



REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS

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James R. Dickey, Chairman  
October 5, 2017

Dear Speaker Straus,

It seems as though the work of the Legislature never stops. While many of the activists in our Party are looking ahead to the electoral portion of our political cycle, others are still very much interested in building upon the accomplishments of the 85th Legislature during the interim in preparation for the next Legislative session.

As you're aware, the Republican Party for the first time charged a committee of our own with promoting the eight Legislative priorities adopted by the delegates at our State Convention and by the State Republican Executive Committee. It was a pleasure working with you and the House members during July's special session to make sure our position on issues relevant to our Party's platform were communicated clearly.

The 85th Legislature accomplished three of our eight priorities. These included:

- prioritizing funds to secure the border,
- withdrawal of funds from government entities not enforcing our immigration laws, and
- calling for an Article V convention for Constitutional Amendments concerning term limits, a balanced budget, and limiting the power of the federal government.

We are happy that the members were able to fulfill these priorities. We look forward to continuing that productive dialog and **respectfully request that the remaining five priorities be studied as interim charges.**

Those five priorities include:

- Constitutional Carry
- Abolition of Abortion
- Replacement of Property Tax with an alternative other than an income tax
- Comprehensive School Choice using tax exemptions or credits
- Protection of Religious Liberty

We would certainly welcome any additional items of study related to our shared principles or individual planks in our platform.

I am excited about the possibilities available to us in preparing for the 86th Legislative Session. Please know that your Party stands ready to participate in these conversations

Sincerely,

James Dickey  
Chairman, Republican Party of Texas  
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