



2nd Quarter
2021

The Republican Forum

Fayette County Republican Women Newsletter

"INFLUENCING TEXANS THROUGH EDUCATION"

FCRW President's Message



Dear FCRW Members, Throughout March, April, and May, we received many "URGENT!" messages from TFRW and NFRW to contact our representatives in the 87th legislature to encourage them to get Republican priorities, as stated in the RPT platform, into committees and passed. I thank those who sent emails and called your representatives.

I'm going to miss Lt. Col. West's encouraging Monday messages. In one titled *Legacy*, he states: "...the real measure of our lives, of who we are, is not what we as ourselves achieve or accomplish. It is the legacy that we establish for future generations." He repeatedly shared a genuine concern for the legacy our Founding Fathers left us, which is being "denigrated and destroyed... canceled and decimated." He quoted Alexander Fraser Tytler, an 18th century Scottish political philosopher, who describes the sequence of progression of societies: "*From bondage to spiritual faith; From spiritual faith to great courage; From courage to liberty; From liberty to abundance; From abundance to selfishness; From selfishness to*

complacency; From complacency to apathy; From apathy to dependence; From dependence back into bondage." 'We the People' must not get complacent or apathetic. WE must stay alert, get right with our Creator, exercise spiritual faith, apply fact based knowledge and persist in combating the lies and innuendos of the socialistic worldview. Be an ambassador of truth and honesty. Be proud to be an American. The lyrics of Lee Greenwood's song 'God Bless America' come to mind—"I thank my lucky stars to be livin' here today 'cause the flag still stands for freedom." Freedom has a cost. "I won't forget the men who died who gave that right to me. And I'd gladly stand up next to you and defend her still today!" I pray God will continue to bless the U.S.A.

Recapping our 2nd Quarter Monthly Meetings

Apr. 15 –Mark Goloby spoke about Taxpayer Funded Lobbying with a focus on Chap 313 "economic development programs". He offered examples of locations where large companies were given tax breaks and followed those examples through to show that communities were not receiving the benefits intended. He outlined the issues that arise when abatements, originally intended to create jobs, give companies leverage in choosing where to build to

their own benefit and community expense. **ALSO:** Susan Friedrich, TFRW Treasurer, presented FCRW with a 20th year certificate and praised our many accomplishments. **May 20** – Speaker: Joseph Walter, a staff member of Texas Values, an organization which has a state focus on Faith, Family, and Freedoms. **June 17** – Guest speaker was Retired Army Colonel Phil Waldron of Allied Cyber-security & Analysis,

a cyber and political warfare specialist who has researched election results of third world countries over the last 30 years, sharing his work in cyber-security and election integrity.

NEXT MEETING:
Aug. 19, 2021, 6:30 PM at La Grange City Hall
Speaker: **Calvin Mersiovsky**
Topic: What is being taught in LGISD schools, what we should be aware of and what citizens can do.

Special Interest Articles:

- Legislative Recap by Rep. Leman
- FCRP Meeting focuses on Illegal Immigration
- Two Americas – Divided by Biden

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FCRW Board Meetings:

Are held on the second Thursday of the month at La Grange City Hall, 155 E. Colorado, starting at 2 PM.

All members are welcome to attend and provide input.

Representative Leman's Recap of Legislative Successes

District 13 State Representative Ben Leman applauds the many successes of the 87th Legislative Session, despite the major challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and Winter Storm Uri. Many critical issues were addressed, including protecting the lives of the unborn, expanding our 2nd Amendment right, and much, much more. Below are just a few of the most notable changes made in law this Legislative Session:

- Passed a Balanced State Budget.-SB 1
- Protecting the Sanctity of Life; Preserve the life at the first sign of when a heartbeat is detected - SB 8
- Trigger bill to abolish abortions in Texas should Roe v. Wade be overturned - HB 1280
- Expanding our 2nd Amendment Right; Constitutional Carry - HB 1927
- Protect citizens from restrictive federal firearm regulations - HB 2622
- Grant a person the right to transport a firearm across an access easement - HB 4346
- Prohibit hotels from banning firearms to occupants who have a license - SB 20
- Designate the Colt Walker handgun as the Official Handgun of Texas - SCR 20
- Reforming Pandemic Emergency Powers/Government Overreach; Designates essential caregiver for in-person visitation - SB 25
- Prohibit vaccine passports in Texas - SB 968
- Protecting Elections Integrity; Increase the penalties for conducting fraudulent activity in elections - HB 574

