

"We, the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts -- not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow men who pervert the Constitution."

-- Abraham Lincoln

"That the Constitution shall never be construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press or the rights of conscience; or to prevent "the people" of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms..."

--Samuel Adams in arguing for a Bill of Rights, from the book "Massachusetts," published by Pierce & Hale, Boston, 1850, pg. 86-87.

"A society that will trade a little liberty for a little order will lose both, and deserve neither." -

Thomas Jefferson

## Tejanos for Liberty and Equal Justice Coalition

(IN ORGANIZATION)



### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

#### PREAMBLE

##### I

The American Founding Fathers set out a clear list of ideals, that began with "All men are created equal". This nation, which rest of the will of the people, but also depend upon the people to support its ideals. Nevertheless the Convention did not confront the fact that slavery stood in dramatic contradiction to beliefs about natural rights. The power to eliminate

importation of slaves that finally appeared in the Constitution was a puny response to a great challenger, but the building union of thirteen states was too fragile to outlaw the nefarious institution. After the Civil War, our bloodiest war, slavery was finally abolished.

The Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, extended "the equal protection of the laws" to all citizens, including former slaves.

Spain's North American colony itself was not one political entity. There were three Virreynatos and provinces. Tejanos of the eastern province had relatives in northern Mexico. By contrast, the ties to Mexico City were few. The joining of Coahuila y Tejas reflected the regional identity.

The Mexican nation's citizens were at first referred to simply as "Americans" and the term "Mexican" was used mostly for people from Mexico City and the Valley of Mexico. The central region was the dominant partner in the new federation and gave its inhabitants the view that the nation was themselves. The state of Coahuila y Tejas and the rest of the nation reacted by insisting on the exact opposite of a very centralist perspective: a truly federalist republic of independent states

The defenders at the Alamo were Mexican Citizens. They fought and died under a green white and red flag with the numbers 1824 drawn on it. They were fighting to defend and preserve the freedom Mexico had finally won from Spain in 1821. They died defending the Mexican Republican Constitution. They died as Mexican from Texas, not as Americans.

The constitution of 1824 guaranteed states' rights, It banned slavery. Santa Anna established a military dictatorship. At last five states opposed Santa Anna usurpation. Zacatecas Guerrero. Michoacan, Yucatan, and Coahuila y Texas. This was a real civil war. Finally, all of Mexico surrendered -except Texas- to Santa Anna, The illegitimate dictator who overthrew our constitution.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the self-appointed caretakers of independence, have misrepresented the Alamo story.

The DRT excluded from the Alamo story the Tejano defenders, who outnumbered other longtime Texas settlers. They overlooked Tejano narrators. but promote Hollywood's myth of the Alamo.

John Wayne in a raccoon-skin cap didn't win the war. This myth has been extremely damaging. This lie has relegated Texicans (Mexican-Americans) to a subservient roll. The DRT ignore or minimize the contributions of Spanish families.

The DRT frame a fantasy using the Alamo as a symbol of Anglo-Saxon superiority, and Mexican dastardly and defeat.

The problem is that this remembrance places Mexico, and therefore Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, in the perpetual role of the evil enemy. It has been a burden not easy to carry, a burden that has been used to justify, at least mythically, discrimination for generations.

## II

## Southern Slavery

This Alamo epic was used to forge community in the newly formed Texas society. For a century, however, the leaders and the historians of the new society did not allow Mexican Texans to be an integral part of this community — quite understandably, since many of the newcomers, with Southern racist attitudes, were taking over (steal foreclosure) Tejano lands and exploiting Mexican workers.

Any republic, which rests on the will of the people, but also depends upon the people to support its ideals. Tejanos during the Civil War supported the Union Cause: the equal protection of the laws to all citizens, including former slaves.

We the Tejanos of Hispanic, Anglo, German, Irish ancestry have provided for over two centuries part of the shade that helped other Americans attain the American dream.

### III

## Political Parties

### Rio Grande Valley

Conditions for the population in the Rio Grande Valley, particularly for Mexican-Americans, are worse under one party monopoly. The unemployment rate has been steadily rising. The Valley -the last real strong Democratic bastion anywhere in the country- has been identified with third world poverty conditions. State Comptroller John Sharp released a 233-page report on the 43 Texas Counties on the border with Mexico, offering information about border conditions that was already well-known, as the poorest and least educated region in the nation.

