



# THE FLYNN REPORT

*January 2, 2007*

**Greetings Friends, Constitutes and Supporters:**

**We can look with much anticipation and excitement for 2007 as we have celebrated the joy of Christmas and welcomed in a New Year. The reports are already coming out from around the country of a robust job market forecast and an expanding economy with unemployment at a continuing low, housing, manufacturing at all time highs and the Dow Jones Average reaching over 12 500. These forecasts continue to prove that Texas is one of the best places to live, do business and raise our families in America.**

**The continued improvements give confidence that the conservative leadership and conservative philosophies have benefited the state and should continue. Texas is again ranked among the best prepared and best equipped to provide protection from widespread health catastrophes and to be able to handle large-scale natural or man-made disasters. These successes have come about due to the commitment to balance state budgets with no new taxes and investing more money in education and health care.**

**Many have called asking about possible changes in leadership. I would like to provide some of my thoughts and insights. House Speaker Tom Craddick announced and provided a list several weeks ago of 109 Members pledge to vote for him as speaker. His updated and verified list during this holiday season of 83 has also been released. With 150 members in the House only a simple majority is required, this listing provides an ample margin. However much speculations remains and there continues to be a buzz concerning this issue.**

**Any criticisms of Speaker Craddick appear to stem from what is perceived as his style and not his honesty, his character, or his leadership ability.**

**Since he has taken leadership of the House the Legislature has achieved great success. Without his leadership it is doubtful that issues such as passing a budget without new taxes while facing with a ten billion dollar shortfall, congressional redistricting that reflects the political make-up of Texas, public school finance linked to lowering property taxes for Texas home owners and a reform of tort laws (which has become a model for legislatures all over the country) and the passage of strong pro-family and pro-life legislation.**

**Various new accounts continue to report that “moderate Republicans” have announced a challenge to conservative Republican House Speaker Craddick. Many believe this to be the plan of the minority party and their effort to regain power and the Speaker’s Chair. They would, of course, be just like the U. S. Congress and set their own agenda, which would be far different from the present course. It would normally take 76 votes out of 150 to elect a speaker. Since the House is short one member and will be until after the Speaker is elected the math changes slightly.**

**In earlier announcements Speaker Craddick indicated that his plans for the coming 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session would be to insist on holding the line on state spending and not allow liberals to turn surplus tax dollars into new government programs. He has suggested support for an immediate buy-down of property taxes, certainly, not spending the surplus on new government programs. He has also expressed concerns and reform of border issues.**

**Speaker Craddock’s record is sound on social issues as well as economic issues. Under His leadership the House passed the constitutional amendment to protect traditional marriage as being defined as one man and one woman, and he has pledged additional marriage-strengthening measures this session, including Covenant Marriages.**

**As you can see there is much at stake with the selection of the House Speaker. We cannot afford to allow the minority party to elect their Speaker and possibly rolling back the success we have accomplished the last two sessions. It would be very unwise to consider a moderate that could empower the minority party much like has happened on the national level.**

**You may recall in years past the result when a “moderate” was elected to lead the Texas Senate with the support of liberals. As predicted at the time, the liberals who helped elect a moderate leader were given their**

share of key chairmanships. The result was an appropriations bill, which resulted in a major shortfall the next session. It was conservative leadership that brought back budget control – a balanced budget (despite the \$10B shortfall), and no tax increases.

With all the accomplishments of the 78<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> Legislatures it is difficult to believe there would be a desire on the part of anyone in the majority to make a change and allow a possible change in direction. The make up of the House currently is 80 Republicans and 69 Democrats. (One seat is still to be filled) it would appear this is a mute point. Especially, as mentioned above since Speaker Craddick has already released his list of 109 signed commitments. (A commitment is your word of honor) Speculation remains that if the minority party voted as a block they would only need a few votes from the majority party voting with them to allow them to choose the House Speaker. The reality is with the strong grass roots organizations, the support of statewide elected officials and the success of the past sessions it would seem to be very unwise for a member of the majority party to allow the minority party to select a new Speaker allowing them to set their agenda leaving the current majority in the minority. In my calls to members, most believe Speaker Craddick will be re-elected.

With the swearing in ceremony being set for January 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon the public is invited and encouraged to attend and observe the process. If you are able to attend the ceremony please feel free to stop by our new Capitol office to meet and visit with our staff and enjoy some refreshments.

We continue to welcome your input and your questions. Contact our office located in the Capitol extension: E1.302. Mailing address: P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768. Email [District2.Flynn@house.state.tx.us](mailto:District2.Flynn@house.state.tx.us). Toll free number 1-800-734-9515.

May God bless you and our great state of Texas,

Dan Flynn  
State Representative, District – 2

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