

State Affairs Section

(Heritage Preservation)

Alamo: The Alamo is a historical event to Texas and as such:

- a. Should be remembered and not “reimagined.”
- b. Texas’s authority regarding the Alamo shall not be infringed upon by any organization or authority, including but not limited to local governments, the federal government, the United Nations, or UNESCO.
- c. Decision-making authority for the Alamo must never be removed from Texas.
- d. The custodians of the Alamo must be required to
 - i. Affirm and emphasize the intrinsic significance of the 1836 battle in telling the story of the Alamo.
 - ii. Maintain transparency in finances and operations of the Alamo.
- e. Specific protection shall be afforded the site, including all land and existing monuments, including the Cenotaph, which SHALL NOT be moved from its present site.
- f. We oppose any official action from a state-funded institution of higher education that disrespects the heroic actions that occurred during the Texas Revolution. We call for swift financial and personnel consequences for Universities that cancel official Texas Independence Day Celebrations or remove “Come and Take It” as an official slogan.

Heritage: We call upon governmental entities to protect all symbols of our American and Texan heritage and therefore:

- a. We oppose governmental action to remove the public display of the Ten Commandments or other religious symbols.
- b. We support the Pledge Protection Act. We urge that the national motto “In God We Trust” and the National Anthem be protected from legislative and judicial attack.
- c. Penalties should be established for any form of desecration of the American or Texas Flag.
- d. We support preservation of Texas history and historical sites.
- e. Visitors to the Alamo should conduct themselves with decorum and reverence inside the shrine, out of respect for the sacrifice of the heroes who are honored there.
- f. We call for restoration of plaques honoring the Confederate widow’s pension fund contribution that were illegally removed from the Texas Supreme Court building.
- g. We support March 2nd Texas Independence Day being an official state holiday.
- h. We support all schools, state agencies, and public offices to celebrate and honor Constitution Day on September 17th of each year or the preceding Friday or following Monday closest thereto.

Historical Monuments: We believe all historical war memorials, including Confederate monuments, in Texas shall be protected from future removal or defacement and that those monuments that have been

removed should be restored to their historical locations. We support the continuing allocation of funds that are necessary to preserve the USS Texas as a permanent monument to the ship, her crew of two world wars, and the history of the State of Texas.

Honor Our Flags: We appreciate and honor our flags and what they represent, and we strongly advocate for all public schools to display the US and Texas flags in every classroom and to begin each school day with the pledges to both.

(Individual Rights and Freedoms)

Data Privacy: We demand that the Texas legislature protect data privacy by prohibiting the collection and selling of data and the enforcement of data privacy through private right of action. Schools should not consent to data collection of minors on behalf of parents. Schools should protect the confidentiality of students' identifiable information and codify federal privacy law. **(Amend Plank 108 - Criminal & Civil Justice - to include language about minors)**

Location and Data Privacy: **The** Texas Legislature should be called upon to expand existing privacy laws and laws protecting identity theft by limiting the ways in which internet providers, schools, government entities both state and federal, and others may access, collect, store, and use the electronic communications, documents, META data and protected information of all Texans.

Commented [LN1]: This plank didn't have a name, but referred to the 2020-108 plank, which has this title. It is, however, very similar to the above plank. Did you intend to keep both?

Religious Freedom for Business: We support the removal of laws and regulations that are used to force business owners and employees to violate their conscience, sincerely held beliefs, or core values. Property defining public accommodation as understood in the Civil Rights Act of 1964:

- a. Prohibit any change to that legal definition by any federal, state, or local law to expand government control to restrict any First Amendment rights.
- b. Proscribe any law that requires any private business or individual to create or provide a custom product or service, or any kind of expressive work, or enter into a contract, or be coerced into any speech that is not their own.

Religious Freedom of Speech and Practice: As America is "one nation under God," founded on Judeo-Christian principles, we affirm the constitutional right of all individuals to worship as they choose. We strongly believe in Religious Freedom and Freedom of Speech. Therefore, we demand:

- a. The repeal of the Johnson Amendment, which assaults the free speech of pastors and

- religious organizations.
- b. Protection of the First Amendment rights of any citizen to practice their religion and exercise their right to free speech in the public square, as well as in religious organization affiliations.
 - c. That Texas judges and legislators uphold and defend our God-given unalienable rights of religious liberty and freedom of speech, and we oppose any effort to intimidate and prevent Christians and other people of faith from exercising these rights which the civil government is required, by the First Amendment, to protect.
 - d. Acknowledgement that the Church is a God-ordained institution with a sphere of authority separate from that of civil government, and thus the Church is not to be regulated, controlled, or taxed by any level of civil government. Nor shall services or other church functions ever again be shut down or suspended by over-reaching civil authorities under any pretext whatever.