- Make process of removing deceased persons from voter rolls more efficient - HB 1264
- Eminent Domain Reform - Enhancing Landowner Protections; Omnibus eminent domain reform bill - HB 2730
- Survey protections against pipeline companies using eminent domain - HB 4107
- Increase disclosure of condemner appraisals - SB 721
- Eliminate rollback tax penalties for landowners due to condemnation - SB 725
- Increase ability for landowners to repurchase the property if actual progress is not established by an entity that uses eminent domain - SB 726
- Anti-Human Trafficking; Fighting Prostitution in Texas - HB 1005
- Protecting our Religious Freedom - SJR 27
- Back the Blue/Anti-Defunding Police; Prohibit major municipalities in TX from defunding the police - HB 1900
- Increase the penalty for obstructing an emergency vehicle - HB 9
- Restrict certain counties from defunding the police - SB 23
- Banning Homeless Encampments in certain cities - HB 1925
- Establishes COVID Liability Protections - SB 6
- Permanently Expanding Tele-Healthcare in Texas- HB 4
- Expand High-Speed Broadband Internet - HB 5

- Limiting Critical Race Theory from being Taught in our Schools - HB 3979
- ERCOT/Electric Grid Reliability: Update governing functions of the PUC and ERCOT - SB 2
- Revise certain CCN's and require annual assessments - SB 1281
- Increase generation by transmission and distribution utilities during a potential blackout - HB 2483
- Provide securitization of costs associated with the Winter Storm - SB 1580
- Pro-Business Legislation: Protect businesses from unemployment rate hikes - HB 7
- Protect small businesses by not taxing them for receiving Paycheck Protection Program loans - HB 1195
- Allow restaurants to sell alcohol-to-go - HB 1024
- Limit certain liability for commercial fleet vehicles - HB 19
- Maintained Increased Education Funding - SB 1

House District 13 includes Austin, Burleson, Colorado, Fayette, Grimes, Lavaca, and Washington counties. Representative Leman serves on the House Calendars Committee, Energy Resources Committee, and Committee on Land and Resource Management, for which he is the Vice-Chair.

FCRW Members Attend 2nd Quarter FCRP Meeting



Jackson County Sheriff A.J. Louderback was one of the guest speakers on Saturday morning, June 5, at the Fayette County Republican Party Executive Committee meeting, held at Frisch Auf! Country Club. FCRP Chairman, Deborah Frank (also FCRW Publicity Chair), coordinated the meeting, inviting all FCRP and FCRW members to attend. Sheriff Louderback is a 40-year law enforcement professional, serving his fifth term as sheriff. He has led the charge of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's 287 (g) Program in the Gulf Bend region on the U.S./Mexico border. Sheriff Louderback is truly knowledgeable regarding the absolute chaos presently taking place at the Texas/Arizona/Mexico border of the United States.

The policies of President Biden's administration are not following any immigration laws, as was done during President Trump's term. Mexican cartels seem to be totally in charge, moving 1000's of immigrants across the border daily. The current federal administration's policy is "Come and stay" and few leave. In the past, Texas gave jurisdiction of the border to the federal government so as not to have to deal with it and because of the costs. Our Governor has tried to enforce immigration laws, but the feds have the control. The immigrants are coming for economic purpose and include thousands of children. It is unfortunate that several charitable organizations are taking it upon themselves to bus these children all over Texas to shelters. This only encourages more to come and complicates the chaos.

The next speaker, Fayette County Judge Joe Weber, talked about the impact of illegal immigration on Fayette County. Closing out the meeting, Representative Ben Leman covered the legislature's success in passing many conservative bills in this year's session. Several of those bills were written or sponsored by Rep. Leman. (See above article)

Two Americas

In January 2020, Bob Lonsberry, a Rochester talk radio personality, said this in response to Joe Biden's Income inequality speech:

The Democrats are right. There are two Americas.

The America that works, and the America that doesn't.

The America that contributes, and the America that doesn't.

It's not the haves and the have nots, it's the dos and the don'ts.

Some people do their duty as Americans, obey the law, support themselves, contribute to society, and others don't.

That's the divide in America.

It's not about income inequality, it's about civic irresponsibility.

It's about a political party that preaches hatred, greed, and victimization in order to win elective office.

It's about a political party that loves power more than it loves its country.

That's not invective, that's truth, and it's about time someone said it.

The politics of envy was on proud display a couple weeks ago when Biden pledged the rest of his term to fighting "income inequality."

He noted that some people make more than other people, that some people have higher incomes than others. He says that's not just.

That is the rationale of thievery. The other guy has it, you want it, Biden will take it for you. Vote Democrat.

