



# The RIGHT WRITE-UP

## The Republican Club of Comal County

*A political group of conservative Republican men and women.  
Our goal is to inform about current issues and conservative candidates.*

Volume 8, Issue 3

[rcocc.org](http://rcocc.org)

March, 2023

### OUR NEXT MEETING

#### **THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF COMAL COUNTY**

**will meet on Tuesday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m.** (setup at 5:00, social mixer at 5:30)

**at the First Protestant Church of New Braunfels, 172 W. Coll Street.**

**(Enter the parking lot by the Civic Center from Coll St.)**

The Club will provide light refreshments such as veggie trays, snacks, and desserts. The Club will also provide utensils, water, tea, and coffee. Members and guests can bring salads and desserts to share, if desired.

We encourage members to arrive early. This will allow time to pay dues, greet friends and guests, and partake of refreshments before the meeting starts.

Please share this meeting announcement with friends and family.

As we grow in numbers, our influence grows with our elected officials, and they will respond to our calls on legislative priorities.

Questions? Call or email our President, Al Highfield, at 830-255-1367 or at [Albert.Highfield@yahoo.com](mailto:Albert.Highfield@yahoo.com).



**Our guest speaker will be**

**Sergeant Mike Coons**

**A range master for the  
Comal County Sheriff's Office.**

**He will speak about what we should do  
if we find ourselves in an active shooter situation.**

**Please join us for this timely and informative talk.**

## A Message from our Club President

Welcome to all! I'm glad you have taken the time to read our Newsletter. Recently several of our Republican supporters traveled to Austin and sat in on the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) Meeting. It was an interesting visit to see our party in action discussing resolutions. It would be good for anyone to visit and see the debating process and how they help form our desires to Congress. The Party in action is how we want our government to work, not take five days off on a whim every other week!

It is imperative for ALL to get involved and keep Texas Red or end up living in a Blue Society.

The Newsletter and lots of other good Club information can be found at [rcocc.org](http://rcocc.org). Also, there are lots of photos, videos, and events posted there!

President Albert F. Highfield

**“Ask me or other club officers what You can do to get involved!”**

## OUR PATRON PROGRAM

The Republican Club of Comal County is thankful for those who have contributed to our Club through the Patron Program during 2022 and 2023.

Suzanne Badger	Vicki Highfield	Kathy Phillips
Robbie Borchers	Marty Hiles	Robert Phillips
James Boyd	Helen Horvath	Sue Piner
Geneva Boyd	Don Johnson	Maria Seiler
Edison Bryant	Susie LeCanu	Patrick Seiler
Chris Byrd	Donna Lee	Joy Streater
Derick Carver	Kerry Ledford	Anita Valdez
Suzi Casey	Doug Leacock	John Walker
Bill Cooley	Al Malmsten	Susan Walker
Mark Delaney	W.Lindy Menefee	Kevin Webb
Steve Gallets	Sharon Hall Monge	John Young
Fred Gibbons	Mark Montgomery	Diane Young
Albert Haddad	Cindi Montgomery	
Scott Haag	Naomi Narvaiz	
Albert Highfield	John O'Brien	

Patrons donate \$100 per year per person to help us finance our election strategy.  
Contact our Membership Chairman, Cindi Montgomery, at 214-908-7212,  
to become a Patron member or for more information.

### Our Officers for 2023

President	Al Highfield
Vice President	Marty Hiles
Secretary	Kathy Phillips
Treasurer	Patrick Seiler
Past President	Mary Wohl
County Chair	Sue Piner

### Committee Chairs

Membership	Cindi Montgomery
Legislative Affairs	Don Johnson
Campaign Activities	Susan Walker
Hospitality	<i>(Currently vacant)</i>
Parliamentarian	<i>(Currently vacant)</i>
Publicity Chair	Audrey Johnson Scheper
Facebook	<i>(Currently vacant)</i>
Newsletter Editor	Kerry Ledford
Associate Editor	Karen Hobson
Special Events	Donna Lee
Special Projects	Ruth Chambers
Patron Program	Cindi Montgomery
Precinct Whip	Joe Carroll
Web Master	Audrey Johnson Scheper
Sergeant-at-Arms	Marty Hiles

## Comal County Precinct Chairs

Why do we publish the Comal County Precinct Chair List in the Republican Club Newsletter each month? Our mission as active Republicans is to support the political process. Each one of us should know what Precinct we live in and who serves as our Precinct Chair.

