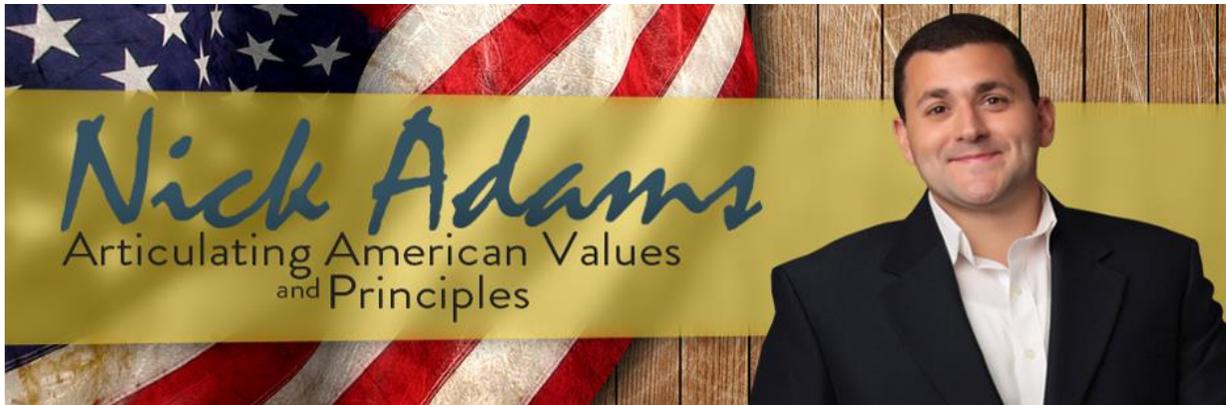


Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

June / July 2017



Next PRW Meeting:
Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Guest Speaker: Nick Adams

PRW's August guest speaker is Nick Adams, Founder and Executive Director of The Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness (FLAG), an organization dedicated to promoting American exceptionalism and combating anti-Americanism worldwide

Location: Reflections on Spring Creek,
1901 East Spring Creek Parkway

Time: 11:15 am: Check-in
11:30 am: Meeting, Lunch & Program

PRW membership is not required to attend our meeting Lunch at the meeting is available with RSVP for \$20 in cash or check payable to PRW

Caring for America: Add a contribution to your lunch ticket to benefit Patriot Paws

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Calendar of Events

**Board Meeting &
Coupon Cutting
By Email Notice**

PRWC in the 4th of July Parade



HAPPY

FOURTH OF JULY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Courtesy of The Daily

Texas Legislature Special Session Update

By: John Savage, State Government Reporter for the Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN — The Senate and its president, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, have been working at top speed to pass the 20 items on Gov. Greg Abbott's agenda for the special legislative session.

The chamber approved 18 bills in just the first week by working late into the nights and through the weekend. Much of the agenda Abbott laid out in June aligns with conservative proposals Patrick pushed during the regular session.

The House, on the other hand, is moving at a slower pace, a strategy House Speaker Joe Straus has called "deliberate."

We've compiled a scorecard of how the items are faring in the House and the Senate, but first, here's a refresher on how a bill becomes law in Texas.

After a lawmaker in the 31-member Senate or 150-member House files a bill, it's assigned to a committee. The committee needs to pass it to send the bill to the full chamber where it originated — the House or the Senate, which will vote on it. During this process, lawmakers can add amendments to the legislation.

If a bill makes it through both chambers, representatives from each body meet to resolve any differences between House and Senate versions of the bill. If they can agree, the measure heads to the governor, who can veto it or sign it into law.

With the clock ticking — only 20 days to go in the special session — here's a list of each of Abbott's 20 agenda items and where they are in the legislative process, with links to previous stories on the issues. Keep an eye on this story for updates, and follow our legislative coverage site, The 85th.

1. Sunset legislation to keep state agencies open

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Passed by the full chamber.

2. Increasing teacher pay

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

3. Creating a school finance commission

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

4. School vouchers for special needs children

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

5. Limiting growth of local property taxes

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Passed by a committee.

6. Capping local government spending

Senate: Heard by the full chamber but a vote was postponed.

