

# ***A Covenant with Texas***

## **A Document of Promise and Liberation The Election of 2012**



*A Covenant with Texas* is the guiding document of the STAMPEDE!Texas 2012 campaign. The candidates that humbly submit themselves for your consideration, and apply for the positions to be your public servants in Austin, believe that the 10 objectives contained within will advance the cause of life, liberty, and prosperity in the state of Texas and for its citizens.

And if the cause is advanced to the desired conclusion, then our great state, Texas, will be ever closer to being indivisible, invincible, indomitable, and vulnerable only to the hand of God.

As a concerned member of the Texas electorate, the signers of this covenant beseech you to study this document. If you are so inclined, pray about its contents. And, if you conclude that it presents a vision that is in alignment with your deeply-held beliefs and values, then we ask you to support its implementation by supporting the candidates for Texas public office that have affixed their names to it.

Working for Christ & country,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claver T. Kamau-Imani'.

Apostle Claver T. Kamau-Imani  
Chairman & Executive Director  
RagingElephants.org



# The Objectives

1. Honestly Balance the State Budget and Protect the Rainy Day Fund
2. Repeal the Property Tax
3. Repeal the Business Margins (Franchise) Tax
4. Repeal the “Dream Act” and Prohibit Public Education Provisions for Illegal Immigrants
5. Prohibit Illegal Immigrants from Receiving Social Services and Benefits
6. Outlaw Sanctuary Cities
7. Secure the International Border of Texas
8. Expand Competition Between Texas Public Schools and Reform the Curriculum of Secondary Education
9. Effectively Eliminate the Abortion Industry
10. Assert the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment Rights of Texas: Defy Unfunded Federal Mandates and Economy-Crippling Regulations

# The Arguments

- **Honestly Balance the State Budget and Restore the Rainy Day Fund**

The people of Texas have been lied to. The culprits are those that have been elected to serve us. Not those that govern in Washington, but those that sit in Austin. They have broken their oath of office. And for their deceit, they should be turned out of office.

The state budget is not balanced as required by the state's Constitution.

The multi-billion dollar projected budget deficit for 2013 was planned by the leaders of our state government.

Our state's cherished Rainy Day Fund was raided to assist in the charade of balancing the budget. The Rainy Day Fund must be replenished.

The mirage of a balanced budget has been achieved through accounting tricks, smoke, and mirrors. This sleight of hand has emanated from both the legislative and executive branches.

Where has the money gone?

In the 20-year period from 1990 to 2010, Texas government spending increased by 300+% while population and inflation rates grew at a 139% rate. Health and human services spending grew by 406%. Education spending grew by 270%.

In the budget passed by the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislature in 2011, \$500 million dollars in "pork" has been identified.

Texas stands with \$213 billion dollars in debt to service. That's \$8,300 dollars for every man, woman, and child of the state. This is an amount that has tripled since 2001.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislature had fiscally responsible options presented to them for the purpose of balancing the Texas budget. However, they rejected a "soft" hiring freeze on vacant positions through attrition with law enforcement, corrections, and courts being exempt. They rejected pay cuts for state employees (teachers exempted) at levels of \$60K, \$100K, and \$200K+. They rejected the elimination of overlapping/duplicating agencies, departments, and programs.

The fiscal condition of the state is not solely the fault of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislature of 2011. The non-conservative management of the state has been in effect for far too many years. It is the product of a “moderate” and compromising legislature and executive branch. The state is reaping what it has sown – a status quo that is more concerned with pleasing the crony special interest that have controlled the politics of the state for far too long, instead of a government that sets as its number one priority the well-being of the citizens they are elected to serve.

The state leadership has emulated the irresponsibility of Washington, D.C. They have abdicated their duty to manage this great state with a dedication to fiscal soundness. They have burdened the taxpayers and children of Texas with immoral debt, wasteful spending, and crony capitalism. They are generally a corrupt bunch – a collection of self-serving robbers. They are a brood unworthy to hold the offices to which they were elected.

