

**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS RESOLUTION
END SCHOOL ELECTIONEERING THAT AFFECTS NOT JUST SCHOOL ELECTIONS, BUT
ANY ELECTION.**

Resolution to adopt a New Plank

- School electioneering laws must be strong, with broader definitions, serious personal, professional and electoral penalties to deter and with concurrent jurisdiction of the Attorney General. The definition of school electioneering must extend to all entities which operate on school property or are privy to lists and information that not every candidate or opposing party is privy to such as lists of members and their phone numbers. School social media pages run by any individuals in the above categories shall be subject to these laws.

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:

- School electioneering is when an individual uses taxpayer dollars to take a position for or against a candidate or measure. It extends to things like use of the school's copy machine or email server.
- School electioneering laws are very weak, hard to enforce, and depending on a busy DA to be willing to take the case, and go against the very school district that could determine his or her re-election.
- Concurrent jurisdiction is needed.
- The definition of electioneering does not include entities such as a parent teacher organization that collects parent contact information for parties, fundraisers and other purposes. These organizations can share their lists obtained by virtue of their EXCLUSIVE access to schools, whereas outsider candidates do not have organizations on the inside of a district with the same access.
- "Parent pages" are often run by the leaders of parent teacher organizations. They have extreme power to delete comments, block opposition, and push their political viewpoint but claim "we're not an official district page." Nonetheless, those pages are often passed down year after year to the next president or vice president, use the school's logo, post information parents depend on which the schools may or may not post, and do so using school wi-fi from a room on campus they use without rental fees, making it - arguably - a quasi-official district page and highly problematic.
- Other organizations are not allowed the same access.
- We need a level playing field if we are going to elect strong board members who will ask questions and be fiscally responsible.