A Plan for Leadership
of the
Republican House Delegation

Representative Lance Harris
District 25

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Candidate for Chairman, Republican House Delegation

LANCE HARRIS

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Dear Colleagues:

As you are probably aware, I have decided to become a candidate for Chairman of the Republican House Delegation. This is a very important decision that I have seriously thought and prayed about. I have discussed it with my wife Leetha, and several of my colleagues. After reflecting fully, I determined that I have the time, energy and resources needed to devote to the work of the Delegation.

I understand that the role of Chairman is very demanding. I am ready, willing and fully able to commit my personal and professional energies to this important task for our party, and for the body.

In the process of making this decision, I outlined some ideas for how I would handle the responsibilities of Chairman, and what my priorities would be for the advancement of our members.

These ideas revolve around three core strategic principles that I believe are central to a unified, effective Republican House Delegation:

- Provide strong, fair and consistent leadership for the Delegation.
- Focus on our shared priorities; invest in thorough planning; and crisp execution of our plans.
- Clear, effective communication with members, the Administration, opinion leaders and the public.

I am looking forward to working with my Republican colleagues to develop a strategic plan to guide our work during the next session, and over the next three years. With a dynamic and flexible plan, we will work together to achieve our mutual goals, and advance the values, principles and priorities of our party.

I sincerely hope these ideas will give you a real sense of my thought process, and what I bring to the table. Kindly take a few minutes to review and reflect on whether my priorities are in line with yours.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss any aspect of the challenges we are facing. My cell # is: (318) 229-5351.

I sincerely, humbly and respectfully ask for your vote for Chairman of the House Republican Delegation.

Sincerely,

Lance Harris

A PLAN FOR LEADERSHIP

GOAL: Work with Republican colleagues toward a strong, united and highly effective Republican House Delegation.

PROCESS: Develop a Strategic Plan for the Delegation's work during session, starting now. Provide leadership, working together in an atmosphere of mutual respect to ensure that our members are united on issues that reflect Republican values, principles and priorities. Communicate effectively with members, the Administration, opinion leaders and the public.

CORE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Leadership Role

I will work as Chairman to provide **fair, consistent and principled leadership** to the Delegation.

- *In this leadership role, my highest priority is to present a unified Delegation on the floor and in public. We should work out our differences behind closed doors to limit airing of disagreements and prevent public conflict between members.*

- I will work to guarantee that **our work is meaningful and substantive**. The legislature will face numerous serious issues in the next legislative session. These challenges include a $960 million budget deficit; consideration of the Administration's tax reform package; consideration of a number of budget reform bills; consideration of a number of bills to repeal or change the Governor's education reforms -- to name just a few. I am committed to allowing our members to freely discuss their ideas and concerns, and to seek areas of common agreement. In areas where we don't agree, we will respect the process, integrity and honorable intentions of our colleagues.

- I pledge to employ my experience in life and in business to offer a **fair, even handed, and principled approach to unifying the Delegation**. I strongly believe in the value of a robust, open and respectful exchange of ideas. I believe we are strongest when our members feel free to communicate with each other, and we treat each other fairly.

- I will **stand up for the Delegation and its individual members** in situations where we face pressures from any outside source that conflict with our shared values and priorities.

- I will diligently work to ensure that the Delegation has **timely and accurate information for decision making** on important issues. I will actively work with my colleagues on the Policy Committee to discern the difference between fiction and fact when dealing with issues that affect the Delegation and our members.

- Together, we will work to **present a unified Delegation to outsiders**. Even when members of the Delegation have differences on issues, it is important that our communications reflect our mutual respect for each other, and the underlying unity of our values and principles. I believe the right person, with the experience and willing personality, can make this happen.

Priorities, Planning and Execution

I will work with members to **develop a strategic plan** that reflects our policy priorities, along with a clear, realistic plan for achievement of our goals.

- Develop strategic plan for the session.
    - Work with the Policy Committee to develop a **detailed agenda** on our issues, and prioritize items in order of importance.
    - **Actively work with the Administration** to detail and prioritize the policy priorities of the Governor.
        - Conduct meetings with the Administration and determine those items that we are in full agreement on. Strategize with the administration regarding the appropriate priorities and process for guiding priority agenda items through the process.
    - Consistently **communicate with the Delegation in writing**. I believe this is critical to alleviating some of the hard feelings and disunity that result from miscommunication and hinders our effectiveness.
- Review and adjust the plan during session and **make necessary adjustments** as needed.
    - As issues arise, the Policy Committee will adjust and **develop alternate plans** for relevant items.
    - Keep open lines of **communication with the Administration** to allow real-time adjustments to mutual strategy and objectives.

I believe strongly in planning, whether in business or in government. Having an actual strategic plan will go a long way toward getting all of us on the same page regarding our shared objectives, expectations and political philosophy. **Working together on the plan allows each and every one of our members to have a stake in guiding where we are going together as a Delegation.**

Communication

I will work to ensure that our Delegation **communicates clearly and effectively** – internally, with the Administration, with opinion leaders and the public. I believe strong communication is critical to our success.

- Communicate plans **and objectives to the Delegation** for dialogue on an ongoing basis.
- Develop a **process for internal communications**, robust enough to be of service to members during session.

- Make use of **mass texting and email**.

- Work with the **Communications Committee to keep Delegation members informed**. This is particularly important during the heat of session.

- Develop and publish an **interactive website**.

  - "Private" portions of the website can provide a **friendly platform for Delegation members** that can house forums, comments and threaded discussions.

  - "Public" portions of the website **allow the public to learn more** about what the Delegation is doing.

- **Utilize social networks** like Facebook and Twitter. We will work to expand our footprint of followers on social media, allowing broader dissemination of our messages before, during and after session.

Summary

- I am **committed to investing the time and energy** necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of Chairman of the Delegation.

- I believe I can **provide the leadership** to ensure our unity, fairness to our members, and improve the effectiveness of our Delegation over the next three years.

- My business and life **experience is a good fit** for addressing the challenges we face as a delegation, as a party, as a legislative body, and as a state.

  - **I will work hard to ensure that our Delegation is proactive and truly effects positive change in the process.** We will not just be an organization that meets every Wednesday during session to eat lunch.

- I will **focus on the core elements** necessary to make this happen:

  - Strong, fair and consistent leadership;

  - Focus on priorities, planning and execution;

  - Strong, clear and consistent communication.

Please give me an opportunity to serve you as your Delegation Chairman. I will work hard, treat each member fairly and with respect, and I won't let you down.