**The signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will work to construct and pass a budget that is honestly balanced with the restoration of the state’s Rainy Day Fund.**

- **Repeal the Property Tax**

There are no private property owners in the state of Texas. There is no such thing as private property in the state of Texas. This shall remain true until the tyrannical property tax is eliminated for Texas society.

Too many Texans have the threat of losing their homes due to their inability to pay their property taxes looming over their heads. These citizens have worked hard to maintain their homes. They have paid their mortgages, faithfully – generally, without the assistance of any government entity – in good times and bad. They have possibly paid the 30 notes necessary to claim that roof over their heads to be their full possession. But that claim would be false.

That claim would be false because even after they have fulfilled their contractual obligation to the mortgage holder for the believed ownership of the property, the government of Texas possesses the right to confiscate the property. Because of the imposition of the property tax, the government of Texas factually owns all of the property within the state’s borders. The citizens of Texas are the tenants of the state government.

Believing in the efficiency and justice of the free market economic system, the signers of this covenant find it unconscionable that any government would have a role in the appraisal of any property that would be considered “private” – especially in the independent state of Texas. This usurpation of economic freedom

allows the improper empowerment of Texas state government to decided appreciation rates of real property for the purpose of imposing a tax that diminishes the citizens of Texas to nothing more than surfs. This tyrannical power -- the levying of a property tax -- allows the government of Texas to selfishly decide appreciation and value of real property for the express purpose of meeting financial and budgetary obligations.

These obligations do nothing more than feed a bloated bureaucracy. The bureaucracy ill-serves the free people of Texas and robs them of their God-given liberties. All too often, these obligations are nothing more than the transfer of capital from hard-working citizens to those that wallow in sloth and profligacy.

The outlawing of any property tax in the state of Texas would forcefully strip away bureaucracy at every level of government beneath Austin. An explosion of personal wealth would result. Citizens would be economically liberated and a true free market economy will come closer to reality. Texas would become a thriving oasis of wealth creation and liberty, thereby attracting even more citizens through legal in-migration from other states that yearn to be free.

It is improper and unjust for this tyranny, known as the property tax, to exist in the sovereign state of Texas.

**The signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will author and work to pass legislation that would repeal the property tax and deem its re-imposition unlawful.**

- **Repeal the Business-Margins (Franchise) Tax**

Texas should not only be the most business-friendly state in the union, but the most business-friendly land on the planet.

The signers of *A Covenant with Texas*, being genuine pro-business conservatives, understand that the most prolific path to both wealth and job creation is a strong culture of free enterprise and free markets. The candidates of STAMPEDE!Texas 2012 are determined to make the state of Texas the model of such a culture. Our state should have a minimum of regulations and taxation upon businesses that are at the heart of a strong and vibrant economy.

Enthused by this belief, the candidates of STAMPEDE!Texas 2012 find the current system of taxation upon Texas businesses to be unacceptable and onerous. The business-margins (franchise) tax violates the conservative compact that Texas should be the model of a pro free enterprise precinct.

With nearly 1 million Texans unemployed, and 4.1 million on food stamps, nurturing a strong business climate and economy is critical for the well-being of the state. Reducing regulations and taxation on businesses is the time-tested, proven, conservative method to boost hiring rates and shrink the number of citizens on government assistance.

The current mode of business taxation within the state does something that's unthinkable. It is possible that a business that ends its fiscal year with a monetary loss could still receive a tax bill from the state. The business-margins tax is hostile to the notion of fairness, risk-taking and free enterprise.

It is understood that the judicial branch has ruled that the business-margins tax does not violate the ban on an income tax being levied upon the people of Texas. Nevertheless, the signers of *A Covenant with Texas* stand firm, together, that the business-margins tax violates the spirit of an income tax being imposed within the state. They believe that the more-appealing, fair, and equitable consumption tax of the state currently enforced can adequately fund the operations of the government. The currently enforced consumption tax should be the primary revenue source for the operation of the state government.