We should offer our assistance to our Precinct Chair for the elections. We can assist as an Election clerk or Election Judge on Election Day. We can offer to block walk to inform our neighbors of early voting. We can block walk for our chosen candidates. We can offer to take a list of Republicans to call with a reminder of the times and places to vote early. There are a number of ways an individual can help to assure a maximum Republican vote.

Studies show that when people intend to vote, but fail to vote early, a substantial percentage of that vote is lost on Election Day. There is a lot to be done. Please offer your help to your Precinct Chair.

<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Name</u>
County Chair	Sue Piner
Vice Chair	Susan Walker
Recording Secretary	Judy Walker
Treasurer	Don Johnson
Assistant Treasurer	Vicky Highfield
101	Sharon Hall Monge
102	Kaci Sisk
103	Laura Buske
104	J.B. Williamson
105	Ernie Lee
106	Chris Byrd
107	Anita Valdez
108	Albert Highfield
109	<i>(vacant)</i>
110	Joanne Martin
201	Marty Hiles
203	James "Hoss" Boyd
204	Marlin Brown
205	Steve White
206	Kathy Phillips
207	John Brewer
208	Geri Becker
301	Will Moravits
303	Kenneth Kasper
304	Amanda Ackerman
305	Isabel Ibarra
306	Barbara Harrell
307	Timothy Davis
308	Mary Lou Erben
401	Robbie Borchers
402	Melinda Rapp
403	Carolyn Besselman
404	Teri Taylor
405	Molly Vogt
406	Joe Carroll
407	Susan Walker
408	Don Johnson

## Our Mission

The mission of the Republican Club of Comal County is to promote “Faith, Family, and Freedom” by providing information and education about critical political issues, by encouraging active participation in the political process, by supporting conservative Republican nominees, and by fostering loyalty to the Republican Party and its conservative ideals.

### **The Republican Contract with America, 2022**

- 1) A Safe and Law-Abiding America. Crime prevention and punishment is mostly a local and state affair. But the federal government promises to prosecute fully any criminal who crosses state lines or uses interstate communications to commit arson, public destruction, smash-and-grab looting, or general attacks on any federal property within the states.
- 2) Affordable Energy for an Energy-Independent America. Restoration of gas and oil energy independence; reopening of federal lands for new energy leases; fast-tracking natural gas and oil pipelines; encouragement and incentives to mine rare and precious metals inside the United States needed for batteries and new sources of energy.
- 3) A Secure Border. Immediate completion of the border wall. Deportation of all those who crossed illegally between 2017 and 2024 and all criminals convicted of felonies or serious misdemeanors; employer sanctions; an end to catch-and-release; all refugee seekers apply outside the United States; a tax on remittances sent south of the border on those here illegally and on public assistance; the end of the primacy of family considerations in fast-tracking immigration requests, replaced by meritocratic considerations of English facility, skill sets, and education. All immigration would be predicated on legality, diversity, meritocracy, and measured and manageable numbers necessary for assimilation and integration.
- 4) A Sacrosanct Constitution and Preservation of Long-Held Traditions. On record for no changes to the Constitution; no dismantling of the Electoral College; no federalization of states' voting laws; no increase in a nine-justice Supreme Court; no statehood for Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico; no end to the Senate filibuster.
- 5) The Restoration of Election Day. Encouragement to the states to limit mail-in balloting, return to the old notion of absentee balloting as an exception rather than the norm, and cut back on extended/early balloting — with the goal that 60 to 70% of ballots cast are done so on Election Day.
- 6) A "Don't Tread on Me" Foreign Policy. Strong support for the sanctity of allied nations. Deterrence against Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and other belligerents. A realistic foreign policy of "No better friend, no worse enemy." An end to optional large, on-the-ground military engagements in the Middle East. A return of Pentagon emphasis on battle readiness rather than social justice and woke agendas, with budgets redirected to missile defense and naval and air deterrence.
- 7) Towards a Balanced Budget. Expenditures must match revenues. An update of the Simpson-Bowles National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform or enactment of its recommendations, with the aim of achieving a balanced budget in four years.
- 8) Anti-Trust, Anti-Monopoly Legislation. An end to Silicon Valley's vast monopolies, cartels, and immunity from public-utility regulations.
- 9) Strict Enforcement of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Prohibition of the use of racial bias/advantage/preference in the operations of public local, state, and federal agencies. No federal funds allotted for critical-race-theory indoctrination.
- 10) No Federal Funds for Lawbreakers. An end to federal support of state agencies and private institutions that violate federal statutes and the Bill of Rights, whether sanctuary-city jurisdictions or campuses whose speech and trial codes violate the First, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments. Loss of tax-free status on income from university endowments of more than \$10 billion.