House: Referred to committee but not yet considered.

7. Capping state government spending

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

8. Limiting local tree regulations

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: The lower chamber has passed its own tree regulation bill. It would require cities to allow residents to apply for a credit in lieu of paying fees when they want to remove trees on their property. Abbott has already vetoed a similar bill, though, saying it doesn't do enough to safeguard homeowners' property rights.



Texas Legislature Special Session Update

By: John Savage, State Government Reporter for the Dallas Morning News

Continued on Page 3

9. Speeding local government permitting process

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

10. Preventing construction permit rule changes

Senate: Not yet passed by a committee.

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

11. Restricting cities' ability to annex property

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

12. Pre-empting local texting and driving regulations

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

13. Restricting transgender Texans' bathroom usage

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

14. Prohibiting union dues payroll deduction for public workers

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

15. Prohibiting tax money from going to Planned Parenthood

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Considered by a committee but no vote taken.

16. Limiting abortion coverage in insurance plans

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Considered by a committee but no vote taken.

17. Increasing abortion reporting requirements

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Passed by the full chamber.

18. Strengthening do-not-resuscitate protections

Senate: Passed by the full chamber

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

19. Cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Referred to a committee but not yet considered.

20. Extending the maternal. Mortality task force

Senate: Passed by the full chamber.

House: Considered by a committee but no vote taken.



5 Good Reasons Why Transgender Accommodations Aren't Compatible With Military Realities

By: Ryan T. Anderson/July 26, 2017

On Wednesday, President Donald Trump announced that he was reversing an Obama-era policy that opened the military to people who identify as transgender.

That policy, announced during the last year of President Barack Obama's second term, was scheduled to go into effect earlier this month, but Secretary of Defense James Mattis announced a six-month delay in its implementation to review whether it was in fact prudent given the nature of the military and its mission. The mission of our armed forces is winning wars and protecting the nation. So any personnel policy must prioritize military readiness and mission-critical purposes first.

Trump's announcement that it would not be feasible to open the military to personnel who identify as transgender returns the military to the policy it had always observed, before the Obama administration's 12th-hour, politically driven imposition of a transgender agenda.

As I explain in my forthcoming book "[When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment](#)," the best biology, psychology, and philosophy conclude that sex is a biological reality and that gender is the social expression of that reality. The most helpful therapies for gender dysphoria focus not on achieving the impossible—changing bodies to conform to thoughts and feelings—but on helping people accept and even embrace the truth about their bodies and reality.

Unfortunately, [41 percent of people who identify as transgender will attempt suicide](#) at some point in their lives, compared to 4.6 percent of the general population. And people who have had transition surgery are [19 times more likely than average to die by suicide](#).

People who identify as transgender suffer a host of mental health and social problems—including [anxiety, depression, and substance abuse](#)—at higher rates than the general population. Biology isn't bigotry, and we need a sober and honest assessment of the human costs of getting human nature wrong.

So there were well-justified concerns that Obama was using the military to advance the latest social justice culture warrior agenda item—seeking to mainstream transgender identities and promote controversial therapies for gender dysphoria. Obama's policy change ignored the reality that placing individuals who might be at increased risk for suicide or other psychological injury in the most stressful situation imaginable—the battlefield—is reckless.

But even people who disagree about the underlying transgender issues should acknowledge that there are practical concerns for the military when it comes to people who identify as transgender.

Wednesday's announcement reflects good reasons why transgender accommodations are incompatible with military realities. Here are just a few of the considerations:

1. That the privacy of service members must not be infringed.

This means that no soldiers, including those who identify as transgender, should be allowed to use the sex-specific facility of the opposite sex. When it comes to barracks, bathroom, showers, etc., the privacy of all service members must be respected. Given the nature of military living quarters, it is unclear where soldiers who identify as transgender could be housed.

2. That all service members remain combat-ready at all times.

But soldiers who have "transitioned" medically require regular hormone treatments and follow-up visits after sex-reassignment surgery. It is unclear how someone who has "transitioned" would be deployable.

3. That all service members be held to the same physical fitness standards, and that these standards be based on the reality of biological sex, not the subjective "gender identity."