Mexican-Americans (Democrats) have run city councils and county offices in general in the Valley. Federal and State legislative representation is likewise run by Mexican-Americans (Democrats) in both Hidalgo and Cameron County from State Senators and State Representatives to Congressmen.

Is the time to break away from failed Democrat leadership? Is The Republican party the only realistic option for creating an atmosphere to promote Valley economic expansion and to insure fair laws beyond the influence of wealthy interest groups? No any more.

The Republican Party of Texas is no longer the Lincoln party. The extremists who dominate the RPT's leadership abandoned traditional Republican leadership in the areas of human rights and equal right for all. There is no place on the state party for Hispanic Americans.

### National wide

Virtually all elective offices are held by Democrats or Republicans. As a result they benefit from hundreds of millions of dollars of special interest money and hundreds of millions

of dollars of public funds. These two parties have held a monopoly on all elective office power for over a hundred years.

These two parties have been using their power to disenfranchise possible competition. They have rigged campaign finance laws and even election districts to favor incumbents

On 1998 organized political parties in Texas held their conventions. The Democrats, having held uncontested power for over 100 years, have long felt comfortable opposing changes the public wants - changes such as initiative and referendum (I & R), campaign finance reform, and term limits. The Republican Party used to say it was for these changes. But now, expecting to take control of all branches of state government, the Republicans have recently removed both I & R and term limits from the party platform.

The major parties use their undeniable power to stonewall the public on what it wants, I & R, campaign finance reform, and term limits.

The Constitution established no term limits for members of the Legislative Branch. Whatever, the frequency of the election -every two years terms in the House and every six in the Senate- is to keep members of the lower house closer to the people, but career politicians had become entrenched in a "Permanent Congress" serving special interest at the expense of the public good. Congressional decisions are dominated by organized groups that provide campaign contributions.

## IV

### Constitution

The President, Congress and Senate routinely ignore the Constitution. Whenever we ignore the Constitution, we regret it. The real danger in ignoring one part of the Constitution is that we can then ignore other guarantees it provides. For instance, we can ignore the part about free speech; unreasonable searches and seizures; and the right of citizens to keep and bear arms.

To understand the Constitution it is important to look first to the Declaration of Independence, where the Founders outlined their moral vision and the government it implied.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that we Texan citizens, have chosen to incorporate into legal politic independent organization, to be known as the **Tejanos for Liberty and Equal Justice Coalition** (hereafter referred to as the " **TLEJ**"), so that we can demonstrate our commitment to the principals of good government.

**Tejanos for Liberty and Equal Justice** will be an organization of equality of opportunity for all an favoritism for none.

It is the intent and purpose of this Constitution and accompanying By-Laws to encourage the broadest possible participation of Tejano voters in elections at all levels and to

assure that the **TLEJ** is open, accessible to all and answerable to its membership in the true American tradition.

#### ARTICLE I - NAME

SECTION 1. The name of the organization shall be the **Tejanos for Liberty and Equal Justice**, hereinafter referred to as the "Texas **TLEJ**".

#### ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1. PURPOSE: The purpose of the **TLEJ** shall be:

- a. To support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of Texas to the end that Government shall be truly and in fact "A government of the people, by the people, for the people."
- b. To develop and maintaining a strong, effective and informed constituency throughout the state.
- c. To opposes politicians making a career in single elected offices. To supports constitutional amendments limiting terms.
- d. To reduce the role of money in politics. Candidates should take money only from individuals residents of his District or State in which he or she shall be elected. Prohibit soft money contributions to political parties.
- d. To elect honest candidates to office at all levels of government.
- e. To develop viewpoints and positions on local, state, and national issues to seek implementation of these viewpoints through local, state, and national political parties and organizations.

SECTION 2. To insure the participation of citizens of Texan heritage in the American political process .

#### ARTICLE III - JURISDICTION

SECTION 1. The jurisdiction of the Texas **TLEJ** shall be within the legal boundaries of the state of Texas.

#### ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Voting members shall be made up of Texas citizens who have chosen with the **TLEJ** by paying the required dues.

SECTION 1a. Membership shall be considered complete when an official membership application has been filed with the **TLEJ**, along with the appropriate dues. Dues will be set annually by the governing body of the **TLEJ**, the Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board.

SECTION 1b. Guest membership shall be available to Texas residents who for one reason or another are not citizens of the United States, but wish to be identified with the **TLEJ** by paying the required dues.

SECTION 2. The Board shall have the general management of the **TLEJ**, subject to the direction of the State Convention through amendments to and/or repeal of this Constitution and By-Laws.

SECTION 2a. **TLEJ** will consist of the Texas Board made up of the representatives from **TLEJ** City Chapters.

SECTION 2a1.1 The whole number of members of **TLEJ** residing in each City of the State will constitute a **TLEJ** City Chapter. No person shall be eligible for or hold office in the **TLEJ** City Chapter unless such person actually lives, resides and occupies a place of abode in such City and is a voting member of the **TLEJ** as defined in ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1 of this Constitution and By-Laws. Each **TLEJ** City Chapter will have a minimum of five (5) members. Each City Chapter shall meet not later than two (2) weeks after each general election in each state. At such meetings voting members shall vote on whether to organize at that time by electing a chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. All such meetings shall be called by the **TLEJ** City Chapter. Such meetings shall be called by mailing a notice of such meetings to each voting member at least seven (7) days before the date of the meeting. No proxy may be voted at any meeting of the **TLEJ** City Chapter.

SECTION 2a.1.1.1 **TLEJ** Executive Committee; members; officers; meetings; alternates; proxies prohibited.

The Executive Committee of the **TLEJ** shall organize by electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each person elected to the office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer shall thereupon become a member of the Board with full voting rights as such a member of the Board at the time of such person's election. A meeting for such purpose, to be held at a location designated by the Chairman of the **TLEJ** Executive Committee, not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after each general election, and shall be called by the **TLEJ** Executive Committee Chairman. Such meetings shall be called by mailing a notice to each member and alternate member of the **TLEJ** Executive Committee at least ten (10) days before the meeting. The person calling such shall serve as temporary Chairman thereof. There shall be elected alternate members for each member of the **TLEJ** Executive Committee. Alternate members shall present their respective regular member. No member of the **TLEJ** Executive Committee shall be presented by proxy at its meetings.

The executive Committee of the **TLEJ** shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chairman of the **TLEJ** State Committee shall be the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND DUTIES

SECTION 1. The officers of the **TLEJ** shall be the Chairman, Co-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. Also, one Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. Also, one Assistant Secretary and one Assistant Treasurer shall be elected to assist and/or assume the duties of Secretary and the Treasurer, respectively, in case either of them is unable or has cased to perform his/her respective duties.

SECTION 2. The Chairman, Co-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Convention for a term of two years. Candidates for these offices shall be nominated from the floor or the State Convention.

SECTION 3. Following are the duties of the officers of the TLEJ.

Chairman: The Chairman shall:

- a. serve as the official spoke person of the TLEJ;
- b. preside at regular or special meetings of the TLEJ Board;
- c. have primary duty for calling all meetings of the **TLEJ**; and
- e. with the approval of the Executive Committee, appoint the Chairman of all committees, including the Chairman of special committees.

Co-Chairman: The Chairman shall have primary responsibility for assisting the Chairman fulfill his/her duties, among which are the following.

- a. act as a temporary Chairman if any reason the Chairman has resigned or requested a leave of absence.
- b. responsible for calling meetings of the TLEJ for the purpose of electing a new Chairman should an elected Chairman be unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities. Such meetings must be called within four(4) months after the Chairman office has been vacated.
- c. serve as provisional Chairman for a period not to exceed six months until a new Chairman is elected.

Secretary: The duties of the Secretary shall include the following:

- a. keep correct minutes of the Board Executive Committee as well as minutes of any committee that is establish by the executive Committee;
- b. maintain all official correspondence of the TLEJ;
- c. disseminate all notices of meetings;
- d. maintain the official calendar of events for the TLEJ.