### **IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES FOR 2023**

There are two Comal County election cycles in 2023, in May and November.

The May 2023 election includes New Braunfels Mayor, NB City Council District 5, NB City

Council District 6, NBISD Trustees for Districts 2 & 4, and CISD Districts 3 & 4 and at-large.

CISD may also place a Bond Issue(s) on the Ballot.

The November 2023 election will be for Constitutional Amendments.

#### **MAY 6, 2023, Election Dates**

January 1, 2023 - First Day to Request Ballot By Mail (BBM) or FPCA

January 18, 2023 - First Day to File for a Place on the Ballot

February 17, 2023 - Last Day to File

April 6, 2023 - Last Day to Register to Vote in May Election

April 24, 2023 - First Day of Early Voting

April 25, 2023 - Last Day to Receive a Request for BBM

May 2, 2023 - Last Day of Early Voting

May 6, 2023 - Election Day

#### **NOVEMBER 7, 2023, Election Dates**

October 10, 2023 - Last Day to Register to Vote in the November Election

October 23, 2023 - First Day of Early Voting

October 27, 2023 - Last Day to Receive a BBM Request

November 3, 2023 - Last Day of Early Voting

November 7, 2023 - Election Day

### **The Republican Philosophy**

That the rights of the individual to achieve the best that is within him, as long as he respects the rights of others, is the source of our nation's strength.

That government exists to protect the freedom of opportunity in which each individual's creative ability can flourish.

That government activities should be limited to those things which people cannot do at all, or cannot do so well for themselves.

The most effective government is government closest to the people.

That those who cannot provide for themselves should be assisted by both government and society, but that every effort should be made to help them to become self-supporting, productive citizens with pride in their independence.

That equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunity belong to all, regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or national origin.

That the preservation of our nation and the security of our citizens depend upon the constitution, the laws, and the courts, and that respect for them is the responsibility of every individual.

That government is accountable for maintaining sound money and a responsible economy. Individual rights, liberties, and properties are continually eroded when citizens are oppressed by excessive taxation, inflation, government waste, and over regulation.

That the government is responsible for national defense and that only a strong America can remain a free America.

That it is absolutely essential to maintain a strong national defense posture in order that we may at all times negotiate from a position of strength, not weakness, in our continuing efforts toward peace and friendship.

That these concepts are the foundation of our national strength and the Republican Party, which is committed to their preservation, is the party of today and the party of the future.

**Speaker Phelan announces new House priority bills on property tax relief, economic development**  
**By Hannah Norton, Community Impact, Mar 2, 2023**

The Texas Capitol on March 1.

House Speaker Dade Phelan has endorsed four new bills, which would lower property taxes for Texans, attract businesses to the state through economic incentives and overhaul the state's community college funding system. (Hannah Norton/Community Impact)

House Speaker Dade Phelan has announced his latest priorities for the legislative session, including a bill that could save homeowners over \$400 on next year's property taxes.

House Bill 2, also known as the Property Tax Relief Act, was filed March 2 by Rep. Morgan Meyer, R-Dallas. According to a news release, the bill would cut school property taxes by 28% and prevent property values from increasing by more than 5% each year.

Property value is determined annually by county appraisal districts, which review all property in a county and determine how much it is worth. Under current state law, the appraised value of residential property can increase by 10% each year.

This change would "[shield] homeowners, small business owners and other property owners from sudden increases in values to their property that are oftentimes unsustainable," the release said.

According to Phelan's office, HB 2 would provide Texans with the largest property tax cut in state history. Homeowners would pay \$460 less in property taxes in 2024 and \$590 less in 2025, the release said.

