

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AMARILLO DIVISION**

CHIP HUNT AND REPUBLICAN PARTY OF
TEXAS,

Plaintiffs,

v.

STATE OF TEXAS AND JANE NELSON, IN HER
OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS TEXAS SECRETARY OF
STATE,

Defendants.

CASE No. 2:25-cv-00200-Z

JOINT MOTION FOR ENTRY OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

Now come Plaintiffs Chip Hunt and the Republican Party of Texas and Defendant the State of Texas and file this their Motion for Entry of Consent Judgment and in support thereof would show the court the following:

JURISDICTION

Plaintiffs and the State of Texas agree the Court has jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and § 1343.

BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs filed suit against Defendants the State of Texas and the Secretary of State on September 4, 2025. In the Complaint, Plaintiffs allege that Texas's current legal structure for the primary election violates their First Amendment right of association. Specifically, Plaintiffs complain of the provision in Texas Election Code chapter 162.003 allowing any registered voters no matter their actual political beliefs to affiliate with the Republican Party of Texas simply by voting in the primary election violates their right to affiliate only with like-minded persons.

Plaintiffs requested that this court enter a declaratory judgment that their First Amendment freedom of association is incompatible with the legal structure of Texas' primary elections.

Plaintiffs and Defendant the State of Texas agree that participation in the Republican primary should be limited to persons who have previously taken steps to affiliate with the Republican Party, as reflected by the Republican Party of Texas's rules as set forth in the complaint.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, Plaintiffs and Defendant the State of Texas request that the Court enter a final judgment declaring that: (1) the current open primary system is in violation of Plaintiffs' First Amendment rights; (2) that the Republican Party of Texas is entitled to identify those who associate with the Party and to exclude those who do not associate with the Party from participating in a primary election selecting the Party's nominees for the general election ballot; and (3) that Texas Election Code sections 162.002, .003, 172.001, and .002 are unconstitutional to the extent that they interfere with the rights of the Republican Party of Texas and Chip Hunt.

The parties request that the court enter the Consent Judgment attached to this Motion as Exhibit A.

The parties agree that each party will bear their own costs and fees.

The parties request such other and further relief to which they may show themselves to be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted October 9, 2025.

AGREED AS TO SUBSTANCE AND FORM BY:

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CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

I hereby certify that on October 9, 2025, I conferred with James Xi, counsel for Defendant, Jane Nelson, in her official capacity as Texas Secretary of State, via telephone regarding this Motion. Counsel was unable to say whether his client was opposed prior to filing, but in all likelihood she will be opposed.

/s/ Keith Ingram
BRIAN KEITH INGRAM

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing document was filed electronically (via CM/ECF) on October 9, 2025 and that all counsel of record were served by CM/ECF.

/s/ Keith Ingram
BRIAN KEITH INGRAM

Exhibit A

Proposed Consent Judgment

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ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT

Before the Court is Plaintiffs' and Defendant State of Texas's Joint Motion for Entry of a Consent Judgment. Having considered the Motion, the Complaint, and applicable law, the Court GRANTS the Motion.

The Court hereby **DECLARES** that the Texas Election code requiring the Republican Party of Texas to select its general election candidates through an open primary election in which a registered voter may affiliate with the Republican Party simply by appearing to vote in that primary election, violates Chip Hunt's First Amendment right of association and the Republican Party of Texas's First Amendment right to determine who is entitled to participate in the selection of its general election candidates.

The Court **DECLARES** further that the Republican Party of Texas is entitled to identify those who associate with the Party, and to exclude those who do not associate with the Party from participating in the Party's process for selecting general election candidates.

The Court **DECLARES** further that Texas Election Code sections 162.002, 003, 172.001 and .002 are unconstitutional to the extent that they interfere with the rights of the Republican Party of Texas and Chip Hunt as declared herein.

This final judgment with respect to Plaintiffs and the State of Texas is issued pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 58(a). The Clerk of the Court shall transmit a true copy of this judgment to the parties.

SO ORDERED on this _____ day of _____ 2025.

MATTHEW J. KACSMARYK
United States District Judge