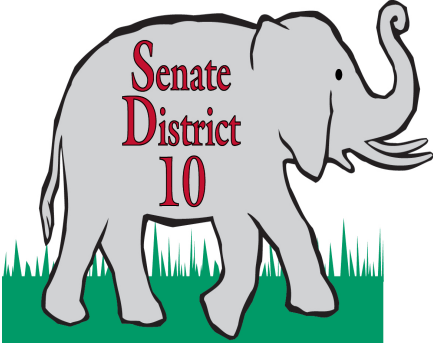


1st Quarter 2008

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

Dear Republican Leaders in SD 10,

The 2008 election cycle is front and center on our political radar screen here in Texas. Republicans cannot afford to be complacent this year. The losses last cycle in Dallas serve as a lighthouse warning to all of us that if we do not organize our grassroots, provide active support to our candidates, and get out the vote this Fall, we can lose the majority we all have worked so hard to build over the past few decades.



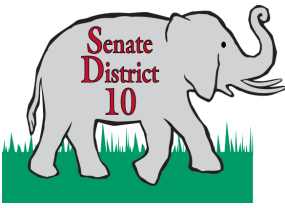
To that end, I am honored that Chairman Tina Benkiser has chosen me to serve you as our state party's Executive Director effective March 10. As a former county chairman, I know the importance of redoubling our outreach to our grassroots activists. Late last month, we deployed six grassroots organizers across the state to reconnect with local county chairmen, precinct chairs, candidates, and volunteers, and began the crucial process now of rebuilding our effective grassroots network. Emily Cornell is your resource in SD 10, and is working out of the Tarrant County Party Headquarters. Please call her anytime at 512-592-2698 for any assistance you might need as you work to elect our Republican candidates.

As you know, our state convention is being held June 12-14 at the George Brown Convention Center in Houston. While every convention is an exciting time for us to reconnect, I encourage you to come a day early and take advantage of campaign and communications training we are offering this year. We will have prominent national speakers during convention and for our banquet, making it an event not to miss.

This year, more than ever, it is imperative we continue to turn out our grassroots supporters and volunteers in order to register voters, support our Republican candidates, and work to get out the vote. We can't continue to build the party and win this November without your dedication and hard work. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at 512-879-4074 or email [eopiela@texasgop.org](mailto:eopiela@texasgop.org). As always, our staff at RPT and I are at your service in helping to build our conservative majority.

Sincerely yours,

Eric Opiela  
Executive Director



# Political Information

## 2006 Republican Party of Texas Platform Preamble

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### PREAMBLE

Throughout the world people dare to dream of freedom, of opportunity, of a beautiful country in which to grow, to raise their family, to worship God in their own way without fear. The embodiment of that dream is America. And within America, people dare to dream of achieving, of becoming somebody better, served and protected by, not encumbered by, government, constantly nourished by faith and family, thriving in a free market, and helping others through charity of giving and serving. The embodiment of the Conservative Dream in America is Texas. Our Texas. It is we who strive to protect our culture from destruction, our children from predators and drugs, and our dear country from those who would destroy it. It is we who defend the embattled traditions that made our nation the greatest in all recorded history.

1. We respect and cherish the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and our Founders' intent to restrict the power of the federal government over the states and the people. We believe self-government, based on personal integrity of a proper moral foundation, is the best government. This is best balanced with limited civil government, coupled with public trust, to provide collectively for the people those services not efficiently achieved individually.
2. We believe that human life is sacred, created in the image of God. Life begins at the moment of fertilization and ends at the point of natural death. All innocent human life must be protected.
3. We believe that good government is based on the individual, and each person's ability, dignity, freedom, and responsibility must be honored and recognized. We believe equal opportunity is a right and a privilege but equal outcome is not. We insist that no one's rights are negotiable and that individual freedom demands personal responsibility.
4. We believe that government spending is out of control and needs to be reduced. We support fundamental, immediate tax reform that is simple, fair, and fully disclosed. We commend President George W. Bush's principled stand to reduce taxes and stimulate the economy.
5. We believe that traditional marriage is a legal and moral commitment between a natural man and a natural woman. We recognize that the family is the foundational unit of a healthy society and consists of those related by blood, marriage, or adoption. The family is responsible for its own welfare, education, moral training, conduct, and property.
6. We believe that a well-educated population is fundamental to the continued success of our Republic; and that parents have the right, as well as the duty, to direct their children's education. This right should include choices among public, private, home and religious schools. Competition improves education.
7. We believe that the future of our country depends upon a strong and vibrant private sector unencumbered by excessive government regulation.
8. We believe that a strong America ensures a free America. While we recognize that our nation is the primary leader in the global community, we must also vigorously protect the sovereignty of the United States.
9. We believe in peace through strength. We take a principled stand to preemptively defend the citizens of the United States against all foes, foreign or domestic, whose goal is to destroy our American way of life. Freedom is never free, and we honor all those who have served our nation to protect our liberty, especially our men and women in uniform, who unselfishly and courageously defend our country.
10. We believe all Americans have the right to be safe in their homes, on their streets, and in their communities. We support enforcement of the laws through the Courts imposing swift and sure justice with stiff penalties, truth in sentencing, and respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens, while opposing judicial activism.

