

President's Perspective
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Where Else, But Texas?

It would be an understatement to say that politics, Texas-style, never provides a dull moment. Since Texas' first election in September of 1836, the process is always lively if not downright outrageous. The upcoming primary election is no exception—it is shaping up to be one of the most interesting in memory, from the governor's race all the way down to precinct chair.

I am reminded of a quip from *Red, White, and Tuna*, when one of the Tastee Kreme girls referred to the 2002 governor's race between Rick Perry and Tony Sanchez, "What's the world coming to when Republicans speak Spanish and the Democrats have money?"

Where else but Texas would you have an incumbent governor bent on retaining the office against an incumbent senator bent on leaving hers—and a new-to-politics tea party candidate thrown in to boot, so to speak.

For anyone who is paying attention, the year leading up to this election has been, at the very least, trying. Financially challenging for businesses as well as individuals and families. Stressful for citizens concerned about the future of nationalized healthcare and national security. Doubly concerning for families with loved ones in a military not properly supported by the Commander-in-Chief.

But once again—perhaps even rivaling efforts following 9-11—Americans, and especially Texans, are rising to the occasion and putting voice and action to their concerns. Thousands are sitting up and taking notice of the political process for the first time and realizing the power they hold to change their country for the better.

The membership of FWRW has grown as a result of women who are asking the question, "What can I do?" I have personally received calls and emails from people who haven't always been politically active, saying, "I have watched from the sidelines for way too long, and I want to be involved in something worthwhile." I know it is the same for other members of our club who have been able to encourage friends and acquaintances to become more involved. Keep up the good work!

We must heed the advice of the ancient Roman poet and seize the day. We must channel that newly acquired enthusiasm into a lasting passion for exercising the rights of citizenship, beginning with voting and volunteerism. We hear *ad nauseum* about the Obama administration and community organizing—we have to beat them at that game and put outreach and organization to work for the Republican party more effectively than ever before.

And, of course, the way we do that on an individual level is connecting with one person at a time. Communication is the key, and we must do that effectively at every level, whether it is simply chatting with a neighbor or a co-worker or networking through various forms of media.

Thank you, members of Fort Worth Republican Women, for all that you do to help candidates and promote our club and Republican principles in general, particularly in this busy, busy prelude to the primary election. Thank you, candidates and elected officials, for supporting us, attending our forums and allowing us to get to know you better.

Remember that early voting begins February 16. Vote early if that is your choice, and take a neighbor to the polling place with you.

It's an exciting time to be a Republican in Texas—and I simply can't wait to see what November holds!