That is the philosophy that produced Detroit. It is the electoral philosophy that is destroying America.

It conceals a fundamental deviation from American values and common sense because it ends up not benefiting the people who support it, but a betrayal.

The Democrats have not empowered their followers; they have enslaved them in a culture of dependence and entitlement, of victimhood and anger instead of ability and hope.

Biden's premise – that you reduce income inequality by debasing the successful – seeks to deny the successful the consequences of their choices and spare the unsuccessful the consequences of their choices. Because, by and large, income variations in society are a result of different choices leading to different consequences. Those who choose wisely and responsibly have a far greater likelihood of success, while those who choose foolishly and irresponsibly have a far greater likelihood of failure.

Success and failure usually manifest themselves in personal and family income.

You choose to drop out of high school or to skip college – and you are apt to have a different outcome than someone who gets a diploma and pushes on with purposeful education and/or employment.

You have your children out of wedlock and life is apt to take one course; you have them within a marriage and life is apt to take another course.

Most often in life our destination is determined by the course we take.

My doctor, for example, makes far more than I do. There is significant income inequality between us. Our lives have had an inequality of outcome, but our lives also have had an equality of effort. While my doctor went to college and then devoted his young adulthood to medical school and residency, I chose another avenue.

He made a choice, I made a choice, and our choices led us to different outcomes. His outcome pays a lot better than mine. Does that mean he cheated, and Joe Biden needs to take away his wealth? No, it means we are both free men in a free society where free choices lead to different outcomes.

It is not inequality Joe Biden intends to take away, it is freedom. The freedom to succeed and the freedom to fail. There is no true option for success if there is no true option for failure. The pursuit of happiness means a whole lot less when you face the punitive hand of government if your pursuit brings you more happiness than the other guy. Even if the other guy sat on his ass and did nothing. Even if the other guy made a lifetime's worth of asinine and shortsighted decisions.

Joe Biden and the Democrats preach equality of outcome as a right, while completely ignoring inequality of effort. The simple Law of the Harvest – as ye sow, so shall ye reap – is sometimes applied as, "The harder you work, the more you get." Biden would turn that upside down. Those who achieve are to be punished as enemies of society and those who fail are to be rewarded as wards of society. Entitlement will replace effort as the key to upward mobility in American society if Biden gets his way. He seeks the lowest common denominator society in which the government besieges the successful and productive to foster equality through mediocrity. He and his party speak of two Americas, and their grip on power is based on using the votes of one to sap the productivity of the other.

America is not divided by the differences in our outcomes, it is divided by the differences in our efforts. It is a false philosophy to say one man's success comes about unavoidably as the result of another man's victimization.

What Biden offered was not a solution, but a separatism. He has fomented division and strife, pitted one set of Americans against another for his own political benefit. That's what socialists offer. Marxist class warfare wrapped up with a bow.

Two Americas, coming closer each day to proving the truth to Lincoln's maxim that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

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About Our Organization...

The **Fayette County Republican Women** organization is affiliated with the Texas Federation of Republican Women, and the National Federation of Republican Women, a body of over 100,000 women who support Republican candidates and causes at all levels of government.

FCRW is open to all Republican women (and men, as associate members) who care passionately about the conservative cause. Education is an important aspect of our mission. In support of that goal, we have annual activities which focus on education and community service. Our 2020 fundraiser was a Presidents Day Celebration at The Historic Casino Hall in La Grange. Nick Adams, founder of FLAGUSA, was our keynote speaker.

These fundraisers support our annual literacy projects, scholarships, and candidate donations. Each year FCRW donates select books to the four public libraries in Fayette County in

the spring and an encyclopedic dictionary to each third grader in Fayette County in the fall. In 2011, we initiated our annual FCRW scholarship program which recognizes one graduating senior girl in each of the five high schools in Fayette County. With those scholarships starting at \$250, we have steadily increased the amounts to \$800, then \$1,000. In 2021 we offered one \$5,000 scholarship to Hillsdale College. Our scholarship criteria and application form are on our website under Education Projects.

We also offer pocket-size copies of the U. S. Constitution to everyone stopping by our Republican booth at the four-day Fayette County Fair. ***Please join us as we work to bring our Country back to conservative values and restore American freedoms!***

**God Bless Texas. God Bless America.
And God Bless President Trump,
the best President we ever had.**



"We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

Winston Churchill

"Man is not free unless government is limited. There's a clear cause and effect here that is as neat and predictable as a law of physics: As government expands, liberty contracts."

Ronald Reagan