



2010 Party Platform Comparisons

Conservative legislators have worked hard to deliver on a few basic things that matter, yet the work of conservatives in the Legislature is far from complete. The state must address a multi-billion dollar revenue shortfall without raising taxes, we face increasingly egregious intrusions against our state sovereignty by the federal government, taxes are too high, border security remains a challenge, and elections must be free of fraud. Expanded government is not the answer for a people as smart and industrious as Texans, and we need to continue to promote the values of faith, family, and hard work.

The [Pledge with Texans](#) issued by the Texas Conservative Coalition (TCC) promotes these values, serving as a principled guide for policy action in the 82nd Texas Legislature and beyond. This document illustrates how the five core conservative issues of the TCC Pledge with Texans are incorporated in the Republican Party platform and rejected by Democratic Party platform.

Pledge Plank One: Balancing the Budget without Raising Taxes

| 2010 Republican Platform | 2010 Democratic Platform |
|---|---|
| "We urge state and federal legislators to reduce spending. We also support a 'cap' on government spending at all levels, with adjustments based only on inflation and population change." (p. 20) | "...avoid slashing critical state services or enacting any new fees or so-called 'revenue enhancements' unless absolutely necessary." (p. 12) |
| "Amend the Texas Constitution with a tighter, more meaningful spending limitation based on population growth and annual inflation." (p. 28) | |
| "We oppose all bailouts of businesses, states, and all other government entities. We encourage government to divest its ownership of all business that should be run in the private sector and allow the free market to prevail." (p. 20) | |
| "All government contracts should be awarded by competitive bids. We call upon all levels of government to allow the awarding of contracts, requiring performance and payment bonds, be awarded to the lowest bidder." (p. 20) | |

Pledge Plank Two: Limiting Federal Intrusion

| 2010 Republican Platform | 2010 Democratic Platform |
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| <p>"We support state sovereignty reserved under the Tenth Amendment and oppose mandates beyond the scope of federal authority." (p. 1)</p> <p>"We strongly resolve that the Texas Legislature honor Texas' State Sovereignty" (p. 22)</p> | <p>"Claim our federal tax dollars... to help alleviate the budget deficit and provide economic benefits and job opportunities here in Texas" (p. 13)</p> |
| <p>"We urge the Congress to defund, repeal, and reject the national healthcare takeover, also known as 'ObamaCare' or any similar legislation." (p. 13)</p> <p>"We urge passage of health care reform which results in more affordable healthcare through a market-based, competitive, open and transparent health care system, including tort reform, interstate competition and genuine accountability and oversight, where American's families chose their own doctor and health care plans." (p. 13)</p> | <p>"Texas Democrats oppose Republican attempts to repeal" nine key provisions of ObamaCare." (p. 14)</p> <p>"Democrats support effective implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act [ObamaCare] at the state level to protect Americans' new, hard-fought health care rights." (p. 14)</p> |
| <p>"We oppose and refuse any federal mandates which infringe upon the right to self-government and rights of citizens, businesses and public entities of the State of Texas; we also support asking the Governor to direct the Texas Attorney General to pursue all other appropriate legal action that preserves Texas' sovereignty." (p. 1)</p> | <p>"Texas Democrats... believe the state must realize all opportunities to maximize federal and state dollars available to fund health care costs..." (p. 15)</p> |
| <p>"We urge Congress to adopt balanced budgets by cutting spending and not increasing tax rates." (p. 20)</p> | |

Pledge Plank Three: Improving Election Integrity

| 2010 Republican Platform | 2010 Democratic Platform |
|--|---|
| <p>"We support modifications and strengthening of election laws to assure ballot integrity and fair elections. Specifically, we support a federal or state government-issued photo ID at in-person voting... [and] prosecution for election fraud with jail sentences..." (p. 6)</p> | <p>"Texas Democrats support the principled and courageous efforts of Democratic legislators to defeat restrictive voter ID and proof of citizenship legislation..." (p. 34)</p> |
| <p>"We support restoring integrity to the voter registration rolls and to reducing voter fraud. We support requiring photo ID of all registrants; proof of residency and citizenship, along with voter registration application; and requiring that a list of certified deaths be provided to the county clerk in order that the names of deceased voters be removed from the list of registered voters." (p. 5)</p> | |

