

**DRAFT**

# FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

City of Corpus Christi  
Council Workshop  
October 15, 2013

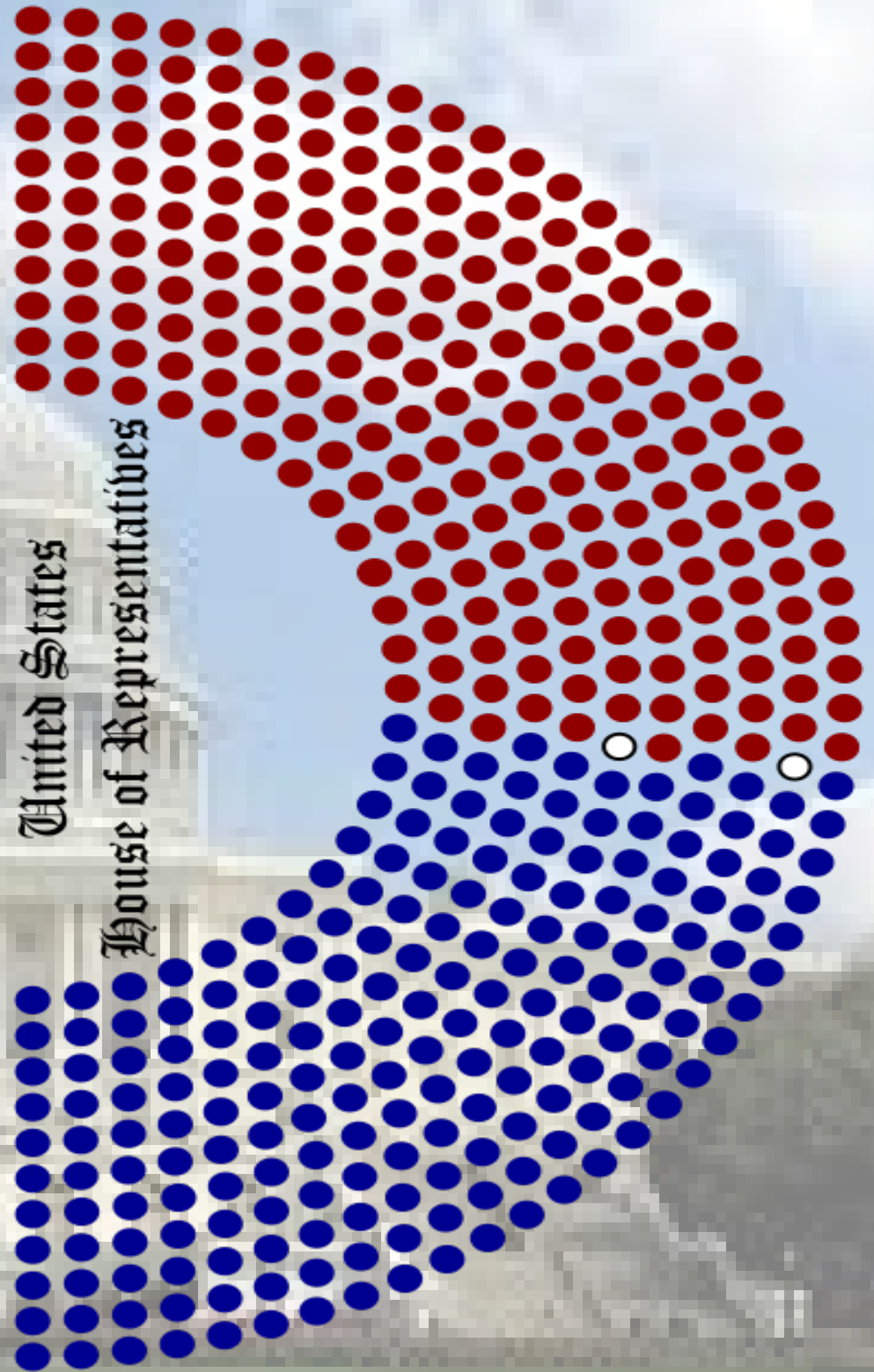
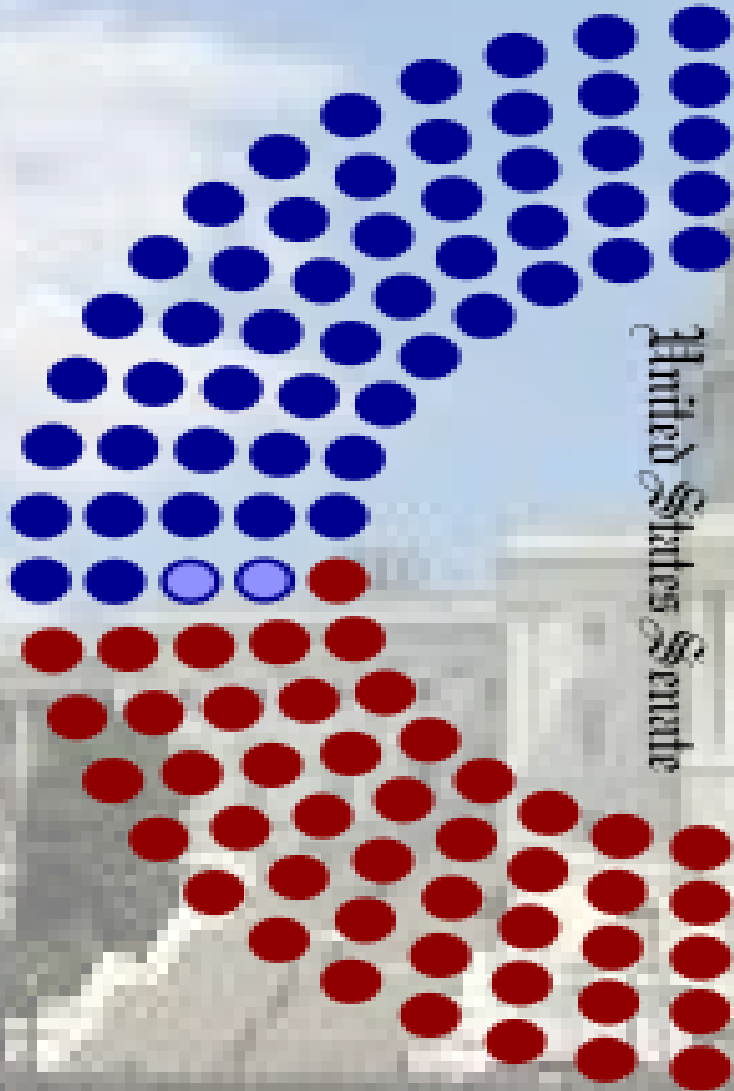
# 113<sup>th</sup> Congress