Repealing the business-margins (franchise) tax will strengthen the economy of Texas, induce free enterprise investment, and accelerate the pace of hiring. Repealing this burdensome tax will once again allow Texas to be promoted as the most business-friendly oasis of liberty and wealth creation.

**Therefore, the signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will author and work to pass legislation that will repeal the business-margins (franchise) tax.**

- **Repeal the “Dream Act” and Prohibit Public Education Provisions for Illegal Immigrants**

A conservative agenda for Texas would place fairness and equality for the governed as its utmost priority. This doctrine should extend to citizens of all ages and encompass the education of the children of our state and those that seek education within our state that are citizens or legal residents of the United States.

Signed into Texas law in the summer of 2001, the Texas Dream Act allows the children of illegal immigrants (and, children that are within the country illegally, themselves) to attend institutions of higher learning at in-state tuition rates. It is not uncommon for these students to then receive state-provided grants to attend Texas colleges and universities.

Grants awarded by the state are funded by the taxpayers of Texas. Therefore, the citizens of Texas are funding the continuing education of individuals who should not even be in the state. These students are being treated as equals to children who were properly born in the state or meet the legal requirements for being considered an in-state resident that have in-migrated from any of the nation's other states or territories.

On the contrary, a student from another state of the union – even a citizen of the country – that wishes to further their education in Texas, faces higher tuition rates for not being an established resident of the state.

The Texas Dream Act rewards illegality and advances unfairness and inequality in education.

**The signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will author and work to pass legislation to repeal the Texas Dream Act and prohibit state funds being allocated and awarded to illegal residents of the state for the purpose of attending colleges, universities, trade schools, or any institution established for the continuation of education beyond secondary level.**

In 1982, in a 5 to 4 decision, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the several states cannot deny primary and secondary education to the children of illegal immigrants – that is, not merely those born in the United States to parents of illegal immigrants and thus privileged to citizenship under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution, but also to those who are not citizens of the nation. The case appealed to, and argued before, the Supreme Court originated out of Texas.

The result of that decision has meant that for decades the taxpayers of Texas have been providing education to children who are in the state illegally. This has put an incredible strain on the state budget – an amount that's estimated at approaching \$6 billion per year. What a liberal federal court has ruled has permitted the robbing of the state's coffers filled by the taxpayers.

Additionally, evidence overwhelmingly exists that proves, without argument, children who are residents of Mexico traverse our southern border to attend the public schools of Texas, daily. There is no righteous argument for this practice.

In such times as these – when fiscal shrewdness has been magnified and battles brew over how to balance the state's budget as mandated by the state's constitution – the grievance is not merely a monetary one. It is the principle that the free people of Texas are being forced to educate those that have no legal right to even

be on the sovereign soil of the state. It is the principle that by edict of a court, the coffers of the people may be plundered.

The signers of *A Covenant with Texas* firmly believe that no court of this nation, or any other, has the authority to permit plunder of its treasury – especially under the pretense of justice and charity. Justice cannot be born out of injustice. And charity cannot be the product of theft.

**Therefore, the signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will author legislation, and work for its passage, that will protect the financial treasures of the state accumulated through the taxing of its citizens and appropriated for the education of our children.**

The highest court of this nation has authorized tyranny. And after 30 years of being subject to the court's foolishness, the people of Texas shall exercise their right to defy tyranny and protect the capital of its government. The signers of this covenant shall be the legislative warriors for the free people of Texas.

- **Prohibit Illegal Immigrants from Receiving Social Services and Benefits**

The free citizens of Texas should stand firm against all incentives that encourage the violation of the current immigration laws of the United States. It is the taxpayers of Texas that suffer the unjust consequences of a porous international border, an attitude of de facto amnesty, and the transfer of their earned sustenance to those that are not so entitled.