Meyer also filed House Joint Resolution 1, which would propose adding the Property Tax Relief Act to the Texas Constitution as an amendment. The amendment would be added to election ballots, giving Texans the opportunity to vote on it on Nov. 7.

"Skyrocketing property taxes have become unaffordable for too many residents in this state, and I thank Rep. Meyer for filing legislation that would bring real relief to Texas taxpayers by making much-needed improvements to the state's appraisal system," Phelan said in the release. "This bill is a great building block for our state to continue to thrive, and I look forward to the Texas House passing House Bill 2 this legislative session."

Property tax relief is also a top priority for Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who oversees the Texas Senate. Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, filed a similar property tax relief bill, Senate Bill 3, on March 1. According to a news release, the bill would increase Texas' homestead exemption—a reduction to a portion of a home's value for tax purposes—to \$70,000. Texans receive a \$40,000 homestead exemption for their primary residence.

This would save homeowners \$341 per year on their property tax bills, according to the release. Bettencourt also filed Senate Joint Resolution 3, which would create a constitutional amendment and allow Texans to vote on the property tax cuts.

All 31 state senators endorsed SB 3 and SJR 3, and their names are listed as joint authors.

During his State of the State address on Feb. 16, Gov. Greg Abbott announced seven emergency items, including property tax relief. Lawmakers can vote on legislation related to the governor's emergency items immediately, rather than waiting until the traditional 60th day of the session, which is March 10.

Abbott has also asked lawmakers to use \$15 billion to lower property tax rates for 2024-25, which aligns with the initial state budget proposed in the House and Senate.

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#### Economic and workforce development

On Feb. 28, Phelan announced his support for three bills that are "aimed at defending the state's economic growth."

HB 5 was filed by Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi. Known as the Texas Jobs and Security Act, the legislation is meant to attract large businesses to Texas by allowing them to pay lower school district property taxes.

The bill would replace a program called Chapter 313, which allowed school districts to enter agreements with businesses to limit their property taxes for 10 years. During the 2021 legislative session, state lawmakers did not consider a bill extending Chapter 313, so the program expired at the end of 2022.

According to a news release, HB 5 would attract "capital-intensive" manufacturing, national security and energy projects to Texas, creating new jobs. The bill would also provide more information to taxpayers about the economic impact of new business projects and how state money is used to attract businesses.

Texas Rep. Andrew Murr, R-Junction, filed HB 19, which would create a state business court system. All Texas counties would be included in the system. The new business court would take up cases specifically related to business and commerce, including lawsuits, trade regulation cases and more.

The special court system would "establish a new avenue for [companies] to solve their legal matters in a fair, streamlined and consistent manner," the release said.

Rep. Gary VanDeaver, R-New Boston, filed HB 8. The bill would create a new funding model for community colleges across Texas, based on recommendations from the Texas Commission on Community College Finance. The commission was established by the Texas Legislature in 2021 and tasked with finding a new way to fund community colleges.

In October, the 12-member commission unanimously approved its recommendation to overhaul the state's complicated allocation system and focus primarily on measurable student outcomes. Texas lawmakers received a report with the recommendations before the beginning of the current legislative session.

Commissioners recommended that community colleges be funded based on student outcomes, including graduation and transfer rates, credentials of value and credentials earned for high-demand fields. The commission also asked for an increase in need-based financial aid and work-based learning opportunities, and greater investments in college capacity through grants and cross-campus partnerships.

According to Phelan's office, the legislation recognizes and rewards community colleges for the work they do to help students complete associate degrees, noncredit workforce education programs and more. These credentials will be required for over 60% of jobs in the next decade, the release said.

"As Texas continues to grow and attract even more business that creates jobs and spurs local economies, our state must ensure that we have the kinds of tools to keep us competitive with others on a national and global scale," Phelan said in the release. "With so much job growth happening in our state, it's also important that we have the necessary avenues that foster workforce development to keep up with demand."

## Property Rights – Short-Term Rentals

Chance Weldon, Christian Townsend, Texas Public Policy Foundation, January 23, 2023

Rafael Marfil has a simple wish: to rent his property to families for less than thirty days—something that folks in New Braunfels, Texas, have been doing for decades. But the City of New Braunfels made that illegal when it banned property owners like Rafael from using their homes for short-term rentals.