Assistant Secretary: This office will assist the Secretary perform his/her duties.

Treasure: This officer shall receive all monies paid into the TLEJ and pay bills approved for payment by the Executive Committee. Other duties of this office will be to:

- a. oversee the accurate accounting for all monies received and disbursed by TLEJ Board.
- b. prepare quarterly financial reports for the dissemination to the Executive Committee which indicates the financial posture of the TLEJ.
- c. oversee the preparation and submission of all federal state and local financial reports required by the TLEJ.

Assistant Treasurer: This officer will assist the Treasurer in those responsibilities assigned to him/her by the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 4. The Chairman or Co-Chairman may be removed from office only by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire TLEJ.

SECTION 5. The Chairman shall appoint a General Counsel who will perform all legal tasks concerning the TLEJ and perform legal counseling service for the membership of the Executive Committee. The appointment must be confirmed by a majority of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 6. The Chairman shall appoint a Chairman of the TLEJ Audit Committee. This person will be responsible for conducting or arranging for the conduct or an audit for the financial records of the TLEJ annually. One audit must be conducted at least 60 days prior to the state convention. This appointment must be confirmed by a majority of the Executive Committee.

#### ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee of the TLEJ shall consist of the Chairman, Co-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, the following shall serve as ex-officio members of the Execution Committee.

- a. the Chairman of the City Chapters; and
- b. the General Counsel of the TLEJ.

SECTION 2. The Executive Committee will be formed at the State Convention.

SECTION 3. The Executive Committee may select an Executive Director to serve as the agent for the TLEJ to maintain records and accounts as required for the successful operation at the TLEJ. This person will receive compensation from the TLEJ, will be bonded as determined by the Executive Committee, and will be headquarter at a selected site approved by the Committee. The appointment and compensation of the Executive Director must be approved by the Executive Committee.

#### ARTICLE VII - DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee may exercise all the executive and administrative functions required of the TLEJ between meetings, with the Exception of the following:

- a. election of officers of the Executive Committee;
- b. ratification of the election of members of the TLEJ and;
- c. issuance of the call and designation of the time and place for the State Convention.

SECTION 2. The Executive Committee shall meet on the call of the Chairman of the TLEJ. In addition, upon written petition of at least twenty-five (25%) of the members of the Executive Committee, the Chairman, within ten (10) days in his/her receipt of said petition, shall call a meeting of the Executive Committee to be held in a city to be designated by the Chairman. The date of the meeting shall all between ten(10) and (20) days from the date of the call. The minutes

of the Executive Committee meetings shall be distributed as promptly as practicable to all members of the Executive Committee by the Secretary.

## ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. There shall be the following committees.

SECTION 1a. There shall be a standing committee on Credentials and Membership, composed of two (2) members from each recognized county organizations. This committee shall review the credentials of delegates to the state convention pursuant to the By-Laws pertaining to Convening of State Convention. The Chairman of the committee shall be elected by the committee from among its membership.

SECTION 1b. There shall be a standing committee on Procedures and By-Laws, composed of two (2) members from each recognized City organization, to review procedures, and rules of the TLEJ. The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee from among its membership.

SECTION 1c. There shall be a Committee on Arrangements to plan for and manage the state convention. The Chairman and the Co-Chairman of the TLEJ shall be members of this committee and the Chairman of the TLEJ shall appoint to the committee shall appoint the committee at least (1) member from each recognized City chapter. The chairman of the committee and of its subcommittees shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the chairman of the TLEJ from among the members of the committee. The chairman of the Committee of the TLEJ from among the members of the committee. The chairman of the Committee on Procedures and By-Laws shall also be a member of this committee.

SECTION 1d. There shall be a Committee on the Call, composed of at least three (3) members of the Executive Committee who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the TLEJ. This committee shall assist in connection with issuance of the call for the state convention pursuant to the Rules For Convening of State Convention. This committee shall be appointed after the section of the Committee on Arrangements and the Committee on Procedures and By-Laws.

SECTION 1e. There shall be a committee on the Site of the State Convention, which shall be composed of at least (2) members of the Executive Committee, and a chairman appointed by the Chairman of The TLEJ from among the members of the Committee. This committee shall be responsible for investigating potential sites for the next state convention, and for recommending a site to the Executive Committee for selection. This committee shall be selected no later than ten (10) months before the state convention is to be held.

