



**130 Political Opinion Leaders,
Representing 92 Unique Organizations & Districts
Speak Out to Save Texas Monuments**

March 11, 2019

The Honorable Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick
The Honorable Sen. Joan Huffman, Chairman, Senate State Affairs Committee
The Honorable Sen. Bryan Hughes, Vice-Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee
Senate Committee on State Affairs, Republican Members:
The Honorable Sen. Brian Birdwell
The Honorable Sen. Brandon Creighton
The Honorable Sen. Pat Fallon, author, Texas Historical Protection Act [SB 226](#)
The Honorable Sen. Bob Hall
The Honorable Sen. Jane Nelson

The Honorable Texas House Speaker Dennis Bonnen
The Honorable State Representative Kyle Biedermann, author of [HB 2648](#)
The Honorable State Representative James White, author of [HB 583](#)

Dear State Elected Officials:

"Those that cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."
George Santayana (1863-1952)

The American Left has been on a political correctness jihad over the last several years. As a result, conservative speakers are attacked at college campuses, careers and reputations of those deemed "politically incorrect" are destroyed, and historical monuments are being pulled down, censored, and hidden all across the country.

Indeed, just like the Taliban, the radical Left is bent on destroying religious monuments and statues all across America. These monuments range from military veterans' memorials to the founding spiritual figures and murals in Ivy League colleges. The Left's appetite for censorship and groupthink has also expanded into secular historical representations of Christopher Columbus and Confederate statues and monuments.



Texas Eagle Forum



Unfortunately, Texas has not escaped the Left's purge of history. Urban areas such as Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin have targeted many Civil War era statues and monuments. Recently, the Dallas City Council voted to remove the city's oldest public monument, the Confederate War Memorial in Dallas Pioneer Park Cemetery. In 2017, the city council removed a statue of Robert E. Lee that had stood for 81 years after being dedicated by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a Democratic President. Fortunately, the city still requires the approval of the Landmark Commission in order to "Take it down" as one council member demanded. Ignoring the value of history to correct mistakes of the past, the Dallas City Council is implementing an agenda that would erase historical figures and events that they find distasteful and unseemly.

In fact, the appetite to remove historical sites and memorials has spread past Confederate War statues to two of Texas' most cherished landmarks – the Alamo and the Alamo Cenotaph (also known as the *Spirit of Sacrifice*), which commemorates the fallen heroes of the Alamo Battle in their fight for independence from the centralist government of Mexico. [The San Antonio City Council](#) voted unanimously to return the Alamo to a **pre-battle state and relocate the Cenotaph memorial to a more obscure location.**

Opponents of the city council's plan to emphasize the Alamo complex prior to the famous battle for Texas independence fear that **millions of visitors who come to the Alamo will not garner a true understanding of the Texas spirit if the Texas Alamo Defenders are de-emphasized and hidden.**

The Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition puts its opposition to the City of San Antonio's plan (endorsed and supported by Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush) this way – ***Their plan is nothing less than an attempt to erase the history of Texas Independence and demonstrates callous, flagrant disrespect for the Alamo Freedom Fighters.***

The Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition calls for the Lieutenant Governor, Texas Speaker of the House, and the Senate State Affairs Committee to protect Texas monuments and statues by supporting [SB 226](#) (Fallon) the **Texas Historical Protection Act** and its companion [HB 2648](#) (Biedermann). We also urge you to support [HB 583](#), the **Texas Hero Protection Act** as authored by Rep. James White.

The Coalition specifically calls on Senator Pat Fallon to file the necessary background and hearing requests to move SB 226 in the State Affairs Committee, thereby standing and fighting for his campaign promise to protect Texas monuments and history.

Recently, an [independent poll](#) was taken to gauge public reaction to protecting



Confederate monuments. This poll specifically asked the tough questions regarding Confederate monuments to distinguish them from the more universally loved Texas Independence monuments and memorials. The poll found that Texans back monument protection with 64% “for” and 26% “against.” In fact, poll results show 60% of Hispanics and 35% of African-Americans support protecting Texas’ Confederate monuments. Indeed, **the Texas Hero Protection Act** was filed by Rep. James White (R-HD 19), a five-term, African-American member of the Texas House. **White’s HB 583 is an effort to preserve and protect Texas historical monuments and memorials – no matter the contemporaneous social norms of today as applied to a historical figure of the past.**



Statues, memorials, and monuments are expressions of a past generation’s free speech. To silence the First Amendment Rights of the past is to silence discussion of those historical eras and the cultural, moral, and political results of those times. Texas should not hide or erase historical figures because today’s culture rejects a past society’s practices, customs, and norms. Indeed, Texas should seek to educate future generations about The Great Cause of Liberty for all mankind with factual historical examples – both good and bad.



