October/November 2026

Dear Texas Eagles,

As I drafted a letter before the election, I shared thoughts on what Texas and America might look like if we lost races we normally win. I am embarrassed to admit I truly believed we would secure the victories we needed. I was prepared for a few critical losses but not for losing every statewide race and many down-ballot contests. The results were far worse than I had imagined.

We stopped the press on election night. I had worked at the polls all day, and the early returns looked bleak. On Wednesday I began reading, listening, and thinking through what had happened. While I do not agree with any commentator fully, much of what was noted rings true. There is not enough discussion about the rise of short-sighted voters who have done a lot of damage in this election cycle. We no longer raise a majority of thinkers, and these young people are our future. When the Left captured education decades ago, they steadily ensured America's children would neither understand nor value their nation. (Thank you to those who have homeschooled, chosen classical or Christian schools, or supplemented your children and grandchildren's education with real history and lessons in virtue.) When too many voters discard the very essence of our country over the temporary price of gas or other self-focused complaints, they clearly do not grasp the gift they have been given as Americans.

When I considered a possible loss, I listed what we had not fixed while we had the chance. We did not return to secure, local, election-day voting with paper ballots. Those elected to guard our rights listened to voters who demanded convenience above all else. While it was still possible, Texas should have moved to paper, election-day voting. The grassroots worked hard, and their efforts must not be forgotten.

Our border remains vulnerable and will easily crumble under the impending Leftist takeover. Abortion is illegal in Texas, but we have not made it impossible. We received a reprieve in 2024 at the federal level, but little else was codified. A general attitude at the state level favoring the status quo blocked any real spending cuts. Voters made it abundantly clear in several bond elections that they want less spending. Had we kept control, a close call might have forced action. But this election was not close, and we are in trouble. True, it was not even close for many reasons, including suspected cheating, but the bottom line is that our conservative ideas are in serious trouble.

However, Scripture is clear that when trouble comes - and it will come - the Lord is with us through it. *He* is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. We are not left hopeless or without direction, as we face what lies ahead.

Our next steps are clear: regroup, reflect, and rethink our goals for the 90th Legislative Session. This session will be unlike any our current leadership has ever faced. Bills are already being filed, and many of them pose serious threats to Texas and to families. We will have to work very hard to stop them. Cathie Adams reminded me that, in her early days leading Texas Eagle Forum, we survived an Ann Richards governorship. She agreed that we must work harder than ever to keep the good laws we have.

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We are now playing pro-family defense, and we will need your participation more than ever before. I will be down in Austin for the majority of the session fighting on your behalf. We must encourage our conservative senators to stand together and stop anything that threatens to take us backwards. We cannot compromise. The Left does not, and we must not. We can no longer tiptoe forward and then take steps back. We have seen that pattern in Congress. We must reject it for Texas.

One of the most important things we can do is discuss issues with others. Let *The Torch* be a tool. One of my sisters in another state subscribes to it. When her son argued that Islam is just another religion, she gave him our February/March 2026 *Torch*. After reading it, he changed his position, voted correctly, and has gone on to share what he learned with others. That is why we do what we do. *The Torch* works! Please reach out if you need extra copies, or download them from our website.

We are already seeing renewed sympathy for Islam and a campaign to legitimize it through heritage-day legislation, and required halal food options at our public schools. This is not harmless recognition. It is an attempt to normalize an ideology that has never abandoned its vision of global dominance. The state senate will have to keep this from becoming law. Protecting Texas from further infiltration of Islamic political influence and the legitimization of Sharia remains a top priority for Texas Eagle Forum.

This month's *Torch* focuses on our future. Growing pushback against data centers is evidence that people long for simpler, kinder days—not the isolation that technology and social media have brought. Many Texans long for true community, political restraint, and a life ordered around family, faith, and responsibility. We must steward that desire as we defend what remains of the Texas we love.

Join us in courage, hard work, and perseverance. We are called according to His purpose. Please answer the call to steward your nation and state. Our Christian heritage is a gift from God, and one we must protect in order that our children and our children's children may inherit it.

We also need your financial support. When you donate, ask us to include a gift subscription for a friend you want to reach with our message. Your faithfulness lets us keep equipping conservatives and standing for truth in Texas.

Thank you to all who voted for the values of our Founders. We pray you and your family have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving.

Faithfully,



Cindi Castilla
President
Texas Eagle Forum