It may be factual that the primary reason that illegal immigrants have flooded over the southern border of Texas for decades is for employment opportunities. But it cannot be ignored that access to social services and financial handouts act as inducements. Therefore, it must be concluded that in addition to physically securing the border, the magnets that draw individuals to break into our state must be eliminated.

Making it virtually impossible for illegal residents to receive government-provided benefits will not only reduce the incentive for those intending to violate our international border, but will compel many to self-deport and return to their countries of origin.

The percentage of babies born to illegal immigrants in the public hospitals of Texas is astronomical. The emergency rooms of these same hospitals are choked

to the point of near inefficiency because of the inundation of illegal immigrants. The cost to Texas taxpayers is intolerable.

Perhaps the solution to this decades-old challenge is to deny such services to illegal immigrants whose health condition falls below the category of life-threatening? Perhaps birth certificates issued to the offspring of illegal immigrants born within Texas should not list citizenship as American, but the nation of the parents' origin?

Without proof of legal residency, an individual may not be issued a Texas drivers license. Would it not be wise to extend this policy in regards to the recipients of government-provided social services and benefits – across the board?

The agents of the political Left and self-serving politicians of the two dominate political parties, have worked together to ignore the glaring issue of illegal immigration. All too often, in concert with one another, these factions work together to increase the incentives that would fuel the growth of illegal immigration. They battle over the perceived electoral power that these policies could fetch them. Their defiance of the will of Texans to tackle the problem of illegal immigration helps to deepen the roots of those that reside within our state in defiance of our laws. These factions, instead, should face an electoral punishment for their insubordination.

**The signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will author and work to pass legislation intended to eliminate the magnets and incentives that exacerbate the crisis of illegal immigration.**

- **Outlaw Sanctuary Cities**

The political Left, and the Republican Establishment are united in their opposition to enforcing existing laws, or enacting new laws, intended to protect the integrity of Texas' international border. Each political faction rally around the belief that once an illegal immigrant successfully traverses the Rio Grande River and places a toe upon sovereign Texas soil, no entity of law enforcement is entitled to apprehend them. They have secured the rights of citizenship, is the conviction of the pro-amnesty elite.

During the 82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature which convened in January of 2011, an attempt to pass legislation that would stop the intentional harboring of illegal immigrants in Texas cities – thus, the state as a whole – was not achieved. Texas remains a refuge for those that seek to illegally reside within the state's borders – essentially safe from prosecution for their crime of breaking into the sovereign territory of our state.

Too many Texas mayors, city council members, county judges and commissioners, police chiefs and sheriffs have flaunted their disrespect for the rule of law by refusing to enforce existing immigration statutes. They have taken lightly their oath of office as it pertains to the choking problem of illegal immigration. They have yielded to the bullying tactics used by the federal government and the political Establishment to keep the status quo of de facto amnesty. Therefore, the state government must exercise its constitutional authority and outlaw the existence of sanctuary cities within the state.

**The signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will author and work to pass legislation that would outlaw sanctuary cities within the state of Texas.**

- **Secure the International Border of Texas**

If a country, or state, doesn't know where its borders begin and end, it doesn't know where its country or state begins or ends!

A primary duty of the federal government is to protect the sovereignty and borders of our nation. However, for several administrations and decades, the international border of the United States and Texas has remained porous.

The pathetic condition of border security has left Texas vulnerable to a literal invasion from south of the state comprised of illegal immigrants. This has caused incredible economic and social damage to the fabric of Texas. The southern border with Mexico is a war zone as drug kingpins rule with very few restraints. Both citizens and peace officers live under a shadow of relatively unchecked violence. Freedom of movement and trade is severely curtailed.

Free Texans should not have to live under such conditions.

With the United States federal government openly willing to shirk its constitutional responsibility, the state of Texas has no other choice but to take up the task of border defense and security for the integrity of the state and the meaning of citizenship. Unfortunately, the elected representatives and executives that currently hold office in Austin have equally done a poor job in employing whatever tactics are needed to make sure that the state's international border is peaceful, defended, and secure.

