

# Minority Mentality

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2010

While Republicans have been the majority political party in Texas for some years, they are still finding it difficult to function as one group. In 2000, when Governor George W. Bush was elected President of the United States and Lt. Governor Rick Perry became governor, the Republicans in the Texas Senate allowed the Democratic minority to choose the most liberal Republican senator as the lieutenant governor. This happened because Democrats voted as a block and picked up a handful of Republican senators to get a majority.

Two years ago we saw a replay of that ploy in the Texas House as 11 moderate Republicans joined 65 Democrats to pick Joe Straus, one of those 11 Republicans, as speaker. The moderate Republicans caucused together and chose a candidate from among themselves. The Democrats, as required by their bylaws, caucused together to choose who they would support and voted as a block, thus choosing the speaker while Republicans split their vote without a caucus. According to recent reports, the Republican majority does not support a caucus meeting to choose a speaker nominee.

In both of these situations, the minority Democrats outmaneuvered the Republicans and chose a leader from among Republicans that would be more supportive of their agenda. Today we are watching the same as the Republican majority in the Texas House refuses to caucus among themselves to nominate a candidate for speaker, thus allowing the minority party, rather than the majority party, to choose the speaker.

Democrats know that their only chance to block the agenda that voters overwhelmingly demanded in the elections is to together and work with moderate Republicans to stop conservative legislation, as happened in the last session. If Republicans allow this to happen, they will face the voters' wrath in the next election cycle. Now is the time to call your state representative if you haven't, and again if you have, to make your voice heard.

Best regards,

Tim Lambert  
Texas Home School Coalition  
P.O. Box 6747  
Lubbock, Texas 79493  
806-744-4441