

## **Unity Behind the Wrong Principles Is No Achievement**

We are currently in a war for the heart and soul of the Republican Party of Texas. This war is being fought in nearly every one of the 254 counties in Texas. While most see the factions involved as the same, they actually fight for two very different futures for Texas.

One faction in this war refers to itself as “Grassroots Conservatives” or sometimes “America-First” or “Texas-First” conservatives. Currently, this faction controls the direction of the state party, though only a few Grassroots Conservatives hold state office. Well-representing the Grassroots agenda, the Republican Party of Texas (RPT) Platform reflects a focus on first principles: individual liberty, limited government, Christian family values, and Texas sovereignty. Grassroots Conservatives are typically outspoken and often non-compromising on matters of principle. They demand that our Republican elected officials align with our platform and gracefully hold themselves to term limits.

The other faction has no name for itself other than “Republican.” The Grassroots refer to it as “The Establishment.” The aim of the Establishment is to ensure that the Establishment Republicans that are in office, stay in office. Their rhetoric accomplishes this by fearmongering with the threat of Democrats taking control. The Establishment accuses the Grassroots of being a divisive force within the Republican party, as if we would be better off if we all mindlessly supported anyone with an “(R)” after their name, whether or not they fought to secure Republican Priorities.

The divide between the two factions is ideological. The Establishment opposes, to varying degrees but often quite openly, many of the planks of the RPT Platform. Many in the Establishment are fine with normalizing relations with clubs like the Log Cabin Republicans, which seek to eliminate the long-held stance of the RPT that marriage can only exist between one man and one woman. Similarly, the Establishment, by and large, has no issue financing campaigns with liberal lobbies such as:

- Texans for Public Education
  - promotes and supports CRT, SEL, and comprehensive sex education, and viciously opposes RPT Priorities like School Choice
- Associated Republicans of Texas
  - since 2018, focused on helping the Establishment win primaries against conservatives. Board members even donated about a half million dollars to democrats in recent years, including Robert “Beto” O’Rourke
- Chickasaw Nation
  - promotes the legalization of gambling
- Texas REALTORS/Texans for Lawsuit Reform
  - instrumental in killing legislation that would have protected Texans from vaccine mandates
- Border Health PAC
  - fought hard *against* protecting children from being subjected to chemical and surgical castration by their parents
- Texas Alliance for Life
  - lobby that supports only Establishment candidates, and which strongly opposes state legislation that would abolish abortion in Texas

These benign sounding lobbies, and many more like them, are at the top of every Establishment Republican's donor list and are indeed as likely to fund Democrats as they are Republicans.

While claiming that they are in favor of unity, the Establishment harbors an intense animosity against the Grassroots. In fact, the Establishment fights harder against Grassroots Conservatives than against Democrats. Establishment Republicans conspicuously redistricted House District 92 and House District 73 to eliminate Grassroots Conservatives Jeff Cason and Kyle Biedermann, actually ceding the former district to the Democrats. During the last primary, establishment Republicans such as Dade Phelan, Glenn Rogers, and Lynn Stucky repeatedly doubled down in their support of putting Democrats in charge of powerful committees, while Grassroots Conservative-backed incumbents such as Bryan Slaton, Jeff Cason, and Matt Schaeffer argued against the practice. Even the Freedom Caucus, which has not enjoyed much Grassroots support recently, came out openly against the practice of putting Democrats in Committee Chair positions during the 2022 Republican Primary.

During the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative regular session, 473 new laws were passed. 41% of these laws moved federal statute and regulation into state law. Grassroots Conservatives voted against the vast majority of these bills. Establishment Republicans carried them. Grassroots Conservatives opposed Governor Abbott's closure of churches, courts, businesses, and schools. The first three were open violations of the Texas Bill of Rights. The Establishment, instead, thanked Governor Abbott for his brave use of power. Grassroots Republicans begged to be liberated from forced vaccinations by business owners. Establishment Republicans opposed such legislation, instead leaning on Governor Abbott's use of Executive Order that would never hold up in court.