Pledge Plank Four: Cutting Taxes

| 2010 Republican Platform | 2010 Democratic Platform |
|---|--|
| <p>"The Party calls upon the Texas Legislature to repeal the revised franchise tax." (p. 21)</p> | <p>"Reform the Republican 'margins tax' policy to provide fairness to all economic sectors, especially small businesses." (p. 13)</p> <p>[No explanation or specific policy position is provided regarding the margins tax in the Democratic platform]</p> |
| <p>"We urge the Legislature to abolish property taxes for the purpose of funding schools and to shift the tax burden to a consumption-based tax while maintaining or reducing the overall tax burden." (p. 21)</p> | <p>"Structure property tax relief to benefit all homeowners fairly." (p. 13)</p> <p>[No explanation or specific policy position is provided regarding these statement in the Democratic platform]</p> |
| <p>Until ad valorem taxes are abolished, we recommend that property valuations be fixed for not less than three years following each revaluation. Appraisal District Boards should be elected. We support capping the annual increase in real property appraisals at 3%..." (p. 21)</p> | <p>"Extend the benefits of property tax relief to renters when landlords receive the full benefit of those reductions." (p. 13)</p> |
| <p>"We recommend a national sales tax (which does not include a Value Added Tax) to replace all other Federal taxes once the I.R.S. is abolished and the Sixteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is repealed. However, until such time that the income tax is abolished, we support deductions for private and home schooling, home mortgages, and sales taxes." (p. 21)</p> | <p>"...oppose efforts to impose a national sales tax." (p. 13)</p> |
| <p>"We call for all transportation and fuel taxes collected to be used for road construction, improvement and maintenance only. We resolve that tax revenue derived from gasoline taxes should only be used for highway construction, and not be diverted to any other use, including mass transit and bicycle paths." (p. 21)</p> | <p>"We support... innovative funding mechanisms to provide needed roadways and develop reliable and affordable public transportation systems." (p. 33)</p> |

Pledge Plank Five: Securing the Texas Border

| 2010 Republican Platform | 2010 Democratic Platform |
|---|--|
| <p>" We oppose illegal immigration, amnesty in any form leading to citizenship, or legal status for illegal immigrants... " (p. 24)</p> <p>"We support strict and immediate enforcement of all immigration laws." (p. 24)</p> | <p>"...establish a path to citizenship for those who meet qualifications and seek to become part of our national community." (p. 38)</p> |
| <p>"'Order on the borders' is basic to solving complex issues of illegal immigration. All means must be deployed immediately to prevent illegal aliens, organized crime and potential terrorists from crossing the border. Secure American borders by any means necessary." (p. 23)</p> | <p>"We strongly oppose...any effort to expand the existing border fence without regard to the border economy, environmental impact or property rights." (p. 38)</p> <p>"We strongly oppose wasteful efforts like Governor Perry's 'virtual wall' of border cameras..." (p. 38)</p> <p>"We strongly oppose any law that would force law enforcement agencies to divert limited resources and manpower from their primary duty to protect citizens and prevent crime in order to enforce immigration policy that is the responsibility of the federal government." (p. 38)</p> |
| <p>"We propose that every Texas driver license shall indicate whether the driver is a U.S. citizen." (p. 4)</p> | <p>"Texas Democrats support the principled and courageous efforts of Democratic legislators to defeat restrictive voter ID and proof of citizenship legislation..." (p. 34)</p> |
| | <p>[The Democratic Party platform does not use the word "illegal" in the context of immigration or border security. Instead, the platform notes that "many come without documentation".]</p> |