

Status: Petition for Removal of Smith County Judge Joel Baker from Office

A community is known for what it tolerates.

Across this nation, people are angry because they believe a majority of elected officials do not respect the people, do not listen to the people, do not respect the rule of law, and furthermore, many officials act as if laws, rules, and basic moral codes of decency shouldn't apply to them!

If "We the People" ignore bad behavior, deception, and disrespect from local officials, we will get more of the same. If we ignore violations of sunshine laws and the professional code of conduct, we will get more of the same.

Like the broken windows theory of urban decay, ignoring broken public trust breeds corruption among local officials. Before you know it, there is a culture of public corruption fed by cronyism, free-flowing special interest perks, apathy, and fear of retribution. Bad behavior leads to poor decision-making. Poor decision-making leads to costly mistakes and lost opportunities.

What is this all about?

If you are the least bit confused about WHY we are taking such a strong stand, we invite you to view related documents and news links here <http://gawtp.com/update-joel-baker-should-resign/>, and **keep in mind this latest incident only compounds the problem, since the judge and commissioners were already under investigation by the Texas AG and the FBI.**

Our Civil Suit for Removal

Pursuant to [Chapter 87.011](#) of the Local Government Code, the Board of Directors of Grassroots America has engaged an Austin attorney to prepare to file a civil suit in district court to remove Joel Baker from office.

We are in the final stages of approving the documents and anticipate filing in district court very soon. If Judge Baker will not resign, this is the only tool the People have to remove him before the 2018 primary election.

The initial cost to prepare the civil suit is estimated to be \$1,000. The discovery process and trial costs will be more, and a trial by jury is required unless there is a guilty plea.

If you believe as we do that Joel Baker has lost all moral authority to serve as county judge, we ask you to make a donation to the legal fund today. Any amount will help. ***Please encourage your friends and colleagues to donate.***

Donations can be made online (<http://gawtp.com/donate/>) or checks can be made out to Grassroots America – We the People and mailed to P. O. Box 130012, Tyler, TX 75713. **(Please designate your donation as "Court Project" for accurate posting by our treasurer and CPA.)**

Smith County will be known for what it tolerates in its elected officials. Grassroots America believes it's time to send a message that we will not tolerate any more of this.

If you agree, please help us raise a higher community standard!