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Ken Paxton Shows Major East Texas Momentum, Announces Over 220 Tyler/Smith County Endorsements

Stellar list includes all three GOP Smith County Commissioners, Ted Cruz Leadership, SREC Members, Republican Activists, and Prominent Business, Community Leaders

(McKinney, Texas) - Senator Ken Paxton, Republican candidate for Attorney General, demonstrated strong East Texas support today as he released a list of more than 220 Smith County business and community leaders, Republican activists, and current and former elected officials endorsing his candidacy. The list includes all three Smith County Republican County commissioners, Former Tyler Mayor Joey Seeber, Former State Representative Leo Berman, both State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) members who represent Smith County, and numerous GOP precinct chairs (see list at end of release). Senator Paxton has previously been endorsed by State Representatives Matt Schaefer and Bryan Hughes, both of whom represent Smith County.

Paxton stated, "From the start of our campaign and winning the very first straw poll here in East Texas, we have worked hard to earn the trust and support of Smith County conservatives. Today, I'm honored and humbled by this outpouring of support from one of the most important counties in the state. As Attorney General, East Texans can count on me to fight the encroachment of the Obama administration, defend the strongest pro-life bill in the nation, support efforts to secure our border, stand firm for traditional marriage, and uphold our voter ID laws."

On the day that Senator Paxton is visiting East Texas cities including Texarkana, Marshall, and Longview, local Smith County conservatives articulated their reasons for endorsing the McKinney Republican.

Retired District Judge and local attorney Cynthia Stevens Kent stated, "Ken Paxton is a conservative Texan, experienced attorney, businessman, family man and respected State Senator, who will bring his common sense and experienced voice on legal issues to the office of Texas Attorney General. From the more than 20 years I served as a judge in East Texas, my 36 years as a licensed attorney, a lifetime supporting conservative Republican policies and my knowledge of Ken Paxton, I know that Texas needs Ken as our top lawyer. Ken will bring to the Texas Attorney General's position his boots on the ground experience in understanding, writing and fair enforcement of our laws so that Texas families have a safer and healthier life enjoying the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution."

Senator Ted Cruz Statewide Finance Committee member and Kitchen Cabinet member Resa Clarke, who recently chaired Senator Cruz's Smith County fundraiser, said, "It's exciting to support a candidate like Ken Paxton for what has recently become one of the most important offices in the State of Texas. The Attorney General must be an ethical defender of state's rights and act expeditiously for the citizens of this great state. Ken Paxton is the only candidate that has a proven record of doing what he says he will, making him the most qualified to be our next Attorney General. It was an honor and privilege to help elect Ted Cruz to the U.S. Senate, and I am now excited to help elect Ken Paxton as Texas' next Attorney General."

David O. Dykes, Pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church* said, "Ken Paxton is a proven conservative who embraces Biblical morality. He is a man of conviction and Christian character who will defend conservative values for Texas in the Attorney General's office. We are at a time in our history when morality and Biblical values are under attack. We need Ken and more people like him in government."

Jeff Hunter, MD, stated, "I am thrilled to support Ken Paxton for Attorney General. Having known Ken for more than 30 years it is reassuring to see that he has remained true to his calling as a man of integrity and service over the decades."

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Being able to support someone like Ken who is like-minded in regard to protecting my family values, my freedoms, my faith, and my profession as a healthcare provider makes rallying behind him an easy choice. Clearly, Ken is a smart, practical, servant-hearted leader. These are the qualities I wish all our leaders could possess."

Local Smith County Precinct Chair and home school leader **Janet Baber** said, "Ken Paxton believes that parents should control the education of their children, and he is the only candidate endorsed by the Texas Home School Coalition. I'm pleased to support him, and encourage all conservatives to join me in working hard to ensure he is our next Attorney General."

Stephen Dement is a respected local attorney, small businessman, and educator who founded a local Christian college preparatory school. In his endorsement of Paxton, he said, "I am impressed with the character, qualifications, and conservative credentials of Senator Ken Paxton. As our next Attorney General, I am confident in his ability and commitment to stand for East Texas values of faith and family."

