsuit won by The Liberty Institute challenging the process by which the Speaker of the House is selected. For the first time in decades, we have an opportunity to influence and ultimately determine who our next Speaker of The House will be for the upcoming House Legislative session beginning in January 2011.

As a result of what I consider old style politics, we lost a conservative speaker last session and are now saddled with a liberal speaker who professes to be a Republican but legislates like a progressive Democrat. The notorious “gang of eleven” Republicans conspired with the Democratic minority and effectively ushered in a liberal agenda through political posturing and back room negotiations. To win the necessary votes from the Democratic minority, Joe Straus and the gang of eleven agreed that no illegal alien bills, pro life bills, or voter Id bills would be heard nor passed in the legislative session. The list of anti conservative bills goes on and on. Speaker Joe Straus was the result of this inappropriate political process.

I urge you to call your representative and let him or her know that you want them to do everything they can to ensure a conservative is elected as the next Speaker of the House. We want the next Republican Speaker to be chosen by Republicans and not 65 Democrats and 11 Republicans! You are working hard to ensure we return our Government “to the people” and we do not believe that stealth politics behind the scenes and special favors are in our best interest.

For more information on this and other conservative issues facing us today, or to find out whom your representative is, please visit the www.standwithwayne.com website.

God Bless Texas,

Wayne Richard

Speaker Joe Strauss and his Liberal Agenda*

- Ø Texas for Economic Development (TED) is a pro-gambling PAC run by the former head of the State Democratic Party. Last cycle, TED spent \$300,000 in their attempt to defeat conservative House members; including Reps. Betty Brown, Nathan Macias, Bill Zedler, and Phil King (three of the four have been defeated). The Strauss family gave \$80,000 to TED.
- Ø Speaker Straus' political director is Gordon Johnson, a Democrat lobbyist who ran TED. Straus chose as his original Chief of Staff former Democrat State Representative Clyde Alexander, his new Chief of Staff is Denise Davis, who was a central figure in the House coup to overthrow former conservative House Speaker, Tom Craddick.
- Ø This year, 64 conservative state legislatures formed GOPAC-TX to "increase the number of Republicans serving the Texas Legislature by recruiting, training, and funding conservative candidates." After an excellent and effective beginning, Austin lobbyists report that the Speaker put out the word they were to give no more money to GOPAC-TX; hence funding has dried up for this outstanding conservative organization committed to defeating Democrats.
- Ø Conservative State Senator Dan Patrick formed Independent Conservative Republicans of Texas (ICROT) for the purpose similar to that of GOPAC_TX; and while 90% of House and Senate Republicans joined the group as charter members, Speaker Straus and six of his lieutenants refused to do so.
- Ø Speaker Straus appointed Democrat House member Rene Oliveira to chair the Ways and Means Committee with the responsibility of handling all tax policy. Representative Oliveira is a big tax and spend liberal, receiving an abysmal 35% rating from the Texans for Fiscal Responsibility. He has announced that he is seeing \$3-4 billion in new taxes/tax revenues.
- Ø Speaker Straus made Republican lieutenant Todd Smith Chairman of the Elections Committee, and Smith was able to hold the Voter ID bill in committee long enough to prevent it from coming to a vote on the floor, even though that measure had received the support of 93% of Republican voters in the primary and had already been passed in the Senate.
- Ø Speaker Straus made Republican lieutenant Edmund Kuempel Chairman of the Licensing Committee, and while Straus' other lieutenants kept measures such as Voter ID, immigration, and the pro-life sonogram bill bottled up in committee until the end of the session, Kuempel did get pro-gambling bills to emerge from his committee (The Strauss family owns racetracks and gambling interests across the state, and support gambling and VLT's).
- Ø Control of redistricting for the next ten years is at stake in this election, and at a time when Texas is expected to gain 4 new congressional seats as well as draw improved prospects for Republican state legislative districts, Speaker Straus made Delwin Jones (former Democrat, and the most liberal Republican in the House) Chairman of the Redistricting Committee.

* Taken from an Article by David Barton, Former State Vice Chairman, 1997-2006, Republican Party of Texas

Pertinent Websites

<http://www.unifiedrepublicans.com/>

UNIFIED REPUBLICANS: info on our state representatives and if they signed the pledge to have a Republican caucus choice for the speakership.

<http://www.tic.state.tx.us/redist/redist.htm>

Information about redistricting

<http://gis1.state.tx.us/>

To view current and proposed district plans (during session)