Men who identify as women should not be held to a lower standard than other men—they should be held to the standard for someone with their body that the military has determined is most effective for combat.

4. That scarce taxpayer monies not be expended on costly and controversial sex-reassignment therapies.

This is particularly the case as growing foreign threats are stretching our military's resources, and as we struggle as a nation to provide basic health care to all. But it is unclear how soldiers who identify as transgender would pay for their treatments apart from including coverage in Tricare, the military health care program.

5. That the medical judgment, conscience rights, and religious liberty of military doctors, chaplains, commanding officers, and fellow service members be respected.

Unless and until military leaders are able to find a way to respect all of these provisions, there will remain good reasons why the military will be unable to accommodate people who identify as transgender.

Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D., is the [William E. Simon Senior Research Fellow in American Principles and Public Policy](#) at The Heritage Foundation, where he researches and writes about marriage, bioethics, religious liberty and political philosophy. Anderson is [the author of several books](#) and his research has been cited by two U.S. Supreme Court justices in two separate cases. [Read his Heritage research.](#)

Collin GOP Labor Day Rally



Join us for the Collin GOP Labor Day Rally!

This family-friendly event is for all to come enjoy.
We'll have free food, free entertainment, and best of all,
FUN! Bring your friends and neighbors to this great event.

Saturday, September 2 at 4 PM - 7 PM

Hope Park Frisco

8000 McKinney Road, Frisco Texas 75033

Congratulations to Anthony Ricciardelli & Rick Smith!!!

By: Catherine Gibb

The people of Plano spoke loudly and clearly in the runoff for Plano City Council Place 2 and Place 8! They wanted a change in the Plano City Council and wanted people who pledged to listen to the folks that elected them, something we haven't had in Plano for quite some time. I'm sure the "establishment" in Plano was shocked, maybe even more than they were when the citizens of Plano elected Tom Harrison and Ron Kelley to the City Council 2 years ago. It reminded me somewhat of the shock that Hillary Clinton and the Democrats experienced when Donald Trump won the 2016 Presidential election! Hillary Clinton spent \$1.2 billion in her loss to Donald Trump who spent about half that amount. And the Mayor who had a substantial war chest of over \$300,000 helped out Anthony's and Rick's opponents in the runoff. The establishment in both cases underestimated the outrage of the people in this country and in this city whose concerns have been ignored for years. It is my hope that this political awakening will grow and that those who have never participated will become active so that we can take back our country and our city.

As one who has opposed the over building of apartments and the sudden need to cover every square inch of vacant land in Plano with either extraordinarily ugly multi-storied apartments or 2 and 3 story attached townhomes, I am in hopes that our Planning and Zoning Board will be much more selective in what they approve to be passed on the Plano City Council for final approval. Traffic in Plano is already horrendous and we need to re-think what kind of city we really want. I don't think that the majority of the citizens of Plano moved here in hopes that Plano would become a smaller version of Dallas. Plano City Council meetings are about to change and that is a very good thing. Again, congratulations to Anthony and Rick on a strong win for "we the people"!!!



Congratulations to Anthony Ricciardelli & Rick Smith !!!



Legislative Report



Collin County Bills that Made it to the Governors Desk During the 85TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bills that were Authored or Sponsored by Senator Van Taylor that made it to the Governors Desk

