



TEXAS FREEDOM
CAUCUS

2020 Guide to

Texas Republican Party Primary

Ballot Propositions

An Urgent Message from the Chairman

Fellow Texan—

I write to you today to implore your assistance in preserving the Texan way of life. Liberals from across the country are targeting Texas in an all-out offensive on Texas values, ranging from how we educate and raise our children to wanting to strip every Texan of their sacred right to bear arms under the U.S. and Texas Constitutions.

It is undoubtedly a time of peril for liberty in our country and state. Despite this, or perhaps in spite of this, I have much hope for our future. Never have Texas citizens—young and old—been so involved in our state’s political process.

There is no better way of fighting for our values than participating in the electoral process, and that process begins oftentimes with state party platforms. If you plan on voting in the upcoming 2020 Texas Republican Primary, you’ll have ten different choices on policy to make at the ballot box. We have put together this guide to further assist your research on these initiatives. Indeed—we believe that through informed voting, we can all help preserve liberty in our government and way of life in Texas.

So, without further ado, please enjoy the Texas Freedom Caucus’s *2020 Guide to Texas Republican Party Primary Ballot Propositions*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mayes Middleton".

Mayes Middleton
State Representative
Chair, Texas Freedom Caucus

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Short Guide

*For a full and detailed explanation, please see the pages below.

Proposition 1: **YES**

Proposition 2: **YES**

Proposition 3: **YES**

Proposition 4: **YES**

Proposition 5: **YES**

Proposition 6: **YES**

Proposition 7: **YES**

Proposition 8: **YES**

Proposition 9: **YES**

Proposition 10: **NEUTRAL**

Proposition 1: Prayer in Public Schools

Ballot Language

“Texas should not restrict or prohibit prayer in public schools.”

Brief Explanation

Over the last several decades, student-led prayer in public schools has been essentially eliminated. Atheists like Madalyn Murry O’Hair convinced our U.S. Supreme Court to legislate from the bench and ban prayer. Current Texas law actually prohibits students from encouraging others to join them in prayer, which is the foundation of the Christian biblical principles our state and country were founded upon. As the left continues to erode the presence of God in schools and other public places, this proposition seeks to reinforce that God should publicly be at the center.

Freedom Caucus’s Take

“Children should be allowed to publicly pray in an organized way at school,” says Rep. Mayes Middleton, Chair of the Texas Freedom Caucus. “I filed H.B. 4151 to allow students to encourage others to pray and to allow for a ‘period of prayer’ during school and school-sponsored events. It’s time we take a stand to encourage reminders of God’s importance in education.”

Vote Recommendation

The Texas Freedom Caucus recommends a **YES** vote on this measure.

Proposition 2: Second Amendment Rights

Ballot Language

“Texas should reject restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms.”

Brief Explanation

Little is more sacred than our right to defend ourselves against tyranny. And as the Founders of Texas and the United States knew well, the right of the people to keep and bear arms is the surest way to stave off any tyrannical tendencies that may pop up from time-to-time in the course of a government’s operation. Despite this fact, leftists across the state have pledged to stop at nothing to impose everything from red flag laws to total confiscation when it comes to firearms.

Freedom Caucus’s Take

“God is the foundation of liberty. Guns allow us to protect that foundation,” says Freedom Caucus member Briscoe Cain, who was banned from the social media platform Twitter for challenging the leftist Beto O’Rourke when O’Rourke pledged to confiscate all semi-automatic weapons in the United States. “We weren’t afraid to take a stand then, and we won’t be afraid to take a stand when it comes to defending against these anti-freedom gun control measures.”

Vote Recommendation

The Texas Freedom Caucus recommends a **YES** vote on this measure.

Proposition 3: Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Ballot Language

“Texas should bar the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying, which allows your tax dollars to be spent on lobbyists who work against the taxpayer.”

Brief Explanation

Up to \$41 million per year of your tax money is being diverted to the pockets of Austin lobbyists. These are local tax dollars that are not being spent on police, firefighters, filling potholes, and teachers, but is instead spent on lobbyists that lobby to take even more of your tax money away from you.

Freedom Caucus’s Take

Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mayes Middleton filed H.B. 281 to completely eliminate the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying last legislative session. “Our tax money is being spent on Austin lobbyists to advocate against the taxpayer and basic good governance,” says Middleton. “Taxpayer-funded lobbyists oppose property tax relief, disclosures of what bonds truly cost taxpayers, the constitutional ban on a state income tax, election integrity, and even the bill to fund and protect our teacher’s retirement pensions. The immoral practice needs to be banned before they completely destroy our state.”

