



**Election Integrity:  
Preserving Republican Party of Texas Platform Plank #59  
Fair Election Procedures and Paper Ballot Backup Options for Counties**

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Governor of Texas Greg Abbott  
Republican Party of Texas Chairman James Dickey  
2018 Republican Party of Texas Convention Platform Committee Members and Delegates

Dear Governor Abbott, Chairman Dickey, and Platform Committee Members and Delegates:

The Fair Election Practices language in the [2016 Republican Party of Texas Platform Plank #59](#) is working well for Texans, and we **strongly urge the 2018 RPT Platform Committee to retain Plank #59 as is - with no modifications.** Specifically, Plank #59's current language ensures that all Texas counties have the **option** to choose a certified paper ballot backup system for their voters.

"We support all means of protecting the integrity of our elections, including the optional use of paper ballots."

Plank #59 offers election integrity choices to counties, which is especially important. Voter apathy due to a lack of faith in the electoral process is at an all-time high. ***Instilling faith in the process is of utmost importance, and giving counties options for paper backups is fundamental to the integrity of our elections.***

In fact, after shocking events such as the recent report of over [1,800 lost electronic votes](#) in Hays County, Texas voters are demanding paper backups! As a result, more counties are moving toward the newest election technologies of paper ballot on demand and hybrid

voting systems. These new systems offer electronic tabulations, coupled with a paper backup of the vote, such that:

- a) Voters **verify** their choices on a paper ballot prior to inserting into an electronic scanner;
- b) Electronic scanners tabulate the vote results;
- c) A paper ballot backup is used for manual recounts.

These systems have gained popularity and acceptance in the state, with [Denton County](#) converting to a paper ballot backup system. Additionally, many counties such as Kaufman and Navarro have switched to a hybrid paper backup voting system.

Some concerns have been raised that paper backup systems are subject to more fraud than computerized systems. This is untrue. ***When electronic tabulations are coupled with paper backup records of the vote, these systems actually provide checks and balances to prevent and detect fraud!***

For example, the new paper voting systems document the election returns with summarized printed results tapes, which are authenticated and signed by both election judges from both parties when the polls close. Additionally, **a detailed paper ballot backup of the votes is stored if recounts are required.** A recent recount in Kaufman County occurred with one of the newer hybrid systems, and the recount accuracy was 100%. Furthermore, the paper backup systems certified in Texas do not allow for voters to leave the polling location with a record of their vote, and thus the Texas systems protect the secrecy of each ballot.

While a vigorous debate of the Republican Platform is healthy, we urge delegates and the party to leave Platform Plank #59 as it is currently written. **Let us have unity and no confusion on this matter and continue to allow for best practices to be determined by each county.**

Thank you for your service to the people of the great state of Texas. We look forward to a productive 2018 Republican Party of Texas Convention and a Platform that protects election integrity and paper ballot options for Texas counties.