Bill	Author	Sponsor	Last Action	Caption
HB 9	Capriglione et al.	Taylor, Van et al.	6/12/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to cybercrime; creating criminal offenses.
HB 208	Springer	Taylor, Van	6/12/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to designating the third Wednesday in October as Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day.
HB 210	Springer	Taylor, Van	6/15/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to designating March 21 as BRAVE Day.
HB 249	Hernandez et al.	Taylor, Van	6/15/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to investigations of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation and to child protective services functions of the Department of Family and Protective Services.
HB 501	Capriglione et al.	Taylor, Van	6/6/2017 E Effective on	Relating to personal financial statements filed by public officers and candidates, including the disclosure of certain contracts, agreements, services, and compensation in and the amendment of those statements.
HB 505	Geren et al.	Taylor, Van	6/1/2017 E Effective on	Relating to restrictions on lobbyist expenditures from certain political contributions.
HB 804	Dale	Taylor, Van	6/1/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the entitlement of a lessee of property who is required to pay the ad valorem taxes on the property to receive notice of the appraised value of the property.
HB 867	Villalba et al.	Taylor, Van et al.	6/15/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to school marshals.
HB 912	Romero, Jr. et al.	Taylor, Van	6/15/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to the licensing and regulation of providers of driver and traffic safety education.
HB 929	Miller	Taylor, Van	6/15/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the time for returning ballots mailed by certain federal postcard applicants.
HB 1346	Button et al.	Taylor, Van et al.	5/23/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the date for prepayment of taxes on a dealer's heavy equipment inventory.
HB 1818	Gonzales, Larry et al.	Taylor, Van et al.	5/22/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Railroad Commission of Texas; providing for the imposition of fees.
HB 1859	Simmons	Taylor, Van	6/15/2017 E Vetoed by the Governor	Relating to certain rental-purchase agreements.
HB 1946	Parker	Taylor, Van	6/1/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the incontestability of certain contracts or leases submitted to the attorney general by certain water districts.
HB 2027	Goldman	Taylor, Van	5/26/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to the repeal of certain laws regulating the sale /transfer of secondhand watches.
HB 2425	Price et al.	Taylor, Van	5/26/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to a requirement that a hospital allow a patient to designate a caregiver to receive aftercare instruction regarding the patient.
HB 2523	Davis, Sarah et al.	Taylor, Van	6/15/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to the investigation of fraud, waste, and abuse in certain public benefits programs by the office of inspector general for the Health and Human Services Commission.
HB 2561	Thompson, Senfronia	Taylor, Van	6/9/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy and the regulation of certain prescription drugs, prescription drug prescribers and dispensers, and colleges of pharmacy; authorizing a reduction in fees.
HB 2765	Clardy	Taylor, Van	6/9/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact; authorizing fees.
HB 2804	Price et al.	Taylor, Van	6/9/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the emergency scheduling of certain controlled substances for the purpose of the prosecution and punishment of certain offenses under the Texas Controlled Substances Act; expanding the application of certain criminal offenses.
HB 2818	Romero, Jr. et al.	Taylor, Van et al.	6/9/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to the practice of marriage and family therapy.
HB 3349	Gervin-Hawkins et al.	Taylor, Van et al.	6/15/2017 E See remarks for effective date	Relating to creating an abbreviated certification program and probationary and standard certificates for trade and industrial workforce training.
HB 3563	Koop	Taylor, Van	6/1/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to parental notification regarding public school teacher qualifications.
HB 3726	Dale	Taylor, Van	6/15/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to certain examination and continuing education requirements for applicants for and holders of liquefied petroleum gas licenses.
HB 3784	Holland et al.	Taylor, Van et al.	6/15/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to certain applications to obtain a license to carry a handgun and to the associated handgun proficiency course.
SB 252	Taylor, Van	Davis, Sarah et al.	5/27/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to prohibiting governmental contracts with a company doing business with Iran, Sudan, or a foreign terrorist organization.
SB 253	Taylor, Van et al.	Davis, Sarah	5/23/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to investment prohibitions and divestment requirements for certain investments of public money.
SB 256	Taylor, Van et al.	Hunter et al.	5/19/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to the confidentiality of home address information of certain victims of family violence, sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking of persons.
SB 257	Taylor, Van	Dale	5/23/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to judicial review of protective orders and the duration of those orders.
SB 304	Taylor, Van et al.	Raymond	5/29/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners; authorizing a reduction in fees.
SB 413	Taylor, Van	Laubenberg	6/9/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the maintenance of information entered into a fee record in certain counties.
SB 500	Taylor, Van et al.	Geren et al.	6/6/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to the effect of certain felony convictions of public elected officers.
SB 579	Taylor, Van	Cortez	5/22/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to the use of epinephrine auto-injectors on private school campuses and at or in transit to or from off-campus school events.
SB 1193	Taylor, Van	Parker	6/1/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the adoption of the Texas Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act.
SB 1318	Taylor, Van	Parker	6/1/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to designation of mathematics innovation zones by the commissioner of education and to the establishment of pay for success programs to provide necessary funding.
SB 1705	Taylor, Van	Thompson, Senfronia	6/15/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the application for and issuance of a marriage license and the marriage of a minor.

