



# **PLAN FOR FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN TEXAS**

October 11, 2018



**As Texas Attorney General, Ken Paxton has failed in his duty to protect the people of Texas from malfeasance and corruption. Instead, Paxton has been the very face of corrupt and self-dealing policies.**

**Ken Paxton has been criminally accused of violating the same laws he is sworn to enforce:**

- Paxton has been under indictment for two counts of felony securities fraud and one count of failing to register as an investment advisor throughout his entire tenure as Attorney General.
- Paxton is the only statewide elected official in Texas who has ever run for re-election while under indictment.

**Ken Paxton has used his office to personally financially profit:**

- Paxton was investigated by a grand jury for using insider information to profit from a land deal.
- Paxton has grown his net worth from \$30,000 to more than \$3 million while working as a public servant for the people of Texas. As one Republican advertisement this year stated, “Public service pays surprisingly well” for him.
- Paxton has accepted gifts, including tickets to the Grammys, from registered lobbyists.
- Paxton has accepted gifts, including trips, from executives in the industries he is supposed to, but has not, regulated.

**Ken Paxton has used the office to benefit himself and his friends at the expense of Texans, only taking action when it suits his bottom line:**

- Paxton worked to limit the legal rights of Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) policyholders while having taken over \$300,000 from the insurance industry, including trips from insurance executives.
- Paxton voted for an appropriations bill that gave a police camera company he owned a lucrative contract.
- Paxton accepted a \$1 million loan from the right-wing group Empower Texans. He has since refused to defend the Texas Ethics Commission against the very same group, costing Texas taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

**Ken Paxton’s job is to protect Texas consumers. He has declined to do so, instead choosing to line his own pockets:**

- Paxton failed to police Texas’s worst-in-the-nation nursing homes while taking hundreds of thousands from the industry and owning five of them.
- Paxton failed to prosecute predatory payday lenders while taking hundreds of thousands of dollars from the industry.

## **Texas needs a responsible Attorney General who will clean up the state government.**

Texas should have the strongest ethics laws in the country, not the most lax. Justin Nelson will be a Texas Attorney General who will fight against corruption, not be a party to it. Once in office, he will implement the following detailed ethics policies in order to create a state government that works for the people of Texas, not special interests for the personal benefit of its top officials.

Justin will implement and enforce the following as internal OAG policy, and will work with the Legislature to implement these stricter requirements across Texas government:

### **Stricter Gift Policy:**

- A complete bar on accepting personal gifts, including legal defense funds, entertainment, or travel, from any registered lobbyist, attorney, or party during the pendency of their legal matter with the OAG. This includes doing away with the existing “food, lodging, transportation, or entertainment” loophole, which allows for unlimited “gifts” to the Attorney General, as long as those gifts are not cash.

### **Closing Loopholes:**

- Closing the “pre-existing” relationship loophole for everyone except immediate family, so that the rules apply even if the official already has a personal, professional, or business relationship with the individual or contributor.
- Closing the blind trust loophole, which allows government officials to hold investments in entities they are regulating simply by having a friend manage their finances.

### **Full Transparency:**

- Full financial transparency to at least the federal standard, including disclosure of all assets a filer has or receives, including full disclosure of all jointly owned community property and ownership in LLCs or family trusts that mask true ownership.
- Posting the office holder’s full public calendar on a weekly basis online.
- Full publication of all meetings with legislators or registered lobbyists.

### **Lobbying Ban:**

- Creation of a five-year ban for any statewide elected official to register as a lobbyist.