



Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition

Calls for a Statewide Red Light Camera Ban
to be Included in Governor's Special Session Proclamation

June 26, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

Dear Governor Abbott:

Republican Party of Texas Platform Plank #42 calls for a statewide ban on photo traffic enforcement cameras – “Photo Traffic Enforcement Cameras- We oppose photo traffic enforcement cameras in the State of Texas.” Now, Republican and liberty grassroots activists from all over the state are coming together to ask you to include this plank as an official item for corrective legislation in the upcoming special session.

Many of your special session issues deal with overreaching municipal authority and with out-of-control spending at the local level. The cities holding these contracts with red-light camera vendors say these cameras are for safety and not for revenue. If that is truly the case, then they surely would not mind contributing 100% of the camera profits to the state budget where needs are greater. We all know how strenuously they would object to that!

Governor Abbott, those of us who have been in the fight against red light cameras will attest that these cameras are not about safety, but are yet another unconstitutional overreach by these municipalities. Since the use of these cameras was first slipped into Texas statutes through unethical wheeling and dealing, Texas drivers have seen:

- Increasing accidents;
- A federal bribery scandal;
- Denial of the right to a trial by jury;
- Denial of the right to confront ones accuser;
- Interference with Texas elections where citizens petition for redress; and,
- Violations of the presumption of innocence.

Despite all of the demonstrated abuses by the local municipalities and the many years a traffic camera ban has been supported in the Texas GOP platform, the legislators in Austin have saved the cameras by either watering down or killing legislation that would protect Texas drivers.

Governor Abbott, you made red light camera legislation part of your original campaign platform when you released your [“We the People Policy Plan”](#) on November 12, 2013. Your Plan reads, ***“Big brother is not only collecting and selling your information, he is also watching you as you drive through traffic lights. Both the advocates of red light cameras and detractors have a point. One emphasizes safety, the other privacy. But I believe it should be up to you the people to decide whether red light cameras are right for your community. So I propose changing Texas law to allow voters the option to repeal red light camera ordinances by voter-initiated referendum.”***

Governor Abbott, while citizens have the ability to gather petitions to try to force a referendum, municipalities find every reason to reject citizen petitions for voter referendums on traffic cameras.
We need your support to ban red light cameras, period.

We, the undersigned, respectfully ask you to go further in supporting the Texas Republican Party platform by including a ban on red light cameras in your official proclamation for the 2017 Special Session of the Texas Legislature. Our collective members from across the state of Texas support this effort and look forward to hearing that this needed legislation will be included in the special session.

Sincerely,

Kelly Canon, Republican Leadership, and Co-Founder of SE Tarrant Tea Party

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Dr. Ron Paul, Chairman, Campaign for Liberty and U.S. Congressman (Ret.)

Byron Schirmbeck, State Coordinator, Texas Campaign for Liberty

Faith Bussey, President, Citizens for a Better Arlington

Ron Wright, Tarrant County Tax Assessor

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant Tea Party

Aaron Harris, Executive Director, Direct Action Texas

James Ashby, Tarrant County Precinct Chair, Pct #3335

Ed Brown, Tarrant County Precinct Chair, Pct #1311

Kent Kallmeyer, Tarrant County Precinct Chair, Pct #1378

Georgia Stapleton, Tarrant County Precinct Chair, Pct #4070

Dorie O’Brien, Tarrant County Precinct Chair, Pct #2466

Christine Welborn, Tarrant County Precinct Chair, Pct #3570

Anne Coker, Republican Leadership, Arlington, Tarrant County

William Busby, Arlington GOP Leader, Former Tarrant County GOP Area Leader

Ray Myers, Chairman, Kaufman County Tea Party

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State, LLC

Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)

Maggie Wright, a founding member and past president of Texas Patriots Tea Party

Republican Liberty Caucus of Texas (As a whole group)

Jeff LeBlanc, Chairman, Republican Liberty Caucus of Texas, & Liberty County Precinct Chair, Pct #29

Suzette Griffin, President, Clear Lake TEA Party

Terry Holcomb, Sr., Republican Party SREC Executive Committeeman, Senate District 3

Tammy Blair, Republican Party County Chair, Cherokee County

Matthew Stringer, 2016 Presidential Elector, Odessa

Cathie Adams, Board, National Eagle Forum; Past President, Texas Eagle Forum

Betty Anderson, President Montgomery Co. Eagle Forum

Barbara Harless, Founder, North Texas Citizens Lobby

Jeremy Blosser, Republican Party SREC Executive Committeeman, Senate District 10

Kelli Cook, Coordinator, Texas Campaign for Liberty, Montgomery County

Texas Young Republicans (as a whole)

Brett Rogers, Founder, Mutually Pledge

Pat Tibbs, President Montgomery County Tea Party PAC

Deborah Grimes, Communications Director, Project Ft Worth

Adam Cahn, Austin Political Blogger, Cahnman's Musings

Tanya Robertson, Republican Party SREC Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 11

Mary & Dale Huls, Past President & Current Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party

Jeremiah Hunter, Chairman, We the People – Longview TEA Party

Mike Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives

Alex Kim, President, Tarrant County Republican Club; 2016 Presidential Elector

Richard Pell, Dalworthington Gardens Alderman, former GOP HD94 Area Leader, Arlington Republican Club
Board Member

Delores Pell, Republican Women of Arlington Board, Past President of RWA and Reagan Legacy RW, former
TFRW Deputy President, and District Director SD 10

Tim O'Hare, County Chair, Tarrant County Republican Party

Dwayne Wright, County Chair, San Jacinto Co; Regional Director, TRCCA East

Toni and Tom Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party

Dana Hodges, Republican Party Precinct Chair, Orange County, Pct #9

Joseph Miller, Conservative Leadership, North Texas

Leland Freeman, Board Member, Central Texas Republican Assembly

Jackie King, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Donald King, Member, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Carol Doucet, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Penny Story, Founder, Constitutional Conservative Activists

Dr. Laura Pressley, PHD, Co-Founder, Save Our Texas Vote

Matt Armstrong, Founder, Williamson County Conservatives

Larry Korkmas, President, TFIRE

Kyle Biedermann, State Representative, House District 73

Suzanne Guggenheim, TEA Party Patriots State Coordinator – South Texas; Programs & Events Chairman,
Corpus Christi Patriots TEA Party