Legislative Report

Continued from Page 8

Collin County Bills that Made it to the Governors Desk During the 85TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bills that were Authored or Sponsored by Representative Jodie Laubenberg that made it to the Governors Desk

BILL	Author	Sponsor	Last Action	Caption
SB 413	Taylor, Van	Laubenberg	6/9/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the maintenance of information entered into a fee record in certain counties.
SB 957	Campbell et al.	Laubenberg et al.	6/1/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to the content and numbering of propositions on the ballot.

Bills that were Authored or Sponsored by Representative Jeff Leach that made it to the Governors Desk

Bill	Author	Sponsor	Last Action	Caption
SB 969	Watson et al.	Leach et al.	6/12/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to requiring certain public and private institutions of higher education to provide amnesty to students who report certain incidents, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking.

Bills that were Authored or Sponsored by Representative Justin Holland that made it to the Governors Desk

Bill	Author	Sponsor	Last Action	Caption
HB 457	Holland et al.	Estes	6/15/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to the confidentiality of certain home address information in ad valorem tax appraisal records.
HB 2579	Holland et al.	Buckingham	5/26/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the bond and other coverages required to be maintained by or for the benefit of a savings bank.
HB 2580	Holland et al.	Estes	5/26/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to criminal history record information obtained by the savings and mortgage lending commissioner.
HB 2949	Holland et al.	Creighton	6/15/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the maximum amount of a documentary fee charged by a retail seller of motor vehicles.
HB 3376	Holland et al.	Perry	6/15/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to forms of notice that may be provided by the Department of Public Safety during certain enforcement proceedings and actions.
HB 3784	Holland et al.	Taylor, Van et al.	6/15/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to certain applications to obtain a license to carry a handgun and to the associated handgun proficiency course.
SB 1205	Nichols	Holland	6/12/2017 E Effective immediately	Relating to the sharing of death record information between the Department of State Health Services and the Department of Public Safety.
SB 1400	Campbell	Holland	6/15/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to state banks, state bank holding companies, and branches of foreign banks.

Bills that were Authored or Sponsored by Representative Scott Sanford that made it to the Governors Desk

Bill	Author	Sponsor	Last Action	Caption
HB 2881	Author: Sanford	Sponsor: Estes	06/15/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the board of directors of the Old Celina Municipal Management District No. 1.
HB 4268	Author: Sanford	Sponsor: Estes	06/12/2017 E Effective on 9/1/17	Relating to the creation of the Celina Municipal Management District No. 2; providing authority to issue bonds and impose assessments, fees, and taxes.

In Addition to bills where they were the Primary Author or Primary Sponsor our Collin County Delegation was very busy working with other legislators to be additional Primary Authors, Joint Authors, Co-Authors, Joint Sponsors and Joint Co-Sponsors to many bills this session. The numbers of bills our legislators were involved with that made it to the Governor's desk are listed below:

Senator Van Taylor : 62

Representative Jodie Laubenberg: 22

Representative Jeff Leach: 36

Representative Matt Shaheen: 16

Representative Scott Sanford: 23

Representative Justin Holland: 37



All of our legislators had a great session and represented us very well. Be sure and thank them the next time you see them.

Our Collin County Legislators At Work In Austin



85TH REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENDS

By Senate Press Release May 29th, 2017

(AUSTIN) — Memorial Day marks the end of the 85th Regular Session, but lawmakers could find themselves in Austin during the summer to deal with some unfinished business. After a bill to extend the Texas Medical Board died due to conflicts between the House and Senate in the waning days, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick wants Governor Greg Abbott to call a special session to deal with two of his top priorities that didn't make it to the governor's desk: property tax reform and the so-called "bathroom bill". Only the governor can call an extra session and only he can set the topics eligible for legislation in it. Abbott said at a bill signing on Monday that he will announce a decision about a special session later in the week.

