

Comal County GOP

Resolution Against Predatory Gambling in Texas

Whereas the Texas Constitution now and since 1876 has prohibited gift enterprises, of which casinos have been defined as by the courts;

Whereas the Texas Republican Platform includes specific language adopted by the people to oppose any expansion of gambling, including legalized casino gambling; and Republican representatives in Texas are expected to uphold our Platform through acknowledgement and action; and

Whereas a Republican legislator partnered with Democrat legislators, backed by publicly traded gaming corporations introduced legislation to amend our State Constitution to legalize comprehensive commercialized gambling in Texas, including resort casinos, online gambling, horse-racing operations, and commercialized sports betting; and

Whereas “predatory gambling” is when corporate gambling interests partner with government to cheat and exploit citizens. Associated social and financial problems are passed on to citizens while any profit is limited to corporations and corrupt politicians; and

Whereas the promised jobs, education funding, and boons to the State budget have proven to be a major political con job in other states, as most jobs in casinos are low wage, non-skilled jobs, and over time revenues are a decreasing and economically unstable source of budgetary funding; and

Whereas “pathological gambling” is diagnosed as an addiction *on the same level as heroin, cocaine, and opioids* as defined in the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), used by health care providers and insurers; and

Whereas in commercialized predatory gambling, Texans will be tempted to take risks which are 13.5% successful by a business intended to exact a personal financial loss at the gain of gambling corporations, bosses, lobbyists, and politicians, who are the winners of a state-sponsored cash stream on behalf of the citizens of the State of Texas; and

Whereas local businesses near large casinos suffer since gamblers are encouraged to gamble, eat, shop, and sleep with no reasons to journey outside the casino; and

Whereas commercialized predatory gambling incurs major social costs potentially harming taxpayers and families, targets and exploits low-income citizens, cultivates addiction, increases rates of bankruptcy and foreclosure, and provides new avenues for crime and money laundering. Citizens living near casino areas are more likely to become addicted. Texas taxpayers will pay the social costs, not the out-of-state gambling operators, lobbyists, and corporations, who do not care about the damage; and

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Whereas the proposed State support of comprehensive commercialized predatory gambling in Texas violates free-market principles by selecting and protecting large corporate interests in certain larger cities; it will drain customers and low wage workers from legitimate small businesses not similarly protected; and do nothing to help rural areas that need good jobs and careers for their citizens; and

Whereas the Texas/Mexico border is a high crime area with smuggling and human trafficking providing huge profits for the cartels along the border, any casinos would be a prime target for money laundering and corruption of public and private officials; and

Whereas casinos and racetracks are proposed to be mostly located in larger urban metro cities with highly organized Cartel operations, this makes these cities even more subject to the threat of corruption and political influences which are in direct conflict with the best interests of the citizens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, We, the members of the Comal County GOP, support the unambiguous positions in the Texas Constitution and the Republican Party of Texas Platform that gambling shall NOT be expanded in Texas and urge the members of the Texas Legislature to cease and desist with any efforts to expand commercialized gambling in the State of Texas in direct conflict with these documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Secretary of the Comal County GOP is directed to immediately transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Chairman of the Texas Republican Party and to all elected Republican officials in the Texas Senate and in the Texas House; to the Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas; and to the Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Texas.

Date submitted: March 27, 2023

Submitted by: Sue Piner, Comal County Republican Party Chair



Date introduced to Comal County GOP Executive Committee: March 23, 2023

Date approved: March 23, 2023

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE LEGISLATION FOR ACCURATE, TRANSPARENT, AUDITABLE ELECTIONS IN TEXAS

Whereas, WE THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS deserve secure, ACCURATE, TRANSPARENT, and AUDITABLE elections with full ACCOUNTABILITY for those who violate our election laws;

Whereas, our current voting processes are dependent upon an expensive, proprietary, overly complex “black box” system that uses encrypted codes unreadable by the human eye and where the election results are unverifiable;

Whereas, the black box system is approved for use through grossly inadequate certification and security procedures, creates a vast, unnecessary security risk with unacceptable opportunities for undetectable error and nefarious activity, and is impossible to maintain or operate without support from vendors due to its proprietary complexity;

Whereas our voter rolls are inflated and inaccurate despite hundreds of thousands of dollars paid to ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center);

Whereas, maintaining three separate voting processes of mail-in, early, and election day voting creates unnecessary risks of opportunities for abuse and error;

Whereas, election officials across Texas at all levels have altered, ignored, and waived important election procedures designed to secure our elections, with no way to hold them accountable;

Whereas, it is impossible for the electorate to know whether the declared winner reflects the intent of the majority of the people who legally cast their vote in the race;

Whereas it is abundantly apparent that Texas has sacrificed security for convenience by allowing non-standardized procedures and insecure processes and equipment;

Whereas, recent polls show that a great percentage of the population across party lines has lost faith in our elections;

Be it resolved, that the *[insert name County Commissioners Court/Party Executive Committee]* formally requests the 88th Texas Legislature pass legislation to minimize election mismanagement and vote manipulation by requiring:

- hand-marked, sequentially numbered paper ballots preprinted on counterfeit-resistant paper, signed by an election judge
- paper poll books, fixed 30 days before the election period
- precinct “neighborhood” level voting (no county-wide polling place program)
- tabulation of ballots with secure/tamper-resistant counter and a write-once memory device
- verifying vote results with random hand counts and robust audits
- elimination of the gap between election day and the end of early voting
- limiting mail-in voting to only those who legitimately need it
- cleaning and securing our voter rolls ensuring they contain only qualified and eligible citizens
- eliminating the costly and ineffective ERIC system (Electronic Registration Information Center)
- restoration of felony penalties for fraudulent voting
- reinstatement of Texas Attorney General’s prosecutorial authority to investigate and prosecute election and voter fraud
- prohibition of rank choice voting and any foreign ownership of election processes, data storage, or components
- county-to-precinct and state-to-county election results verification,

Which will result in an election process that is transparent, accurate, verifiable, and holds officials and voters accountable. This will make Texas the nation’s leader in election integrity – as it should be!

I hereby agree with this resolution *Sue Piner* Date 03-23-23

PRINTED NAME & TITLE Sue Piner, Chair on behalf of Comal County Republican Party
COUNTY Comal, Texas