Resolution to AMEND Plank 76 of the Republican Party Platform

**ANTI-CORRUPTION REFORM RELATED TO SCHOOL BONDS & BUDGETS**

**Category: SCHOOL FINANCE AND PROPERTY TAXATION**

Add subcategory "x" to:

76. Property Tax Relief: We support these incremental steps toward the ultimate abolition of property tax:

x) Dismantle entrenched interests in leadership of school districts with reform measures including lowering the conflicts of interest threshold, enhancing and enforcing mandatory conflict disclosures and recusals, restricting campaign donations of conflicted parties who profit from school or school bond funds, a cooling-off period after serving in a school district government leadership role, penalties for violations, transparency, and other common sense reforms.

A copy of this resolution should be sent to the _____ County/Senate District #_____ Convention Resolutions Committee from Precinct #____ with the recommendation that it be passed and sent to the State Convention Platform Committee of the Republican Party of Texas.

**Rationale:**

- Current "Conflict of Interest" threshold is high and inappropriate for the tax and spend power of a trustee. (10% interest in a company or $15,000 a year.)
- Increasingly large sums of money have poured into school board races and school bond elections from parties who do big business with school district; Pro-taxation trustee candidates are disproportionately supported by special interests outside the district.
- No law requires a board member to recuse himself when a substantial campaign donor's contract or expenditure is under consideration;
- Fiscally conservative candidates will have a difficult time winning races with the special interest money pouring in, undisclosed ties to those vendors;
- School board candidates should have to very visibly disclose all reasonable conflicts of interest when running for office.
- Currently, a superintendent can resign from the district then go help write contracts for the bonds the superintendent helped pass or become a lobbyist. They can concurrently work for or own businesses that provide services to school districts such as training, insurance, other consulting.
- Trustee A in district A can provide a product or service to district B, in exchange for a Trustee B from district B providing a product or service to district A. None of this is monitored, tracked, disclosed or illegal.
- Sunshine and deterrence measures are needed.