Door-to-door, Republicans have no horse in this fight. Most don't even know that this war rages. However, if you ask average Texas Republicans, "do you support the right of parents to change their kids' gender?" By far the vast majority say emphatically "no!" If you asked them if Democrats should be in charge, they say, "hell no!" If you ask them if they are in favor of Texans deciding what is best for Texas, or if they are for or against the globalist agenda, they would generally lean toward you and say "well if we're honest, I think Texas should be a country again." They would laugh, but under that there is a seriousness about Texas which is palpable.

On March 1st, Texas Republicans resoundingly affirmed Grassroots positions on ballot propositions regarding a number of important issues:

- 93% believe that Texas should secure its own border, using the Texas Military Forces and state law enforcement to enforce immigration laws in spite of the federal government. Establishment legislators have opposed this at every turn, and the Governor currently defers to federal immigration authority over the Texas border.
- 77% believe that the property taxes should be eliminated. Establishment legislators have given this nothing but lip service for a decade.
- 85% believe that businesses should not be able to force employees to take a vaccine. The Establishment fought and killed bills that would have protected Texans throughout the 87th Legislative session.
- 83% believe that abortion should be abolished in Texas. Establishment legislators, while claiming to be against abortion, are strongly against legislation that would define the unborn as human beings entitled to equal protection under the law. Legislation that would have done just this was not even given a hearing by Establishment Republicans last session.
- 81% believe that Democrats should not chair committees in the Texas Legislature. Nearly all Establishment legislators support giving Democrats power.

There are profound ideological differences in play. Ask a room full of Establishment Republicans if they believe January 6 was an insurrection. A large percentage will say it was. Do this at a grassroots conservative club, and you will see no hands at all. When you boil the bones of this conflict down, the true difference between Establishment and Grassroots Republicans is the former are often Hamiltonian globalists who have a general trust of government, while the latter exemplifies a deeply Jeffersonian distrust of any centralized power.

It is the premise of the Establishment that Republicans are stronger if the tent is bigger. They believe that If we simply agree-to-disagree on many of these important issues (i.e., ceding our platform to the Establishment at the local and state level), that we will be stronger and better able to defeat the Democrats each year. Grassroots Conservatives, however, will simply not be part of a party that supports same-sex marriage, opposes school choice, or allows that there are scenarios that the government can force you to be vaccinated. It is not theoretical. Abandon our principles and, like California, the only ones left in the RPT will be those who believe that the party's main purpose is to beat Democrats, instead of standing for our Constitution which was founded on Judeo-Christian values.

The purpose of government is to protect the liberties and property of the people. Period. There is no other purpose. Government does not exist to keep us safe. The aim of political activism and involvement is no different. We all take time out of our busy lives to fight for the liberty of our children. These are not social clubs, and there is nothing to be gained by feigned solidarity. Either what we believe to be right and good and true under God, is right and good and true, or we should oppose it. There is no compromise when it comes to freedom, and why would we naturally expect anything but discord when debating truth? For Jesus told us, "Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three" (Luke 12:49).

It is totally natural and healthy that the fight for our ideals will be vocal, animated and, at times, combative. Our very liberty is at stake. It is appropriate that we are passionate and persuasive but never deferential or acquiescent under the pretended patriotism of "unity." Unity over anything other than Godly truth is no achievement whatsoever.

In Liberty,

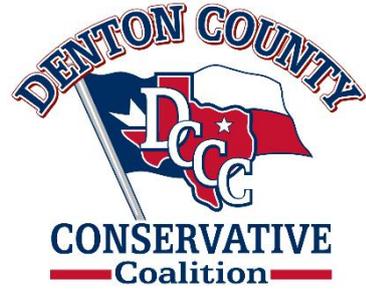
Wise County Conservatives



Grayson County Conservatives



Denton County Conservative Coalition



JoAnn Flemming with  
We The People Grassroots Aamerica



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Flemming".

Lamar County Conservatives



True Texas Project



Cooke County Conservatives

