

Resolution on Adding a 1% CERTAINTY to Parole for Eligible Offenders in TDCJ.



Whereas, the 23 Texas Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP) officers and commissioners made 173,398 votes for 2018 with an average approval rate of 35%;¹ and

Whereas, the current point system the BPP is not absolute in that no score insures *any* certainty of a positive vote, and furthermore, that each vote in good conscience is still fully arbitrary and by uncertain means—a judgment in fact;² and

Whereas, that extraordinary number of votes has been roughly the same for the last 10 years, and works out from a 40-hour work week to an average of less than 10 minutes per case, and much less given that each have other duties than looking at cases 8 hours per day; and

Whereas, no normal human can fully digest in 10 minutes the 24- to 48-inch-plus thick folders of inmates, and that of the 173,398 votes only 1,004 in-prison interviews took place, and worse, the BPP total 37,976 interviews (office, phone, teleconference; inmates, attorneys, victims, families) are not dissected in their report to outline any other inmate contact;³ and

Whereas, the TDCJ's 25,000-plus officers and staff inside the prison supervise prisoners 24/7 for an extraordinary low-ball figure of **45,000,000 hours of offender contact** every year, or **450,000,000 hours over 10 years, and is a rich resource totally untapped**;⁴ and

Whereas, the ten years of 450,000,000 hours of experience from educated, law-abiding TDCJ staff is valuable and **critically informative** to distinguish between two eligible prisoners that appear the same on paper but inside the prison one is honorable and other rotten; and

Whereas, the BPP has never used *definitively* a single hour of the vast in-person staff experience, and a failure to use such *definitively* is not merely a waste but a grave injustice; and

Whereas, prisoners knowing a 1% certainty of eligible prisoners will make parole—by all we know of psychology and penology—will positively affect conduct in prison; and

Whereas, allowing a 1% *certainty* respects the time and expense of the judicial process that resulted in the parole sentence, including law officers investigating, the prosecution and defense, the judges considering, victim statements and in-person court testimony, and perhaps most of all the valuable jury of citizen peers deliberating all, that in reality is **second-guessed** in less than 10 minutes of BPP votes for each denial;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Republican Party of Tyler County calls upon the Texas Legislature to enact by legislation or constitutional amendment a method of *definitively* accessing the experience of in-prison staff to vote on 1% of parole eligible offenders, granting the prisoners, their families, and the jury that convicted a 1% degree of certainty each year.

Adopted this 6th day of June 2020, at the Tyler County Republican Party Convention.

¹ See www.TDCJ.texas.gov/bpp/publications/FY%202018%20AnnualStatistical%20Report.pdf.

² See www.TDCJ.texas.gov/bpp/publications/PG_AR_2019.pdf.

³ See www.TDCJ.texas.gov/bpp/publications/FY%202018%20AnnualStatistical%20Report.pdf, pg. 13.

⁴ See www.PreciousHeart.net/100000-Moms.pdf, and figure 25,000 COs x 40 hrs/wk x 45 wks/yr = equals a **low-ball of 45,000,000 hrs/year and 450,000,000 hrs** in 10 years!

