

Progress of the 2019 Legislative Priorities established by the Republican Party of Texas

These are the 5 Priorities of the RPT established at the 2018 State Republican Convention by the Platform Committee and voted on by the elected Delegates to the Convention.

- 1) **Constitutional Carry** - Pass constitutional carry while maintaining licensing as optional for reciprocity purposes.
 - ***HB 357 by Rep. Stickland*** permits the carrying of a handgun by a person 21 years of age or older who is not prohibited from possessing a firearm under Section 46.04 or is not prohibited by any other law from carrying a concealed handgun or a partially or wholly visible handgun in a holster.
 - **HB 357 has been referred to the Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee. The bill has 11 co-authors.**
- 2) **End Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying** - Pass legislation to abolish all forms of taxpayer-funded lobbying and end the automatic payroll deduction of union dues by the government.
 - ***HB 281 by Rep Middleton*** states that the governing body of a political subdivision may not spend public money to directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the legislature.
 - **HB 281 has been referred to the State Affairs Committee and has been left pending in that committee.**
- 3) **Pro-Life** - Pass legislation to abolish abortion; including, but not limited to, enacting legislation that would ignore and refuse to enforce any and all federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, and court rulings, which would deprive an unborn child of the right to life. Defund Planned Parenthood and their affiliates.
 - ***HB 896 by Rep Tinderholt*** is the strongest Pro-Life Bill being proposed but probably has the least chance of getting passed. The bill prohibits abortion and protects the rights of the unborn child.
 - **HB 896 has been referred to the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee. The bill has 8 co-authors.**
 - ***HB 1929 by Rep Noble / SB 22 by Sen. Campbell***, a bill to stop taxpayer dollars from funding the abortion industry at the state and local level.
 - **SB 22 was passed by the Senate and sent to the House on April 2.**
 - **HB 1929 has been referred to the State Affairs Committee. The bill has 52 co-authors. A public hearing was held on the bill the first week in April.**
 - ***HB 16 by Rep. Jeff Leach/SB 23 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst***, the Texas Born Alive Infant Protection Act. The bill would strengthen protections for infants who survive abortion procedures to ensure that the highest standard of medical care is afforded to the baby.
 - **HB 16 has been referred to the Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee. The bill has 72 co-authors including our own Rep. Andy Murr.**
 - **SB 23 has been referred to Health & Human Services Committee. This has 6 primary authors (Including our Senator Dawn Buckingham) and 1 co-author.**
 - ***HB 2434 by Rep. Matt Shaefer/SB 1033 by Sen. Kelly Hancock***, Preborn Non-Discrimination Act (PreDNA). The bill would eliminate late-term abortions in Texas and ban discriminatory abortions based on the disability, race, or sex of the baby.
 - **HB 2434 has been referred to State Affairs Committee. The bill has 21 co-authors.**
 - **SB 1033 has been referred to Health & Human Services Committee and has 8 primary authors and 4 co-authors.**

- 4) Property Tax** - Abolish the Maintenance and Operation School property tax and replace it with a consumption tax or other mechanism other than income tax while broadening the tax base. Eliminate the appraisal board and eliminate taxing the property at the purchased value or the free market value upon change of hands for local government funding and special district funding. School Maintenance and Operation funds shall be allocated from the state's general fund to Texas' Independent School Districts via an inflation-adjusted, per-student-allocation
- ***HB 2 by Rep. Burrows / SB 2 by Sen. Bettencourt***, are two property tax reform bills but do not address the property tax issues listed above and neither of these bills will provide the property tax relief needed by taxpayers. Their main redeeming quality is they reduce the tax rate ceiling.
 - **SB 2 has 5 primary authors and 3 co-authors.**
- 5) Religious Freedom & Privacy** - Pass legislation prohibiting the violation of the rights and freedoms of individuals, organizations, and businesses to exercise their sincerely held religious beliefs. Pass legislation that protects the privacy and safety of women and children in multi-use facilities such as bathrooms, locker rooms and showers in all Texas schools and government buildings and oppose legislation that would undermine these privacy and safety protections.
- ***HB 1035 by Rep. Bill Zedler (R)***, The Free to Believe Act would ensure wedding vendors will not be forced by the government to use their talents to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs. It would protect Christian counselors so they can continue to use biblical principles to help individuals and families and it would protect faith-based homeless shelters from being forced to allow men into women's sleeping quarters. It would also protect individuals and medical providers from being forced to participate in "sex-change" operations that violate their sincerely held religious beliefs. **HB 1035 has been referred to State Affairs Committee. The bill has 10 co-authors.**
 - **SB17 by "Sen. Perry"**. This bill is to protect the religious liberty rights of those granted licensure from the State. If the State tries to revoke or sanction a licensed person because of actions related to their deeply-held religious beliefs, this bill would give them a defense against the state licensing agency taking away their livelihood. **Passed to engrossment (which means it will have a 3rd and final reading on the Senate Floor.**

Call to Action by conservative Republicans:

- Get informed –
 - Go to <https://capitol.texas.gov/> (Texas Legislature Online) to track bills that have been filed
 - Visit FaceBook page for **RPT Legislative Priorities STAT**
- Call or visit your legislator to voice your support or opposition to any bill
- Go to the Capitol and sign up to testify at Committee hearings or record your position of "For" or "Against" at kiosks in the Capitol hallways
- At every opportunity, remind legislators of the 5 RPT Legislative Priorities

The most effective ways to make an impression on your legislators are: 1) visit their office in person, 2) phone their office, 3) email them, 4) mail a letter.

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