



March 20, 2020

Chairman Gilbert Hinojosa
Texas Democratic Party
P.O. Box 15707
Austin, TX 78761
Via Email

Dear Chairman Hinojosa,

Thank you to your team for joining me and mine yesterday to discuss how we protect our fellow Texans in the wake of this public health emergency. We know that the First Amendment protects our Parties' right to run our nomination processes independently, but had appreciated a collaborative discussion to move the primary runoff elections that are currently scheduled for May 26th.

In our conversation yesterday morning, your team seemed to understand and agree with the importance of moving the date given the current situation. They also suggested making significant changes to our election processes that do not at all address the current public health crisis and are also fraught with other risks to our public. Suggesting a desire to dramatically reduce the available voting locations, for example, could increase the number of people in a single location and the risk of spread. And your staff's suggestion that voters leave their votes at intermediate holding locations outside the control of election officials does not protect voters either from a health risk or from a risk of losing their votes' legitimate impact on our elections.

You chose to move what had been a collaborative effort between our teams into the press, and to appeal directly to the Governor on a unilateral request. We had planned a call on Monday afternoon to discuss potential joint next steps. Given that your actions have signaled your intention to proceed unilaterally and communicate with us via the press and not directly, I no longer see the point for - or the integrity of - such a call.

The Republican Party of Texas, therefore, will move forward with requesting a primary runoff election at a date when the risk is anticipated to have subsided. We will continue to take all precautions as advised in preparing for our local and state Conventions.

Texans are exhibiting caution while showing Texas' resiliency in helping our neighbors and our small businesses, while doing all we can to protect our loved ones during this unprecedented moment in our state's history. The Republican Party of Texas will continue to do our part to help them do so.

Sincerely,

James R. Dickey
Chairman, Republican Party of Texas

CC:

Governor Greg Abbott c/o Luis Saenz
Secretary of State Ruth R. Hughes
Jose A. "Joe" Esparza, Deputy Secretary of State
Keith Ingram, Director of Elections
Christina Adkins, General Counsel, Elections Division
Brandon Moore, Organization Director, Republican Party of Texas