



Texas Eagle Forum

October 2020

Dear Eagles,

As we approach the November 3rd election, I can't help but think of Benjamin Franklin's quote when asked what kind of a nation he and our Founding Fathers had created, Franklin replied, "A Republic, *if* you can keep it." Today, that Republic is in jeopardy.

This month's *Torch* has a comparison of the 2020 Republican and Democrat Party Platforms, which should be read by everyone before going to the polls to vote. I was inspired and encouraged by one and saddened and deeply concerned when reading the other. Two platforms, two very different worldviews. There is a real divide in our Nation.

This was so clear last month in the battle to rewrite of the Texas Health TEKS. Listening to testimony on what the radical Left wants taught in grades K–12 in Texas public schools, I am thankful our side can see the direction and deception of the enemy seeking to destroy our families and children. Those testifying in favor of Comprehensive Sex-Ed want to teach kids HOW to become sexually active, while ignoring the health benefits and reasons for waiting before they make life-changing, adult decisions. While the vote was 9 to 6 in favor of retaining an abstinence-based curriculum, the battle is not over as reported by several groups. The final vote will take place in November, and we will again be calling for help contacting State Board of Education members before the November 17–20 meetings begin.

Please pray the 87th Texas Legislative Session, beginning January 2021, will be in-person. We have a better chance of success if we can be inside our Capitol talking with legislators face-to-face. We already are working on our list of bills we would like passed, including a bill banning any dangerous medical procedures to "transition" children.

Looking ahead, we can use help with the extra expenses we incur during the session. Our dream list includes an apartment where we could house our female activists overnight when needed. This would allow more Texas Eagle Forum activists to go to Austin to fight for our issues.

While Black Lives Matter and Antifa Marxists in Democrat-run cities are destroying our monuments and local businesses, and rioting and setting fires in our streets, I was encouraged and humbled by watching over 50,000 peaceful Christians attending Franklin Graham's 2020 Prayer March in Washington, D.C. What a beautiful sight—people of all ages and races praying boldly and openly for our nation in our historic capital city! Alveda King, the late Martin Luther King Jr.'s niece, said it best when praying for racial unity: "We are one human race ... one blood. We are not color blind We're going to recognize ethnicity and all the beauty you give us, Lord."

(over, please)

As we continue to fight the culture war, God reminds us in Ephesians 6:14–17 to “Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” (NIV)

Armed and ready, we *can* fight the good fight and still have peace. We are fighting for a free Nation that lets us raise our children in the way they should go, a Nation that lets us take responsibility for ourselves and our families, a Nation that is governed under God’s guidance. We know our battle is really a spiritual battle—good vs. evil, God’s light vs. Satan’s darkness and destruction. I pray God will make us fearless in standing for His best for Texas and America.

With Early Voting beginning October 13th, Eagles all over Texas and America are diving in deep to do everything they can to keep our Republic. Whether you are door knocking, calling, working the polls, working on a ballot board, texting, talking to neighbors, or running for a position yourself, we salute you! To those who have been in the trenches for years and can no longer serve, thank you! We have your backs. We will fight to preserve the great Country you handed us.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindi Castilla". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Cindi Castilla
President of Texas Eagle Forum



THE TORCH

— Texas Eagle Forum —

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VOTE
November 3rd!

Early Voting is
Oct. 13-30.

Vote for liberty,
freedom, and **LIFE!**

Two Party Platforms, Two Worldviews

By **Cindi Castilla**, Texas Eagle Forum President

As we enter the final weeks leading up to the November 3rd presidential election, it is vital we compare the Republican Party and Democratic Party platforms to determine which version we want for America.

In June, the Republican National Executive Committee voted to adopt the 54-page 2016 platform due to the coronavirus pandemic, which caused location and logistics changes to the National Convention. Social conservatives had hoped to add new language fighting the

gender-identity agenda and late-term abortions. In August, the Republican National Committee added a resolution calling for the continued support of President Donald Trump’s “America First” agenda.

