



## Political Action Committee

### **Why Grassroots America Believes Davey Edwards is right for Commissioner of the General Land Office of Texas March 6, 2018 Primary Endorsement**

Davey Edwards is a professional land surveyor in Texas and Oklahoma – a Texas-licensed state land surveyor and a U.S. Federal-certified land surveyor.

His master's and doctorate degrees specifically deal with land administration systems. An in-depth knowledge of the Texas General Land Office is required to perform the very services Edwards provides as a surveyor – so he knows the Office.

Records show that Edwards has worked with people within the various departments of the GLO to resolve some of the most complex reconstructions of the original land grants and interstate boundaries that affected not only private property interests, but also the State of Texas' interest.

For example, for the last several years Edwards volunteered his expertise to protect the State of Texas and private property rights against Federal claims along the Red River by consulting with the former Commissioner Patterson, Texas Governor Abbott, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry, and their respective administrations in Austin, Wichita Falls, and Washington D.C.

As part of this project, Edwards was also able to give a presentation about proper land surveying methods along the Red River to the Washington D.C. division of cadastral surveyors of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Washington D.C. **Through these efforts, the BLM admitted to using improper methods of delineating their boundaries and the lawsuit was settled in favor to the State of Texas and the Texas property owners.**

In addition to Edwards' graduate level studies, he has education in geology and has taught physical and historical geology at a local community college for three years. Lastly, he served on the City of Decatur's Planning and Zoning Commission for six years, four years as chairman. **This applicable administrative experience and education in land administration systems in Texas and the Public Land System makes Davey Edwards uniquely qualified to be the next Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, as were the past commissioners who served in the first century of the agency. Once upon a time Land Commissioners were expected to be surveyors and have land administrative expertise.**

---

#### **The Alamo – the current problem**

**The Alamo has become the most significant issue in this race.** Albeit the Alamo is extremely important and must be protected from being abused politically, it is a small portion of the GLO Commissioner's

total responsibility to the State of Texas. Because of the plan to “reimagine” the Alamo by current Commissioner George P. Bush, the Alamo has consumed the time of the Commissioner, causing neglect to his primary duties which include being the steward to the sovereign lands of Texas and assisting with the needs of the victims of Hurricane Harvey, to name a few.

At the beginning of the current Commissioner’s term, Bush initiated a program to “reboot” the agency to reduce the budget and size and eliminate what he called “internal threats.” In the process of eliminating staff to accomplish this program, he inadvertently created a void in the knowledge of the processes in the GLO. The program had also created tension and indecisiveness with the remaining staff, impeding the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency’s primary duties.

**Mr. Edwards’ expertise and experience with the GLO, combined with his being a native Texan who truly wants to serve the citizens of Texas conservatively, sets him apart from his opponents, notwithstanding his opponents’ record on many other matters important to Texas, such as illegal immigration.** [See our documentation on Jerry Patterson’s record.]

**Commissioner Bush’s Reimagine the Alamo plan and his many non-transparent boards to carry out the “reimagine” the Alamo project need to be eliminated.** An audit of where the money that has been allocated by the Texas legislature needs to be done. Re-implementing the statutes to preserve, maintain, and protect the Alamo needs to be the primary plan for the Alamo at this time.

---

## **The Alamo - Solution**

Edwards believes to preserve the Alamo, a re-implementation of the 2011 statutes to preserve, protect, and maintain the Alamo and the Alamo complex should be done in addition to working toward the ultimate goal of **getting the Daughters of the Republic of Texas back into the stewardship of the Alamo.** This means removing that duty from the GLO Commissioner to prevent it from ever being abused for political gain again and legislatively creating a State Commission for the Alamo, whose membership should come from Texans such as the Daughters of the Republic, the Sons of the Republic of Texas, the Alamo Defenders Descendants Association, and a public member who will be accountable to the State of Texas.

---

## **Administration of the Permanent School Fund**

At the beginning of the current Commissioner’s term, he initiated a program to “reboot” the agency to reduce the budget and size of the GLO to eliminate what he called “internal threats.” In the process of eliminating staff to accomplish this program, he inadvertently created a void in the knowledge of the processes in the GLO. The program had also created tension and indecisiveness with the remaining staff, impeding the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency’s primary duties. Internal and media accounts say that Commissioner Bush replaced experienced staff with inexperienced “friend appointments.” In order to continue to grow the Permanent School Fund, which supports enrollment growth in Texas public schools, Edwards will bring knowledge and experience back into the agency with the right staff and advisors with the goal of increasing efficiency for the generation of revenue to the Permanent School Fund.

---

### **Veterans programs overseen by the GLO**

The Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office is the chair of the Texas Veterans Land Board. The VLB issues low interest rate loans to veterans to purchase homes and land throughout Texas. It also provides assisted living homes in various places throughout Texas for our veterans. With more veterans coming home to Texas, the GLO should continue to provide these services and work to keep it affordable and available to Texas veterans and their families. Mr. Edwards has pledged to make sure that through the assisted living homes, adequate care is available to all needs at every location.

We believe Davey Edwards can bring knowledge and experience back into the agency to increase efficiency to the generation of revenue for the Permanent School Fund. We know he will continue to work to preserve and maintain the coast, bring the Texas Veterans additional programs to assist them and their families, and create a more effective process to help disaster victims get back on their feet.

Finally, there will be no ridiculous “Re-imagine the Alamo” under a Davey Edwards administration. He will fight to preserve and protect the Alamo and the Cenotaph as important historical monuments to the supreme sacrifices made for an independent Texas.

**Political ad paid for by Grassroots America – We the People PAC**