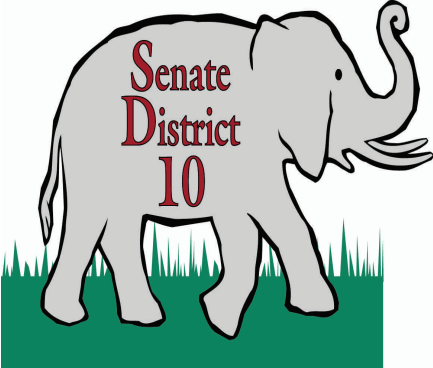


1st Quarter 2007

WWW.SenateDistrict10.com



Leslie Recine and Jim Borchert, State Republican Executive Committeewoman and Committeeman
Contact Leslie at Leslie@LeslieRecine.com, 817-925-3420 or Jim Borchert at Peggy@Omegabiz.com

Senate District 10

Are You a Big Dreamer? A Perspective on Taxes by Tina J. Benkiser, Republican Party of Texas Chairman

When you were young, what did you dream of being when you grew up? A fireman, nurse, doctor, farmer, teacher, astronaut or even President of the United States? We all dreamed big. After all, we lived in America where, if you worked hard, you could be anything you wanted. While our dreams may have varied, we all wanted to achieve the American dream which usually included having a family, having a job that would provide for them, owning a home, even starting a business. This dream most often comes true when leaders apply conservative principles that empower people and limit government.

This month as Republicans celebrate our great Presidents, I am reminded of some of our greatest George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, & Ronald Reagan. What did all of these men have in common? They dreamed big dreams for America, and they governed accordingly. They were all morally courageous leaders who knew that good stewardship of resources entrusted to them would lead to prosperity for all.

As taxpayers, we have invested a great deal of hard-earned money in our government, and we deserve a return on our investment. As legislators begin weaving their way through Texas' very complex budgeting system this session, Republicans must lead the charge for fiscal discipline, being good stewards of our tax dollars. We can do it; we've done it before. In 2003 when many states faced record budget deficits, the Republican-led Texas Legislature was the only one that balanced its budget without raising taxes. It also created the best economy in the nation by curbing frivolous lawsuits, bringing both jobs and doctors back to Texas. In 2005, the Republican-led Texas Legislature defended parental rights, protected the sanctity of marriage and reformed its worker's compensation law, which has become the national model.

In 2007, Republican leaders can protect our families, our jobs, and our homes by keeping their promise to provide tax relief to working Texans. They can protect taxpayers by increasing transparency and accountability in government. They can limit government growth by requiring voter approval to spend in excess of reasonable levels and lowering the level for automatic tax rate roll-back elections. They can prohibit our tax dollars from being spent to lobby for more of our tax dollars. They can prohibit unfunded mandates. The opportunities for limiting government are immense, and several Republicans have filed great legislation addressing them.

While Texas' budgeting process is often archaic and convoluted, our conservative principles are pretty simple. In making decisions about our tax dollars (or any legislation for that matter), elected officials should ask a couple of questions. Does this strengthen families? Does this promote freedom? Does this provide a proper balance between rights and responsibilities? Is this the role of government? If so, is it being done as efficiently and productively as possible? If not, why allow the government to interfere?

Although this can be challenging, Republicans must rise to the occasion. In the always spirited words of President Ronald Reagan, "It's hard when you're up to your armpits in alligators, to remember you came here to drain the swamp." Let's remember why we want to govern. Republicans' commitment to the timeless principles of faith, family and freedom is the only hope for keeping the American dream alive.



Futile Care Reform in the Legislature

by Stephanie Klick, Tarrant County Republican Party Chairman



This legislative session one of the hot topics is End of Life Care. The last several years a number of hospitals have evoked a little known provision in the Texas Advance Directives Act; also known as the Texas Futile Care Law. This controversial legislation allows a health care facility to discontinue life-sustaining treatment against the wishes of the patient or Surrogate 10 days after being given written notice of a decision by an ethics committee. Furthermore healthcare facilities are given legal immunity from prosecution if they follow the process outlined in Section 166.046 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

During what could be the last 10 days of their loved one's life, instead of spending precious time at the bedside, a family must instead spend time hiring an attorney, going to court and finding another facility. As a nurse I have coordinated the transfer of medically complex patients to alternative facilities, 10 days is simply not enough time.

There have been a number of publicized cases in which the Act has been employed by a hospital to terminate treatment. In April of 2006, St. Luke's Hospital in Houston gave Andrea Clark, 53 years, notification that her life sustaining treatment would end in 10 days. Andrea although quite ill, was still able to communicate in writing her desire to live. Her care was being fully paid for by private insurance.