SECTION 1f. The Executive Board shall create Audit and Budget Committees.

SECTION 1f.1 The Executive Committee shall create an Audit Committee and subcommittees thereof which it deems desirable, to which it may delegate the responsibility of implementing a broad-based audit. The chairman of this committee shall be appointed pursuant to ARTICLE V, SECTION 8.

SECTION 1f.2 The Executive Committee shall create a Budget Committee and subcommittees thereof which it deems desirable, to which it may delegate the responsibility of developing a budget and reviewing income and expenditures of the TLEJ. The Chairman of the TLEJ shall appoint the chairman of this committee from among the members of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 1f.3 The annual budget of the TLEJ shall be approved at the first meeting of the Executive Committee held each year. The proposed budget, in reasonable detail, shall be mailed to all members of the TLEJ at least ten (10) days prior to such meetings.

#### ARTICLE IX - ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. A majority vote of the delegates to the State Convention shall elect a candidate for those offices to be elected at said state convention.

SECTION 2. The eligibility of delegates to the state convention will be described in ARTICLE 1 of the BY-LAWS - STANDING RULES FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION.

SECTION 3. The terms of all officers of the TLEJ where elected or appointed by the State Convention delegates will be for a period of two (2) years. No officer may hold office for more than three (3) consecutive terms.

SECTION 4. Elections will be held at the regularly convened State Convention every two years.

SECTION 5. Vacancies in any elective office, except that of the Chairman shall be filled by the majority vote of the Executive Committee. Individuals so elected will serve the remainder of the term of the officer he/she replaces.

SECTION 6. A vacancy in the office of the Chairman will be filled, temporarily, by the Co-Chairperson until a replacement can be elected upon by the TLEJ in a special meeting.

#### ARTICLES X - RULES ORDER

SECTION 1. "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern in all meetings of the membership of the TLEJ. This includes meetings of the Executive Committee, and all standing, appointed and established committees and the state convention.

SECTION 2. All meetings of the membership of the TLEJ shall be open meetings, except as provided for by Robert's Rules of Order".

SECTION 3. No proxies are acceptable for any State Convention.

#### ARTICLE XI - MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly. A tentative agenda for each meeting shall be mailed to the membership at least ten (10) days prior to such meetings. The minutes, including all resolutions and motions, shall be mailed to all members of the Executive Committee within thirty (30) days after the closer of the meeting.

SECTION 2. The first meeting of the Executive Committee shall take place within thirty (30) days after the convening of the state convention. Such meetings and all other meetings of the Executive Committee shall take place upon call of the Chairman of the TLEJSC or, in case of vacancy in the Chairmanship, upon called the Co-Chairman; provided however, that such a call shall be issued at least ten (10) days in advance of the date of the purposed meeting and provided

further, however, that if one of the purposes of the meeting of the Executive Committee shall be to fill a vacancy in the office of the Chairman of the TLEJ, the only five (5) days' notice of the purpose, date and place of said meeting shall be required.

#### ARTICLE XII-DONATION/DUES

SECTION 1. The Board will determine the donations/dues amounts, payment schedule, and payment procedures.

#### ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. The Constitution, By-Laws, or any part thereof, may be amended or repealed only at a state convention.

SECTION 2. Proposed amendments to and/or repeal of all or parts of this constitution and By-Laws must be submitted in writing to **TLEJ** membership postmarked thirty (30) days prior to the state convention at which voting on the proposed changes is to occur.

SECTION 2..1 The Constitution, or any part thereof, may be amended or repealed only at a state convention.by votes of two-thirds of the delegates.

SECTION 2..1 The By-Laws, or any part thereof, may be amended or repealed only at a state convention.\ by majority votes.

## BYLAWS

SECTION 1. The convention shall proceed in the order of business prepared and printed by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. The report of the Committee on Credentials and Membership shall be disposed of before any other report before the convention.

SECTION 3. No persons except credential delegates shall be admitted to the section of the convention hall apportioned to delegates.