These key endorsements follow those of other prominent Texas and national conservatives including **Penny Nance**, President and CEO, Concerned Women for America*; **Kelly Shackelford**, Chairman of the Ted Cruz for Senate Statewide Leadership Team and Liberty Institute* President; **Cathie Adams**, President, Texas Eagle Forum* and Former Chairman, Republican Party of Texas; **Tim Lambert**, President, Texas Home School Coalition* and Former Republican National Committeeman for Texas; **Ann Hettinger**, Former State Director of Concerned Women for America of Texas*; **Rick Green**, Former Texas State Representative and Host of WallBuilders* Live; **Carol Everett**, Texas Pro-Life Leader; Founder and CEO of The Heidi Group*; **Michelle Smith**, State Director of Concerned Women for America of Texas*; **Jonathan Saenz**, President, Texas Values*; and **Hon. Paul Pressler**, Former State Representative, Former District Court Judge, and Former Justice, 14th Court of Appeals.

Senator Paxton has also been endorsed by Senator Rick Santorum, Young Conservatives of Texas, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, Texas Right to Life PAC, Texas Home School Coalition Association, Senator Brian Birdwell and 24 Texas House members, and over 100 Tea Party leaders and activists across Texas. Additionally, Senator Paxton has won all six straw polls conducted in the campaign so far.

**organization listed for identification purposes only.*

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Ken Paxton for Attorney General Tyler/Smith County Endorsements

***Organizations listed for identification purposes only; no endorsement is implied. Partial list at time of printing.**

Hon. Matt & Jasilyn Schaefer – State Representative, District 6
Hon. Bryan Hughes – State Representative, District 5 (represents Smith County)
Hon. Leo Berman –Former State Representative, District 6
Hon. Jeff Warr – Smith County Commissioner, Precinct 1; Former Tyler City Councilman
Hon. Cary Nix, Smith County Commissioner, Precinct 2
Hon. Terry Phillips, Smith County Commissioner, Precinct 3
Hon. Cynthia Stevens Kent – Former Judge, 114th Judicial District Court; Former Judge, County Court at Law #2
Hon. Joey Seeber – Former Mayor of Tyler
Hon. David Stein – Former Smith County Commissioner; Area Developer, Office Pride Commercial Cleaning Service
Hon. Nathaniel Moran – Attorney; Former Tyler City Councilman
Hon. Ashton Oravetz - Former Smith County Republican Party Chairman; Previous Delegate, Republican National Convention
Curtis and Torri Acheson
Mary J. Acheson
Marilyn and Dave Ackerson
Denny and Linda Alden
David and Cindy Allen

Janet Baber – Precinct Chair; Texas Coordinator of TeenPact Leadership Schools
Gerald and Kathy Barker
Bill and Suzie Bell
Biff Bigbie
Bill and Nancy Blomdahl
Lou Ann Berman
Tony and Dottie Bisagno
Mike and Linda Boyter
Bob Brewer
Anthony Bruner – Precinct Chair; Previous Delegate, Republican National Convention
Mary Bruner - Previous Delegate, Republican National Convention
Jerry and Virginia Burgess
Paul Burt
David and Debra Bush - Attorney
Dennis and Dr. Rebecca Cali
Dr. John Camp
Chad Cargile – Regions Bank, East Texas President; Board of Directors, Tyler Chamber of Commerce
Bill and Cathy Carter
James and Lisa Chambless
Dr. Carey Clark III
Nancy Clark
Brian and Resa Clarke – President/CEO, Abby Development; Previous Delegate, Republican National Convention (Resa)
Gaylon and Edith Clifton
Gena Coldewey
Dr. Douglas and Ellen Coltman
Allison Cromer
Dr. Stuart and Kay Crutchfield
Pam and John Cumming
Myles and Lill Cunningham
Stephen Dement – Owner, Landmark Title Inc.; Founder, The Brook Hill School
Dr. Adam Dossey
David O. Dykes – Pastor, Green Acres Baptist Church
D.M. Edwards – Former Chairman, East Texas Baptist University Board of Trustees; Founding President, East Texas Baylor Club
Dale and Pat Eppler
Gregg and Diana Eppler
Larz and Patsy Eppler
Greg and Paula Evans
Sue Evenwel – State Republican Executive Committeewoman, SD 1 (represents Smith County)
Tony and Joni Farmer
Newt and Lorie Farrar
Jay and Ashley Ferguson – Headmaster, Grace Community School
Danny and Vicki Garcia
Byron and Joyce Gesulgon
Rocky and Carrie Gill – Owners, Express Employment Professionals; Founders, Hope for 100 (Rocky); Chairman, Tyler Chamber of Commerce Development Council
Gail Green – Former East Texas Regional Director for U.S. Senator John Cornyn and U.S. Senator Phil Gramm; Previous Delegate, Republican National Convention
Ron Green - Previous Delegate, Republican National Convention
David Guthrie
Sharon Guthrie – Precinct Chair; Previous Delegate, Republican National Convention
Mark and Elaine Hageman
Bobby and Marty Halbrook
Dr. Thad Hardin
Dr. Charles Heaton
Tom Henson – Attorney, Ramey and Flock, P.C.
Hank Hering – Precinct Chair; Previous Delegate, Republican National Convention
Mollie Herrington – Precinct Chair; Previous Delegate, Republican National Convention
Steve and Nanelle Houston
Dr. Jeff and Kelly Hunter
Joel Hutson
Noah Jackson

