

# *Oust Straus!*

...the word is spreading fast...

*By Kat Rowoldt*

This legislative session at the Texas capitol has been most interesting, even for those of us who were not able to give it the time and attention that we would have liked. After the special session wrapped, the tidal wave (preceding Hurricane Harvey) which has been moving across the state for months, is “Oust Straus!”



Joe Straus, House Representative from San Antonio, Speaker of the Texas House since 2009, is witnessing a growing list of counties across the state who are submitting a referendum to the Republican Party of Texas stating they have NO CONFIDENCE in Straus to adhere to the Republican platform or to move the conservative legislative issues through the House. This battle to change the Speaker of the House didn't begin this year, but slowly began a couple of sessions back, but gained momentum and attention this session.

Tom Green County Republican Party Executive Committee has voted **unanimously** to submit their referendum [copy of this document can be found at the end of this article], joining the growing list of folks saying enough is enough; we want and demand change in the leadership of the House. A copy of it will be delivered to Drew Darby, our Representative in the House. The men and women who sit in the 150 seats on the floor of the House are the ones who elect the Texas Speaker of the House.

In this surprising trend, even moderate Republicans are strongly backing this move. They are tired of having their party highjacked by Democrats who ran on a Republican ticket in order to be elected, pushing the Democrat agenda from their Republican seat. Interestingly, when Straus was first voted into office, he was backed by 100% of the Democrats (65) and only eleven (known as the Gang of 11) Republicans. That's all it took to gain the seat in 2009. His actions from the dais have proven why he fits better as, and is still supported by Democrats.

Today the House has a much stronger Republican representation. This fact alone should be enough to see the conservative agenda moving quickly through to both the House and the Senate, but it dies in the House. It is held captive in committee or calendars, and usually never sees the light of day on the floor of the House for debate. That is where the last straw happened. When the State is completely run by people who were elected on the Republican ticket and we can't enact a bill to keep men out of the restrooms with females, it's time to fight for change.

The LGBT population of our state, which is only 4%, should not have the ability to take away the rights of 96% of the population to privacy, decency, and safety.

Accommodations for their privacy can be made without destroying and impacting the lives of everyone else. This line must be drawn and set as a standard to protect the rights of the majority of people in many other areas as well.

Our Drew Darby has worked closely with Joe Straus for many years, receiving many plum chair appointments. Some people were rather shocked this session when Darby and a few others who have been faithful Straus supporters did not receive their expected appointments, but rather witnessed a shifting and potential repositioning (rumored) to groom Four Price to one day replace Straus as Speaker.

While President Trump is fighting like H E double L in Washington as the voice of the people who elected him, we need our representatives and senators to do the same for us here in Texas. President Trump continues to find tremendous support when he travels throughout our country, but you'd think he was washed up and ready to hang up the towel via the reports of the media coming out of Swampville.

The end of session reports are being tallied and it is interesting to see where all the 150 Representatives and 31 Senators fall on the spectrum from Liberal to Conservative. One report I saw early in June was interesting. It was done by the Democrats. It was ranking their members of how liberal their voting record had been and then continued on through the Republicans. The report has apparently been removed. I don't think the Democrats appreciated the Republicans who were celebrating being ranked as 148, 149, and 150 on their list as being the most conservative in the House. That was not the purpose of their report.

From this list, I have to say what caught my eye was the fact Drew Darby was listed as the 4<sup>th</sup> most liberal republican, while Joe Straus was ranked 12<sup>th</sup>. I searched diligently trying to find the document to share with you, but like I said, it appears to have been removed.

Another pretty liberal group who ranked the House was the Texas Tribune, which used Rice University to do their research and placement [<https://static.texastribune.org/media/documents/TXHouseLibCon2017Tab.pdf>]. The results were ranked liberal to conservative. On this report Darby was the 13<sup>th</sup> Republican listed, adding the comment to his placing that he was less conservative than 2/3 of the Republicans.

The very conservative group, Empower Texans, did their rankings as well. [<https://index.empowertexans.com/>] They ranked theirs from the most conservative with a rating of 100% all the way down. Rep. Darby was in a tie at a 40% rating, only 4% actually from the listing of the first Democrat at 36%.

We can compare the two bodies with a quick look at the Senate. Senator Konni Burton led the Republicans with a rating of 100% and dropped only to 75% with Seliger being the last Republican listed. All the Republicans in the Senate rate 75% or higher in the Senate for being conservative. The Democrats began ranking in at 56% with Lucio. Our Senator Charles Perry ranked in at 82%.

One last little tidbit of information on our state. Based on this past Presidential election, and how the votes were cast, Texas is 53% Republican, 43% Democrat, and 4%

other. Folks - that's alarming. It will not take much effort by the Democrats, or the Republicans to just not show up to vote, to turn this state BLUE. While I like the color blue, it's not my preferred political color. Let's keep TEXAS RED!!!

We must pay attention to the local, to the state, to the national races. It does begin at home. Candidates will begin filing for their seats in just a few weeks. We need to look at what their voting records are, where they really stand on issues, who they are standing with, and STOP voting for people just because we like them. It's ruining our community, our state, and our country.

San Antonio is struggling today with their schools allowing boys into the girls' facilities. It is happening. It is headed our way. Consider the consequences of these actions on your children and grandchildren. As parents, we are supposed to protect our kids. This ridiculous law is putting our future generations in harm's way.

Let's make this a better a world for our children. Let's start today.

*[Tom Green County Republican Executive Committee Referendum is on the following page.]*

Until next time....

*Kat Rowoldt*

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Whereas, Texas House Speaker Joe Straus has long proclaimed a direct affiliation with the Republican Party of Texas;

Whereas, Republican voters of Texas have given elected representatives clear and explicit directives in the 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016 Platforms of the Republican Party of Texas;

Whereas, a strong majority of Representatives elected to the Texas House in 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016 were Republican;

Whereas, an abundance of legislation consistent with the Republican Party of Texas Platform was introduced by conservative, capable and dedicated legislators in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017;

Whereas, under Speaker Straus' leadership and direction, legislation consistent with the Republican Party of Texas Platform has received difficult or no advancement;

Whereas, the Tom Green County Republican Executive Committee has no confidence that Speaker Straus will in the future advance the clear directives of the Republican voters of Texas as expressed in the 2016 Platform;

RESOLVED, the Tom Green County Republican Executive Committee requests that our representative in the Texas House, Representative Drew Darby, work to install a Speaker who will effectively advance the clear 2016 platform directives of the Republican Party of Texas.

The undersigned hereby certifies that she is the duly elected and qualified Secretary of the Tom Green County Republican Executive Committee and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by unanimous vote at a meeting held in accordance with the Bylaws of the Tom Green County Republican Executive Committee on August 16, 2017.

Signed:



Beth Uherik,  
Secretary  
Tom Green County Republican Party



Lyleann McClellan-Thee  
Precinct Chair – 304  
For the Executive Committee, Tom Green County Republican Party



Jeff Betty  
Chair  
Tom Green County Republican Party

Above is the Referendum the Tom Green County Republican Party unanimously passed.