



**Coke County Conservatives!** Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples (above) welcomes citizens, candidates, and elected officials to the Coke County Conservative Convocation held in Robert Lee Thursday afternoon, April 12, 2012. Elected officials attending the event (top right) included State Representative Drew Darby, Coke County Judge Roy Blair, Ag Commissioner Staples, Coke County Commissioners Wendell Lee and Bobby Blaylock, Sheriff Wayne McCutchen, Treasurer Hal Spain, Tax Assessor Josie Dean, Constables Marty Boyd and Marshall Millican, Texas Supreme Court Justices Don Willett and David Medina, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge Sharon Keller, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Judges Elsa Alcalá, Barbara Hervey and Mike Keasler and 3rd Court of Appeals Justices David Puryear, Melissa Goodwin, Jeff Rose, and Bob Pemberton. Texas Republican Party Chairman Steve Munisteri, Vice Chairman Melinda Fredricks, Tom Green County Chairman Russ Derstine and Coke County Chairman David Kitten were also in attendance.

## Todd Staples welcomes local leaders in Coke County to Republican Party

Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples came to Robert Lee Thursday, April 12, to welcome seven elected officials from Coke County to the Republican Party. The elected officials changing parties included County Judge Roy Blair, County Commissioner Bobby Blaylock, County Commissioner Wendell Lee, Sheriff Wayne McCutchen, Constable Marty Boyd, County Clerk Mary Grim and Tax Assessor Josie Dean.

“This announcement makes it very clear the big-spending, big-government Democratic Party philosophy has worn out its welcome in Texas,” said Todd Staples. “Republicans fight for our free enterprise system and accountability. We welcome these leaders who are standing on principle and who want to empower families, not government.”

“Big liberal agendas do not reflect the values of Coke County citizens, and I’m proud to join the Republican Party and what it stands for,” said Coke County Judge Roy Blair.

“This is a historic moment for the Republican Party and the great state of Texas.

These strong leaders have made the decision to join the Republican Party after living their lives in a town and county named after two of history’s largest symbols of the Democratic Party,” Staples said. “The message is loud and clear, the Republican Party is what’s needed to get this country back on the right track.”

Commissioner Staples was joined in Robert Lee by Supreme Court Justice Don Willett, State Representative Drew Darby, Republican Party of Texas Chairman Steve Munisteri and Republican Party of Texas Vice Chairman Melinda Fredricks. Republican Party of Texas State Chairman Steve Munisteri commented, “Today’s announcement continues a steady and growing trend among elected officials in Texas who recognize that the Republican Party principles of free enterprise, limited government, and individual liberty are the best way to ensure Texas’ future. Over the past two years, we’ve welcomed many former Democratic officeholders who have come to the same conclusion, and today’s historic switch in Coke

County continues and confirms that momentum.

Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, I want to

warmly welcome all of these officeholders to our ranks.”

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