Amy Johnson
Brian and Deborah Johnson
Dr. Matt and Sherry Jones
Debbie Jordan
Don Kent
Janie Kilgo
Kayla Konon
Kori Konon
Pamela Konon
Matthew and Suzanne Laine
Drew and Jamie Landes
Stephen Lee – State Republican Executive Committeeman, SD 1
Ernesto and Christine Leon
Scott and Shannon Line
Traci Maddox
Jane Maris
Dr. Roy McClintock
Dr. Roger and Liz McCown
Isabelle McGriffin
Dr. Matthew and Jennifer McKellar
Dr. Joseph and Martha Milan
John H. Minton – Attorney, Potter Minton, P.C.; Former Baylor University Regent; Former Chairman, Baylor University Development Council
Martha Minton
Suzanne Mitchell
Jamal and Marilyn Moharer
Bret Moore
Carrie Moore
Dr. Joel Muirhead
Dr. Todd Nickel
Dr. Kurt Nielson
Dr. Michelle Barton-Nielson
Vincent Nguyen
Jane Oravetz - Previous Delegate, Republican National Convention
Brent Patrick
Dr. Jeff and Elizabeth Pennell
Keith Pennington
Mary Beth Petrakian
Steve and Eva Phillips
Scott and Dee Pierce
Judd Quarles
Caleb and Laura Rackley
Kari Randall
Dr. Paul Rath
Bobby and Susan Richardson
Dr. David Risner
Scott and Karen Ritcheson - Attorney, Ritcheson, Lauffer and Vincent, P.C.
Tim and Jan Roberts
Billy Robison
Chad and Christina Rook - Attorney, Flowers Davis P.L.L.C.
Barney and Caroline Rubin – Owner, Fairway Auto Center, Tyler; Fairway Ford, Henderson
Dr. Mike and Angie Russell
Dr. William Schreiber
Dr. Jerry Schwartzbach
Kristen Seeber
Jim Sellers
Joy Sepulva
Glenn Sparks
Steve and Trish Spitzer - Attorney, Ramey and Flock, P.C.
Keith and Karen Starr - Attorney, Starr Schoenbrun Comte McGuire
Stella Stein
Lavai and Michelle Stevenson

Chris and Carole Stewart - President, General Manager, and Funeral Director, Stewart Family Funeral Home
Dr. Gregory and Trisha Stovall
Lance and Caroline Sturrock
David Taylor
Everett and Ann Taylor
Geoffrey Taylor
Josiah Taylor
Tom and Betty Taylor
Jerry and Sheila Vickery
Thomas and Cloetis Rozell Vickery
T.J. and Leslie Vickery
Leigh Wade – Precinct Chair
Sally Wade
Rick Walla
Destry and Lisa Walsworth
Sabrina Warr
Shawn and Robyn Welch
Clay White – Attorney, White Shaver
Eric and Kim Williams
Julie Wood
Shanna Yeatts