When Rafael and others challenged that in Court, the judge upheld the City's ban without requiring the City to provide any evidence that renting a home for less than thirty days creates any nuisances. The language from the Judge's ruling would make it almost impossible for any property owner to challenge City ordinances regulating their property. In particular, the judge held that Cities may ban whatever property uses they want, regardless how harmless or well established, if a "segment of the community" opposes the use.

That's when Rafael and his fellow property owners reached out to the Texas Public Policy Foundation to take their case. After seeing just how devastating the lower court's decision could be for property rights across Texas, TPPF attorneys, alongside leading property rights attorney Patrick Sutton, decided to take up the fight and defend the property owners at the Fifth Circuit.

TPPF's brief argues that Cities can't just declare normal uses of property to be nuisances without providing some evidence of harms that the city is attempting to prevent. Under the due process and equal protection clauses of the Texas and U.S. Constitutions, there must, at a minimum, be a rational basis for a city ordinance. "When cities eliminate or restrict well-established uses of property, this Court's precedent gives property owners a chance to argue—based on the record—whether those restrictions are justified under the police power. To hold otherwise would convert rational basis scrutiny from an already government friendly test, to a practical immunity from suit."

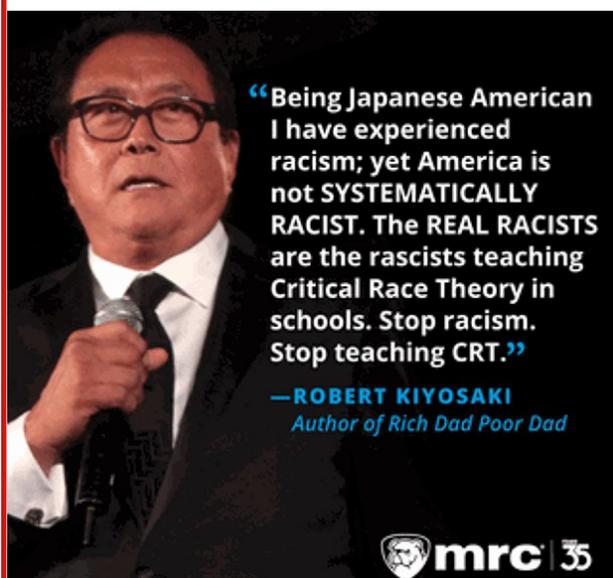
I know I probably shouldn't have done this, but I am 83 years old, and when I was in the McDonald's drive-through this morning, the young lady behind me leaned on her horn and started mouthing something because I was taking too long to place my order.

So when I got to the first window I paid for her order along with my own.

The cashier must have told her what I'd done because as we moved up she leaned out her window and waved to me and mouthed "Thank you," obviously embarrassed that I had repaid her rudeness with kindness.

When I got to the second window I showed them both receipts and took her food too. Now she has to go back to the end of the queue and start all over again.

Don't blow your horn at old people. We have been around a long time!



**Perhaps they should look  
at forgiving medical debt  
for cancer patients instead  
of student loans.  
Education is a choice,  
cancer is not.**

## **The Obvious for Democrats Problem** **Erick Erickson, The Patriot Post, February 10, 2023**

Not much attention is given to the Democrats' problems, which might prove fatal in 2024.

The Republican Party has problems. The party's problems get incredible attention from the media. Political consultants wring their hands about the GOP's problems. They have, supposedly, been on display for weeks, with much fretting over Rep. Kevin McCarthy's speakership and the hecklers at the State of the Union. We all know the GOP has problems. But not much attention is given to the Democrats' problems, which might prove fatal in 2024.

The day before the State of the Union address, The New York Times ran a story on Vice President Kamala Harris that included this amazing sentence: "Even some Democrats whom her own advisers referred reporters to for supportive quotes confided privately that they had lost hope in her." The Times is the latest major media outlet to report on Harris. On Jan. 30, The Washington Post ran a piece titled "Some Democrats are worried about Harris's political prospects."

"Broader doubts about Harris, Democrats say, largely fall into two categories. Some party members fear that Americans are simply not willing to elect a woman of color as president, especially given the racism and sexism they see emerging in recent years. Others worry that Harris herself lacks the political skills to win a national race. And given the increasingly hard-edge tone of the Republican Party, they add, few Democrats are willing to roll the dice," he wrote.