There is presently a toddler in Austin whom the Hospital will discontinue care on April 12th if an alternate facility is not found. <http://www.kxan.com/global/story.asp?s=6221334for> Most families have no way of knowing how to navigate through this complex process. Although the hospital is supposed to help, many fail to put forth the necessary effort. Some facilities have refused to perform medical procedures which would have facilitated a transfer. Others have failed to provide the necessary medical records for a transfer to be considered before the deadline.

If you are reading this and believe that this could never happen to you or your family because you have an Advanced Directive, you will be surprised

to learn that a Hospital Ethics Committee can even trump that. Yes, a committee of strangers, not you or your family, can make your health care decisions. If you, or a family member have a disability or some other serious chronic medical condition, treatment for treatable medical conditions may be denied.

There have been a number of bills filed during this legislative session to make this process more humane. HB 1094 by Bryan Hughes would require treatment to continue pending transfer. HB 1440 by Parker would change the 10 day period to 90 days. HB 3970 by Laubenberg, requires treatment pending transfer and returns treatment decisions to patients and their families.

Call your legislators and urge them to support returning medical treatment decisions to patients and their families. If you need help in determining who represents you in the state legislature, call our headquarters at 817-332-9371.

The SREC passed the resolution below dealing with futile care reform at the March 24th SREC meeting. Jim Borchert, SREC SD10, serves on the Resolution Committee and proposed this resolution. The texts of all the resolutions passed at the meeting are on www.SenateDistrict10.com.

A Bill for Patient & Family Treatment Choice Rights Act of 2007

Whereas, the rights of patients and their families is often unprotected by an attending physician who presumes to know what is best for the patient in respect of final wishes in terminal or potentially terminal care treatment, ignoring or countermanding advance directives of the patient, and

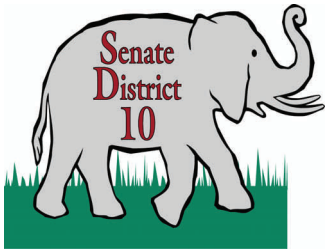
Whereas, patients who have given prior notice and registered their final wishes with family members or legal guardians or persons lawfully responsible for health care decisions, with the expectation that the health care facility and attending physician(s) will abide by their solemn wishes and comply with their directives, and

Whereas, if a health care provider facility, or their attending physicians, are unable to comply with all lawful and legal and reasonable directives issued by and on behalf of the patient who is facing a terminal treatment program for his or her care, a reasonable amount of time must be permitted for transferring the patient to another health care facility or attending physician where the patient's wishes will be respected and complied with, once proper notice is made by the patient or by those persons or that person who is lawfully charged to represent the patient's best interest, and

Therefore BE IT RESOLVED that the State Republican Executive Committee at its March 24, 2007, meeting in Austin voices its support for the upcoming Bill in the House and in the Senate (Senate bill 28) to be enacted into law and cited as the Patient and Family Treatment Choice Rights Act of 2007, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of our resolve and endorsement be forwarded to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House, as well as to every member of the Texas House and Senate.

Adopted this 24th day of March 2007 by Texas SREC



SPECIAL EVENTS

Leslie Recine & Jim Borchert hosted a Senate District 10 Reception With RPT Chairman Tina Benkiser on March 8th at the home of Alan & Patti Harper.



Chairman Benkiser & Former State Republican Executive Committeewoman, Melba McDow



Chairman Benkiser is surprised by a "God Bless Texas" t-shirt from Leslie Recine



Mark Burkhart, Jim Borchert and Mike Wixom



State Representative Bill Zedler & District Clerk Tom Wilder



Leslie Recine introduced Jim Borchert, who spoke on "How to Get involved in the Political Process" at the Republican Women of Arlington meeting on March 15th



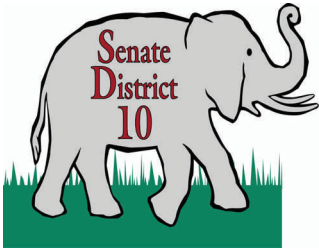
Tom Quinones, SREC SD 12, Leslie, Mona Bailey, SREC SD 12, and Jim spoke on the Republican Party of Texas Platform at the Metroplex Republican Women's Club on February 23rd



Leslie and Jim at the SREC meeting March 24th

Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick, Jim Borchert, and State Rep. Anna Mowery, February 21, 2007. State Rep. Mowery invited Jim to serve as the Pastor of the Day in the Texas House.





