

LONE STAR PROJECT

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Texas State Office Picking Up Tab for DeLay Friends

Texas Taxpayers Gave Over \$400,000 to DeLay's Crony Contributors

Texas taxpayers weren't formal hosts at last night's lavish Washington fundraiser for indicted former Republican House Leader, Tom DeLay. However, a group of high-dollar lobbyists who collect big fees from Texas taxpayers did play a key role in the event. GOP lobbyists Drew Maloney, Wayne Berman, Chris Giblin and James Jay Baker, all close Tom DeLay allies, are members of the Federalist Group, the lobbying firm that represents Texas. All served as hosts for last night's DeLay campaign fundraiser.

(Source: Roll Call, 11/17/2005)

Texas Office of State and Federal Relations Gutted to Make Room for DeLay Friends

- The Texas Office of State and Federal Relations (OSFR) is a state agency with offices in Austin and Washington, D.C. The agency is funded by Texas taxpayers with funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature. The Governor, Lt. Governor and House Speaker sit as an Advisory Policy Board. *(Source: OSFR website)*
- In 2003, the Texas OSFR, eliminated ten non-partisan staff members and replaced them with a Washington lobbying firm, The Federalist Group. *(Source: Houston Chronicle, 4/08/2005)*
- Drew Maloney, a former senior staff member for Tom DeLay, serves as the Federalist Group's principal OSFR lobbyist. *(Source: Houston Chronicle 5/9/2003)*
- The OSFR lobby contract was completed in March 2003 and called for Maloney and the Federalist Group to receive \$15,000 each month. *(Source: Houston Chronicle, 4/08/2005)*
- Texas taxpayers are being forced to pay out \$180,000 per year to Maloney and his partners – almost \$500 per day, counting weekends and holidays. Texas State Comptroller's records show that the Federalist Group has been paid over \$435,000 since they cut their deal in 2003. *(Source: Houston Chronicle, 4/08/2005, Texas State Comptroller)*

Texas Office of State and Federal Relations Reduced from Non-partisan Texas Advocate to GOP Money Conduit

- For decades, under both GOP Governors such as Bill Clements and George W. Bush as well as Democratic Governors such as Mark White and Ann Richards, the Texas OSFR earned a reputation as an effective non-partisan advocate for Texans in Washington. The State agency worked well with both Democratic and Republican Members of Congress. The State agency itself recently stated, "*We place a high value on our credibility, and conduct ourselves at all times in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, **non-partisanship**, and a high level of ethics.*" (Source: *OSFR Agency Strategic Plan for the Period 2005-2009*, pg. 8)
- Since 2003, the agency has eliminated non-partisan staff positions and replaced them with special interest lobbyists beholden to Republican Members of Congress and their friends. Since signing their contract with the Texas State Office, the four Federalist Group Members hosting DeLay's event have contributed over \$21,000 to Republican Members of Congress, while contributing nothing to Texas Democrats. (Source: *PoliticalMoneyLine.com*)

Partisan Lobbying Not Working – Except for DeLay

- Texas Republicans, George W. Bush and Tom DeLay, are arguably the most powerful officials in Washington. Members of their party hold every statewide office in Texas as well as Speaker of the State House. Yet, Texas continues to rank near the bottom of states in federal funds received (Source: *U.S. Census*).
- Converting the Texas Office of State and Federal Relations into a partisan institution has not significantly improved this performance. However, it has given Tom DeLay yet another conduit to reward his friends and pad his campaign.
- Even Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick smells a rat. Commenting on the arrangement he said, "*when you've got the people we've got in the Senate and the House up there, I don't think we benefit from a State lobbyist.*" (Source: *Houston Chronicle* 4/08/2005).

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