

# Rep. Joe's Straus' Record

## **Rep. Joe Straus Supported:**

- Making it easier to perform late-term, third-trimester abortions (SB 419, vote 672; 2005)
- A public-school sex education bill which was supported by Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and the ACLU. Some described it as allowing "Planned Parenthood to control sex education in Texas." (Rep. Straus co-authored HB 1842; 2007)
- Embryonic stem cell research and human cloning (Rep. Straus co-authored HB 2704; 2007)
- Homosexuals as foster parents (SB 6, vote 327, 2005)
- Expanded gaming and gambling, including casinos (HB 10, vote 939, 2007; and HB 2265, vote 749, 2007)

## **Rep. Joe Straus Opposed:**

- Strengthening marriage and reducing divorce. Rep. Straus voted against encouraging statistically-proven pre-marital education (HB 2685, votes 384, 437, and 1407; 2007)
- Parental rights. Rep. Straus voted against a bill to let parents know the service-referrals that school counselors are making for their children (HB 2136, vote 592, 2007)
- School choice. Rep. Straus voted *for* a budget rider that precluded school choice (HB 1, vote 235, 2007)

## **Voter ID: A Victim of Speaker Straus' Lack of Leadership**

- After becoming Speaker in January of 2009, Rep. Joe Straus Appointed Rep. Todd Smith, a liberal Republican, as chairman of the House Elections Committee.
- Chairman Smith stalled voter identification legislation that was passed by the Senate (SB 362). Chairman Smith later substituted a watered-down bill that would not have secured the right to vote.
- Voter ID legislation, which should have been a clear priority for a Republican Speaker and his chairmen, did not pass.

**Encourage your State Representative to support a conservative House Speaker elected by REPUBLICANS!**

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Rep. Joe Straus formed a coalition of liberal Democrats and liberal Republicans to defeat Speaker Tom Craddick, a conservative Republican.

## **Liberal Democrats**

Speaker Joe Straus attended a May 12 fundraiser for Rep. Patrick Rose, a liberal Democrat, despite the fact that a promising conservative Republican is running against Rep. Rose.

In 2009, Speaker Joe Straus appointed liberal Democrats to chair major House committees, including:

- Ways & Means (Chairman: Rep. Rene Oliveira, D)
- Border & Intergovernmental Affairs (Chairman: Rep. Veronica Gonzales, D)
- Technology, Economic Development, & Workforce (Chairman: Rep. Mark Strama, D)
- Criminal Jurisprudence (chairman: Rep. Pete Gallego, D)
- Human Services (Chairman: Rep. Patrick Rose, D)
- Local & Consent (Chairman: Sinfronia Thompson, D)

## **Liberal Republicans**

Of the ten liberal Republicans who joined with Rep. Joe Straus to unseat conservative former Speaker Tom Craddick, two were defeated in their Republican primary by strong conservatives:

- House District 7: Conservative David Simpson defeated Rep. Tommy Merritt
- House District 83: Conservative Charles Perry defeated Rep. Delwin Jones

## **Pro-Abortion Groups**

- For the 2007 legislative session, Rep. Joe Straus was awarded a 100% voting record from the radical pro-abortion group NARAL.
- Pro-abortion group Planned Parenthood contributed to Rep. Joe Straus' re-election campaign.