Notably, on the Sunday shows preceding the State of the Union, Harris was nowhere to be found. Pete Buttigieg, instead, did much of the work trying to boost Biden. Buttigieg, too, has his own problems. His most spectacular accomplishment seems to be that he is a married gay man with children. He spent months on paternity leave, and no one noticed he was gone. Many of the areas in which he should play a role have seen disasters.

In just the past few months, the FAA shut down all air traffic for the first time since 9/11 due to the Notice to Air Missions system failing. The only significant thing Buttigieg had done to the system was make its name gender neutral. It had been the Notice to Airmen system. Around the same time, a jet at JFK Airport in New York nearly crossed the runway as another was landing. Then, in Austin, Texas, a FedEx plane nearly landed on top of a plane taking off thanks to air traffic control screwups. This comes after multiple FAA outages along the Eastern seaboard. We don't even need to dive into the ports issue.

Jennifer Granholm, the Energy Secretary, smugly tells the poors to buy battery-powered cars. California Gov. Gavin Newsom is too progressive. The Democrats have no strong bench. Instead, they have an 80-year-old incumbent prone to wander, not just off stages, but off script into mumbo-jumbo word land. The recovering stutterer does not just stutter, but struts into fables, fibs and trails of broken sentences and forgotten words.

In his State of the Union, the president's vision for America was one where he props up the bankrupt social welfare net of former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and spends more. He claims he wants to fix the economy, but also has Pete Buttigieg telling America the president's poll numbers are worse than former President Donald Trump's because Biden has already done so much no one can keep track of it all.

Just as strong men need not tell you they are strong, accomplished men need not tell you they are accomplished. Biden insists America is great because of all the wonderful things he has done these past two years of the 50 years he has been in Washington. Unfortunately for the president, few people not named Biden feel their lives are improved because of Biden's accomplishments. He is the comedian delighted by the genius of his own joke no one else laughs at.

Republicans must deal with their herd of crazy. Republicans may not like to admit it, but the more they scream about past elections, the worse they do. But the Democrats, headed into 2024, are held together single-handedly by an 80-year-old at war with the English language and in need of daily direction just to exit rooms.

## **Debunking the Left's Big Voter Suppression Lie** **Michael Swartz, February 14, 2023**

A new study reveals what should have been obvious:  
Requiring voter ID does not hinder the right to vote.

When Joe Biden performed at the State of the Union show last week, one of the applause lines that aimed to get bipartisan support was about voting. "In America, we must protect the right to vote, not suppress that fundamental right," he said. "We honor the results of our elections, not subvert the will of the people. We must uphold the rule of the law and restore trust in our institutions of democracy."

Obviously, Biden's utterance about honoring the results of our elections was a not-so-subtle dig at his predecessor — and obviously not at "election denying" Democrats like House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries. Indeed, the president must have forgotten about the debunked claims of Russian interference that were made in the 2016 election, or the Stacey Abrams complaint about voter suppression costing her a chance to be governor in 2018. To be sure, in our humble shop we've discussed the issues with the 2020 election at length — and the problems created by the so-called "solutions" put up by Democrats. But one national election later, in too many places we've seen little to no action to address the perception that elections are now rigged.

While Democrats use their efforts at election "reform" to weaken and water down voter ID laws, an encouraging new study on its effects was released last week. The two authors, who both hail from the Department of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame, argued that those laws initially favored Democrats as a motivator to turn out, but over the last decade as people adjusted to them their effect was muted. In the end, they wrote, "We conclude that voter ID requirements motivate and mobilize supporters of both parties, ultimately mitigating their anticipated effects on election results."

Considering that the vast majority of voters in both parties are fine with voter ID, and strong reforms like those undertaken in the state of Georgia were met with near-universal satisfaction, the Democrats are barking up the wrong tree on this one.

But the party of government expansionists like FDR, LBJ, and LGB isn't known for taking a strictly legislative approach. The new Republican majority in the House is now demanding answers from the Biden regime on an initiative quietly put in place in the early days of the administration. As stated in a section of Executive Order 14019: "Agencies shall consider ways to expand citizens' opportunities to register to vote and to obtain information about, and participate in, the electoral process. ... The head of each agency shall evaluate ways in which the agency can, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, promote voter registration and voter participation."

