

LONE STAR PROJECT

Fighting Back... with Facts



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Who Did Rick Perry Appoint to Investigate the Texas Youth Commission Sex Scandal and Serve on the TYC Board?

Failed Candidates, Cronies, Contributors and Incompetents

The Texas Youth Commission (TYC) sex scandal is an outrageous example of one-party Republican rule failing Texas. The Dallas Morning News and Texas Observer broke the story in mid-February 2007 and since then it has been developing rapidly. (Dallas Morning News, February 18, 2007; Texas Observer, February 23, 2007) The bottom line - under the watch of Rick Perry, David Dewhurst, Tom Craddick, Greg Abbott and other Republican leaders, juvenile offenders under State supervision have been raped and assaulted by State employees.

Even before all the facts unfold, it's clear that Rick Perry, and perhaps other State Republican leaders, knew or should have known that sexual abuse of children was taking place at TYC facilities. A simple review of Youth Commission Board members and of the person Rick Perry chose to investigate the scandal exposes his indifference to the safety and integrity of the TYC system and his intention to escape responsibility.

Perry's Partisan Investigator - Jay Kimbrough

Kimrough's background is a template for how to make a living as a professional partisan Republican. For most of the last 20 years, Kimrough has either held office as a Republican or worked in patronage jobs dependent upon the sponsorship of a Republican office holder. Rick Perry alone has appointed Kimrough to 4 state positions since 2001, including serving as Perry's deputy Chief of Staff. (Austin American-Statesman, November 19, 2003) Kimrough's history is also filled with questionable judgment calls that have ended in embarrassment and apologies.



Given his partisan background and dependence upon Republican officeholders, there can be little confidence that Kimrough will be willing to investigate or expose any information that might prove politically harmful or embarrassing to Rick Perry or any other Republicans.

Kimbrough's "GOP Hatchet-man" History

One of DeLay's Redistricting Soldiers

Most famously, Kimbrough was identified as the State Republican official who asked federal law enforcement officials to help apprehend and arrest the House Democrats when they went to Ardmore, Oklahoma, to protest Tom DeLay's infamous mid-decade redistricting debacle. In a forced deposition, Kimbrough himself admitted that he followed orders from Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick to call the Federal Bureau of Investigation to request help in arresting the protesting Democrats. (The Washington Post, August 13, 2003)

Kimbrough's Illegal X-Ray Heist

Kimrough was the man responsible for sending "armed agents" from the Attorney General's Office to seize "thousands of X-rays, some of which now are missing, that are central to a federal investigation into potentially fraudulent diagnoses of the lung disease silicosis." Attorney General Greg Abbott was forced to apologize to U.S. District Judge Janis Graham Jack after, "Jack ordered the X-rays returned and said their removal could be a criminal matter." (Corpus Christi Caller-Times, September 20, 2006)

Kimbrough Approves of Homeland Security Spending Debacle

As Director of the Office of Homeland Security, Kimbrough oversaw the spending of Local Homeland Security Grant Funds. The Dallas Morning News reported that the small town of Madisonville, TX, population 4,200, "used a federal homeland security grant to buy a \$30,000 custom trailer," that will, come in handy... during the annual mushroom festival in October." Meanwhile, the article continues, "in Somervell County, where TXU has a nuclear power plant... got nothing." (The Dallas Morning News, September 7, 2004) When asked for comment, Kimbrough replied, "We don't know where an incident may occur." (Associated Press State & Local Wire, September 7, 2004)

Kimbrough's Agency gives convicted Felon Security Guard Permit

As Executive Director of the Texas Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies, Kimbrough oversaw an agency who gave a security license to a man who had a, "criminal record [and], by state law, should not have been permitted to work as a guard or carry a weapon." Less than two years later the man was charged with murder for the "death of 33-year-old Pedro Perez." Kimbrough said, "We are reactive. We act when we receive consumer complaints, information from the police, the media." (San Antonio Express-News, February 1, 1998)

Perry's Youth Commission – Friends and Cronies

The TYC board is comprised mostly of incompetent and unqualified political friends and "hangers on." While Republican voting history and Republican donations are a common thread among TYC appointees, none have significant experience in youth rehabilitation. Most telling, when informed about the Texas

Ranger investigation of sexual assaults at TYC facilities in 2005, none followed-up by asking for a copy of the report (The Baytown Sun, March 2, 2007). Further, an examination of Board minutes shows that members never engaged in any substantive conversation about the now confirmed abuse.

[Read the minutes here](#)

Crony



Donald Bethel is the Board Secretary of the GOP friendly, Texas Association of Business. The Texas Association of Business has been accused of conspiring with Tom DeLay to launder illegal corporate money to State House races in Texas.

Republican Donor: Yes
Republican Primary Voter: Yes

Failed Candidate



Steve Fryar is a former Republican candidate for the Texas State House in 2000. After losing his race for the House he went back to his dad's oil business and his small chain of convenience stores.

Republican Donor: Yes
Republican Primary Voter: Yes

Contributor



Gogi Dickson was appointed to the TYC Board within months of writing Rick Perry two contribution checks in 2004. After her appointment she continued to donate to Perry and other Republicans

Republican Donor: Yes
Republican Primary Voter: Yes

Unqualified



Patsy Reed Guest has a long history of supporting Republicans. However, her biography lists no experience dealing with juvenile offenders or youth rehabilitation.


Republican Primary Voter: Yes

(Information taken from Board Biographies, Texas Ethics Commission, Texas Secretary of State)

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