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Voter Guide: Texas Governor

11/01/02

**Separation of Church and State

Tony Sanchez (D)

MOSTLY SUPPORTS

Sanchez believes that "children should not be forced to leave their faith at the schoolhouse door...But you sure have to guard against [students] being coerced, embarrassed or alienated [by school prayer sessions]" (Austin Chronicle, 10/26/01); supports a mandatory moment of silence in public schools (www.tonysanchez.com).

Rick Perry (R)

OPPOSES

Perry participated in a Baptist prayer at a public school, then defended his action by stating that he disagreed with the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that public school prayer is unconstitutional (Corpus Christi Caller-Times, 11/8/01); stated that Texans who are upset over single-faith public prayers should "just be tolerant," argued that everyone prays to "the same god anyway" and stated that the type of prayer offered in a public school should be decided by "majority-rule situation" (Austin Chronicle, 10/26/01); stated that he wants to "advance the cause of faith" (Associated Press, 7/26/02).

**Improving Public Education

Tony Sanchez (D)

SUPPORTS

Sanchez stated that "instead of spending money to incarcerate people because they are not educated properly, why not spend half that and make sure our children know how to read and do math by third grade?" (Houston Chronicle, 4/7/02); supports raising teacher pay to the national average (Houston Chronicle, 5/15/02); stated that he opposes school voucher plans and "would veto such a plan [if elected] Governor" (Dallas Morning News, 6/28/02).

Rick Perry (R)

OPPOSES

As Lieutenant Governor, Perry forced a vote in the Texas legislature on instituting school vouchers, which would have allowed some parents to use taxpayer funds to send their children to private and religious schools (San Antonio Express News, 2/17/99; Houston Chronicle, 4/12/99); stated that a "principled" voucher program would not be limited to just children from low-income families (Houston Chronicle, 4/23/99).

**Reproductive Freedom

Tony Sanchez (D)

SUPPORTS

Sanchez stated that, if elected Governor, he would "veto any legislation that interferes with a woman's right to choose" (Houston Chronicle, 6/17/02); endorsed by Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas Action Fund for his support of reproductive choice.

Rick Perry (R)

OPPOSES

Perry believes abortion should always be illegal except in cases of rape, incest, or threat to the life of the mother (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 6/26/02).

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****Improving Environmental Protections**

Tony Sanchez (D)

SUPPORTS

Sanchez proposes an air pollution abatement program that would follow the "polluter pays" principle; would eliminate the state's discount to polluters in the payment of fees for air emissions and use the extra revenue to supplement state clean air enforcement; pledges to meet a goal of having ten percent of Texas' energy come from renewable sources by 2020 (www.tonysanchez.com).

Rick Perry (R)

OPPOSES

Perry supports more flexibility in water quality criteria than those mandated by the federal Clean Water Act (Western Governors' Association resolution 01-16); supports voluntary efforts by mining companies to protect water sources that are impacted by inactive mines, as well as policies that protect mining companies from liability after cleanup of abandoned mine sites (WGA resolution 01-15).

Search Political News for:



Voter Guide: Texas Senate

11/01/02

**Separation of Church and State

Ron Kirk (D)
SUPPORTS

"As a religious person, I am firmly committed to ensuring that religious diversity is protected. Whether you practice a faith or not, that decision should be respected. I do not believe, therefore, that mandated school endorsed prayer is appropriate in our public schools." (Kirk position paper)

John Cornyn (R)
OPPOSES

Cornyn filed an amicus curiae brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of a public school system that allowed the recitation of a sectarian prayer at a public high school football game (Office of the Attorney General statement, 1/5/00).

**Improved Patients' Care/Rights

Ron Kirk (D)
SUPPORTS

Kirk supports a Senate bill that seeks to lower the cost of prescription drugs by opening competition and erasing barriers for the production of low-cost generic drugs for seniors (www.ronkirkfortexas.com).

John Cornyn (R)
OPPOSES

Cornyn supports a federal proposal to cap the amount of damages patients can collect from negligent HMOs, a proposal that would supersede Texas' more extensive malpractice laws and which consumer advocates believe would "represent an enormous step backwards for patient safety" (Houston Chronicle, 8/30/02).

**Reproductive Freedom

Ron Kirk (D)
SUPPORTS

Kirk believes that "abortions should be safe, legal, and rare" and that "the decision to terminate a pregnancy is best left between a woman and her doctor" (Kirk position paper); stated that, while he opposes "litmus tests," federal judicial nominees should not be appointed if their "express purpose" is to outlaw abortion (Dallas Morning News, 3/2/02).

John Cornyn (R)
OPPOSES

Cornyn responded in a Greater Austin Right to Life questionnaire that he supported the reversal of Roe v. Wade (www.naral.org); issued a legal clarification stating that minors using RU-486 are subject to parental notification laws (www.johncornyn.com); appealed a court decision to allow the state to provide funding for abortions for low-income women (Ibid.).

**Improving Environmental Protections

Ron Kirk (D)
SUPPORTS

Kirk opposes drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Dallas Morning News, 6/20/02); as mayor of Dallas, Kirk helped establish an

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environmental compliance division and required city agencies to "develop plans for ozone action days" (Austin American-Statesman, 8/25/02); supports energy policies that promote tax credits for "alternative fuel solutions" (Ibid.).

John Cornyn (R)

OPPOSES

Cornyn supports the President's proposed amendments to the federal Clean Air Act, which include lighter penalties for companies caught violating the Act (The Daily Texan, 6/20/02); supports drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Dallas Morning News, 6/20/02); settled a case against a violator of the Clean Water Act for a sum that, environmental advocates assert, represented only 15 percent of the damages caused by the company's corroded pipelines (Texas Monthly, June 2000).

**Israel

Ron Kirk (D)

SUPPORTS

Kirk believes that "the United States' preeminent concern in the Middle East must be assuring the future survival of Israel...Israel has a right to exist as a sovereign Jewish state within secure and recognized borders"; calls on the Palestinian Authority to "shut down and dismantle the terrorist organizations Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad" before peace negotiations can begin; believes that U.S. aid to Israel "enhances U.S. security interests by strengthening our only democratic ally" in the Middle East; recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital and supports moving our embassy there from Tel Aviv (Kirk position paper); condemned Palestinian suicide bombings as "a crime against all humanity" (The Austin Chronicle, 5/17/02).

John Cornyn (R)

SUPPORTS

Cornyn, on the subject of the Middle East peace process, stated, "We must place the onus where it belongs, which is squarely on the Palestinians to stop the violence." (The Austin Chronicle, 5/17/02)