



**Interim Update From
Representative
James Frank
August 5, 2015**



Presidential Election Thoughts

As a Representative to the Texas House, I typically limit my newsletters, posts and tweets to policies at the State level. Not only are these the issues that I can personally impact, these are the issues that typically need more press than better known national issues. I have decided that I will be making a major exception to that general rule in the 2016 Republican Presidential Primary race for 3 reasons:

1. Importance of the Presidency - we must have someone who understands, desires and works for a government that is both limited in its scope and as local as practical. Unfortunately, the President has significantly more influence on the rules, regulations and budget of the state than I ever would have imagined.
2. Choose the right candidate and we win - if Republicans choose one of the qualified, electable candidates, we will win the election.
3. Texas will play an important role in picking the Republican candidate- while Texas is almost certain to elect a Republican in the general election, the PRIMARY is where we can actually have the biggest impact on this election.

If you agree with my train of thought that: 1)the Presidency is important; 2)picking the right Republican candidate will determine whether or not we win and; 3)Texas will play a critical role in choosing the Republican candidate, then the only remaining question is how can YOU and I help make sure that Texas chooses the best candidate? Over the coming weeks, I will be laying out steps that I am taking to try to figure out which candidate(s) to support in the upcoming Republican primary. I will also be sharing how you and I can influence this race as much as possible.

This week will be a fairly important one on the path of picking our next President as the first major debates of the 2016 Presidential election season happen among Republican candidates Thursday (8/6) night. Take time to watch these debates and try to decide which candidates you think are best to lead the country and the party and which candidates should not be doing either.

In closing, I would like to say that I have also enjoyed the chances to speak with a number of you at different forums and meetings across the district. If you have an organization that would like to hear about the most recent legislative session, discuss issues that are important to you, or have a conversation about state policy and politics, please reach out to me or my staff to schedule time for us to meet.

I hope you enjoy these last few weeks of the summer.

