

Please Read Before Voting ...and share with friends and family...

by Kat Rowoldt



Early voting begins on Tuesday, February 20th. Since it's a primary, you must decide whether you are going to vote on the **Republican** or **Democratic** ticket. You cannot vote on both, and no, you cannot vote as an Independent. This may sound very elementary, but you'd be shocked at things Poll Workers face from potential voters. Some even get irate. This is Texas, and this is how we do it here. And yes, these are challenges Poll Workers face here in San Angelo.

Please remember you may not wear campaign related clothing to vote. If you carry in campaign literature to help you vote, you may not wave it around, show it to others, or leave it laying behind when you leave. That is called electioneering, and it's **ILLEGAL**.

You may study the candidates and issues beforehand - we encourage you to do so - and write out a list of who and what you want to vote for at the poll. **BUT** - You must take the list with you when you leave, you cannot leave it laying around.

BUT HERE'S WHAT I REALLY WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU!

This ballot not only has a list of candidates, it also has a list of proposals for your party to vote on. The **Republican** and the **Democrat** ballots do not have the same issues. **BOY** - not even close.

Republicans don't have the opportunity to see what the **Democrat** ballot looks like and vice versa, unless they pull it off the internet ahead of time. That's exactly what I've done for you because I think it is so worth your time to take a look at what is happening on both sides of the aisle - as they say.

The **Democrats** are working feverishly to turn Texas **blue**. That means, flipping our traditionally **red (Republican)** state **blue (Democratic)**. Though you may not notice this going on, it is. A few years ago, Colorado was their target, and in

just a few years they succeeded. Colorado flipped. Remember they just legalized marijuana. We are in their target hairs now.

If you don't understand the seriousness of the situation, reading through the different proposals on the **Republican** ballot versus the **Democratic** ballot should give you a very clear picture. It truly is the difference between being the land of the free, a republic, based on the Constitution, versus becoming a socialistic state where the people are dependent on the government for everything.

If you have children and grandchildren who are of voting age, please share this with them and explain the difference between these two extremely different perspectives. As we saw with the Presidential election and Bernie Sanders followers, there is a huge push for socialism. They have no idea what they are truly supporting, how it works, and what it turns into. It has failed anywhere it has ever been attempted.

Have them take a quick google of Venezuela. That is socialism at its finest. Too many Americans only hear the word **FREE** and think it's a good thing, not understanding that someone has to pay for it. The government taxes us and it's our money that they are giving away **FREE**.

One more thing, when you vote, if you do not know where a candidate stands on a multitude of issues, don't vote for them. Don't vote for them because they are nice. Nice people are ruining our country. It is also important to know, **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO VOTE IN EVERY RACE** for your votes to be counted. If you do not know anyone in a race, skip it. Don't just mark a name - because **THAT IS HARMFUL**. You might have voted for a real jerk. Take this privilege seriously. People die all over the world for the very right we take for granted.

Now, let's look at these non-Candidate issues on both ballots.

Republican Ballot Proposition Issues

1. Texas should replace the property tax system with an appropriate consumption tax equivalent.
2. No governmental entity should ever construct or fund construction of toll roads without voter approval.
3. Republicans in the Texas House should select their Speaker nominees by secret ballot in a binding caucus without Democrat influence.

4. Texas should require employers to screen new hires through the free E-Verify system to protect jobs for legal workers.
5. Texas families should be empowered to choose from public, private, charter, or homeschool options for their children's education, using tax credits or exemptions without government constraints or intrusion.
6. Texas should protect the privacy and safety of women and children in spaces such as bathrooms, locker rooms, and showers in all Texas schools and government buildings.
7. I believe abortion should be abolished in Texas.
8. Vote fraud should be a felony in Texas to help ensure fair elections.
9. Texas demands that Congress completely repeal Obamacare.
10. To slow the growth of property taxes, yearly revenue increases should be capped at 4%, with increases in excess of 4% requiring voter approval.
11. Tax dollars should not be used to fund the building of stadiums for professional or semi-professional sports teams.

To me, the Republican issues read like an entity who wants to keep the power in the hands of the voter, at the local level, leaving choice to parents and taxpayers. That is truly the founding principle of our Constitutions, both US and Texas.

Now - look at the sharp difference with the proposed [Democratic](#) platform. The key word that jumps out at me over and over in these proposals is the word "Right." Some things are not a right or an entitlement, but something earned, or achieved through work. That's not what the [Democratic](#) ballot proposes.

[Democrat Ballot Proposition Issues](#)

1. Right to a 21st Century Public Education: Should everyone in Texas have the right to quality public education from pre-K to 12th grade, and affordable college and career training without the burden of crushing student loan debt?
2. Student Loan Debt: Should everyone in Texas have the right to refinance student loan debt with the Federal Reserve at a 0% interest rate, as relief for the crushing burden of debt and an investment in the next generation of Americans?

3. Right to Healthcare: Should everyone in Texas have a right to healthcare, guaranteed by a universal, quality Medicare-for-all system?
4. Right to Economic Security: Should everyone in Texas have the right to economic security, where all workers have earned paid family and sick leave and a living wage that respects their hard work?
5. National Job Program: Should the Democratic Party promote a national jobs program, with high wage and labor standards, to replace crumbling infrastructure and rebuild hurricane damaged areas, paid for with local, state and federal bonds financed through the Federal Reserve at a low interest with long term maturities?
6. Right to Clean Air, Safe Water, and a Healthy Environment: Should everyone in Texas have the right to clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment?
7. Right to Dignity and Respect: Should everyone in Texas have the right to a life of dignity and respect, free from discrimination and harassment anywhere, including business and public facilities, no matter how they identify, the color of their skin, who they love, socioeconomic status, or from where they come?
8. Right to Housing: Should everyone in Texas have the right to affordable and accessible housing and modern utilities including high speed internet, free from any form of discrimination?
9. Right to Vote: Should every eligible Texan have the right to vote, made easier by automatic voter registration, the option of vote by mail, a state election holiday, and no corporate campaign influence, foreign interference, or illegal gerrymandering?
10. Right to Fair Criminal Justice System: Should everyone in Texas have the right to fair criminal justice system that treats people equally and puts an end to the mass incarceration of young people of color for minor offenses?
11. Immigration Rights: Should there be a just and fair comprehensive immigration reform solution that includes an earned path to citizenship for law-abiding immigrants and their children, keeps families together, protects DREAMers, and provides workforce solutions for businesses?

12.Right to Fair Taxation: Should everyone in Texas have the right to a fair tax system, where all interests (business, corporations, and individuals) pay their share, so that state government meets its obligations?

To me, they are taking away my rights, in order to give “rights” to someone who isn’t willing to work and earn anything. I’ll leave it at that. You can make and will make your own decision.

I am very concerned about the future of our state and country. It starts at the local level. The San Angelo TEA Party hosted a candidate forum. On some topics, all but one candidate admitted to having zero knowledge. They have lived in a bubble but want your vote, so they can make decisions on our behalf without having a well-rounded understanding of issues on a myriad of topics. Bravo to Anna Bartosh, Candidate for a Precinct Chair, who outshined Candidates running for US Congress, Judicial positions, County Commissioners, and Justice of the Peace. We need more well studied Candidates to represent us.

Until next time...

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