Over the weekend, the House and Senate passed a final version of the state budget, authorizing \$107.7 billion to pay for state services for the next two years. Despite the tight revenue forecast, its author says the budget will fund the state's critical priorities and put more money into education, mental health care and Child Protective Services. "This budget is fiscally responsible," said Senate Finance Committee Chair and Flower Mound Senator Jane Nelson. "It essentially is flat compared with the current one, but it makes progress in several key areas."

Also over the weekend, the Legislature gave final approval to sweeping reforms to the agency that oversees child welfare in Texas. SB 11, by Georgetown Senator Charles Schwertner, would continue the process of privatizing parts of foster care, moving to a community based model that seeks to keep children in their communities and expedite their medical care. There's also \$500 million set aside in the budget to hire more caseworkers, in addition to the \$160 million spent over the interim to hire more employees and give raises to existing workers.

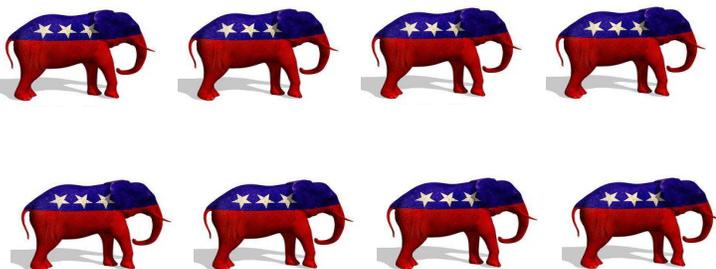
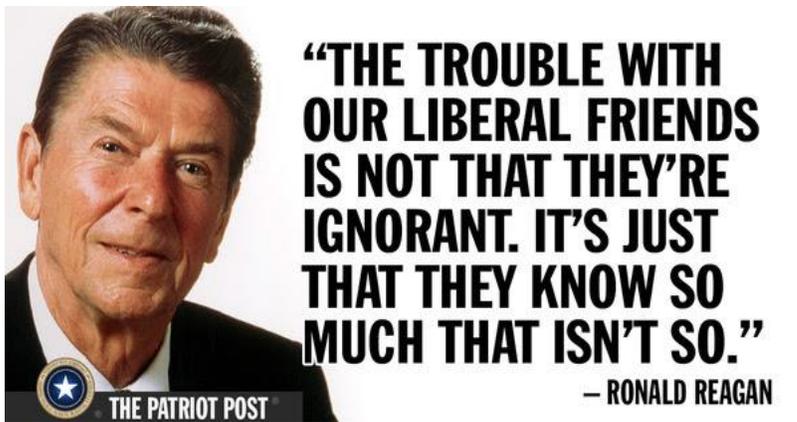
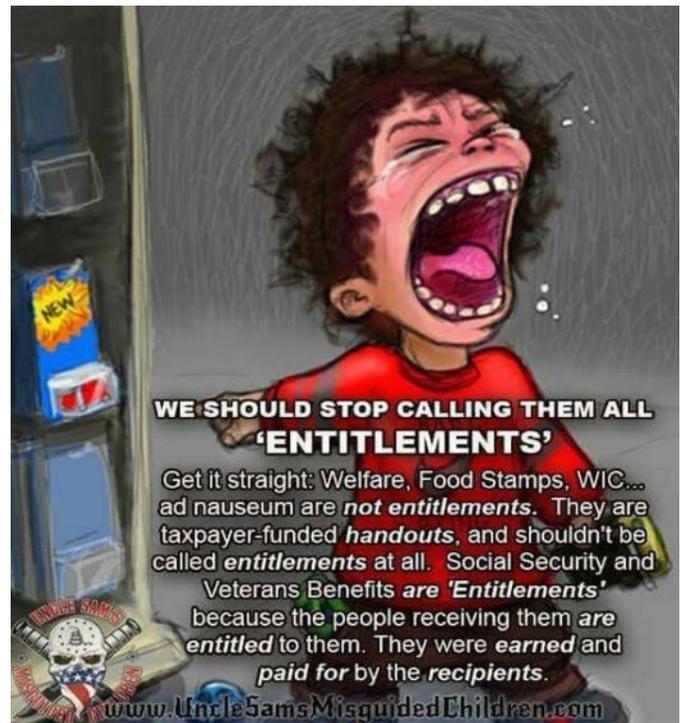
Here's a look at some of the other key pieces of legislation that passed this session:

- SB 4, by Lubbock Senator Charles Perry, would outlaw so-called "sanctuary city" policies in Texas. These are formal or informal polices set by city officials that preclude cooperation with federal immigration officials. Police departments would also have to comply with federal immigration requests to extend detention for suspected criminal immigrants. This bill has already been signed by the Governor and is set to become law on September 1.
- HB 62, sponsored by Laredo Senator Judith Zaffirini, would ban texting while driving in Texas. This bill still awaits action by the Governor.
- SB 5, by Houston Senator Joan Huffman, would make changes to the state's Voter ID law after a court struck down parts of it. It would allow a person to sign an affidavit stating they have a reasonable impediment to obtaining a photo ID and cast a regular ballot. It still needs to be signed by the Governor.
- SB 8, by Georgetown Senator Charles Schwertner, was amended in the House to become an omnibus abortion regulation bill. It would require that fetal tissue be given a proper burial or cremation after an abortion, would ban a certain type of second-trimester abortion and would reaffirm the ban on partial birth abortions in Texas and give state officials the power to prosecute violators. SB 8 is awaiting action by the Governor
- SB 12, by Dallas Senator Royce West, would create a \$25 million grant program to help local law enforcement entities pay for high-caliber resistant body armor. This was signed by the Governor.

Before gaveling out for the final time, Patrick praised the Senate for its hard work over the last 140 days. "It's an honor to serve with all 31 of you," he said. "You did great work for the people of Texas, particularly in the area of child protective services and child-care." Absent a special session, the Legislature will meet next in January 2019. Until then, the Senate stands adjourned sine die.

Session video and all other Senate webcast recordings can be accessed from the Senate website's [Audio/Video Archive](#).

Political Cartoons



I Was Once Transgender. Why I Think Trump Made the Right Decision for the Military

By Walt Heyer/July 26, 2017

On Wednesday, President Donald Trump tweeted that he wouldn't allow transgender individuals to serve in the military.

I think he made the right decision—and as someone who lived as trans-female for several years, I should know. When I discovered Congress voted earlier this month to not block funding for transgender-related hormone therapies and sex change surgeries, I wondered if it considered how devastating this will be to the fitness, readiness, and morale of our combat-ready troops.

In July, the House of Representatives voted down Missouri Republican Rep. Vicky Hartzler's amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, which would have banned the military from funding such treatments. Paying for transition-related surgeries for military service members and their families is beyond comprehensible.

Perhaps they have forgotten that our military was forged to be the world's strongest fighting force, not a government-funded, politically correct, medical sex change clinic for people with gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria, the common diagnosis for one who feels at odds with his or her birth gender, develops from prolonged anxiety and depression. People are not born that way.

The "proof" for a diagnosis of gender dysphoria is having strongly held feelings—but feelings can and often do change over time.

The military is expected to prepare its members in warfare: to kill, destroy, and break our enemies. The most important factors in preparing a strong military are not hormone therapy, surgical sex changes, or politically correct education. We need psychologically fit, emotionally sound, highly trained troops to protect our nation from its enemies.

While countless homeless vets are currently sleeping under cardboard boxes, or waiting for life-saving care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, we learn that transgender military recruits now qualify for preferential coverage for sex change procedures that are scientifically unproven and extremely costly.

I myself was fully sex-reassigned from male to female, and eventually came to accept my birth gender.

I have over 70 years of firsthand life experience, eight years of living as a woman, 20 years of researching the topic, and 12 years of helping others who, like me, found that transitioning and reassignment surgery failed to be proper treatment and want to restore their lives to their birth gender.

Costly, but Not Effective

Transitioning can be expensive—up to \$130,000 per person for numerous body-mutilating and cosmetic procedures over many months (or years) to fashion the body to appear as the opposite sex.