Vote Recommendation

The Texas Freedom Caucus recommends a **YES** vote on this measure.

Proposition 4: Border Wall

Ballot Language

“Texas should support the construction of a physical barrier and use of existing defense-grade surveillance equipment along the entire southern border of Texas.”

Brief Explanation

In 2019 alone, 588,031 people were caught trying to cross Texas border sectors illegally. Of these, 3,482 were fugitives and 2,076 were found to be associated with criminal gangs like the violent, Godless MS-13. Evidence shows that walls work—Yuma, Arizona, for example, has seen over a 90% decrease in illegal immigrants apprehended ever since a wall was built to address chaos and lawlessness in that sector. Before, Border Patrol arrested up to 800 illegal immigrants per day. Now, the sector averages fifteen arrests per day.

Freedom Caucus’s Take

“Walls work,” Freedom Caucus member Rep. Kyle Biedermann says. “That’s why I filed H.B. 4306, which creates the Border Security Enhancement Fund to clear brush along the Rio Grande, where many illegal immigrants hide to evade arrest, and to build walls along the river to stop the flow of illegal immigrants into Texas. Walls work where they have been constructed, maintained, and patrolled.”

Vote Recommendation

The Texas Freedom Caucus recommends a **YES** vote on this measure.

Proposition 5: Parental Rights

Ballot Language

“Texas parents or legal guardians of public-school children under the age of 18 should be the sole decision makers for all their children’s healthcare decisions including, but not limited to, psychological assessment and treatment, contraception, and sex education.”

Brief Explanation

In an age where entities like the Austin Independent School District are taking pages from Planned Parenthood—the nation’s largest abortion provider—by indoctrinating children as young as eight into the dangerous, false, anti-science “sexual orientation and gender identity” philosophy, the Texas Legislature is the only entity that can save children across the state being exposed to these corrupting ideas.

Freedom Caucus’s Take

“Unfortunately, Planned Parenthood in schools is only one of our concerns with what some school districts are teaching our children,” said Rep. Matt Krause, Secretary/Treasurer of the Freedom Caucus. “Parents should be in charge of the educational and healthcare decisions for their children, and they shouldn’t be ridiculed for doing so—this is common sense.”

Vote Recommendation

The Texas Freedom Caucus recommends a **YES** vote on this measure.

Proposition 6: Child Gender Transition

Ballot Language

“Texas should ban chemical castration, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and genital mutilation surgery on all minor children for transition purposes, given that Texas children as young as three (3) are being transitioned from their biological sex to the opposite sex.”

Brief Explanation

The recent phenomena of “transitioning” the gender of children is quickly infiltrating the medical community. For example, parents in California are, with the assistance of doctors and psychologists, pumping children as young as three years old full of testosterone or estrogen. This obviously destructive practice leads to predictable results—a life of misery and confusion for the child when they are clearly not of age to make decisions like this for themselves.

Freedom Caucus’s Take

“One day we’ll look back on this period and ask ourselves how we ever let this happen to even one child in the United States,” said Rep. Matt Krause. “I’m planning on filing legislation to prohibit any type of irreparable or damaging treatment/procedure on children under 18. We won’t let it happen anymore in Texas.”

Vote Recommendation

The Texas Freedom Caucus recommends a **YES** vote on this measure.

Proposition 7: Historical Monuments

Ballot Language

“Texans should protect and preserve all historical monuments, artifacts, and buildings, such as the Alamo Cenotaph and our beloved Alamo, and should oppose any reimagining of the Alamo site.”

Brief Explanation

Recent attacks by the left on monuments commemorating and educating citizens about the history of the United States and Texas have left many historical statues and monuments vandalized, defiled, and removed from the public square. None of these has received more public coverage than the proposed relocation of the Alamo Cenotaph, which memorializes those who died for our freedoms there, and the Alamo itself, which is subject to a “reimagining” that could lead to a loss in the way Texans—and the world—remember the historic event and fight for liberty.

Freedom Caucus’s Take

“Nothing is more sacred to Texans than the hallowed grounds of the Alamo,” says Rep. Kyle Biedermann. “This is why I filed the appropriately-named H.B. 1836, which prevents any movement of the Cenotaph memorial and requires maintaining and preserving that historic monument.”

Vote Recommendation

The Texas Freedom Caucus recommends a **YES** vote on this measure.