**The candidates for state office that have signed *A Covenant with Texas* pledge to tirelessly work to secure the international border of Texas and bring lawfulness back to the region.**

**The signers of *A Covenant with Texas*, upon becoming duly-elected members of the Legislature of Texas, will author and attempt to pass legislation intended to bolster the powers and armaments of the Texas State Guard for the protection and securing of the state's international border; compel and support the state's Commander-in-Chief to act upon the need to protect and secure the state's international border; and, to insist that the Commander-in-Chief of Texas use all powers invested in the office to repel the invasion of illegal immigration – including the calling up of the state militia and the deployment of such in a manner that will thoroughly complete the task.**

- **Expand Competition Between Texas Public Schools and Reform the Curriculum of Secondary Education**

The future strength of Texas depends on the children of Texas. The future of Texas is being set up to fail as our children continue to fall short of educational achievement.

In many of our school districts – especially in urban/suburban areas – dropout rates are exceeding 50%. Yet, the budget of the state allocates greater than 50% of expenditures towards education. The solution to the dismal education performance of schools and students does not lie in more funding, but a fundamental change in how the children of the state are taught and directed toward rewarding careers and lives.

Meanwhile, schooling models demonstrate that Texas children are willing to learn and can be taught to degrees of excellence. The charter school model has opened the door of success for children, not only in the state of Texas, but throughout the nation. Many parents prefer a more robust voucher system to expand competition between public schools. A contingent of parents believes home schooling is the best route for primary and secondary education of their children.

**Therefore, the signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will author and work to pass legislation to expand public school competition within the state.** This will break the educational mold of the state that has led to a failed system. This will break the strangling grip of unions upon the teaching of the state's children – unions that are more interested in maintaining the failing status quo instead of constructing innovative solutions to improve graduation rates.

Introducing more competition into the state's education system would mean giving more power to parents in regards to the life-preparation of their children. It would

mean the reduction of bureaucratic influence upon the education of the children of Texas.

Many students are “tested” toward failure. Every student is not meant to attend a four-year university. But, the current education model continues to emphasize collegiate higher education.

**The signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will bring forth legislation to redirect a considerable amount of focus on trade/vocational education and training at the secondary level of education.** The job market will continue to demand skill labor as the population of the state continues to explode.

Proponents of labor being provided by those that have entered the state illegally argue that a “labor shortage” is the reasoning behind their support of open borders. Legislators in previous sessions have introduced bills that would create guest-worker programs for those that are not citizens of the state or nation. The candidates of STAMPEDE!Texas 2012 oppose this approach.

**The signers of *A Covenant with Texas* believe that Texas jobs should be for Texas citizens, first! And, to address the perceived shortage of skill labor, now and in the future, the candidates of STAMPEDE!Texas 2012 will author and work to pass legislation to reform the secondary education curriculum for the purpose of bolstering instruction in trade skills – allowing students, teachers, and counselors greater options for educating our children toward their perceived skills and interests.**

- **Effectively Eliminate the Abortion Industry**

Abortion is a shameful scourge within the society of Texas. God-fearing citizens universally recognize that abortion is a practice that is repugnant and should be eliminated.

Pro-life advocates within Texas have fought the good fight. Yet, the abortion industry continues to thrive. The largest abortion clinic in the western hemisphere, if not the world, operates in the city Houston, Texas. Planned Parenthood has labeled the 78,000 square foot facility its “flagship”. This is an unacceptable badge of dishonor.

Until the 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislative Session, Planned Parenthood (the nation’s number one abortion provider) was receiving millions of dollars per annum earmarked in the state’s budget. The “sonogram bill” was successfully passed and enacted with the hopes of curbing the rate of abortion in the state. These incremental steps

aimed at crippling the abortion industry and saving tens of thousands of unborn lives in the state of Texas are worthy of praise. Yet, the lives of the unborn continue to be extinguished at an unholy rate.