Sincerely, the undersigned\*

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

**Aaron Harris**, Executive Director, Direct Action Texas

**Dr. Laura Pressley**, Ph.D., Founder, True Texas Elections

**Bill Hussey**, President, Llano Tea Party

**Ray Myers**, Chair, Kaufman County Tea Party

**Debbie Terry**, SREC SD12

**Vicki Slaton**, SREC SD2

**Stacy McMahan**, Executive Director/President, East Texans for Liberty

**Mike Olcott**, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives

**Joel Starnes**, Executive Director, Organization for American Values

**Bryan Slaton**, conservative activist, SD2 and HD2

**Cathie Adams**, Board Member, National Eagle Forum; past President, Texas Eagle Forum

**Ira Archer**, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

**LaDuane Ashley**, Precinct Chair, Brazoria County GOP

**Deborah Bailey**, San Angelo TEA Party

**Dottie Barnes**, Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

**Anna Bartosh**, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party

**Annette Bennett**, RPT Delegate SD 24

**Monty Bennett**, Ashford Inc.

**Geri Bently**, Clear Lake Tea Party

**Beth Biesel**, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

**Bill Bingham**, Vice President, Bryan/College Station Tea Party

**Tammy Blair**, Cherokee County Republican Party

**Trayce Bradford**, President, Texas Eagle Forum

**Leslie Brosi**, Dallas Eagle Forum, Park Cities Republican Women

**KC Broyles**, Precinct Chair SD 11, Vice President, Clear Lake Tea Party

**Jan Burke**, Precinct Chair SD 16

**Dennis Cable**, State GOP Executive Committeeman, Senate District 1

**Kelly Canon**, Leader, SE Tarrant TEA Party

**David & Janice Carter**, Bell County Election Judge, Precinct 311

**Mary Joe Cason**, Kaufman County TEA Party

**Ernie Clark**, Past President, Grassroots America - We the People

**Gregory Clements**, Precinct Chair, Dallas County GOP

**Tama Kay Cole**, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

**Connie Curry**, West Texas Conservative Leadership

**Debbie Dashner**, GOP and Tea Party Member, Former GOP Precinct Chair

**Nancy Dillard**, President, Denton County Conservative Coalition

**Don Dixon**, Longtime transportation reform activist & blogger

**Carol Doucet**, Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

**Ronald Dubner**, SD 8, Former Precinct Chair

**Trevor Dupuy**, Founder & Past President, Highland Lakes TEA Party

**Sheri Edwards**, Precinct Chairman, Brazoria County Republican Party

**Rick Eisenbach**, President, Grassroots America - We the People

**Ken Emanuleson**, Founder, Grassroots Texans Network

**Maria Espinoza**, Co-Founder & National Director, The Remembrance Project

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

**Rena & David French**, Founder Patriot Members, Grassroots America – We the People

**Bill & Patty Gallagher**, Primadata Liberty Center, Mabank

**Gary Gentz**, Henderson County Tea Party

**Diane Gorman**, Park Cities Republican Women

**Ellen Grigsby**, Park Cities Republican Women, Eagle Forum

**Dennis & Cynthia Grubb**, PCRL

**Alan Guggenheim**, SD 20

**Suzanne Guggenheim**, TEA Party Patriots State Coordinator

**Sharon Guthrie**, Secretary, Smith County Republican Party

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

**Barbara Harless**, North Texas Citizens Lobby

**Joe Harrison**, Founder & Organizer, Cass County Patriots

**Bob & Carole Haynes**, Founders, Citizens Matter

**Ann Hettinger**, Concerned Women for America of Texas

**Caron Hill**, Dallas Eagle Forum, Precinct Chair, Dallas County GOP

**Cynthia Holliday**, Dallas Eagle Forum, Park Cities Republican Women

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

**Rick Jackson**, Steering Committee, Kaufman County TEA Party

**William Kelberlau**, Captain USN Ret, Texans for Truth

**Sandra Kindt**, Chairman, Washington County Republican Party

**Jackie King**, Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

**Michael Kinzie**, Founder, TEAParty911.com

**Mary Beth Lawson**, First Ladies Republican Women's Club of Garland/Mesquite

**Craig Licciardi**, Grassroots America - We the People, Precinct Chair, Smith County

**Matt Long**, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party of Texas

**Dr. Ivette Lozano**, Former President, Dallas County Republican Assembly

**Cynthia Lucas**, Lifelong Republican Party Member

**Timothy Lyng**, Co-Founder & President, The Remembrance Project

**Carroll Maxwell**, McKinney Tea Party

**Julie McCarty**, President, NE Tarrant TEA Party

**Peter & Lucile McCormick**, Park Cities Republican Women, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

**Samuel McDonough**, Precinct Chair Dallas County GOP

**Deanna Maria Metzger**, Candidate, House District 107

**Naomi Narvaiz**, State Republican Executive Committee, SD 21

**Mike Openshaw**, Co-founder, Communications Director, North Texas TEA Party

**Terry Putnam**, Precinct Chair, Williamson County GOP

**Eugene Ralph**, SW Dallas Republican Club

**Lillie Ralph**, Dallas Star Republican Women

**Russell Ramsland**, Founder, Park Cities/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

**Grant Reading**, Precinct Chair SD 2

**Mark Reid**, Caucus Chair HD 66

**Fran Rhodes**, Vice President, NE Tarrant County Tea Party

**Linda Russell**, Former SREC and Precinct Chairman SD 16

**Amy Sabin**, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

**Barry Schlech**, PhD, Founder/Past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party

**Josie D Schoolcraft**, President, Cherokee County Texas Republican Club

**Mike Slaton**, Precinct Chair, Dallas County GOP

**Barb Stauffer**, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party

**William Sutton**, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

**Joline Tate**, Precinct Chair, Dallas County GOP, Garland Tea Party Steering Committee, Golden Corridor Republican Women

**Brad Underwood**, La Prada Tea Party

**Lou Vail**, Knox County Republican Party Chair

**Karl Voigtsberger**, SREC SD 8

**Larry Wainer**, Precinct Chair, Dallas County GOP

**Jay Ward**, Llano Tea Party

**Farris & Jo Ann Wilks**, Cisco Conservatives

**Maggie Wright**, Founding member & past President, Texas Patriots TEA Party

**Ruth York**, Vice President, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County

**Linda Zepeda**, Titus County Republicans

\*Titles listed for identification purposes only.

**Paid for by Grassroots America – We the People PAC**