Senate

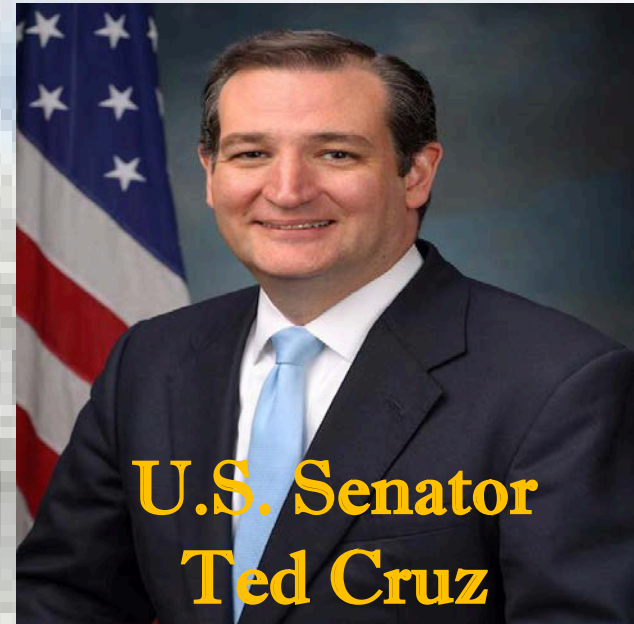
46 R – 52 D – 2 I (1/5/13)

House

233 R – 200 D – 2 vacant (1/5/13)



# Coastal Bend Legislative Delegation



# Meyers and Associates



**Washington, D.C.- based**

**Federal lobbyist since 1981 (more than 30 years)**

**20 Year Client of The City of Corpus Christi**

**Four Years Legislative Director for US Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (Texas)**

**Director of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture (President Jimmy Carter)**

**Board member, Texas State Aquarium**

**Represents Alliance for I-69 Texas – among others**

# City SUPPORTS legislation that:

- Protect and enhance City revenues.
- Reduces or eliminates costs to the City.
- Support local control.
- Protects policies previously established by City leadership through the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans.
- Provides increased educational opportunities and job creation/retention for the citizens of Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend region through the Port of Corpus Christi authority, public schools, community colleges and universities.