The adopted 2020 Republican platform continues to call for greater personal responsibility, lower taxes, reducing the size of government, securing our borders, enforcing immigration laws, building a wall along our southern border, withholding funds for “sanctuary cities,” repealing the Supreme

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Court's unconstitutional decisions on Obamacare, abortion and same-sex marriage, supporting traditional marriage, rebuilding American military strength, rejecting the agendas of the Kyoto Agreement and the Paris Agreement, as well as, rejecting the Obama Iran nuclear deal.

In contrast, the Democratic Party held virtual platform committee meetings the week of their August National Convention and adopted a 92-page platform promoting the far-Left's socialist agenda of racial and criminal justice reform, climate change, clean energy, higher taxes, free college and trade school tuition, expanded LGBTQ+ rights, \$15 minimum wage, universal gun background checks, statehood for Washington, D.C., universal vote-by-mail and same-day voter registration, removal of Confederate flags and statues of Confederate leaders from public property, establish a national commission to examine the effects of slavery, segregation, and racially discriminatory federal policies, and reversing the "hateful" transgender ban in the military. *There is no mention in the platform of their efforts to defund the police or any statement condemning the violence and destruction recently allowed in Democrat-run cities.*

In addition, here are a few specifics from both parties:

LIFE

Republican: *"We assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed."*

Democrat: *"We believe unequivocally that every woman should be able to access high-quality reproductive care services, including safe and legal abortion."*

FAMILY

R: *"Traditional marriage and family, based on marriage between one woman and one man, is the foundation of a free society."*

D: No mention of marriage and family being the foundation of society. They do mention "gender" 50 times and "LGBTQ+" 32 times.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

R: *"We pledge to defend the religious beliefs and right of conscience of all Americans and to safeguard religious institutions against government control."* Republicans also endorse legislation which bars government discrimination against individuals and businesses for acting on the belief of traditional marriage, support the right of people to conduct their businesses in accordance with their religious beliefs, support the public display of the Ten Commandments, affirm the rights of students to pray at public school events, and to set membership standards for religious, private, service, and youth organizations, churches, pastors, and religious leaders should be able to preach and speak freely according to their faith.

D: *"Democrats believe that freedom of religion and the right to believe—or not to believe—are fundamental human rights. We will never use protection of that right as a cover for*

discrimination." They also reject the politicization of religious freedom in American foreign policy.

EDUCATION

R: *"Parents have a right to direct their children's education, care, and upbringing."* Republicans reject Common Core, support school choice and local control of schools, encourage the Bible to be offered as an elective in public schools, support sexual risk avoidance education that sets abstinence as the responsible and respected standard of behavior, oppose school-based clinics that provide referral for abortion or contraception, believe federal funds should not be used for universal mental health, psychiatric or socio-emotional screening programs in public schools.

D: Guarantee universal pre-K programs for 3- and 4-year olds, support K-12 instruction in civics and climate literacy, oppose private school vouchers, make public colleges and universities tuition-free for roughly 80 percent of students, make all community colleges and trade schools tuition-free for all students, including Dreamers, support "LGBTQ+-inclusive" sex education with a full range of family planning services.

COVID PANDEMIC

R: Obviously, the 2016 platform did not address the coronavirus pandemic, so the decision not to create a new platform means the issue was not included in 2020.

D: *"President Trump's abject failure to respond forcefully and capably to the pandemic makes him responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans."*

"President Trump has repeatedly downplayed the threat of the coronavirus, bullied governors for enacting life-saving public health measures, and left our healthcare heroes without the equipment they need to protect themselves and the American people. Our essential workers have been deemed expendable by the President and his administration." Democrats will hire 100,000 contact tracers to contact everyone who tests positive for the virus and increase funding of the CDC.

JUDGES

R: Republicans will appoint judges who respect the Constitution and rule of law, denounce judicial activism, support judges who respect the traditional family and the sanctity of human life.

D: *"The Republican Party has packed our federal courts with unqualified, partisan judges who consistently rule for corporations, the wealthy, and Republican interests."*

Democrats will appoint U.S. Supreme Court justices and federal judges who ... respect and enforce foundational precedents, including *Roe v. Wade*, applaud the decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, which redefined the word "sex" in Title VII to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

R: Republicans oppose Title IX being used to impose a social and cultural revolution ... by wrongly defining sex discrimination to include sexual orientation or other categories, oppose reshaping our schools—and entire society—to fit the mold of an ideology

alien to America's history and tradition, oppose Obama's Title IX transgender bathroom edict.