Political Action

- 1.** Plan to attend the Presidential Straw Poll Convention August 31-September 1 at the Fort Worth Convention Center. For details see the Straw Poll Fact Sheet on the website, www.SenateDistrict10.com
- 2.** Attend local Republican Clubs. See the Club listings on the website for time, location and contact information.
- 3.** Contact your representatives regarding pending legislation that is important to you.

Leslie & Jim hosted a SD10 Town Hall Meeting on January 27th at the Bobby Cox Building in Fort Worth. The meeting featured a dialogue with Senator Kim Brimer and a Service Recognition for Melba McDow for 8 years on the SREC from SD10.



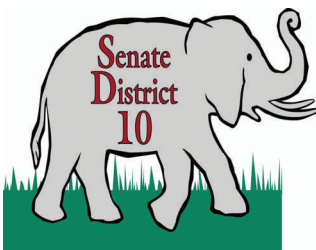
SD10 residents listened to Senator Brimer



Senator Kim Brimer discussed the legislative session.



Melba McDow encouraged Republican activists after receiving her SREC service recognition.



Political Information

The committees of the State Republican Committee (SREC) met on Friday, March 23, 2007 at the Austin Airport Marriott South. Leslie Recine serves on the Ballot Security Sub-committee and Jim Borchert serves on the Resolutions Committee.

The SREC held its First Quarter, 2007 meeting on March 24th at the Austin Airport Marriott South. National Committeewoman Denise McNamara gave highlights from the Republican National Committee meeting. She also read a poem she had written titled "Primary Season '08."

National Committeeman Bill Crocker discussed the proposed legislation to move the primary to February. Republican Party of Texas (RPT) Vice Chairman Dr. Robin Armstrong reported that he has been traveling around the state delivering the message that our grassroots are conservative, and we must remain true to conservative principles. RPT Chairman Tina Benkiser has been visiting with the media throughout the state to tell them about our conservative Republican principles dealing with taxpayer protection. She has also been working with legislators and testifying on bills. Moreover, she noted that the Party's best asset is the grassroots activist. She encourages activists to call, write, and visit their legislators.

The Presidential Straw Poll was discussed. The Fact Sheet about the Straw Poll is on our website, www.SenateDistrict10.com.

The SREC committees gave reports. Jim Borchert proposed 2 resolutions which were passed by the SREC. One resolution dealt with "A Bill for Patient and Family Treatment Choice Rights Act of 2007." The other resolution dealt with voter fraud and a bill authored by State Rep. Bill Zedler. The texts of the resolutions passed at the SREC meeting are on our website.

The next SREC meeting will be June 1, 2007 at the Austin Airport Marriott South.



Political Understanding

Duties, Rights and Liberties

by Jim Borchert

When God set about to create the universe, He separated personal faith from private morals from public political action. The three must be distinguished. They are related, but not identical. Indeed, what a person believes lies strictly between himself and his Creator. Every man has a natural and infeasible right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. This natural right to worship God as every man sees fit in him or in her arises from a natural duty which every person owes to God to render an account to the Almighty for how he or she has chosen to fear, honor and adore the Deity. Because this duty is natural and inherent in every person and cannot be changed or altered in any way, we all have a natural right to do what we have a duty to perform. Personal faith, then, is the first and highest of human duties. It is a matter of sacred conscience. It is our highest form of property.

Duties create rights and rights necessitate liberty. I always have a right to do my duty to my Maker. And if I have such a right, given not by men, but given by the Creator Himself to every human person, then I have by necessity a liberty to do what I have a right to do. Liberty is necessitated by right as rights arise by duties. This is all part of the natural law. It is fixed by the Creator. Every man has a personal duty, right and liberty to worship and pay homage to his Creator according to the inward direction and promptings of his own conscience. This duty, right and liberty cannot be controlled or interfered with by any other person or aggregate of persons or government of persons. This is the basis of all human justice and it is the foundation of all free societies.

Although communism or socialism recognizes this essential duty, right and liberty, in theory, generally stating in its economic and political documents the rights and liberties of personal or private

conscience and religion, it refuses to permit the free exercises of that sacred conscience in public discourse or public affairs. Communist societies and socialist states place heavy burdens on individual freedom and personal religious expression, restraining and punishing all who would follow their natural duty, claim their natural right and exercise their natural liberty. Communism and its socialistic progeny deny Nature any role in society and refuse to acknowledge God or his claims over personal faith, private morals and public political action.

The founders of our nation accepted Nature as supreme under God and, therefore, created our peculiar forms of civil governance in order to secure our sacred duties, rights and liberties. Civil justice in our system of government is defined by the liberty of personal faith, private morals and public political action, treating them in that order...with personal faith being first, private morals being second, the second arising from the first, and public political discourse and action being third, the latter being necessitated by the first two.