Proposition 8: Voter Fraud

Ballot Language

“Texas election officials should heed the directives of the Office of the Governor to purge illegal voters from the voter rolls and verify that each new registered voter is a U.S. Citizen.”

Brief Explanation

Recent investigations by the Texas Public Policy Foundation show that illegal voting is happening on a widespread scale across the state and country. The Public Interest Legal Foundation, a public interest law firm that exists to preserve election integrity, has also discovered numerous instances across the state showing that non-citizens—even after telling election officials that they are not citizens—are still getting on the voter rolls and casting their ballots.

Freedom Caucus’s Take

“As a member of the House Committee on Elections, I take my duty to protect our right to vote very seriously,” says Freedom Caucus member Rep. Valoree Swanson. “That why Governor Abbott signed my bills to combat mail-in ballot fraud. But there’s more to be done—we need a mechanism for verifying citizenship at the point of registration and regular verification of eligibility of those on the voter rolls. I plan on refiling bills addressing these problems with elections in Texas.”

Vote Recommendation

The Texas Freedom Caucus recommends a **YES** vote on this measure.

Proposition 9: Criminal Bail Reform

Ballot Language

“Bail in Texas should be based only on a person’s danger to society and risk of flight, not that person’s ability to pay.”

Brief Explanation

Criminal bail—or the practice of letting someone who has been accused of a crime out of jail pending trial, usually at the price of 10% of the entire criminal bond—is how Texas currently handles its bail system. Advocates for reform say that bail should be set not on the accused’s ability to pay, but rather their risk to society. Opponents of proposed reforms argue that the algorithm-based guidelines for bail would remove judges’ authority to determine bail on a case-by-case basis and could lead to letting dangerous criminals onto the streets.

Freedom Caucus’s Take

“Poor people should not be confined in jail simply because they cannot afford to pay a bond in cases where the gravity of the alleged crime is not substantial, and the accused citizen is likely to appear in court,” says Rep. Matt Schaefer, Vice-Chair of the Texas Freedom Caucus. “That being said, we need a system that works. Some jurisdictions in Texas—Harris County being the main culprit—have completely mismanaged bail reform. Bail shouldn’t be prohibitively expensive for defendants nor should it encourage overly-permissive release.”

Vote Recommendation

The Texas Freedom Caucus recommends a **YES** vote on this measure.

Proposition 10: Term Limits

Ballot Language

“Texas should limit our state legislators’ terms to 12 years.”

Brief Explanation

The movement to impose term limits on state officials and Congress has gained momentum over the past few years. Many argue that imposing these limits will help curb the corruption that oftentimes exists at the state and federal levels. Others argue that imposing these types of limits will only empower lobbyists and the bureaucracy.

Freedom Caucus’s Take

One of the principles on which The Freedom Caucus was founded upon is that government—regardless of its structure—has a tendency to grow and slowly chip away at people’s rights. This is why the Founders of the United States and Texas imposed rigorous restrictions on governmental power. “The tendency of governments to fall into corruption is never-ending,” says Freedom Caucus member Rep. Kyle Biedermann. “That’s why I filed a Constitutional Amendment to impose term limits on state officials in Texas. But we also have to understand that there’s no magic bullet that will solve this problem and the ballot box is still the most effective action. Regardless of our governmental setup, we need to pay attention to what’s happening at City Hall, in Austin, and in D.C.”

Vote Recommendation

The Texas Freedom Caucus is **NEUTRAL** on this measure.

Caucus Members



VICE-CHAIRMAN
Representative Matt
Schaefer (Tyler)



CHAIRMAN
Representative Mayes
Middleton (Wallisville)



SECRETARY/TREASURER
Representative Matt
Krause (Fort Worth)



Representative
Kyle Biedermann
(Fredericksburg)



Representative
Briscoe Cain
(Deer Park)



Representative
Mike Lang
(Granbury)



Representative
Matt Shaheen
(Plano)



Representative
Valoree Swanson
(Spring)



Representative
Tony Tinderholt
(Arlington)



Representative
Bill Zedler
(Arlington)

Our Mission

We recognize that the United States was founded upon the truth that our unalienable rights are given to us by God, that government is instituted by God to protect those rights while deriving its authority from the people, and that the U.S. and Texas Constitutions are the guiding limits on government action.

Recognizing this truth, the Texas Freedom Caucus is founded in the Texas House of Representatives with a mission to amplify the voice of liberty-minded, grassroots Texans who want bold action to protect life, strengthen families, defend the U.S. and Texas Bills of Rights, restrain government, and revitalize personal and economic freedoms in the State of Texas.

