

The Lake Travis Republican



May 2015



Next Meeting

Tuesday

**May 19th @ 11:30
The Hills Club**

**\$15 Members
\$ 20 Guests**

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Meet our May 2015 Speaker

Tom Mechler

Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas

Tom Mechler has been politically involved for over thirty years. He was elected Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas by the State Republican Executive Committee in March of 2015. He previously served as Treasurer of the Republican Party of Texas, a position he was appointed to by Chairman Steve Munisteri in September 2010. Prior to that, he served as a county Republican Chairman for a combined period of twelve years at three different locations and served on the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) representing District 28 from 2002 – 2006. He also served as the Platform Committee Chairman at the 2012 and 2014 State Conventions.



Governor Perry appointed Tom to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) in November 2005, where he served for nearly nine years, the last five of which he served as the Vice-Chairman, where he was 2nd in command of the state agency responsible for operating 109 prisons, including a \$3.3 billion per year budget, 37,000 employees and 22,000 volunteers.

Tom's business experience includes serving as President of Manna Services, Inc. which operates as a small oil & gas production company and is involved in providing consulting services to independent oil and gas producers in the Texas Panhandle. Tom has extensive experience in the negotiation and auditing of gas purchase contracts for the natural gas industry. He previously worked for ARCO for ten years, seven of which were in Alaska, where he and his family lived in Wasilla. His past assignments included duties as an offshore production foreman, facility engineer at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, facility planner, and technical director.

Tom graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1980 and received a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) Finance degree in 1992 from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, which is the top university in the world in the field of Finance. He is a registered Mechanical Engineer as well as a Volunteer Prison Chaplain. He and his wife Becky currently reside on a ranch outside of Amarillo and have six adult children and fifteen grandchildren.

Mark your Calendars:

Annual Golf GOP Scramble—October 5th, 2015

Happy Mother's Day

Glen Hegar, Texas State Comptroller of Public Accounts was our guest speaker in April.

He, as many of us, believes that Texas is the best place in the world. He mentioned that our state has outgrowth the USA for 23 out of 25 years, and that an average of 500 new people come to Texas every day. He said that renting a U-Haul in any other state is more expensive than here at home.

The Comptroller is the chief steward of the state's finances, acting as tax collector, chief accountant, chief revenue estimator and chief treasurer for all of state government, in addition to administering a number of other programs such as Education, Transparency in Government expending, Economic Development, etc.

He said that Texas will be growing more moderately than it has in the last 2, 4, and 6 years.

He believes that efficiency in business is very important and wants for people to know that his office is working for them.

Q: Increase in gas tax.

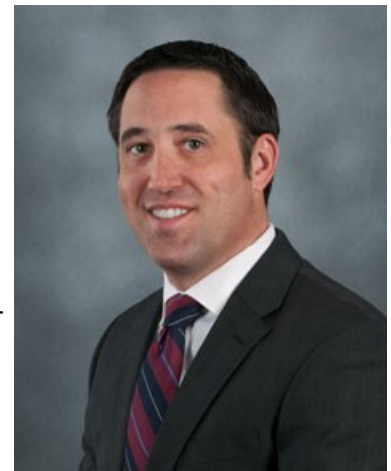
A: he said that the gas tax does not go where it should be going. He thinks that a portion of vehicle taxes or a portion of sales taxes should go to transportation. Or use part of the rainy day account money to fund transportation.

Q: Education

A: he believes that teachers should get paid more but at the same time we should compare apples to apples. Comparing TX with teacher's salary from NY or NJ where the cost of living is higher would not be fair. The state expends an average of \$7000/year per student.

On illegal immigration he said that it costs local government more than state government.

As for Franchise Tax he said that they are working on it in the legislative. However, the Senate wants to cut property taxes while the House wants to cut sales taxes.



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