D: Democrats guarantee LGBTQ+ people full access to needed healthcare and resources, including gender-confirmation surgery and hormone therapy, will fight to enact the Equality Act, ensure LGBTQ+ people are not discriminated against when seeking to adopt or foster children or give blood, guarantee transgender students access to facilities based on their gender identities, ban "conversion therapy" practices, make gender equality a key foreign policy priority, pass the GLOBE Act and appoint senior leaders for coordinating LGBTQ+ issues at the State Department, USAID, and the National Security Council.

ENVIRONMENT

R: "We affirm the moral obligation to be good stewards of the God-given beauty and resources of our Country." Republicans support the development of all forms of energy that are marketable in a free economy without subsidies, including coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear power and hydropower, oppose any carbon tax, ensure the listing of endangered species and habitats are based on sound science, reject the agendas of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, and demand a halt to the funding of the UN Convention of Climate Change and the Green Climate Fund.

D: "Climate Change is a global emergency. We believe we must embed environmental justice, economic justice, and climate justice at the heart of our policy and governing agenda." Democrats will rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, eliminate carbon pollution from power plants by 2035, install 500 million solar panels, and 60,000 wind turbines, create an environmental justice fund to make investments aimed at eliminating pollution, lead the effort to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, convene a new world summit ... to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, recommit to the Green Climate Fund, restore funding to the Global Environment Facility and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, incorporate climate issues as key priorities at the Dept. of State, Dept. of Defense and in the Intelligence Community.

IMMIGRATION

R: "Our highest priority must be to secure our borders and enforce our immigration laws." Republicans support building a wall along our southern border, support English as the official language, support stiffer penalties for any illegal alien who illegally re-enters our nation after being deported, "sanctuary cities" should not be eligible for federal funding, asylum should be limited to cases of political, ethnic or religious persecution, refugees must be vetted before entry.

D: "Instead of pursuing a sensible, humane, and responsible approach to immigration that strengthens the U.S., the Trump administration has been callous, cruel, and reckless in the extreme. President Trump's immigration policies include forcibly separating families and putting children in cages, banning people from traveling to the U.S. based on their faith or their country of origin, and turning away refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing violence and persecution." Democrats will rescind funding from construction of an "unnecessary, wasteful, and ineffective wall on the southern border," terminate travel and immigration bans that disproportionately impact Muslim, Arab, and African people, provide a roadmap to citizenship for the millions of undocumented workers, caregivers, students, and children, work to pave a path to citizenship for those who have been in the country for an extended period of time, and built their lives in the US, and end the freeze on green cards.

America's liberty and freedom hinges on these two opposing worldviews in the upcoming election. The stark differences should be enough for Americans to decide the kind of Country they want.

Share these party platforms with your family and friends and make sure they are registered to vote. Early voting is October 13-30. If possible, please try to VOTE in person on Election Day: Tuesday, November 3.

SOURCES: 2020 Republican Party Platform, 2020 Democrat Party Platform, Family Research Council's "Party Platform Comparisons 2020."

Confronting Communist China

Disney is taking heat as its latest live-action film, *Mulan*, is hitting homes and movie screens around the world. The entertainment giant, which is always quick to show its support for the latest left-wing cause, actually thanked several communist Chinese agencies in the closing credits of *Mulan*. One of them was the state police force in the city of Turpan, where China operates more than a dozen so-called "re-education" camps. So, while Disney is pledging millions to left-wing organizations that oppose law enforcement in the United States, it is offering its "special thanks" to the totalitarian police forces of communist China!

Meanwhile, the Trump administration is imposing additional sanctions on China over its use of forced labor and the ongoing persecution of the minority Uighur population in the Xinjiang province. The administration is also cracking

down on communist China's spying and espionage against American businesses and institutions. A big part of that crackdown involves U.S. educational institutions, many of which are receiving funding from the Chinese Communist Party through Confucius Institutes. A recent poll finds that 45 percent of Americans want U.S. colleges banned from accepting communist China's cash, which, of course, comes with considerable strings. Incredibly, 31 percent of Americans don't see a problem with China pushing its propaganda on our college campuses. In addition, the administration canceled the visas of more than 1,000 Chinese nationals who were conducting "research" on U.S. campuses after the administration determined they were security risks due to their connections to the Chinese military.

