



CONGRESSMAN

JOHN RATCLIFFE

REPRESENTING THE FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS



2016 Legislative Update

Gladewater Chamber of Commerce

Gladewater, TX

July 12, 2016

Presented by

Robbin Bass & Natalie Irwin



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Took office January 3, 2015

Former:

Mayor of Heath, TX for Eight Years

U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Texas (2007-2008)

Chief of Anti-Terrorism and National Security EDTX (2004-2007)

Education:

Notre Dame

SMU Law School

Personal:

Youngest of six children

Married to Michele for 25 years

Two daughters, Riley and Darby

Son of two teachers



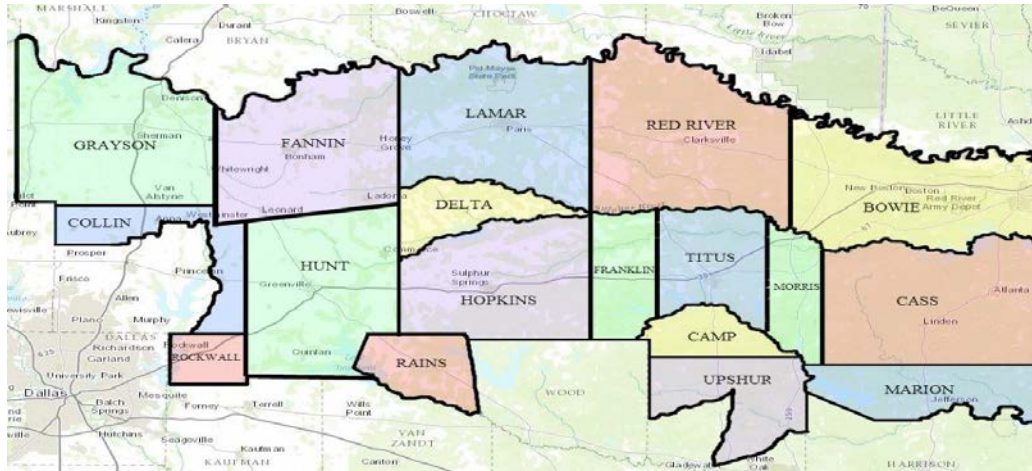


4TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS:

JOHN RATCLIFFE



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Size:

- 18 Counties (16 full; two partial)
- 10,100 Square Miles
- Border three states: OK, AR, LA
- 700,000+ constituents
- 63,000 veterans
- Only 10 cities > 10,000 residents

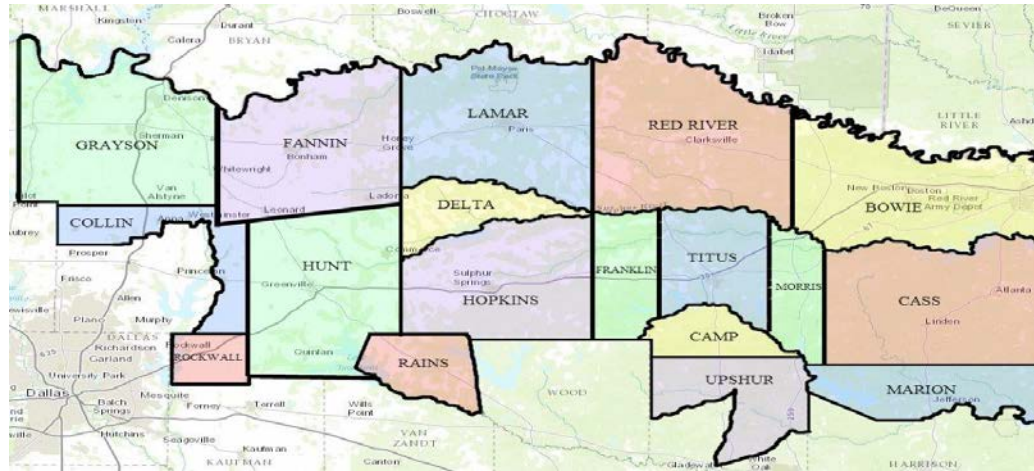


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TRIVIA QUESTION:

Only FOUR people have represented TX-04 in the past 100 years. Can you name them?

Sam Rayburn (1913-1961); Ray Roberts (1962-1980); Ralph Hall (1981-2014); John Ratcliffe (2015-)



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District Offices:

Rockwall Office

6531 Horizon Road, Suite A
Rockwall, TX 75032
Phone: (972) 771-0100
Fax: (972) 771-1222

Sherman Office

100 West Houston Street, 1st Floor
Sherman, TX 75090
Phone: (903) 813-5270
Fax: (903) 868-8613

Texarkana Office

2600 North Robison Road, Suite 190
Texarkana, TX 75599
Phone: (903) 823-3173
Fax (903) 832-3232

Mobile Offices:

Paris

1st/3rd Tuesdays
Paris City Hall

Sulphur Springs

2nd/4th Tuesdays
Hopkins County Courthouse



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District Offices:

- Engage with Constituents/Communities
- Help resolve issues with federal agencies
- Collect opinions on legislative issues
- Student Opportunities (STEM, Art, CYAC, **Rising Lone Star**, Interns)
- Military Academy Nominations

Washington DC Office:

- Collect opinions on issues
- **Work on legislation**
- Tour requests
- Flag requests



Rachel Johnson
Ore City High School



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WORKING HARD FOR YOU:

Over 1,000 recorded legislative votes since January 2015

Helped over 850 constituents with casework

Telephone town halls with over 25,000 participants

Nearly 930 appearances across the district

Over 32,000 responses sent to constituents

2016 (YTD): Responded to 7,710 constituent opinions by email, 1,459 by mail, and 419 by phone.



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ORIGINAL PRIORITIES UPON TAKING OFFICE

1. Defend the Constitution and ensure proper separation of powers
2. Secure our borders
3. Rein in out of control spending
4. Repeal and replace Obamacare **VETOED**
5. Reduce the regulatory burden





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COMMITTEES LINE UP WITH OUR PRIORITIES:

House Homeland Security Committee

- Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies Subcommittee, Chair
- Task Force on Combatting Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel
- Transportation Security Subcommittee

House Judiciary Committee

- Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee
- Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee





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THE ARTICLE ONE PROJECT

“All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.”

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 1.



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THE ARTICLE ONE PROJECT

- Select Network of House and Senate Conservatives
 - Sen. Mike Lee
 - Sen. Jeff Flake
 - Rep. Jeb Hensarling
 - Rep. Mia Love
- Develop and advance a strategic legislative plan to **reassert the constitutional balance of power** in the federal government
 - Power of the Purse
 - Regulatory Reform
- **Congressman Ratcliffe's focus:**
 - Reforming "Chevron Deference"
 - Preventing "Midnight Regulations"



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THE CHEVRON DEFERENCE (1984)

- Widely cited Supreme Court opinion that gives federal administrative agencies and unelected bureaucrats FAR TOO MUCH power.

“[I]f the statute is silent or ambiguous with respect to the specific issue, the question for the court is whether the agency's answer is based on a permissible construction of the statute.”

- Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens



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SEPARATION OF POWERS RESTORATION ACT (SOPRA) OF 2016

- Reduce accumulation of power by regulatory agencies by restoring the power of the courts to interpret the law, *instead of deferring to the interpretation of federal administrative agencies*
- Require courts to conduct a *de novo* review of all relevant questions of law, rather than leaving such interpretation up to federal bureaucrats.
- H.R. 4768 – Passed Judiciary Committee week of June 6
- Expected to be voted on by House today!!!



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THE ALERT ACT

Introduced H.R. 1759, the *All Economic Regulations are Transparent (ALERT) Act*, a bill that requires the administration to give the American people detailed information about upcoming regulations and prohibits regulations from taking effect unless this information is available for six months.

Passed out of Judiciary Committee 14-9 on 4/15/2015. This bill passed the House by a vote of 244-173 on 01/07/2016.



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THE PLUS ACT

Protecting Lives Using Surplus Equipment Act of 2016

- Following the Ferguson Riots in January 2015, President Obama took executive action to restrict the “1033 Program” which transfers certain defense surplus equipment to state and local law enforcement agencies
- The PLUS Act would stop this unilateral change and allow local law enforcement to continue utilizing surplus defense equipment
- Endorsed by the National Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs Association, the Major County Sheriffs’ Association and the National Association of Police Organizations



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LEGISLATION COSPONSORED

- **H.R. 25, The Fair Tax Act**
- H.R. 4760, Blue Lives Matter Act of 2016
- H.R. 4087, Fair Treatment for Families of Veterans Act
- H.R. 4764, Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act of 2016
- H.R. 4352, Faster Care for Veterans Act of 2016
- H.R. 4401, Foreign Fighter Review Act of 2016
- H.R. 4466, North Texas Reservoir Approval Act
- H.R. 4781, FDIC Accountability Act of 2016
- H.R. 4820, Combating Terrorism Recruitment Act of 2016
- H.R. 4956, End Executive Overreach Act
- **H.R. 5102, Interior Immigration Enforcement Act**



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RECENT LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS:

- Congress.gov
- Adding a new section to Ratcliffe.House.Gov

**“WE THE PEOPLE” MUST STAY
INFORMED!**



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RECENT ITEMS OF INTEREST

- FreedomWorks' Congressman of the Month for April & Freedom Fighter Award
- 100% rating by Club for Growth
- Heritage Action's highest rated member of House from Texas
- Faith Advisory Board
- Peter Hacking tragedy; ICE detainer on illegal immigrant responsible



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Want to know more?

- Website: ratcliffe.house.gov
- Email list
- facebook.com/RepRatcliffe
- Instagram: [@Rep_Ratcliffe](https://instagram.com/Rep_Ratcliffe)
- twitter.com/RepRatcliffe
- YouTube