

# Issues Facing Texas

---

## ***Election Integrity***

Our republic rests upon honest elections. Identification with a photograph should be required to cast a ballot. I support the gradual incorporation of photographs on voter registration cards issued and controlled by each county's election officer and the immediate use of any government-issued identification with a photograph that requires previous proof of citizenship and residency.

A personally verifiable system of counting physical ballots should be required for all public elections. Ballots could be optically scanned or mechanically tabulated to obtain quick results, but a personally verifiable physical audit trail must be required for recounts and to ensure election integrity against electronic or other forms of voter fraud.

## ***Eminent Domain Reform — Protecting Private Property***

Eminent domain is necessary for some truly public purposes and uses. However, a good faith offer based on fair market value should be required prior to the initiation of condemnation. Compensation also should be paid to landowners for loss of access or damage caused by condemnation to the remainder of the property. A condemnee should have the right to repurchase the condemned land if the land is not used within a reasonable time for the public purpose for which it was taken.

## ***Energy***

I believe energy solutions, innovation and efficiency are best realized in a free market. Texas has rich resources — both traditional and alternative — which should be fully explored, utilized and wisely conserved to lead the way in ending our nation's dangerous dependence upon foreign oil.

## ***Gun Manufacturing, Possession and Use***

I support the right to make, keep, carry and prudently use firearms for self-defense, provisioning, and sport. I support legislation that declares that firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition made and sold in Texas are not subject to federal regulation and that all unconstitutional actions by the federal government to encroach upon these rights should be resisted by the State of Texas. Similar legislation is now law in Montana and

Tennessee. Individual ownership and competence in the use of firearms are essential for maintaining freedom. I am a life member of the NRA, Gun Owners of America, and the Texas State Rifle Association.

## ***Health Care Freedom, Responsibility and Privacy***

Caring for one's own bodily health is an unalienable right and responsibility. The liberty and privacy of individual health care decisions should be protected by the State of Texas. I believe the best health care will not be provided or determined by bureaucrats or politically favored corporations, but by a free market which engenders innovation and personal responsibility.

I believe health insurance is generally a good thing; it is a form of saving and preparing for future needs. However, I believe it is unconstitutional for the federal government to fine individuals, contractors or businesses for not having health insurance or to tax us for health care. Based on the protections provided to the State of Texas and its people in the Ninth and Tenth Amendments, I will work with the Governor, fellow legislators and county officials to oppose the federal government's unconstitutional invasion of our personal health, freedom, and privacy.

## ***Immigration — Legal and Illegal***

We must secure our border and enforce the laws of our state and nation. I support the immigration of people who are willing to live responsibly under the rule of law. I oppose illegal immigration and amnesty for illegal aliens. We must eliminate social magnets for illegal aliens such as free health care and education. I support state law enforcement of criminal trespass and other state statutes against all lawbreakers including illegal aliens.

## ***Life***

I am unreservedly pro-life. All human life is precious, being made in the image of God. Lives of the innocent and defenseless — whether unborn, infant, handicapped or elderly — especially deserve protection. I am opposed to abortion, harvesting of embryonic stem cells, and euthanasia.

## ***Personal Liberty and Prosperity — Civil and Religious***

The best way to preserve personal liberty is to limit civil government to administering justice and protecting life, liberty, and property. The best path to prosperity is to preserve individual liberty and responsibility. Personal freedom, not force — voluntary actions, not coercion — will unite people and lead to prosperity. People should be free to speak, assemble, and practice their religious convictions peaceably according to their conscience and reason. This liberty is recognized not only by the federal Bill of Rights, but also the Texas Bill of Rights. I am opposed to coercive religious service or support.<sup>1</sup> I believe moral rectitude is the most determinative factor on whether a nation, a state, or a community prospers.<sup>2</sup> However, this cannot be forced upon individuals. It comes from within — from a transformed heart and faith.

## ***Spending, Debt and Taxes***

We must cut state spending and live within our means, just like all of us must do at home. We cannot let Austin become another Washington with unsustainable debt and out-of-control spending. We should pay down our debt and limit further increases to programs that are self-supporting or the result of emergencies. The State's total outstanding debt has nearly tripled in the last decade, rising from \$11 billion in 1998 to \$31 billion in 2008.<sup>3</sup> And these figures do not include \$20 billion of unfunded liabilities in more than eighty taxpayer funded pensions.<sup>4</sup> We must eliminate wasteful, unnecessary, or overlapping programs and agencies. We should reduce government dependence upon property taxes. And we should repeal the state business franchise or margins tax.

## ***Sovereignty and Independence of the State of Texas***

I support vigorous enforcement of the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which states that "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." I will oppose all unfunded mandates and unconstitutional encroachments of the federal government upon Texans and the State of Texas. Respect for State sovereignty is essential to Texas and the union of all the States according to Article 1 and Section 1 of the Texas Constitution which is entitled "FREEDOM AND SOVEREIGNTY OF STATE." It reads: "Texas is a free and independent State, subject only to the Constitution of the United States, and the maintenance of our free institutions and the perpetuity of the Union depend upon the preservation of the right of local self-government, unimpaired to all the States."

1. Texas Constitution Article 1, Section 6. "FREEDOM OF WORSHIP. All men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences. No man shall be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or to maintain any ministry against his consent. No human authority ought, in any case whatever, to control or interfere with the rights of conscience in matters of religion, and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious society or mode of worship. But it shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass such laws as may be necessary to protect equally every religious denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public worship." Section 7. "APPROPRIATIONS FOR SECTARIAN PURPOSES. No money shall be appropriated, or drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any sect, or religious society, theological or religious seminary; nor shall property belonging to the State be appropriated for any such purposes."  
2. "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."  
— Proverbs 14:34. 3. Debt Affordability Study by the Texas Bond Review Board. Feb. 2009. <http://www.brb.state.tx.us/pub/bfo/DAS2009.pdf>. 4. See the Office of Attorney General's Report as of September 2008. <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/oagNews/release.php?id=2659>