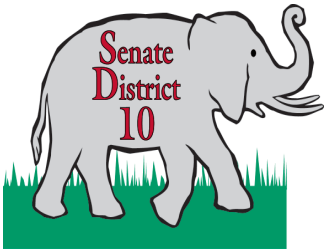
**"We pray God Bless Texas. God Bless the U.S.A. God bless us all!"**



**Jim Borchert and Leslie Recine, State Republican Executive Committeeman and Committeewoman for SD10, at the March 8th, 1st Quarter 2008 State Republican Executive Committee meeting in Austin.**

### **Congratulations to Two SD 10 Republican Activists!**

**Shanda Perkins**, of Burleson, was appointed by Governor Perry to the Trinity River Authority. **Deborah Gagliardi**, of Arlington, was appointed by Governor Perry and the Texas Supreme Court to the State Bar of Texas as a Public Member.



# Political Action

## Texas Victory 2008

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### What Is Victory?

Victory is a statewide Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) program dedicated to cultivating, energizing, and training grassroots volunteers to ensure Republican success at the polls on Election Day. The program is chaired by former Secretary of State Roger Williams. In November 2008, roughly 2 million new voters will cast ballots in our state. Texas Victory 2008 will utilize the latest technology like never before in prior elections to target Republican voters and drive them to the polls. Victory '08 will be the most rigorous GOTV effort this state has ever seen and it will ensure a strong Victory for our Republican ticket.

### Victory will:

- Assist counties in identifying GOP and likely GOP voters that have moved into Texas for voter registration.
- Work with county parties to open volunteer headquarters and phone banks in targeted counties.
- Coordinate volunteer activities in targeted counties.
- Print and distribute campaign materials.

**Join Texas Victory 2008 on**  
**[www.TexasVictory.org](http://www.TexasVictory.org)**

### Attend Local Republican Clubs!

Learn and enjoy fellowship with other Republicans by attending local Republican clubs. A list of meeting times and locations for the Republican clubs is found on [www.SenateDistrict10.com](http://www.SenateDistrict10.com) and [www.tcgop.org](http://www.tcgop.org).



# Political Understanding

## How Our Political System Began

by Jim Borchert, State Republican Executive Committeeman SD 10

It is always fruitful to remind ourselves of how our political system began. The original is a safe measure against which to weigh the present understanding and practices. George Washington was our first President and had an excellent grasp of the fundamentals of our free Republic.

He writes that “the basis of our political system is the right of the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government. But the Constitution which at any time exists, till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and right of the people to establish Government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established Government.”

Washington warns that a government must be imbued with power, but only with as much energy and vigor as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty, which is the indispensable value in our form of civil governance. Power must always be restrained by the natural Liberty of the people in a government which exists for their essential safety and happiness. Washington understood the maxim that all political sovereignty resides in the people, not in those appointed to govern, but in the aggregate body of the people who institute their own peculiar forms of civil governance, annexing them with all manner of conditions and limits for the sake of their own benefit and welfare. “Salus populi est lex suprema.”

For the founders, the “common good” was not defined by the democratic majority or the passing fads of cultural relativism, but was understood as that which is universal among all peoples and remains inviolate, immutable and irrevocable by nature’s own indefeasible grant. Political power possesses obligatory force and legitimacy among the governed only if the people themselves bestow their consent and acknowledge their good.

“It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution, in those entrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power, and proneness to abuse it, which predominates in the human heart, is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories, and constituting each the Guardian of the Public Weal against invasions by the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern; some of them in our country and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way, which the constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for, though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed.”

“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 pious man, ought to respect and cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connexions 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 main-

tained 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.”

For President Washington, every form of human governance would degenerate into anarchy or tyranny unless it was grounded in Wisdom and Virtue, the necessary constituents of the Rule of Law. Those entrusted with the exercise of governing had to be carefully chosen by the electorate of the people to ensure that those twin qualities were annexed to those charged with public office, lest the people be despoiled of their essential justice and common liberty. For the founding generation, who gave us our original system of government, all legitimate power was dependent upon those foundational institutions of Religion and Morality.

Religion and Morality provide the underpinning of our free Republic and its political prosperity, continually informing and permeating our political laws, institutions and offices. Only a free and self-governing people would insist that Justice is possible only if those essential foundations of Liberty remain sacred and inviolate among us. Let freedom ring!

*Note: The SD10 Newsletter is paid for by State Republican Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 10, Leslie Recine, and not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee.*