Gender Identity: We support enacting legislation in the State of Texas ensuring that:

- a. No government entity in the state shall be allowed to take it upon itself to define for any private business or private entity how it must segregate its restrooms, changing facilities, or showers.
- b. Nor may any government agency be allowed to require businesses to profess, espouse, or adopt specific views on sex, sexuality, gender, or gender identity. We oppose any attempt to criminalize and/or penalize anyone for the wrong use of pronouns.
- c. Government agencies must guarantee that views and positions on these matters are not used as a basis to deny access to public accommodations, as defined by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, nor to deny employment, or discriminate in employment decisions, solely on the basis of a person's views on these matters.
- d. We urge the State Legislature to pass legislation that requires adherence to sex identifications on all official documents that will be based upon biological gender.

(Family and Gender Issues)

Human Sexuality: We affirm God's biblical design for marriage and sexual behavior between one biological man and one biological woman, which has proven to be the foundation for all great nations in Western civilization. We oppose homosexual marriage, regardless of state of origin. We urge the Texas Legislature to pass religious liberty protections for individuals, businesses, and government officials who believe marriage is between one man and one woman. We oppose the granting of special legal entitlements or creation of special status for sexual behavior or identity, regardless of state of origin. We oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose non-traditional sexual behavior out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values.

Protect Minors Until Age of Consent: A law should be enacted to protect the rights of the individual until the age of consent is reached.

- a. Prohibit sexual transition surgeries, hormonal blockers, or other treatments
- b. Protect against predatory sexual behaviors, including but not limited to “Drag Queen Story Hour”
- c. Remove immunities or protections from school districts and personnel which participate in the sexualization of our children
- d. Require disclosure of the above offenses to parents or guardians

Definition of Marriage: We support the definition of marriage as a God-ordained, legal, and moral commitment only between one natural man and one natural woman.

State Authority over Marriage: We support withholding jurisdiction from the federal courts in cases involving family law, especially any changes in the definition of marriage.

Spousal Benefits: We shall not recognize or grant to any unmarried person the legal rights or status of a spouse, as defined in Principle #6 of the Platform, including granting benefits by political subdivisions.

No-Fault Divorce: We urge the Legislature to rescind unilateral no-fault divorce laws and support covenant marriage and to pass legislation extending the period of time in which a divorce may occur to six months after the date of filing for divorce.

Nullify Unconstitutional Ruling: We believe the Obergefell v. Hodges decision, overturning the Texas law prohibiting same-sex marriage in Texas, has no basis in the Constitution and should be nullified.

Adoption: We encourage the Texas Legislature to remove as many barriers to adoption as possible and make the process less intrusive while protecting children’s safety and best interests. We urge the Texas Legislature to adopt the following steps to promote adoption:

- a. Expand Community Based Care - increase partnerships with local private and nonprofit charitable organizations to create a safer and more responsive system.
- b. Require a Guilty Verdict Before Placing Individuals in the Central Registry - currently an unsubstantiated accusation of abuse or neglect can lead to Texans being listed in a government database and cause them to lose jobs and other penalties without ever being found guilty by a court. In some cases, even those found innocent remain listed on

- the database. No Texan should be deprived of liberty or their right to earn a living without a fair hearing.
- c. Expand Service Options - improve care for families of children at risk of entering foster care by providing more choice and flexibility for family preservation services outside of the current state contracted services.
 - d. End Hidden Foster Care - many families are threatened and coerced into giving up custody of their child without ever going to court. Texas should protect parents' rights and end coercive agreements by limiting CPS's ability to separate families without court oversight.
 - e. Repeal Anonymous Reporting - malicious reporting of families to CPS can lead to great harm and a large waste of resources. Malicious reporting can be prevented while increasing the accuracy of reports to CPS by eliminating the option of anonymous reporting in favor of confidentiality. Professionals who must report suspicious activity should be trained on alternatives to filing a CPS report and permitted to refer struggling families to community service providers.

We urge communities and people of faith to promote adoption and for those not called to adopt themselves to offer assistance to families that can. We believe that, in the best interests of the family and child, the State of Texas should allow children to be adopted only by married or single heterosexuals.

Child Rights: We call on the Texas Legislature to pass legislation to protect privacy in public schools and government buildings as allowed by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, by ensuring that multi-use facilities, including showers, changing rooms, and bathrooms, are designated for and used only by persons based on the person's biological sex.