The supposedly transparent Biden administration has been less than forthcoming regarding GOP requests like this one on how it's implementing this executive order. Now, though, the GOP has subpoena power to assist in finding out what steps agencies have taken and who has helped them out, perhaps in violation of the Hatch Act.

In order to restore trust in our republican institutions — there, we fixed it for the president — we need an electoral process where people who are previously legally registered to vote can participate on Election Day (not election months), know their vote was counted, and have the results in hours after the polls close, not days or weeks. Until the most recent election cycles, that was a given in our country, but many of our "reforms" in the last few years have eroded our trust in the institution. Fortunately, it's still up to the states to lead the way back despite all these federal efforts to intervene.

## Texas School Employees Caught Boasting About Ignoring Anti-CRT Law Darrell Frost, Texas Scorecard, February 17, 2023

"We do not follow much of, like, what Abbott is trying to get us to do."

New video footage published by the watchdog group Accuracy in Media shows administrators in several North Texas and San Antonio school districts admitting that a recently enacted state law purportedly banning critical race theory is largely ignored.

The video features a number of secretly recorded conversations with school district staff acknowledging that the 2021 law prohibiting teachers or administrators from promoting critical race theory tenets has not affected classroom instruction or district practices.

When asked by an undercover reporter if the law has had a tangible effect in their district, several administrators confirmed it had not prompted any changes.

"I don't think so," said Evan Whitfield, director of science at Coppell Independent School District. "The bottom line is we've gotten around it by saying, 'Well, we're just not teaching that.'"

Brad Cloud, the director of instructional technology at South San Antonio ISD, said, "I think we just fly under the radar because I have not heard. I mean, I've heard that conversation. But I haven't heard it here."

Wendy Dutton, the human resources director for McKinney ISD, said, "There's lots of things that are coming through. We kind of take it one step at a time. I don't feel like we've knocked anything out that we've already done. Like, we haven't banned any books or haven't done anything yet."

Some staff members suggested they believe the law prohibits teaching about the history of slavery or the oppression of minorities in the United States, insisting they still have to teach the subjects outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards.

"We go back to our TEKS, and if it's in our TEKS, we have to teach it," said Jennifer Gutierrez, director of elementary curriculum at North East ISD in San Antonio.

Anna Marie Yarborough, the director of social studies at Richardson ISD, said, "All of the things that might challenge critical race theory are still in our state curriculum, which is mandated by law."

Angie Knight, the curriculum coordinator for Lancaster ISD, said, "We are majority African-American. And so, I can tell you that there are some things that just won't happen—you know, if that makes sense—because the majority of your clientele are minority children. You know, there are going to be things that will never be—no matter what anyone tells us, we're not going to eliminate that."

This interpretation is not consistent with the text of the law, however, and may be attributed to inaccurate portrayals by progressive news organizations.

Rather than ban the teaching of slavery's history in the United States, the law prohibits "inculcation in the concept that ... the advent of slavery in the territory that is now the United States constituted the true founding of the United States," or that "slavery and racism are anything other than deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to the authentic founding principles of the United States, which include liberty and equality."

Furthermore, it bars school employees from implementing policies derived from the idea that "an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously."

While some administrators said they haven't seen any changes since the law's passage, others admitted their district actively opposes its objectives.

"We do not follow much of, like, what Abbott is trying to get us to do," said Marisa Perez, the English language arts and reading content coordinator at Edgewood ISD. "The superintendent really does what he believes is best for kids, and not necessarily what is popular with the crowd or politics at the time."

When asked if her district had any "MAGA parents pushing back," North East ISD Assistant Director of Secondary Social Studies Millie Reynolds acknowledged, "There are a few, but they don't win the argument. ... Nobody wants to go through that process. What they want to do is talk about it on TV to get votes."

"So these anti-CRT laws are just to placate voters?" asked the undercover reporter.

"Exactly," replied Reynolds.

Yarborough agreed.

"So ... whatever stuff they did might have appeased constituents or whatever, but in practicality, it's not going to mess with education?" the reporter asked her to confirm.

"Right," she replied.

Accuracy in Media, whose mission is to "expose media bias, corruption, and public policy failings," was founded in 1969 and is currently led by Adam Guillette, the former vice president of Project Veritas.

# Kerry J. Ledford, Ph.D.



**Community  
Volunteer,  
Newsletter Writer**



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