

June 24, 2017

Dear SREC Members,

This is the third installment of our weekly updates, and I could not be more pleased with the progress we are making in every area of the RPT. I hope you are finding these updates useful and a convenient way to plug in to what is happening in the day to day operations of the Party.

This week held many more productive meetings with donors, strategists, and friends of the Party who want nothing more than to see our values advanced and our Party successful. We have several exciting events coming up and important deadlines to meet. With everyone working together, I have no doubt we will meet every challenge ahead.

### **SREC:**

During a trip to the DFW area I was able to meet with Susan Wright (SD10), Steve Atwell (SD9), Deon Starnes (SD30), and Debbie Terry (SD12). I am grateful for their time and look forward to meeting with every one of you personally.

Sue Evenwel (SD1) and Mike McCloskey (SD5) dropped by RPT headquarters on trips into Austin. The staff always enjoys seeing SREC members, and we encourage all of you to visit us when you are in the area!

Deon Starnes has graciously agreed to head the Convention Host Committee which will be tasked with management of the portions of the convention effort not handled by our external vendors. This is a big job, and I am sure she could use all the help she can get. So please reach out to her if you have an interest in helping with this committee.

As a friendly reminder, we have an Officials Committee meeting scheduled via phone conference Monday evening at 6:30. We will be voting on final approval of the convention contract. The entire SREC is invited to provide comment, and a muted guest line will be available for others who wish to be engaged.

### **Donors:**

This past week, we mailed 200 hand-signed and hand-addressed letters in which I introduced myself and laid out my goals and priorities as Chairman. Half were mailed to previous generous donors, and half were mailed to those we think may be interested in supporting the party moving forward. I look forward to following up with all of the recipients through personal visits and phone conversations, the first few of which were completed this week.



I traveled to D.C. in order to meet with financial partners, learn from their advice, and plan for an upcoming fundraiser in D.C. The biggest takeaway from these meetings was that we are not alone. There's great excitement about what we're doing in Texas, and many stand ready to help us with resources and connections.

Our Finance Chairman, Thomas Gleason, is working with his East Texas team on a reception with Congressman Louie Gohmert and State Senator Bryan Hughes on July 6th at Lake Palestine. We are so grateful for these elected officials going out of their way to be a part of this event. Invitations went out yesterday. [Click here](#) to see a sample.

The June 30th reporting deadline is fast approaching, and we are making significant progress with our financials in a little under a month's time. Clearly the donors in our state are taking notice of our work, and I am very encouraged by the support we have garnered in the short time I've served as Chairman. Collecting over \$100,000 in non-convention, non-gala funds in less than a month is a dramatic improvement over past year and quite an anomaly for the typically slow month of June. We look forward to continuing to improve significantly each month going forward.

#### **Officeholders:**

I was pleased to be able to go to our nation's Capitol to meet with members of our Texas congressional delegation and their staff. Chairman Brady very kindly hosted a reception so that I could quickly start to build a relationship with members of the delegation that I did not already know. I am grateful to him and the many who joined us to talk about how we could work together



to build the Party. During that reception and other meetings I was able to have great discussions with Congressmen Arrington, Babin, Burgess, Carter, Conaway, Gohmert, Hurd, Marchant, Sessions, Weber, Williams, and several members of the congressional delegation's staff, plus others. The photo above shows me speaking with Chairman Brady and former Majority Whip Tom DeLay at the reception.

My message to our delegation was that the Party stands ready to provide support in any way possible as they work to deliver conservative legislation. I talked about how the grassroots remain inspired and committed to doing whatever they can to fight for our principles, priorities, and our platform. I also wanted to hear from members of Congress directly about what we could do to help them, how we could use the resources of the Party and the amazing power of the grassroots to support their



good work. There are so many tools at our disposal and so much talent that has come forward to help.

Many of these esteemed guests shared valuable information and are helping to connect me with others who can strengthen the Republican Party in Texas. We wanted to learn more about how to best focus our efforts, and we did!

[Click here](#) to see pictures with Congressional members who attended the reception!

### **Press:**

I wanted to take some of my time while in D.C. to build relationships with the media. We must be unafraid to use whatever megaphones are available so that our message is amplified and liberals are challenged as they attempt to dominate the mainstream news.

As Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, I will use this platform that I have been given to challenge liberal lies and make sure that the truth is being told. We had great meetings with not only national media outlets like CNN but also the DC-based reporters of local Texas newspapers such as the Houston Chronicle and the Dallas Morning News. I believe these efforts will result in the RPT's voice being a factor in the news that is being delivered to Texans.

Back at headquarters, we have implemented a Rapid Response team to help us learn about and produce great response to news, crises, and opportunities in as close to real time as possible. This team assists with the response and then blasts it out to their social media connections so that our message is amplified. With the way the news cycle works these days, having a team that can respond immediately is crucial.

See the following list for all of our media statements and appearances this week:

### Statements:

[RPT Chairman James Dickey Statement on the CA Ban on State Business Travel to TX](#)  
[RPT Chairman James Dickey Statement on Congresswoman-Elect Karen Handel's Win in GA-06](#)  
[RPT Chairman James Dickey Statement on Juneteenth](#)

### Interviews:

-[Michael Joyce \(Comms\), Spectrum News \(TV\)](#)  
-Vice Chair Amy Clark, Raging Elephants  
-Rachel Malone, The Girls From Texas  
-Senator Bettencourt, KSEV Radio (Friday 6/22 @ 5:15 PM)

Upcoming/Unpublished Interviews:

- NPR with Wade Goodwyn (Radio)
- Patrick Svitek, Texas Tribune (Online)
- Gus Bova - Texas Observer (Print)

### **White House:**

On Wednesday, it was an honor getting to have breakfast with our former RPT Chairman Steve Munisteri at the White House. What better way to kick off a D.C. trip?! I am incredibly appreciative of his insight and support and cannot thank Steve enough for his contributions to our Party.

We met with our White House Regional Political Director also, making sure that we maximize the benefit of this time when we as Republicans have the ability to push our platform issues from every level in our country. The RPT is fortunate to have such strong support from such a critical ally.

### **Staff:**

We are still welcoming resumés in our quest to add stellar individuals to our staff. Please pass the word along to those in your districts who may be a good fit for the position of Finance Director. You can find the job description [here](#) on our new Careers page.

Our staff has continued to roll out the use of Slack and Google Docs as communication and collaboration tools that enable us to leverage the help of our entire internal team plus our army of dedicated volunteers. We love the increased input and resulting improved output.

We are now ready to include the SREC in these collaboration efforts. Look for Slack and Google Doc invitations and setup calls soon!



### **RNC:**

There were extensive meetings with RNC staff and leadership this week. I had the opportunity to discuss ways that we could collaborate with the National Committee and leverage their resources to help us succeed in Texas.

It was a pleasure to meet Chairwoman McDaniel. She has a great team in place, and they have invested in amazing technology, data, and data modeling which we will be able to utilize for our candidates up and down the ballot.

We also spoke in depth with their communications team about how we can work together to push our message to voters and be even more effective in giving Republicans a chance to drive the narrative in the media.

This week the RNC took the first big step in providing strong and visible support for the RPT's plan to maximize the growth of the Party and its benefit to all our candidates. An announcement will be coming on that soon.

### **Grassroots:**

Another important tool for our grassroots has been added to the Texas GOP website: an official Texas GOP events calendar. It lists RPT events, public appearances by the Chairman, and pertinent election dates. Share this with the grassroots in your area to help them stay informed and engaged! We are also collecting links to calendars from individual counties and regions. Please help us out by sending Mike Joyce a link to your area's Google Calendar. [Click here to send your Google Calendar.](#)

### **County Chairs:**

It was a pleasure to join Johnson County Chair Robin Wilson at her county's Flag Day celebration and fundraiser on Saturday, June 17th. I was honored to represent Congressman Williams in his absence. Many thanks to all the great Republicans who attended and helped to contribute over \$30,000 -- enough to replace the roof of the county GOP headquarters.



### **Engagement:**

Monday morning, at the Generation One school in Houston, we hosted a successful Juneteenth event with U.S. Senator Tim Scott from South Carolina and Texas State Senator Larry Taylor. We were graciously joined by a number of elected officials and SREC members, plus local pastors, teachers, parents, and other members of the community as our esteemed guests participated in an interesting discussion about educational opportunities for all students. We are grateful to everyone for their time and dedication to our children's futures and our Party's future.