Texans should not allow political demagogues to erase history in order to score political points. Note that these decisions are never the result of a vote by the people, but typically are the result of a liberal city council’s agenda. **The vast majority of the citizens never hear about the efforts to remove a statue until it is too late.**



We end this Coalition appeal to you with a recent example of principled courage that took place in Alabama. When Alabama officials set about removing Confederate flags, statues and monuments at a frenetic pace, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey signed into law the [Alabama Memorial Preservation Act of 2017](#), intended to preserve ALL of Alabama’s history. Not only did this Governor have the courage to sign the bill, **she released political ads crediting herself for protecting Alabama’s historic monuments. Surely, our Texas leaders have a similar courage to step up and fight to protect this great state’s heritage and freedom.**



The Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition asks that the Texas Legislature honor the public expressions of past generations of Texans by supporting and passing legislation to protect our state’s statues and monuments.



Sincerely, the undersigned grassroots political leaders, *



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Joe Adams, Chair, Delta County Republican Party, HD 62, SD 2, Cooper

LaDaune Ashley, Precinct Chair, Brazoria County Republican Party, HD 29, SD 11, Liverpool

Deborah Bailey, Secretary, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Dottie Barnes, co-founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 89, SD 22, Frost

Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party, HD 72, SD 28, San Angelo

Annette Bennett, Precinct Chair, Gillespie County GOP; Fredericksburg Tea Party; HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Geri Bentley, Treasurer, Clear Lake Tea Party, HD 25, SD 11, League City

Beth Biesel, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 108, SD 16, Dallas

Elena Blake, HD 105, SD 16, Irving

Joanna Bowen, Secretary, Lake Country Republican Club, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

Janie Brittain, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party, HD 112, SD 16, Garland

KC Broyles, Vice President, Clear Lake Tea Party, HD 23, SD 11, League City

Wes Brumit, Chair, Voices of Conservatism and Liberty PAC (VOCAL) HD 9, SD 1, Longview

Dennis Cable, Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Kelly Canon, Co-Founder, SE Tarrant County Tea Party, Precinct Chair, Tarrant County Republican Party, HD 94, SD 10, Arlington

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Ernie & Della Clark, past president & member, Grassroots America - We the People PAC, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler



Fredericksburg TEA Party



Craig Cosgray, President, Highland Lakes Tea Party, HD 20, SD 24, Spicewood

Alice Cromwell, HD 102, SD 32, Dallas

Bill Culpepper, member Grassroots America – We the People PAC; Precinct Chair, Smith County Republican Party, HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Don Dixon, Longtime transportation reform activist & blogger, HD 121, SD 25, San Antonio

Jack Dixon, HD 33, SD 30, Prosper

Jim & Char Doonan, Lake Country Republicans, HD 5, SD 1, Winnsboro

Carol Doucet, Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County & Navarro County TEA Party, HD 8, SD 22, Frost

Maria Espinoza, Co-Founder & National Director, The Remembrance Project, HD 133, SD 17, Houston

Tom & Toni Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party, HD 106, SD 12, Frisco

Mary E. (Betty) Fallert, Steering Committee Member, Kaufman County TEA Party, HD 4, SD 2, Crandall

Bob Farris, Founder, Citizens Matter, HD 64, SD 12, Hickory Creek

Mary Anne Farrow, East Texans for Liberty PAC, HD 7, SD 1, Gilmer

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Rebecca Forest, President, Women on the Wall, HD 47, SD 24, Austin

Leland Freeman, Board Member, Central Texas Republican Assembly, HD 49, SD 14, Austin

Rena & David French, Founder Patriot Members, Grassroots America – We the People, HD 11, SD 1, Bullard

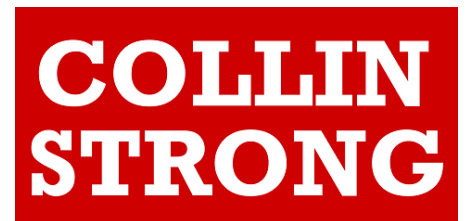
Bill & Patty Gallagher, Primadata Liberty Center, HD 2, SD 2, Mabank

Gary Gentz, Member, Henderson County Tea Party, HD 4, SD 3, Eustace

Lori Granados, President, Central Texas Republican Assembly, HD 48, SD 14, Austin

Deborah Grimes, Communications Director, Project Fort Worth, HD 92, SD 10, Hurst

Suzanne Guggenheim, President, Coastal Bend Tea Party, HD 32, SD 20, Corpus Christi



Sharon Guthrie, Secretary & Precinct Chair, Smith County GOP, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Stanley Cofer, Founder, Texas Minority Conservative & Republican Coalition, HD 6, SD 1, Tyler

Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF), HD 53, SD 24, Ingram

Barbara Harless, Co-Founder, North Texas Citizens Lobby, HD 89, SD 8, Murphy

Joe Harrison, Founder & Organizer, Cass County Patriots, HD 98, SD 1, Atlanta

Dr. Carole Haynes, Founder, American Citizens Matter, HD 64, SD 12, Hickory Creek

