

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE TEXAS OPEN MEETING ACT

WHEREAS, The Texas Open Meetings Act was passed in the early 1970s to make government more open and accessible to the public it serves, and recently, several city officials have filed a lawsuit erroneously arguing that open government violates their First Amendment rights; and

WHEREAS, Several cities are using taxpayer dollars to pursue lawsuits, and the Texas Municipal League, a taxpayer-funded lobby group, has endorsed lawsuits to gut the Texas Open Meetings Act; and

WHEREAS, Many city officials are trying to weaken the Texas Open Meetings Act by removing its criminal penalties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Republican Party of Texas supports the Texas Open Meetings Act as currently written and opposes the use of taxpayer dollars for filing lawsuits to weaken open government laws and similar examples of taxpayer-funded lawsuit abuse, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Republican Party of Texas commends Attorney General Greg Abbott for his commitment to open government and defense of this important legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Republican Party of Texas condemns the actions of the Texas Municipal League in attacking open government and calls on elected officials in cities involved to stop using taxpayer dollars for this purpose immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Republican Party of Texas encourage Republican members of the Texas Legislature to take steps to investigate and curtail taxpayer-funded lawsuit abuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Attorney General Greg Abbott, the cities that are involved in this lawsuit, and all Republican members of the Texas Legislature.

Adopted by the Republican Party of Texas this 27th day of March, 2010

Submitted by Russ Duerstine, SD 26