Equal Parenting: Provide for equal and consistent parenting time (possession and access) for every child, when both parents are fit, willing, and able, as a starting point in child custody cases.

(Pro-Life Issues)

Pro-life: Until the abolition of abortion is achieved, we support laws that restrict and regulate abortion including, but not limited to:

- a. Parental and informed consent, including the elimination of judicial bypass.
- b. Prohibition of licensing, liability, and malpractice insurance for abortionists and abortion facilities.
- c. Prohibition of financial kickbacks for abortion referrals.
- d. Prohibition of late-term abortions.
- e. Prohibition of abortions after the time an unborn child's heartbeat is detected.
- f. Prohibition of the manufacturing and sale of abortifacients.
- g. Elimination of causes of action for "wrongful birth."
- h. Health insurance coverage for abortion services and abortifacients, which under Texas law should be considered supplemental coverage and billed to the beneficiary.

- i. Criminal penalties be attached to any entity, excluding the mother, convicted of conducting an illegal abortion or selling body parts of aborted children.
- j. Texas students should learn about the Humanity of the Preborn Child, including life begins at fertilization, milestones of fetal development at two-week gestational intervals, use of fetal baby models, witnessing of a live ultrasound, viewing the Miracle of Life-type video, and contents of the Women's Right to Know booklet.
- k. Extend the private cause of action used in the Texas Heartbeat Act to all pro-life laws and policies in Texas.

Abolish Abortion: Since life begins at conception, we urge the Texas Legislature to abolish abortion through enacting legislation that would immediately secure the rights to life and would nullify any and all federal statutes, regulations, orders, and court rulings that would deny these rights.

Fundamental Right to Life: All innocent human life must be respected and safeguarded from fertilization to natural death; therefore, the unborn, the aged, and the physically or mentally challenged have a fundamental individual right to life, which cannot be infringed.

(Land Use)

Property Annexation: Homeowners and landowners in an area proposed for annexation should have the right to vote to approve or reject the annexation, regardless of the population of the county. No annexation can occur within 45 days of any election.

HOA Governance: We support legislation prohibiting HOAs from using "policies" to bypass the process of residents' voting on changes in deed restrictions. We urge the Texas Legislature to enact legislation allowing a simple majority of property owners within and subject to a homeowners' association to dissolve the association. The Texas Legislature should enact legislation to restrict developers from controlling the Homeowners Association more than 5 years and expanding the properties included beyond contiguous property. We also call upon the Texas Legislature to amend the language of that section of the Open Meetings Law that applies to HOAs to clearly require that every HOA that charges fees to residents be required to comply with every aspect the Texas Open Meetings Law. We oppose HOAs' limiting freedom of speech and assembly imposed on master-planned community homeowners.

Property Rights: Property ownership and free enterprise, the foundation of our collective wealth, must not be abridged nor denied by government. We support legislation to protect these bedrock rights. Areas of concern are: annexation, eminent domain (including foreign entities), property forfeiture,

extraterritorial jurisdiction, seizure for public or private development, natural resources and conservation easements, groundwater and/or mineral rights, nationalization of lands, and the preservation of our Fourth Amendment right to privacy. Property owners should be notified of their rights with regard to condemnation, annexation, or easement, and the condemner should be required to petition a court of jurisdiction to show public necessity. Taking of property should result in immediate compensation of fair market value to the owner. These issues should be administered by elected officials accountable to voters.

Eminent Domain: The use of eminent domain must exclude the seizure of private property for private economic development or increased tax revenue.

(Taxation and Finance)

Right to Use Cash and Cash Substitutes: The Republican Party of Texas supports adding the following protection to the Texas Bill of Rights: The right of the people to own, hold, and use a mutually agreed upon medium of exchange, including cash, coin, bullion, digital currency, or scrip, when trading and contracting for goods and services shall not be infringed. No government shall prohibit or encumber the ownership or holding of any form or amount of money or other currency. This amendment shall not be construed to restrain the State of Texas from choosing the mediums of exchange it will accept or reject in payments to it.

(State Governance)

Campaign Contribution Limits: We urge immediate repeal of all limits on campaign contributions by American citizens to the candidates or causes of their choice.

Texas Independence: We urge the Texas Legislature to pass bill in its next session requiring a referendum in the 2023 general election for the people of Texas to determine whether or not the State of Texas should reassert its status as an independent nation.

Prosecution of Election Fraud: We urge the passage of a constitutional amendment that gives the Texas Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute election fraud along with the county District Attorneys.

