

## Palin: The Right Choice

By: Greg Abbott

Ronald Reagan once told a story about a writer who toured America during the 1830s and concluded that America's prosperity and power were rooted in the superiority of its women.

Retelling that story, President Ronald Reagan added, "especially our Republican women." I couldn't agree more.

For decades, Republican women have helped lead the conservative movement in Texas -- and now a Republican woman is helping to lead conservatives straight to the White House.

By choosing Governor Sarah Palin to be his running mate, John McCain made an historic, ground-breaking decision. She's brave. She's tough. She's principled. She's conservative. And, she's a leader.

As a delegate to the Republican National Convention, I was thrilled and honored to be inside the Xcel Center when Governor Palin gave her acceptance speech. The political atmosphere there -- and across the nation -- has been electric ever since.

Governor Palin is giving the Democrats fits. They never saw her coming. Now, they're doing everything they can to stop her.

Liberals made fun of her small town roots. They ridiculed her religious beliefs. They even questioned her fitness as a mother. And when they learned she was a lifelong member of the N.R.A., they mocked hunters and gun owners.

They're worried because her bright smile and upbeat demeanor shows that gun-owning, church-going Americans aren't the least bit bitter -- despite what Barack Obama is telling the liberals on the San Francisco cocktail party circuit.

But it's not surprising that the Democrats are attacking Governor Palin so ferociously.

Liberals are terrified that the glass ceiling is about to be broken...by a conservative. As the proud father of a young conservative daughter, I couldn't be more thrilled.

With the election just weeks away, Senator Obama and his Chicago political machine are working hard to convince us that he's in touch with mainstream America.

But in reality, Barack Obama is the nation's most liberal U.S. Senator. To balance the ticket, to show America that he is moving toward the center, Obama skipped the second-most liberal senator and named the third, Joe Biden, as his running mate.

In the wake of Governor Palin's nomination, Republicans are excited and united. We have a strong ticket to support and a righteous cause to defend. A McCain-Palin victory is particularly important because the next president will select the next U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

As Attorney General, I have seen -- and fought -- plenty of battles with liberal legal activists. So I know first-hand that courts and judges are critically important.

When an atheist sued the state to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the Texas Capitol grounds, I took the fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. And we won. Despite the liberals, the Ten Commandments still stand at the state capitol today.

When a Washington, D.C. gun ban unconstitutionally restricted the right to keep and bear arms, I led a 31-state effort to defend the Second Amendment. Among the states in that coalition was Alaska, led by Governor Palin, who said: "I am proud to join the State of Texas in support of the Second Amendment."

The U.S. Supreme Court's ground-breaking decision was a decisive victory for Texas, Alaska, and our entire country, for it should forever protect our constitutionally guaranteed right to bear arms.

But the battle is far from over. Right here in Texas we're actively defending a legal challenge to the words "Under God" in our state Pledge of Allegiance. So we need conservative, strict constructionist judges who will interpret the law -- not use the courts to advance their liberal legislative agendas from the bench.

As we look ahead to November we see that there are real differences between the candidates' visions for America. Barack Obama, the nation's most liberal senator and the product of a storied Chicago political machine, is coupled with a Washington insider who's represented a liberal northeastern state since 1972. In contrast, the McCain-Palin ticket is led by two westerners with a history of reform and a record of conservative leadership. For conservatives, the choice is clear: McCain-Palin.

So let's remind Senator Obama not to mess with Texas and let's elect Republicans all across our great state. Let's stay focused and keep working hard until John McCain and Sarah Palin stand on the steps of the United States Capitol and recite the words "So help me, God."

*Greg Abbott is the fiftieth Attorney General of Texas.*