Even more disturbing is the intentional targeting by the abortion industry against the unborn children of the communities of color. The Planned Parenthood “flagship” is located in a neighborhood of color in Houston – just blocks away from the University of Houston, and Texas Southern University. Literally across the street from Houston-Tillotson University (a historical black college), a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic operates. The abortion rate in the communities of color in Texas amount to nothing short of genocide.

**The signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will author and work to pass legislation to effectively end the abortion industry in Texas.**

Legislative tactics have been successfully employed in other states that virtually put the abortion industry out of business. The candidates of STAMPEDE!Texas 2012 will emulate such legislation, write it, vote on it, and pass it. It is the position of the signers of *A Covenant with Texas* that Texas should be leading the nation in the fight to save the lives of the unborn – not following.

- **Assert the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment Rights of Texas: Defy Unfunded Federal Mandates and Economy-Crippling Regulations**

The Texas Constitution states in Article 1 (Bill of Rights):

“Texas is a free and independent State, subject only to the Constitution of the United States, and the maintenance of our free institutions and the perpetuity of the Union depend upon the preservation of the right of local self-government, unimpaired to all the States.”

The founders of this great state, Texas, declared without equivocation, that we are a free and independent state. The people of this state are subject only to the Constitution of the nation.

Therefore, it is imperative for the freedom of the people of Texas, that only souls that cherish our independence and understand the constraints of the United States Constitution are elected to public office.

The Establishment, so eloquent in the art of compromise, has surrendered our liberties guaranteed by both our national and state constitutions. As the federal

government has trampled on the preciousness of the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution, the office holders of Texas have allowed the trampling. They have acted beyond the realm of irresponsibility. They have acted cowardly.

The Establishment, intent on maintaining their power and the self-serving status quo, have bowed so easily to the bullying of Washington and sold our sovereignty so cheaply. They readily accept the bribes of federal funding designed to abridge our liberties, erode free enterprise, cripple our economy and the Texas meritocracy, and eventually deepen our debt.

A legislative body must be elected (to be followed by an executive branch in the succeeding election) that will defy the power of the federal government with courage and conviction. The state of Texas must have representatives that easily identify the manipulation of a federal government that doesn't abide by the limitations and decentralized ideals of federalism.

Texas is under attack by the powers of Washington, D.C. Yet, the fight for our freedom has been feeble and unworthy of our heritage as Texans. Regulations being poured upon our heads from the centralized federal government are aimed to crush the industries that have made us strong and prosperous.

Our federal congressional delegation is powerless to assist us. They watch haplessly as unconstitutional power, through agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, strangle our economic growth. The list of such intrusions into the affairs of this independent state are too numerous. And we have not the vanguard in our nation's capital to defend us.

Therefore, it is up to the elected servants that will govern from Austin to stand for the rights enumerated in both the constitution of the nation and the constitution of Texas. They must defy unfunded mandates. They must consciously defy and conscientiously disobey the dictates of departments and agencies that impose so-easily-identified acts of tyranny through both legislation and orders.

Our public servants must be vociferous repudiators of the policies flowing from Washington. But, then, they must take action to stifle the attempts to subdue us that originate out of Washington.

**The signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will author and work to pass legislation to neutralize the tyranny of a brutal and unchecked federal government. They will work to firmly revive the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution within the borders of Texas. They will courageously reject the efforts of Washington to bride us, and separate us from our God-given rights.**

**The signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will author and work to pass legislation to dismantle federal programs that are unfunded by the federal government; and, programs that are an offense and violation against the Constitution of the United States and/or the state of Texas.**

As declared by the Constitution of Texas, the signers of *A Covenant with Texas* will see to it that Texas shall be a free, independent, and sovereign state – our right to self-government shall be unimpaired and devoid of intrusion.

May the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – even the Lord Jesus Christ – by His Holy Spirit, bless the state of Texas. We shall bow to His throne, alone.

**Amen.**

