

November 8, 2023

Chairman Mike Drury,
and Wise County Republican Party County Executive Committee
P.O. Box 1521
Decatur, Texas 76234

To Chairman Mike Drury and the Wise County Republican County Executive Committee:

I write in response to your letter notifying me of a proposed censure resolution to be considered by the Executive Committee of the Wise County Republican Party on November 9. The resolution is based on falsehoods that I hope to correct and highlight accusations inconsistent with Republican Party of Texas (RPT) Rule 44, which among other criteria, requires three platform violations within a single biennium.

I am a conservative Republican who has lived, worked, and raised my family in Texas House District 64 for the past 40 years. I built and ran a successful veterinary practice, served 15 years on the Sanger school board, and have been an active member supporting the growth and success of Denton Bible Church. I helped found Denton County's Young Life student ministry and have served for many years on the board of directors for a national college student Christian discipleship program. The values of faith, family, and freedom are integral to who I am as a person, why I am a member of the Republican Party and the decisions I make as a Representative.

The proposed censure you have provided is based on claims that misinterpret legislation or have nothing to do with the party platform. For the past four elections, I have been selected as our party's nominee by the majority of Republican voters in our party primaries, having stood on my record before them and presented who I am, what I stand for, and how I voted. This proposed censure is a shamefully transparent effort to contradict the will of the majority of Republican voters in our district, which they have expressed time and again. It can best be described as a "smoke-filled backroom" arrangement among a handful of party leaders who seek to rig the system to favor their own preferred candidate.

Your censure resolution alleges six so-called violations upon which you seek to justify this blatant disregard for the will of our primary voters, using your position to intimidate me while undermining the integrity and fairness of our party processes. Each and every one of these allegations is intentionally misleading, and if adopted, your action to censure will violate your own party rule.

First, you claim that a vote for Representative Phelan for the role of Speaker violated the RPT platform when the opposite is true. RPT Platform Plank 233 states: "We also call for the Republican members to vote as a unified body for their selected Speaker candidate when the Legislature convenes in regular

session.” Representative Phelan won the Republican Caucus vote, and therefore I voted for him on the floor in accordance with the party platform.

Second, you cite a vote for House Rule 4, which holds that committee chairs may be members of either party. In addition to this being a historical practice of the Texas Legislature, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick appointed a Democrat chair to a Senate Committee, as he has for many years during his leadership of that chamber. I assume this means you will be censuring the Lt. Governor? I also note that the RPT Chairman called it a victory that we had a lower number of Democrat chairs in both the House and Senate this year. Was he incorrect, or does he also deserve your censure?

Third, you cite House Bill 4639 as a violation, saying it “makes the carrying of a handgun in a motor vehicle or watercraft an offense,” which is simply not true. This bill closes a loophole on an already illegal activity and was even supported by Open Carry Texas. My record in support of the Second Amendment is long established and includes passing Constitutional Carry into law, making Texas a Second Amendment Sanctuary State, and earning repeat endorsements from the National Rifle Association for my 100% pro-gun rights record.

Fourth, you reference actions that have nothing to do with the RPT platform. For example, House Bill 1635 is an election bill supported by the Texas Republican County Chairs Association and is in no way a violation of the platform.

Fifth, House Bill 5, the business development incentive program, evens the playing field to encourage business development and job growth, especially in rural areas such as Wise County. It was signed into law by Governor Abbott, passed the Senate 27-4, passed the House 120-24, and the vast majority of those who voted against it were Democrats. Texas does not have a state income tax—nor will it ever on my watch—and instead utilizes other forms of revenue. Some of these, such as the property tax, can put Texas at a disadvantage when competing with neighboring states for jobs and business growth. Since I’ve been in office, I’ve worked to pass the most significant property tax cuts and reforms in state history, raising the homestead exemption by 400% and passing \$18 billion in property tax relief earlier this year. While this helps, we also need to keep the Texas economy highly competitive. That’s why 92 out of 104 elected Republicans in the legislature supported House Bill 5 and why Governor Abbott signed it into law. If this runs counter to RPT Plank 94, then in your estimation, nearly 90% of our elected Republicans at the Capitol, including our Governor, warrant your censure—and we should kiss the “Texas Miracle” economy goodbye.

Finally, the impeachment decision by the House regarding Attorney General Paxton is not in violation of the platform as it did not deny due process. Rather, the impeachment vote triggered the due process of a Senate trial, along with the vote of 24 Senators (including a majority of Senate Republicans) to proceed with a trial. Constitutionally, the House acts like a Grand Jury in these situations, deciding whether the evidence presented is legitimate and serious enough to warrant a trial. The Senate concurred, which is why it chose—with majority Republican support—to conduct a trial. The Constitutional process worked perfectly, ensuring both due process and proper accountability. A censure based on this vote would only serve to showcase a very basic misunderstanding of the Constitutional process. With this trial behind us, I hope that Republicans will come together and focus on continuing the incredible conservative accomplishments that have made Texas a beacon of freedom and liberty, an engine of economic growth, and the envy of the world.

I appreciate the opportunity to address these alleged platform violations, which are not violations at all but instead reflect a gross distortion—if not outright disregard—of fact. Some have nothing to do with the platform whatsoever. If you were to apply your reasoning consistently, it would condemn nearly every elected Republican at the Capitol, along with Lt. Governor Patrick and Governor Abbott. The Republican Party of Texas adopted a clear prescription on which to invoke a Rule 44 censure, and this resolution falls woefully short of that standard. It therefore cannot be adopted unless your Executive Committee intends to deliberately violate the standards of Rule 44.

After subjecting your censure resolution to the measure of objective truth, I believe your underlying motive becomes crystal clear. This is not about the party platform or Republican values at all but rather a shameful attempt to place your finger on the scale and substitute your personal preferences for the will of the voters. It is disingenuous, and it is wrong.

Whether or not you choose to abandon this misguided censure scheme, respect the will of Republican voters, and respect the integrity and fairness of our party elections and processes, I am and remain faithfully your Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn D. Stucky" followed by a stylized flourish.

Lynn Stucky
Texas State Representative
District 64