Cara Hill, Member, Smith County Republican Women, HD 6, CD 1, Tyler

Jeremiah Hunter, Delegate, 2018 Texas GOP Convention; HD 7, SD 1, Longview

Bill Hussey, Founder & Vice President, Llano TEA Party, HD 53, SD 24, Llano

Kathy Hussey, President, Llano TEA Party, HD 53, SD 24, Llano

Rick Jackson, Steering Committee, Kaufman County TEA Party, HD 4, SD 2, Forney

Robert Kecseg, SREC SD 1, HD 5, SD 1, Winnsboro

Sandra Kindt, Washington County Republican Party Chairman; Washington County TEA Party, HD 13, SD 18, Brenham

Jackie King, co-founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County, HD 8, SD 22, Purdon

Larry Korkmas, President, TFIRE, HD 133, SD 17, Houston

Robin & Jim Lennon, President & Director, Kingwood TEA Party, Inc., Cleveland

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Carroll Maxwell, Past President, Collin County Conservative Republicans, HD 70, SD 8, McKinney

Janet Mayne, Committee Member, Llano Tea Party, CD 24, Llano, HD 53, SD 24, Horseshoe Bay

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Morgan McComb, Precinct Chair, Denton County Republican Party, HD 63, SD 26, Prosper

Scott McDonald, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Mineola

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Naomi Narvaiz, Former SREC for SD 21, HD 45, SD 21, San Marcos

Brian Newman, President, Collin Strong, HD 70, SD 8, McKinney

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Laura Pressley, Ph.D., Founder, True Texas Elections, HD 50, SD 14, Austin

Terry & Joy Putnam, Texans 4 Truth, HD 20, SD 5, Georgetown

Eugene Ralph Sr., 2nd VP, SW Dallas Republican Club, HD 109, SD 2, Dallas

Russell Ramsland, Founder, Park Cites/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum, HD 114, SD 16, Dallas

Connie Ratisseau, Board Member, Clear Lake TEA Party, HD 129, SD 11, Friendswood

Mark Reid, President, Plano Citizens' Coalition, HD 66, SD 8, Plano

Pastor Marty Reid, Trinity Family Church, HD 4, SD 2, Forney

Fran Rhodes, Vice President NE Tarrant Tea Party, HD 24, SD 9, Fort Worth

Marty Rhymes, Vice Chair, Gregg County Republican Party, HD 7, SD 1, White Oak

Kathi Rivard, Precinct Chair, Collin County Republican Party, Golden Corridor Republican Women, Frisco Tea Party, HD 70, SD 30, Prosper

Tanya Robertson, SREC, Senate District 11, HD 129, SD 11, Seabrook

George Rodriguez, Broadcast Activist - El Conservador, HD 121, SD 25, San Antonio

Barry Schlech, PhD, Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party, HD 58, SD 22, Burleson

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Vicki Slaton, Former (term limited) SREC SD 2; SD 2 Conservative Grassroots Coalition leader, HD 113, SD 2, Sunnyvale

Irene Smith, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg



Cass County Patriots



Angela Smith, longtime conservative activist, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

Alan Smith, Steering Committee Member, Fredericksburg Tea Party, HD 73, SD 24, Fredericksburg

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Penny Story, Founder, Constitutional Conservative Activists, HD 10, SD 22, Red Oak

Dwayne Stovall, Director, Get Off My State, HD 18, SD 3, Cleveland

Paul Sumruld, Conservative Activist, HD 99, SD 12, Fort Worth

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Kenneth Weaver, conservative activist, HD 33, SD 30, Prosper

Ken West, Precinct Chair, Wood County Republican Party, HD 5, SD 1, Hawkins

John White, conservative activist, HD 33, SD 2, Rockwall

Gary Whitehorn, Board Member, We the People - Longview, HD 7, SD 1, Longview

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Ruth York, VP, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, HD 60, SD 28, Cisco

Pastor Greg Young, Nationally Syndicated Radio host, Chosen Generation, HD 53, SD 24, Bandera

Connie Curry, founder, West TX Conservative Leadership, HD 83, SD 28, Lubbock

Janet Baber, Smith County GOP Precinct Chair; HD 6, SD 1, Whitehouse

Sue Evenwel, SREC for SD 1; GOP Chair, Titus County; HD 5, SD 1, Mt Pleasant



Judy Brady, President, Central Texas TEA Party, HD 54, SD 24, Salado

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum, HD 98, SD 10, Grapevine

Jan Shedd, Surrogate, The Remembrance Project, HD 4, SD 2, Kaufman

CC: The Honorable Texas Governor Greg Abbott



***Organizations are listed for identification purposes only.**

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