SOURCE: Gary Bauer, *The Patriot Post*, 9/16/20

SC Nominee “The Ultimate Role Model for Women”

President Trump’s nominated judge and former law professor Amy Coney Barrett to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. “Judge Barrett is the ultimate role model for women,” said Eagle Forum President Colleen Holcomb. “She has achieved excellence in her career as an attorney, law professor and judge, is mother to seven children and is respected by her students and colleagues across the political spectrum for her excellence, strength of character and compassion. In addition, she has an extensive body of jurisprudence evidencing a proven track record of strict textualism and respect for the Constitution.”

SOURCE: Colleen Holcomb, Eagle Forum, 9/26/20

San Antonio Reverses Course on Airport Chick-fil-A

The city of San Antonio—targeted by a federal investigation for alleged religion-based discrimination against Chick-fil-A—reversed course and now will offer the popular restaurant chain a lease at its airport facilities. The offer of a lease that is “reasonable and consistent with customary business practices” concludes an investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton had asked for the review because of evidence that San Antonio rejected Chick-fil-A because of its owners religious beliefs. Such discrimination is banned when airports receive federal money. The San Antonio airport received more than \$8 million in grants for fiscal year 2019. City officials had refused to allow a franchise in the airport because Chick-fil-A has donated to organizations such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Paul Anderson Youth Home, and the Salvation Army, and had a “legacy of anti-LGBTQ behavior” in supporting traditional marriage.

SOURCE: WND, 9/14/20

Massive Influx of Homeschooling in Texas

As parents and children attempt to navigate onerous back-to-school guidelines for public schools across the state, the Texas Home School Coalition (THSC) reports a nearly 400-percent increase in families deciding to withdraw from public schools and begin homeschooling. In August 2019, THSC reported that it processed withdrawals for 1,044 families. In August 2020, that number skyrocketed to 4,055 withdrawals, representing an increase of nearly 400 percent. August’s increase follows another record-setting month in July, which saw a 1,500-percent increase over 2019. That increase was directly correlated with the release of back-to-school guidelines from the Texas Education Agency that required students over the age of 10 to wear masks and socially distance in classrooms. Stephen Howsley, a public policy analyst for THSC, said, “Homeschooling has become an increasingly popular option for families looking for a safe, flexible, and well-established form of education for their children. We will be here to support the tens of thousands of new families who are beginning homeschooling this year.” Official data from the TEA on student withdrawal in 2020 is not yet available.

SOURCE: Brandon Waltens, Texas Scorecard, 9/9/20

Dictionary Updates Definition of “Female”

In the latest example of the contemporary lexicon evolving to suit the whims of intersectional ideologues, *Merriam-Webster’s* dictionary has officially updated its definition of “female” to include “having a gender identity that is opposite of male.” The dictionary entry for “female” primarily defines the word “as of relating to, or being the sex that typically has the capacity to bear young or produce eggs.” One would think that the primary definition would be the *only* definition ... but, instead, *Merriam-Webster’s* several sub-definitions all but erase the actual meaning of the word by allowing wiggle room to accommodate those who may or may not believe they are female. Last year, the dictionary sought to legitimize transgender use of the word “they” by declaring it their “Word of the Year.”

SOURCE: Elizabeth Johnston, Activist Mommy, 9/14/20

Quote of the Month

“The stakes this November are tremendous. Everything is on the line: the House of Representatives, the Senate, the White House, the control of the courts, the future of free speech, religious liberty, our Second Amendment rights, the direction of our economy. In short, the fate of our country.”

~ Gary Bauer,
American Values,
9/14/20

Great American Quote

“Let us remember that if we suffer tamely a lawless attack upon our liberty, we encourage it, and involve others in our doom.”

~ Samuel Adams,
1771

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President
Cindi Castilla

Editor
Marilyn Statler

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TEXAS EAGLE FORUM
P.O. Box 795354
Dallas, TX 75379

torch@texaseagle.org
www.texaseagleforum.com