George Washington, our first President, expressed it with absolute precision when he said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great Pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man ought to respect and cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can

be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience, both forbid us to expect that National morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. 'Tis substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government."

Our founders established our Republic, our political house, upon a solid rock foundation of Religious and Moral duty, right and liberty. The political superstructure was to be firmly based upon and circumscribed by and permeated with these sacred and natural and immutable personal and private truths. To those men who set up our political structures, these were self-evident truths, which could not be questioned or altered. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote concerning our independence from the tyranny of arbitrary government being practiced by Great Britain and its Crown:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

James Madison, another founder, one whose personal faith, private morals and public political actions were all of a piece and in perfect order wrote:

"Because we hold it for a fundamental and undeniable truth, that Relig-

Duties, Rights and Liberties

Continued from page 5

ion or the duty which we owe to our Creator and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence. The Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate. This right is in its nature an unalienable right. It is unalienable because the opinions of men, depending only on the evidence contemplated by their own minds, cannot follow the dictates of other men. It is unalienable also because what is here a right towards men is a duty towards the Creator. It is the duty of every man to render to the Creator such homage, and only such, as he believes to be acceptable to him. This duty is precedent both in order of time and degree of obligation, to the claims of Civil Society. Before any man can be considered as a member of Civil Society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe. And if a member of Civil Society who enters into any subordinate Association, must always do it with a reservation of his duty to the general authority; much more must every man who becomes a member of any particular Civil Society, do it with a saving of his allegiance to the Universal Sovereign. We maintain therefore that in matters of Religion, no man's right is abridged by the institution of Civil Society, and that Religion is wholly exempt from its cognizance. Because if religion be exempt from the authority of the Society at large, still less can it be subject to that of the Legislative Body. The latter are but the creatures and vice regents of the former. Their jurisdiction is both derivative and limited; it is limited with regard to the coordinate departments, more necessarily is it limited with regard to the constituents. The preservation of a free government requires not merely that the metes and bounds which separate each department of power may be invariably maintained, but more especially, that neither of

them be suffered to over-leap the great Barrier which defends the rights of the people. The rulers, who are guilty of such an encroachment, exceed the commission from which they derive their authority, and are Tyrants."

Our form of government, a "*res publica*" (a public thing) is based upon the premise that every individual person can be and should be self-governing under God. My personal faith and my private morals and my public discourse and activity are all subject to the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God." Whether a person's faith be held and practiced under some particular form of Christianity or Judaism or Islam or any other religious persuasion, it is still subject to the Creator and to His natural laws. Nothing can be true in any religion which violates this natural and universal principle.

No doubt, given the plurality of so many religious faiths in most societies, and considering the fact that every man is free to believe as he wishes, owing an account to God alone for his personal conscience and his faith, there are many elements in each man's faith which may be false or inaccurate, which only the Creator is competent to sort out and judge with justice. But inward faith and conscience is to be clearly distinguished from private morals and public political activity. What a man believes inwardly is protected and permitted in all free societies; but what a man practices privately or publicly is another matter. Both private morals and public political acts are subject to others as well as to God. General society judges private morals and civil government judges public political acts. If, then, there are some elements in the practice of a man's personal religion which do not accord with "Nature and Nature's God", those unnatural, irrational and immoral elements will not be protected or permitted in a free society. Only a tyrannical society and a despotic state will protect and permit such behavior. What a per-

son believes is his own before God, but what he practices is subject to other men and their governments as well as to God.

This, then, is the sum: That a man's personal religious faith and his or her natural moral conscience, the first being subject to every individual as he or she alone sees fit, being diverse from other men if he so chooses, the second being held in common with other men, universally shared, are among his or her highest duties and dearest interests. Neither can be controlled by civil government nor brought in legal cognizance since they are not matters of public jurisdiction or subject to the competence of secular courts. They are free from the general powers of government. Political discourse and activity is limited by both personal religion and by private common morality. It is prohibited from disturbing the first and from overturning the second in free societies. Civil government and its forms are limited and restrained from violating religion and morals. It operates by the exercise of public laws and public force against public injuries. Civil governments are just and true when they protect the people's several religious sentiments and practices and their common moral habits by lawfully restraining and punishing men who violate those duties, rights and liberties.

Jim Borchert is the State Republican Executive Committeeman for Senate District 10.

Note: All the opinions expressed in the Senate District 10 Newsletter are not necessarily the opinions of Jim Borchert & Leslie Recine, State Republican Executive Committeeman and Committeewoman, SD 10.