

February 1, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas
The Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor of Texas
The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House

Dear Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, and Speaker Straus:

The supplemental budget for the current biennium means that both the Texas House and Senate are violating the spirit of the Republican Party platform call to keep spending less than population growth combined with inflation. **As numbers compiled by the Texas Public Policy Foundation indicate, if either the proposed House or Senate supplemental to the 2016-2017 budget is passed, it will mean that the Legislature did not, in fact, pass a conservative budget in 2015.** Worse, it will set an even more unaffordable floor for the next budget.

For the next biennium, Texas House budget writers have proposed spending that exceeds both the Comptroller’s official revenue estimate and the spirit of the Texas GOP platform’s defined conservative levels. The Texas Senate, meanwhile, has put forward a 2018-2019 budget that lives within **available revenues** and the population growth plus inflation limit – the spending limit strongly supported by taxpayers, grassroots conservative activists, and the Republican Party platform.

It is inexcusable for House budget writers to consider using the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) rather than reduce spending. Spending down the fund just because it exists is not wise, nor fiscally conservative.

We call on you to reduce the size of the 2016-2017 supplemental budget and adopt a 2018-2019 budget that is *at the very least* as conservative as the one proposed by the Texas Senate. Anything beyond that will be an affront to taxpayers, conservative activists, and Republican voters.

For Liberty – for Texas,

Michael Quinn Sullivan	President, Empower Texans
JoAnn Fleming	Executive Director, Grassroots America
Trayce Bradford	President, Texas Eagle Forum
Toni & Tom Fabry	Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party
Mary & Dale Huls	Executive Board Members, Clear Lake TEA Party
Bill Hussey	Founder/Past President, Llano Tea Party
Robin & Jim Lennon	President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party
Julie McCarty	President, NE Tarrant TEA Party
Stacy McMahan	Exec. Director/President, East Texans for Liberty
Ray Myers	President, Kaufman County TEA Party
Dean Wright	Director, New Revolution Now; Austin TEA Party

Empower Texans



Texas Eagle Forum