Yet, no matter how skilled the surgeon, or how much money is spent, it is biologically impossible to change a man into a woman or a woman into a man. The change is only cosmetic. The medical community continues to recommend this radical "treatment" in the absence of scientific evidence that people are better off in the long run. This population attempts suicide at a rate of 40 percent. Even after the full surgical change, they attempt to end their lives, or tragically succeed.

Over 60 percent of this diverse population suffer from [co-existing mental disorders](#). Consider Bradley Manning (now Chelsea Manning), a former Army soldier who was so psychologically and emotionally unbalanced that he stole confidential documents from the military and forwarded them to WikiLeaks.

The Military Is a Fighting Force, Not a Gender Clinic

The military should not provide sex change surgery.

Through my website, [sexchangeregret.com](#), I hear from people who experienced firsthand how damaging and unnecessary reassignment surgeries were. For them, the sex change failed to resolve the emotional and psychological disorders that drove the desire to change gender.

Many write after living the transgender life for years. They write to ask for advice on how to reverse the original surgical change and restore their lives to the original birth gender like I did, a process called detransition.

Some service members will come to regret having undergone the surgery and will want to detransition. Where will the military be then? Will the military pay for the sex change reversal procedure, too?

Failed "sex change surgeries" are not uncommon and will drive up the cost to care for the military transgender population above the projected [\\$3-4 billion 10-year cost](#). Beyond the financial cost, there's the question of the service member's military readiness during their transition or detransition, as the process often comes with a great deal of anxiety and emotional instability. I know of many who have struggled to adapt to the new gender role for years after reassignment surgery.

In my view, as a former trans-female who works every day with regretters, allowing the military to pay for sex change surgeries will make a mockery of the U.S. military.

Advocates are relentless in their pursuit of making others, via the government and insurance companies, cover the cost of sex change procedures.

If the military had been forced to pay, the advocates would have used this as leverage to press every other entity—both government and commercial—to pay for sex change surgeries as well.

As a person who lived the transgender life for eight years, I can attest that assisting, affirming, or paying for hormone therapies and genital mutilation surgeries would not have strengthened our military. They would only have brought adverse long-term consequences, both for individuals and for our armed forces as a whole.

Walt Heyer is an author and public speaker. Through his website, [SexChangeRegret.com](#), and his blog, [WaltHeyer.com](#), Heyer raises public awareness about those who regret gender change and the tragic consequences suffered as a result.

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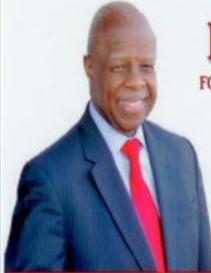
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Officers and Birthdays

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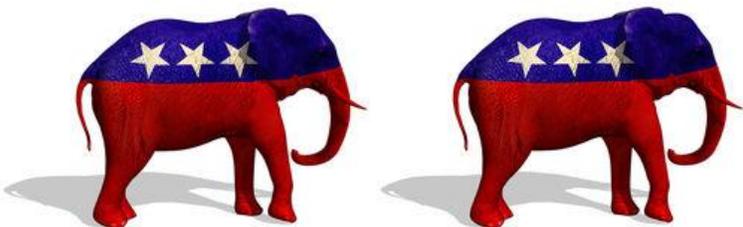
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Anne Logan, Recording Secretary.....972-675-8112

Susan Bushey, Corresponding Secretary972-895-0213

Lynn McCoy, Treasurer.....972-596-0206



**June & July
Birthdays**

PRW Members

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Louise Parker 7/27

Helen Mellor 7/27

Chrysti Bryant 7/28

Sue Cravy 8/7

Mazzie Moses 8/7

Janet Rawe 8/9

Maggie Armstrong 8/15

Karin Stedman 8/28

Associate Members & Sponsors

Neto Miguel Rodriguez 7/3

Barnett Walker 7/4

Olena Bonner 7/5

Tracy Self 7/14

David Evans 7/23

Diann Jones 7/26

Jim Skinner 7/30

Van Taylor 8/1

Susan Fletcher 8/4

Linda Block 8/6

Geraldine Miller 8/8

Rick Smith 8/28

Shelly Sanford 8/29



Please mail this form with your check made payable to PRW:

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