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Brown files for Texas Railroad Commissioner

Promises to Provide Pragmatic Leadership

MISSOURI CITY, TX—Today, former Fort Bend County Democratic Party Chairman Steve Brown officially filed for a spot on the Texas Railroad Commission. Citing his commitment to provide pragmatic leadership that facilitates continued energy growth while achieving greater public accountability, Brown stressed the need to reform the Railroad Commission (RRC) to better support businesses and citizens.

“Despite the fact that drilling permits having almost doubled in the past decade, the Railroad Commission’s ability to support this explosive growth just hasn’t kept pace,” stated Brown.

“Ultimately, the inefficient use of agency resources, failure to retain, recruit and train staff, and the Legislature’s funding cuts all negatively impact the expediency of the permitting process, thoroughness of inspections and the RRC’s responsiveness to the general public,” he added.

Brown’s career spans over 15 years of legislative, public administrative, and state budgetary policy experience. During that time he has worked in the Clinton White House, assisted in crafting several state budgets, and led efforts to advance major state legislation.

“I’m looking forward to having a conversation over the next year to discuss my vision for reforming the Railroad Commission and

ensuring that it has the strategic direction and resources to fulfill its mission: stewardship of our environment and natural resources, concern for community safety and support for economic vitality. This important agency can perform better, and we'll demonstrate how during the course of this campaign," Brown concluded.

Created in 1891, the Texas Railroad Commission was one of the first consumer protection agencies in the nation. At that time Texans sought relief from price manipulation and discriminatory practices of railroad companies. However, today it is primarily responsible for supporting the development of energy resources, ensuring safe delivery of those resources, and protecting the environment.

If Texas were considered its own country, it would be the 11th biggest oil producing country in the world. By next year that is expected to rise to 8th, ahead of countries like Venezuela, Kuwait, Iran and Mexico.

In addition to serving as County Chairman, Brown also serves on the Missouri City Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #3, and is a member of the Xi Kappa Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity Inc. In 2011, Steve was named an Outstanding Community Leader by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus. He is the husband of Monique Mathis Brown and proud father of Stephen III (9) and Mathis (5).

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