*From left to right: Ted Cruz for Senate Senior Advisor Bryan English, African-American Engagement Director R.W. Bray, Chairman Dickey, Texas Rep. Valorie Swanson, SREC Committeewoman Gail Stanart (SD15), U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, Texas Sen. Larry Taylor, RNC Committeeman Robin Armstrong, SREC Committeeman JT Edwards (SD11), Houston City Council Member Mike Knox.*

I also had the honor of addressing over 300 Vietnamese-Americans at their Armed Forces Day ceremony. The attendees were extremely receptive and grateful for the Republican advancement of conservative principles. I appreciate the initiative of Stephen Wong, our Asian Engagement Director, in working with our Vietnamese friends for this opportunity.

**Asian Engagement Report:**

A productive meeting with Senator Ted Cruz's campaign to discuss points of collaboration to reach Asian-Americans across the State. Agreed to keep information channels open in events and opportunities for the campaign to engage Asian-American Texans.



Supporting RNC coalition efforts in Dallas this weekend. RPT and local Party inclusion shows a united Republican Party that prioritized engagement, outreach, and Party expansion.

## **Hispanic Engagement Report:**

Hispanic Engagement continues to thrive and build coalition leaders. Many stakeholders are taking notice and are appreciative of the work we continue to do across the State of Texas. This week the focus was on training key surrogates and calling coalition members to action so they can become deputy voter registrars with focus on Bexar and Harris County. We registered a new voter in Dallas County to become a deputy registrar and precinct chair. In addition, a crucial meeting was held with a major Hispanic Leader in Harris and Travis County. I will end my week with Hispanic activists in Bexar County to continue building crucial relationships needed for the growth of our Party and leadership.

The overwhelming response to become involved is growing among Hispanics and Millennials. I will continue to work with a Millennial group in Harris County on their 4th of July event and other Hispanic initiatives. There is a demand for the listening tour to start up again, so plans are being made to travel to some requested cities.



Lastly, our engagement team presented at the training held by SREC Tina Gibson (SD17), and we attended the Cruz Cuban Bar B Que. Featured in the picture above with Senator Cruz are part of the RPT Hispanic Engagement Committee and several recruited volunteers provided from my coalition list!

## **Legislative**

Our team of SREC members, staff, and volunteers is developing a new initiative called S.T.A.T. (Strategic Texas Activist Team). We will send out alerts via email and/or text when we need people to take action to promote plank or priority items - phone calls, testimony in hearings, people in the gallery. Please sign up for S.T.A.T. right now at <https://www.texasgop.org/stat/> . Help us spread the word by sharing this link with those in your districts. We need to show up and take action together to advance our platform planks and priorities!



On that note, we are starting to see legislators take point on the platform planks. Rep. Laubenberg contacted us in response to the letter we sent last week, informing us that she is taking responsibility on the House side for cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud. Other responses from legislators are also coming in, and we look forward to giving more updates about this endeavor in the coming weeks.

**Conclusion:**

This coming July 4th is the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party of Texas. While we cannot change the fact that this very important date was not trumpeted loudly for the past few months, we can make sure it is known by all moving forward.

If you are or can be in the Williamson/Travis county area on July 4, I would like to personally invite you all to RPT's 150th Anniversary event at Elizabeth Milburn Park from 11-2 for hot dogs and hamburgers, cake, and some fun presentations. Our interns have been hard at work planning a fun-filled sesquicentennial celebration. More details will be on the [facebook event page](#).

If your county parties or local clubs are participating in July 4th events in your area, please keep an eye out for the communication we will be sending shortly about signs and banners you can use in those events to celebrate and spread the word about this amazing anniversary.

Our team continues to grow stronger, and I am more encouraged every day at the support and excitement of those who want to help us succeed. You are a big part of this team, and your contributions to our success as the Republican Party of Texas are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your work to strengthen the Party. Please let me know if I can do anything to assist you in your efforts.

Sincerely,



James Dickey