SECTION 4. Guests, Press and staff shall be admitted to the sections of the hall authorized for them.

SECTION 5. VOTING: Each delegate to the convention shall be entitled to one (1)vote. Only those members whose dues have been paid at least 30 days before the State Convention will be eligible to vote.

SECTION 6. The rules of the House of Representatives of the United States set governing national political conventions shall be the rules of the convention, except that "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be the rules for committees and subcommittees of the convention, insofar as they are applicable and not inconsistent with the rules herein set forth in these Bylaws; provided,

however that the convention may adopt its own rules concerning the reading of committee reports and resolutions.

SECTION 7. No delegate shall speak more than once or longer than five (5) minutes upon the same question, except in the representation of the name of candidate for nomination of an officer of the TLEJ.

SECTION 8. A motion to suspend the rules shall always be in order but only when made by authority of a majority of the delegates.

SECTION 9. All resolutions relating to the platform of the TLEJ shall be submitted in writing to the Committee on Resolutions without reading and without debate.

SECTION 10. All resolution or amendment pertaining to the report of the Committee on Resolutions or the Committee on Rules Order of business shall be reported out or made a part of any report of such committee or otherwise read or debated before the convention, unless the same shall have been submitted to the Chairman, Vice Chairman or Secretary of such committee or to the Secretary of the convention in writing not later than one hour after the time at which such committees vote on their reports to the convention and shall have been accompanied by a petition evidencing the affirmative written support of a minimum of twenty-five (25%) of the membership of the committee.

SECTION 11. It shall be the order to lay on the table a proposed amendment to a pending measure and such motion, if adopted, shall not carry with it or prejudice such original measure.

SECTION 12. When the state Convention shall have assembled, the Secretary of the TLEJ shall deliver to the Committee on Credentials and Membership all credential and other papers required.

## 1999 –2000 PLATAFORM

### ENGLISH PLUS

WHEREAS English is the common language of the United states, all members of American Society recognize the importance of English to American life and individual success, and 94 percent of U.S. residents speak English according to the 1990 U.S. Census;

WHEREAS, Immigrants to the United States have powerful incentives to learn English in order to fully participate in American society and the nation's economy, and 90% of all immigrants become fluent in English within the second generation;

WHEREAS, many residents of the United States speak native languages other than English, including many languages indigenous to this country, and these linguistic resources should be encouraged and developed;

WHEREAS, multilingualism, or the ability to speak languages in addition to English, is a tremendous resource to the United States because such ability enhances American competitiveness in global markets by permitting improved communication and cross-cultural understanding between producers and suppliers, vendors and clients, and retailers and consumers;

WHEREAS, multilingualism may enhance United States diplomatic efforts by fostering greater communication and understanding between nations;

WHEREAS, multilingualism has historically been an essential element of national security, including the use of Native American Languages in the development of coded communications during World war II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam War;

WHEREAS, multilingualism promotes greater cross-cultural understanding between different racial and ethnic groups in the United States;

WHEREAS 1923 Supreme Court in Meyer v. Nebraska, declared that "The protection of the Constitution extends to all; to those who speak other languages as well as to those born with English on the tongue';

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED:

English is the International Business language and National and united language of all the People of the country and therefore does not need to be codified by law. And that the Texas & United States Government should pursue policies that:

- (1) encourage all residents of this country to become fully proficient in English;
- (2) conserve and develop the Nation's linguistic resources by encouraging all residents of this country to learn or maintain skills in a language other than and in addition to English;
- (3) encourage Native Americans, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, and other peoples indigenous to the United States, in their efforts to preserve their native languages and cultures; and
- (4) Recognize the contributions of multilingualism to vital American interest and American society.

#### IMMIGRATION

WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers set out a clear list of ideals, that began with "All men are created equal". This nation, which rest of the will of the people, but also depend upon the people to support its ideals. Nevertheless the Convention did not confront the fact that slavery stood in dramatic contradiction to beliefs about natural rights. The power to eliminate importation of slaves that finally appeared in the Constitution was a puny response to a great

challenger , but the building union of thirteen states was too fragile to outlaw the nefarious institution. After the Civil War, our bloodiest war, slavery was finally abolished.

The Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, extended "the equal protection of the laws" to all citizens, including former slaves. The new Republican party replaced the Whigs. It embraced the concerns of native-born Americans without endorsing the more extreme immigration restriction demands.

WHEREAS, everyone who studied American History knows we are a "nation of immigrants, " a country whose inhabitants' ancestors came originally from other nations. We may reduce the number of immigrants We should be take measures to discourage illegal immigration, but we cannot deprive the inalienable citizenship rights of certain children born on United States soil.

WHEREAS, We believe that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights.

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED:

Protect the unalienable citizenship rights of any children born in the United States soil, nevertheless creed, origin, or immigration status of their parents.

#### TERM LIMITS

WHEREAS, the **Tejanos for Liberty and Equal Justice** opposes politicians making a career in single elected offices.

LET IT BE RESOLVED, The **Tejanos for Liberty and Equal Justice** supports a Texas constitutional amendment limiting terms as follows:

Three Four Year Terms:

Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller of Public Accounts, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner,

Three Four year terms: State Senators

(Two) One Year Term: Members of the Texas Railroad Commission,

Four Two Year Terms: Members of the Texas House of Representatives,

We call on the U.S. Congress to institute the following term limits:

Three Six Year Terms: Texas members of the U.S. Senate,

Four Two Year Terms: Texas members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

WHEREAS, On May 20, 1997 Esequiel Hernandez, a schoolboy tending his families sheep on their own property, was murdered by federal troops. A senior FBI agent and Texas Ranger who investigated the killing of Hernandez contend the military obstructed an inquiry of the death. ("Both agencies made terrible mistakes that contributed to this tragedy" U.S. Rep Lamar Smith)

WHEREAS, Pedro Oregon, a young father who worked 12 hour days to support his family in Houston, was recently killed by police who broke into his home without a warrant and shot him 12 times in the back. Six shots while he was lying face down dying on the floor. The police admitted they made a mistake and entered the wrong apartment. The only charge leveled against these thugs was trespassing, a misdemeanor. it is obvious the police of Houston at least violated the 4th and 5th amendments of the Constitution of the United States of America.

WHEREAS, Harassment, mistreatment and even the pointless, and unpunished, killing of Hispanics has become commonplace. Philosophers, Jean Jacques Rousseau and John Locke were well know to those who wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. We, the people created a limited government to secure people's natural rights. The rights, the very lives of Hispanics have come to mean no more than the equivalent of a parking ticket.

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED:

The the **Tejanos for Liberty and Equal Justice** (TLEJ) condemns the violation of our Constitutional Bill of Rights, particularly, the 4th and 5th amendments, perpetrated by the Houston Police Department (HPD) when, without a warrant nor excuse, entered illegally into an American home on July 12, 1998, and

We further Resolve, the TLEJ of Texas ask for federal charges be raised against the HPD police officers for illegal entry, and

We further Resolve, the TLEJ of Texas censure oppose the re-election in any primary or general election of John B. Holmes Jr, the District Attorney of Harris County for a full, meticulous and unbiased, presentation of all facts to the Grand Jury of Harris County and to include witnesses presented on the side of Mr. Oregon's family.

We finally Resolve, that the No one should enter illegally into an American home. To strike out from Sec 9.31 (b) (2) Texas Criminal Code (The use of force against another is not justifiable):

is (2) to resist an arrest or search that the actor knows ... even though the arrest or search is unlawful”

#### PARENTAL CONSENT

WHEREAS, abortions occur at an alarming rate throughout the State of Texas and the majority of the individuals seeking an abortion are not adequately informed

BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Tejanos for Liberty and Equal Justice** opposes such a procedure and support protect the life and health of any, born or unborn, child and help to provide future education and job opportunities in the state of Texas.

#### INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, Texas legislators are willing to cast their votes for bills they know little or nothing about, ultimate power will reside in the Capitol's lobby rather than with the people's elected representatives.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Tejanos for Liberty and Equal Justice** supports a constitutional amendment to provide for Initiative and Referendum.

Done in \_\_\_\_\_ Texas by unanimous consent of the Tejanos present the  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ in witness whereof We have hereunder subscribed our  
names