# City OPPOSES legislation that:

- Undermine the principle of home rule and local control by the City.
- Results in the loss of revenue or negatively impacts potential revenue growth to the City.
- Diminishes the authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development.
- Nullify or undermine the City's policies contained in existing provisions of the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans, unless such changes expand the City's ability to manage its own affairs.
- Imposes unfunded mandates that requires any expenditures by the City unless all costs are fully reimbursed by the mandating governmental entity.

# Priority Policy Topics

## Tax Policy

- Oppose taxation of the interest earned by investors in bonds issued by municipalities and other local governments.
- Support the Marketplace Fairness Act authorizing state and local governments to collect taxes owed on Internet and mail-order sales.

# Priority Policy Topics

## Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Support increases and oppose further reductions in funding for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME (Home Investment Partnership) program, homeless programs.



# Priority Policy Topics

## Appropriations

- Support continued funding for existing City grant-recipient programs and monitor legislation impacting those programs.
- Encourage Congress to pass annual budgets that prevents cuts required by the Budget Control Act.

# Priority Policy Topics

## Military Installations

- Support funding, staffing, and operations for the strategic missions at military installations in the Coastal Bend.
- Support efforts to enhance missions, operations, and contracting opportunities to increase their military value.
- Support military construction funding as identified by base commanders and personnel.
- Support legislation to exchange surplus Peary Place property from the Navy to the City for a restrictive easement on Cabaniss field property.
- Oppose furloughs of military and contract employees forced by federal budget sequestration or government shut-downs.

# Priority Policy Topics

## Transportation Infrastructure & Development

- Support re-authorization of MAP 21, the federal transportation bill for at least five years.
- Support a sustainable source of revenue that will provide for stable funding for investment in transportation infrastructure and transit services.
- Support continued funding through the appropriations process of the Transportation Investment for Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Program.

# Priority Policy Topics

## Transportation Infrastructure & Development (continued)

- Support continuation of and funding for the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA).
- Support initiatives to fund construction and upgrades of existing highway infrastructure to interstate standards to complete Interstate 69 throughout Texas.
- Support federal funding for construction of replacement of the Harbor Bridge (US 181).

# Priority Policy Topics

## Transportation Infrastructure & Development (continued)

- Support funding for railroad system improvements and improve funding to maintenance dredging for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to improve the Port of Corpus Christi.
- Support funding for freight rail that will improve the rail connectivity and make the rail system safer and more efficient, improve environmental sustainability and encourage competitive rail access to ports.

# Priority Policy Topics

## Transportation Infrastructure & Development (continued)

- Support funding for the Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration to continue to provide safe and efficient passenger and freight movement.
- Support continued federal investment and priority into infrastructure to facilitate freight movement.
- Support I-69 being included in the designation of the National Freight Network now under consideration by the federal Department of Transportation.

# Priority Policy Topics

## Gulf of Mexico

- Support legislation, such as S. 1555/H.R. 3429 (Rigs-to-Reef Habitat Protection Act) or H.R. 6208 (REEFS Act) from 112th Congress, to prevent the U.S. Department of the Interior's destructive Operations Idle Iron program that weakens artificial reef creation.
- Monitor Gulf of Mexico fisheries management proposals.
- Support implementation of the RESTORE Act.

# Priority Policy Topics

## Environmental Protection Agency

- Oppose overreaching, unrealistic, and unachievable standards and regulations for air, water, wastewater, and stormwater.
- Support appropriations to EPA to allow the agency to invest and serve as a partner to municipal governments for construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure to achieve air, water, wastewater and stormwater goals.



# Priority Policy Topics

## Clean Water Act Renewal

- Support renewal/reauthorization of Clean Water Act
- Support changes to the CWA that incentivizes investments in municipal infrastructure to achieve improvements in water quality.
- Support integrated planning initiatives to reduce sanitary sewer system overflows (SSOs).

# Priority Policy Topics

## Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

- Support renewal of WRDA, including repeal of earmark ban.
- Support continued funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and ensure full utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for maintenance and dredging projects.

# Priority Policy Topics

## Higher Education

- Support funding for academic and scientific research, student financial aid, and other federal initiatives that strengthens Coastal Bend higher education institutions.

# Priority Policy Topics

## Appointments

- Support prompt appointment and confirmation of a qualified, permanent U.S. District Judge for the Corpus Christi District to assure due process and equal justice under the law.

# Priority Policy Topics

## Flood Insurance

- Support amendments to the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act that delays implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) premium increases to consumers and ensures adequate policy coverage at affordable rates.



**QUESTIONS  
COMMENTS  
SUGGESTIONS  
DISCUSSION**

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