May God bless you and your family,

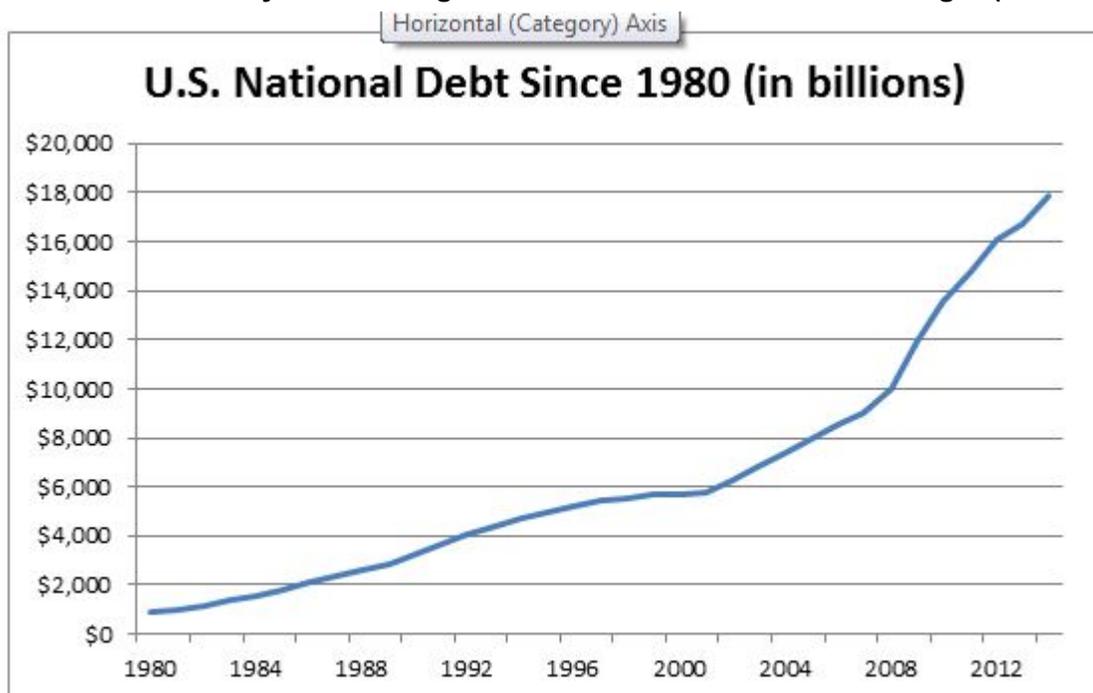


James B. Frank

IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESIDENCY



Many of the truly important state issues are dramatically impacted by the President's support or opposition. While this may appear obvious, I continue to be amazed at the impact that Washington has on the governance of the State of Texas. Aside from the obvious issues which should be decided at the federal level like foreign policy, trade policy, and federal tax decisions, there are a number of places where our country needs someone who understands, desires and works for a government that is both limited in its scope and as local as practical. **The continued growth and centralization of government must be reversed dramatically before the government sinks under its own weight (and debt).**



Some may ask just how much influence the President really has at lower levels of government. There are numerous examples I could share but one example from our recent water supply worries is particularly illuminating.

In numerous meetings with state officials at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), when asked why certain permitting processes were taking so long or why some aspects of the Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) project were unnecessarily regulated, it was common to hear an answer of "those are the rules established by the EPA." We are now at a point where a local water supply project implemented during a drought is subject to rulemaking done in Washington. That is a symptom of the larger problem of continued centralization--even where it doesn't make sense. ***We need a president who understands this.***

THE RIGHT REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE WOULD BE THE FAVORITE

I believe that if Republicans choose one of the qualified, electable candidates, we will win the election. I also believe, if we choose a candidate that is either not qualified or not electable, then we will lose. While solid ideas are a critical factor in picking our next presidential candidate, we must also remember that none of the ideas will be implemented if our candidate LOSES. I would rather have an imperfect candidate that will win, than a perfect candidate (as if there is one) that loses. This does not suggest that ideas, experience and character don't matter. They matter very much. But it also matters whether that candidate is electable in the general election.

I am at the same place in this process with a lot of you-- combing through the field to find a candidate or candidates who have the right combination of policy expertise, policy positions, personal charisma, and electability. Thursday night's debates and the performance of the candidates over the next few weeks will go a long way toward narrowing down the field from 17 major candidates (listed in the table below).

CURRENT GOP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Donald Trump	Jeb Bush	Scott Walker	Marco Rubio
Ben Carson	Mike Huckabee	Rand Paul	Ted Cruz
Chris Christie	John Kasich	Rick Perry	Carly Fiorina
Rick Santorum	Bobby Jindal	Lindsey Graham	George Pataki
Jim Gilmore			

While I am not a fan of everyone on this list, it is an impressive group of intelligent, talented and successful candidates.

TEXAS WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN PICKING THE GOP NOMINEE

Texas will play a primary (no pun intended) role in selecting the right candidate to lead this country for the next 4 years. Along with 9 other states, Texas will choose its Republican candidate on March 1st after only a handful of other states.

Winning Texas will be critical to any candidate's chances. Therefore, impacting the Texas primary has an outsized effect on picking the next nominee. You can impact which candidate wins in Texas. **Because relatively few people participate in primary politics, those who are involved have a disproportionate impact on elections.**

WRAPPING UP

In the last few presidential elections, Texas has, in some ways, been an afterthought. The primaries had been decided by the time Texas voters went to the polls and our state would reliably vote for the Republican candidate in the general. While the latter part of that statement remains true for this election cycle, it should still be a competitive race for primary nominees on March 1st.

When asked by a woman what form of government our fledgling country possessed, Benjamin Franklin answered, "A representative democracy, if we can keep it." Our form of government is not easy nor is it for the passive. It is our job as citizens and as voters to do our homework and make intelligent decisions about who we vote for.

I intend to do just that and hope you will join me in this endeavor.

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter!

If you have not done so already, please find me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Please also feel free to visit my Texas House of Representatives website at <http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=69>.

If you have questions or comments, please contact my office at **940-767-1700** or send me an email at **James.Frank@house.state.tx.us**.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative.



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