

Q&A for potential media inquiries

Q: Why did you form the Texas for Republican Majority PAC?

A: Leading Republicans launched Texans for a Republican Majority to help create and maintain a Republican majority throughout state government.

Q: Why now as opposed to two or four years ago?

A: Redistricting creates a new opportunity and challenge for Republicans. Exactly ten years ago, Republican held just two of the major statewide offices and were the minority party in both houses of the Legislature. Today, we stand on the cusp of holding legislative majorities in both chambers as well as every major statewide office. That's our opportunity. The challenge of a majority is to create the energy, enthusiasm and support to win *and* maintain that majority in the next election cycle and in the year's ahead. It's a difficult proposition so TRMPAC will aim to help.

Q: Who is leading Texas for Republican Majority?

A: The leadership of the PAC includes Congressman Tom DeLay, Railroad Commission Tony Garza, State Senator Florence Shapiro, and Representative Diane Delisi.

Q: Congressman DeLay is a highly controversial figure? Won't he scare away potential support for Republicans in Texas outside his home district?

A: Tom DeLay is a Republican leader nationally whose primary responsibility in Congress is to help President Bush succeed. The former small businessman and Texas Legislator is a major force in electing Republican candidates nationally. He was chiefly responsible for keeping hold on the Republican congressional house majority in 1998 and 2000 when the pundits said it couldn't be done.

Q: What's DeLay's interest in state races?

A: Because he was actively involved in redistricting in Texas and a former state Legislator, Congressman Delay wants to do his part to see that a historic change comes to pass in the State House while increasing our majority in the Senate, and maintaining Republican hold on all statewide offices. Tom DeLay is a Republican party-builder.

Q: What about Garza? Is his interest in building for a future campaign?

A: Tony Garza was the first Republican elected to countywide office in Cameron County, and was the first Hispanic elected statewide as a Republican. Arguably, he best represents the sea change in Republicanism in Texas both as a former resident of South Texas and as a Hispanic. But he also knows that the future of the Republican Party doesn't rest with one special interest, one demographic group or in one region of the state. It involves outreach and education of all Texans in order to prove that Republicans can best lead the state.

Tony grew up in Brownsville, Texas where his immediate family still resides today. Tony received his Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin in 1980 and was recognized as one of five Outstanding Young Texas Exes in 1989. He received his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1983 from Southern Methodist University School of Law.