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Statement for the Public Record Strong Support for Second Amendment Sanctuary County Status for Smith County, Texas

As the largest constitutional conservative, all volunteer-led citizen organization in the State of Texas, Grassroots America – We the People *strongly supports* the resolution declaring Smith County, Texas, as a Second Amendment Sanctuary County.

Yesterday, the Parker County Commissioners Court unanimously adopted a similar resolution to oppose unconstitutional firearm restrictions and became the sixth Texas County to pass the gun rights resolution. **Smith County should become number seven!**

We urge the Smith County Commissioners Court to take a bold stand for liberty today by publicly stating your opposition to any unconstitutional firearms restrictions against law-abiding citizens.

In doing so, you will be in agreement with Smith County Sheriff Larry Smith's bold pledge to stand against any unconstitutional acts that would violate the Second Amendment. In fact, Sheriff Smith pledged that he would NOT enforce **any** unconstitutional act against Smith County citizens.

The Legal Support for Sheriff Smith's Pledge came from the following US Supreme Court Ruling:

"...Congress cannot compel the States to enact or enforce a federal regulatory program. Today we hold that Congress cannot circumvent that prohibition by conscripting the State's officers directly. <u>The Federal Government may neither issue directives requiring</u> the States to address particular problems, nor command the States' officers, or those of their political subdivisions, to administer or enforce a federal regulatory program. It matters not whether policymaking is involved, and no case-by-case weighing of the burdens or benefits is necessary; such commands are fundamentally incompatible with our constitutional system of dual sovereignty." Justice Antonin Scalia, United States Supreme Court ruling in Mack v. U.S., June 27, 1997 Sheriff Larry Smith's pledge to the people of Smith County echoes the oath of office – an oath that too few officials take seriously:

"I believe the County Sheriff is the last line of defense between the federal government and the citizens of the United States; therefore, if elected Sheriff of Smith County, Texas,

I, Larry R. Smith, pledge to the People of Smith County, Texas, that I will at <u>all times</u> support and defend the People's liberties as defined by the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; this strongly includes, but is not limited to, the First and Second Amendments.

I will defend the People against acts by agents or agencies which may attempt to enforce unconstitutional federal acts in the contravention of state law and in direct violation of the Tenth Amendment. Outside agencies working in Smith County, Texas, will adhere to the rule of law and <u>will not violate</u> the Constitutional protections of citizens under my jurisdiction."

In the midst of today's deafening political noise, we urge the Smith County Commissioners Court to remember:

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

Ronald Reagan

Judge and Commissioners, we urge you to join Sheriff Larry Smith today as a united front against any unconstitutional firearms restrictions against law-abiding citizens. Make Smith County the **seventh** Second Amendment Sanctuary County in the great state of Texas!

Thank you,

JoAnn Fleming Executive Director Grassroots America – We the People