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chose different across the land.

America was never designed to be governed from the top down. I'll spare you the quotes from Jefferson and Tocqueville about the importance of local government (for now), but the Framers of our Constitution envisioned American government as a bottom-up affair. State and local governments were (and are) the most responsive to the people and would serve as the laboratories for new ideas. Public servants would build trust and consensus at lower levels, then take their ideas to higher levels. We were never expected to put all our hopes and dreams into a President. Good government would matriculate upwards to the federal level, not trickling downward from the Presidency.

In 2020, American voters showed up in record numbers. From both parties, Americans chose more representative candidates hailing from all segments of society. Americans good want government matriculating upwards, not trickling downward. Democracy still works. People still care. People are still seeking better leaders. That, my friends, is a very good thing.

James Decker is the Mayor of Stamford, Texas and the creator of the "West of 98" website and forthcoming podcast. He may be contacted at westof98.substack.com.

### **ROBERT LEE CARE CENTER**

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#### Whooping Cranes Heading to Texas Coast

With the first sightings of iconic, endangered whooping cranes along the Texas coast, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is reminding Texans to be on the lookout for these impressive birds as they move through the state.

Whooping cranes are the tallest, rarest birds in North America. Currently, there is a population of around 506 individuals. Thanks to coordinated conservation efforts, whooping cranes are slowly returning from the brink of extinction.

Whooping cranes make a 2,500-mile journey from their breeding grounds of northern Alberta's Wood Buffalo National Park to the coastal marshes of Texas each year. The migration south to Texas can take up to 50 days.

During their migration, whooping cranes seek out wetlands and agricultural fields where they can roost and feed. The birds often pass large urban centers like Dallas-Fort Worth, Waco and Austin. Though whooping cranes rarely stay in

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