

Report of the 2024 Permanent Legislative Priorities Committee to The Convention

The Permanent Legislative Priorities Committee met on May 23, 2024, Chairman Scott Bowen presiding with Michael Salvo and Jeff Frazier II serving as Clerks and reports the following:

That the top 15 Ranked Legislative Priorities, as perfected by the Permanent Legislative Priorities Committee, which is attached hereto, be forwarded to the Floor of the Convention for a final eight to be adopted.

I certify the above information to be true & correct:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Bowen".

Scott Bowen, Chairman

May 23, 2024

Committee Members

Brett Rogers, SD 1
Donna Carter, SD 2
Mike Jackson, SD 3
Loretta Emmons, SD 4
Michael Salvo, SD 5
Robert Garay, SD 6
Teresa Thomas, SD 7
Kristi Ratliff, SD 8
Dan Tully, SD 9
Brady Gray, SD 10
Ericka McCrutcheon, SD 11
Peyton Inge, SD 12
Don Hooper, SD 13
Jeff Frazier, SD 14
Rolando Garcia, SD 15
Dr. Preeti Maladi, SD 16
Henry Bohnert, SD 17
Paul Yamarick, SD 18
Rhonda Marquardt, SD 19
Eric Knerr, SD 20
Julie Dahlberg, SD 21
Devvie Duke, SD 22
Aimee Ramsey, SD 23
Davis Ford, SD 24
Johan Gervais, SD 25
Richard "Rick" Briscoe, SD 26
Jeneria Lewis, SD 27
Susan Williamson, SD 28
Hans Sassenfeld, SD 29
Spencer Brolsma, SD 30
Jeff Russell, SD 31

Secure Texas Elections

Securing elections from each citizen's registration to the final count of legal votes by:

- Requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote.
- Requiring the Counties and the Secretary of State to update the voter rolls at least quarterly.
- Requiring a mandatory photo ID for every election without exception.
- Restricting mail-in ballots to disabled, military, and eligible citizens who are out of their county for the entire voting period.
- Using only hand marked, sequentially numbered paper ballots on anti-counterfeiting paper and signed on the back by the election official at the voting location.
- Standardizing in-person voting, with early voting limited to a period of no longer than 9 days, no gap before Election Day, and assigned-precinct voting locations only.
- Counting of the ballots shall be done in-precinct using a dumb scanner method as soon as the ballot is returned by the voter with public publishing of the results prior to submission to the county.
- Closing party primaries for only registered Republicans.
- Explicitly codifying the ability of the Attorney General to prosecute violations of the election code.
- Requiring the removal of existing Secretary of State waivers to comply with current Election Code.

Border Enforcement

To repel invasion and deter illegal immigration:

- Creating a Texas Department of Homeland Security to prevent illegal entry and trafficking, and to deport illegal aliens to Mexico or to their nations of origin.
- Prohibiting individuals, corporations, non-profits, governments, and social media entities from assisting or inciting illegal entry with mandatory fines and jail time.
- Requiring the use of E-Verify by all employers in Texas with significant penalties for business owners who violate this requirement.
- Ending all subsidies and public services, including in-state college tuition and enrollment in public schools, for illegal aliens, except for emergency medical care.

Stop Sexualizing Texas' Kids

Stopping the sexualization of minors that leads to abuse, exploitation, and trafficking by:

- Prohibiting taxpayer funding to any entities that permit or promote sexually inappropriate content to minors and legislatively banning instruction on sexual orientation and gender ideology in schools and libraries.
- Repealing affirmative defenses in Texas penal codes (43.24, 43.25) and redefining “harmful materials” to remove loopholes provided by the modified Miller Test.
- Establishing an independent Inspector General for education to investigate fraud, waste, abuse, and criminal conduct within schools and refer to prosecutorial authorities.
- Compelling Superintendents to report sex crimes within schools to outside law enforcement. Removing immunity from civil liability of schools and their employees.

Abolish Abortion and Promote Adoption

Because over 20,000 preborn Texas babies per year continue to be aborted on Texas soil using abortion pills, and many more are aborted outside the state, abolishing abortion by immediately securing the right to life and equal protection of the laws to all preborn children from the moment of fertilization, including adopting effective tools to stop abortion pill websites and reach out-of-state violators of Texas law. As an alternative to abortion, making the adoption process more affordable, streamlined, and accessible.

Ban Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Prohibiting all forms of taxpayer-funded lobbying, including the use of tax dollars to hire lobbyists or payment of tax dollars to associations that lobby the Legislature.

Ax the Property Tax

As a first step toward eliminating all property taxes: Establishing a permanent pathway to ending school maintenance and operations (M&O) taxes and recapture, without creating or raising any other tax, by capping spending growth and requiring at least 60% of future state budget surpluses and Rainy Day Fund surpluses to be used to compress the school M&O tax until it is eliminated.

Judicial Accountability

The State Commission on Judicial Conduct must be adequately funded and transparent: they shall publish online for public access all complaints, findings, and conclusions, and rationale of the commission. Video and audio recordings of all proceedings shall be created, kept accessible, and preserved for all interested parties in all courts of record for at least 36 months. Civil asset forfeiture shall be abolished.

Secure the Electric Grid

Securing the integrity of Texas electricity production and delivery of abundant, reliable, and resilient energy, ensuring that the Texas grid can withstand any natural or man-made threat to include weather, cyber, physical, electromagnetic pulse (EMP) and geomagnetic disturbances (GMD).

School Choice and Educational Freedom

All Texas parents and guardians should have the right to select schools of their choice, whether public, private, or homeschool, for their children, and funding should follow the student, while protecting the freedom and autonomy of private schools and homeschools.

Financial Freedom

Establishing authority within the Texas State Comptroller's office to administer access to gold and silver through the Texas Bullion Depository for use in everyday transactions as legal tender.

No Democrat Chairs

The Republican-controlled Texas Legislature shall end the practice of awarding committee chairmanships to Democrats and require all committees to be majority Republican.

Texas is Not for Sale

Ban the sale of real property in Texas, and discontinue taxpayer funding and incentives, to governments, entities, and proxies of China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia, and to individuals from these nations who are not legal permanent residents or citizens of the United States.

End Federal Overreach

Resisting unconstitutional federal acts and mandates that restrict transportation, including mandatory kill switches in vehicles, road diets, and restrictions on the owner's right to repair vehicles and equipment. Ensuring that Texans have medical freedom and can give or withhold consent for any vaccine or medical treatment without coercion, are not discriminated against based on vaccine status, and are not faced with any vaccine or medical mandate by public or private entities.

Equal Parenting

Protecting parent-child relationships as fundamental rights by making equal shared (50/50) parenting, including custody and access, the starting point for all fit, willing, and able parents, and by reforming child support so that it considers the time and income of both parents.

Don't Gamble Texas' Future

Preserving the constitutional bans on casino gambling and sports betting.