

# LONE STAR PROJECT

*Fighting Back... with Facts*



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## Caught in Craddick's Crosshairs

*Treatment of principled legislators will be test of Craddick's sincerity*

Shortly after Tom Craddick dodged the bullet and barely survived to serve a third term as Texas House Speaker, he attempted to relieve discontent about his mean spirited and divisive leadership by saying *"If in some way I fall short of your expectations or needs, please tell me, and I will do my best to correct that shortcoming."* (*The Houston Chronicle, January 10, 2007*) Given Craddick's poisonous "Toxic Tom" track record ([Read the Report Here](#)) long-time observers can be forgiven if they doubt his sincerity.



## Civility Test

A good test of Tom Craddick's ability to turn the page and restore civility and fairness to the House will be his treatment of five highly respected and principled legislators who broke from him to join the reform effort for a new Speaker and cast votes in support of the critical Geren Amendment that would have allowed confidential votes to be cast in the Speaker election. Each held important committee assignments and, had they stayed in the Craddick camp, would certainly have retained them. Now it will be interesting to see if Craddick signals fairness and civility by affording them favorable committee assignment or returns to bitter "Toxic Tom" behavior by busting them down as punishment for joining the reform effort.

## Who sits in Craddick's Bull's-eye?

The treatment of these five Members - each of whom has demonstrated leadership skills that have earned the respect of their colleagues - will be a quick indicator of Craddick's willingness and ability to tolerate constructive dissent for the good of the House.

- **Jim Pitts (R-Waxahachie):** Pitts served as Chair of the powerful Appropriations Committee. Pitts was a loyal Craddick Lieutenant who challenged Craddick for Speaker after garnering support from both Republicans and Democrats.
- **Richard Raymond (D-Laredo):** Raymond served on the important Civil Practices Committee and is influential among his colleagues. We will soon learn if Craddick is willing to respond to Raymond's powerful "Prove Me Wrong" challenge issued just prior to the Speaker's re-election. ([view it here](#) go to 6:44 in RealPlayer)
- **Chuck Hopson (D-Athens):** Hopson served on the powerful Appropriations

Committee and is one of the most conservative members of the House from either party. Hopson was skeptical of Craddick's pledge to change even before the vote saying, "A roll call for speaker is not gentler or kinder." (Austin American-Statesman, January 7, 2007)

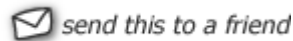
- **Armando "Mando" Martinez (D-Weslaco):** Martinez was the first freshman from the Valley in recent memory to be assigned to the Appropriations Committee. He issued a statement close to the election justifying withdrawal of support for Craddick. ([You can read his statement here](#))
- **Craig Eiland (D-Galveston):** Eiland was the Chairman of the House Pensions and Investments Committee and served on the Insurance Committee. Eiland was a floor leader for the Geren Amendment that would have allowed Representatives to cast their votes confidentially.

House committee assignments should be announced by the end of next week. It will be Craddick's first and best opportunity to "prove" his critics wrong.

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