A Resolution of the Rusk County Republican Party Calling on Governor Greg Abbott to Convene a Special Session to Permanently Limit the Emergency Powers of the Office of Governor

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution divides the powers of government into three distinct departments and forbids any one department from exercising the powers properly belonging to another; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 28 of the Texas Constitution provides that no power of suspending laws in this State shall be exercised except by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code, allows the Governor to declare a state of disaster, to issue executive orders carrying the force and effect of law, and to suspend the provisions of regulatory statutes, and allows those declarations to be renewed every 30 days without limit; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic these powers were used to close Texas businesses, restrict churches, limit gatherings and override local and individual decisions for months at a time, without a vote of the people's elected representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Republican Party opposed the use of these powers by Governor Abbott, and holds that no governor, of any party, should possess the power to make, suspend or rewrite law by executive order; and

WHEREAS, a principle that applies only when the other party holds office is not a principle, and these limits must bind every future governor equally, Republican or Democrat; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2026, State Representative Brian Harrison wrote to Governor Abbott asking him to convene a special session to pass reforms similar to his House Bill 911, and asked every elected Republican in Texas to join that call; and

WHEREAS, under Article IV, Section 8 of the Texas Constitution, only the Governor may convene the Legislature in special session and set the subjects it may consider, and the current term of office ends in January 2027;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Republican Party calls on Governor Greg Abbott to convene the Legislature in special session without delay, with reform of the Governor's emergency powers on the call; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support legislation that would:

1. Prohibit the Governor from suspending or modifying any statute;
2. End any emergency order after 30 days unless the Legislature votes to ratify it;
3. Prohibit the Governor from reissuing an order that has expired or that the Legislature has rejected;
4. Require every emergency order to be narrowly tailored to the emergency it addresses; and
5. Give emergency orders expedited review in the courts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these limits must apply equally to every governor, regardless of party, and that we would support them on the same terms whichever party holds the office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if no special session is called, we urge our State Representative and State Senator to file and pass these reforms in the 90th Regular Session; and

Adopted this 10th day of November, 2026, by the Rusk County Republican Party.

Rachel Hale *Sandi Todd*

County Chair Secretary