

From the Desk of
David L. Cook
Texas House District 96

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Dear Republican Members, Members-Elect, and Nominees,

From my time as Mayor of Mansfield to serving in the Texas House, I have had the unique perspective of understanding both the old world of governance and the new. Back then, the political landscape was different—more predictable, less connected. But today, things have changed. Constituents are more informed and engaged than ever, and they expect constant communication and responsiveness from their elected officials.

Our shared mission is to reflect the values of our constituents and relentlessly pursue their priorities for the betterment of our State. But political infighting, breakdowns in communication, and a lack of transparency have hindered our ability to meet those expectations. If we are not careful, we are on our way to turning into Washington D.C.

After a draining year of legislative sessions followed by a tumultuous primary season, the question before us is no longer how we got here, but how we move forward. The current state of the Republican caucus is of grave concern. Internal strife threatens to weaken our leadership and distract us from the work we were elected to do.

Rebuilding trust, maintaining integrity, and finding unity within our caucus is vital if we are to effectively govern as the majority party. Change at the top is needed to better align with the priorities of our Members and the people of Texas. Now is the time to set aside the battles that have divided us and focus on what we can achieve together.

The Texas House has experienced many organizational shifts over the years. In 1975, Speaker Tom Craddick became the first Republican committee chair in more than 100 years, marking a significant shift in the political landscape. Yet, even as the electorate has continued to change, some Democratic members have maintained powerful positions, largely because previous speakers have relied on Democratic support before securing the majority of their own caucus. This approach has raised concerns among grassroots voters and, consequently, among many of our Republican colleagues. I firmly believe our caucus process should be prioritized in selecting leadership. Over the coming months, my time will be spent with my fellow Republican Members, working to address the issues that have divided us and building consensus within our caucus.

It's time to ensure that leadership better reflects the will of the majority party. This includes a shift to a Republican committee chair model. However, Democratic members will still have the opportunity to work their bills and see them considered fairly, as preserving the rights of the minority party remains part of facilitating the orderly transaction of business in the Texas House.

To move forward as a unified body, we need to foster full participation from all Members, not just a privileged few. The lack of communication between leadership and our caucus has stifled progress and caused frustration among Members. Clear, transparent, and fair processes are essential to ensuring that every Member has the opportunity to contribute meaningfully.

As an intended part-time legislature, we must also be efficient with our time and the time of those we represent. Legislators are expected to return home and live under the laws we pass, yet that becomes increasingly difficult when time is wasted on unnecessary delays and procedural hurdles. We must reform the processes that slow our work and focus on streamlining procedures to ensure we are governing effectively for the people of Texas.

The Texas House is strongest when all Members can engage in open and transparent discussions, with clear and fair rules. Only by ensuring that every voice is heard and every minute is used wisely can we truly represent the people who sent us to Austin.

Today, I am declaring my candidacy to serve as your next Speaker of the Texas House. As Speaker, I will be committed to being actively engaged and present in the daily workings of our Chamber. Leadership means not only setting the direction, but also being in the arena alongside each of you. My philosophy is rooted in returning power to the Members and fostering an environment where we can work together effectively.

I will ensure that the House runs efficiently, with clear and frequent communication to all Members. My presence and engagement will reflect the deep commitment I hold to each of you and to the people of Texas.

I look forward to visiting with Members one-on-one, to hear your thoughts, understand your concerns, and earn your support. I would be honored if you would consider voting for me to serve as your Speaker for the 89th Texas Legislature. Together, we can chart a new course—one that unites us and allows us to focus on the work of Texas that truly matters.

With Commitment,



David L. Cook