



Ron Wright

Name:	Ronald Jack Wright
DOB:	Apr. 1953
Education:	Attended University of Texas at Arlington (did not graduate)
Pol. Exp.:	Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector, May 2011-17 Chief of Staff, Congressman Joe Barton, Jan. 2009-May 2011 District Director, Congressman Joe Barton, 2000-09 Arlington City Council, 2000-08 (Mayor Pro Tempore from 2005-08) RNC Delegate, 2004 Local Republican Club President and Area Leader
Prof. Exp.:	Columnist, <i>Fort Worth Star-Telegram</i> , 1995-2000 Project Manager, Ceramic Cooling Tower, Inc. PVI Industries
Orgs:	Arlington Night Shelter Tarrant County Historical Commission Arlington Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Mansfield Education Foundation Board Arlington Human Service Planners



Arlington Historical Society Board
Arlington Sports Authority
Founding President, Arlington Tomorrow Foundation
Arlington Housing Authority
Government Relations Board, Arlington Chamber of
Commerce
Advisory Board, UT-Arlington College of Science advisory
council
Arlington Life Shelter
Sons of the Republic of Texas and Sons of the America
Revolution
Mansfield School District Education Foundation Board



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Overview

Ron Wright is a sixth-generation resident of Tarrant County and has been a leader in Arlington and Tarrant County GOP politics for more than 25 years. Wright attended UTA but did not graduate. His careers have included milking cows on his family farm, construction, managing an audiovisual company, working for PVI Industries selling commercial boilers and water heating equipment, and from 1985-2000, working as a project manager for Ceramic Cooling Tower Inc.

Wright also was an opinion columnist for nearly five years for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* prior to running for Arlington City Council, where he won the most expensive race in the city's history and served on the council until 2008, including four years as Mayor Pro Tempore. He then served as Congressman Joe Barton's District Director from 2000 to 2009 and moved to Washington DC (while maintaining his local residency) to serve as the congressman's chief of staff from 2009 to 2011. Then in May 2011, despite having no relevant experience, Wright was appointed to replace Betsy Price as the Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector, where he was reelected twice and served until 2017, when he resigned to replace his scandal-ridden former boss.

Wright is now running as a far more conservative candidate than his former boss, particularly on immigration issues. He was called "clearly the most conservative and partisan member" of the Arlington City Council by the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* in their 2006 endorsement of his city council re-election and is now pledging to join the far-right Freedom Caucus.

While the 6th District on paper is decidedly a red district, Wright's long history in the public arena shows a candidate who uses the same sort of inflammatory rhetoric as the president, has views that may be even too far to the right for some Republicans, and has numerous inconsistencies in his record on taxes, spending and other issues.

Wright likes to portray himself as extremely conservative on fiscal issues, calling the national debt an item of critical importance, but an examination of his personal financial disclosure doesn't show quite the same attitude in his personal life. Wright reports a net worth in the negative hundreds of thousands of dollars, mostly because of a large amount of auto and home-related loans.

For decades, Wright has cast himself as an anti-tax candidate, even going so far as to say that officials who vote to keep the same tax rate as the prior year are



voting for a tax hike if property values are increasing. Using this standard, Wright consistently voted for tax increases, as the property tax rate in Arlington remained steady almost every year he served on the city council from 2000-08, except for one year where he actually voted to increase the levy rate.

Wright voted for or supported a number of other tax hikes during his time on the council, including a stormwater fee hike that he initially refused to exempt school districts from, saying that “some of us refuse to be intimidated.” After learning that local school districts were underperforming and would have budgetary problems because of the fee hike, he and the council reversed course and exempted them. He also supported or voted for tax hikes to fund street repairs, public safety, and transit. And, while in the Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector’s office, he raised fees his office charged taxpayers to determine how much tax property owners owed by 38 percent.

Wright also supports the flat tax and controversial Fair tax, which opponents have labeled regressive taxes that favor the rich.

Wright has an inconsistent record on corporate tax handouts too. Despite saying he personally hated them, he voted for millions of dollars in tax breaks for various companies and projects in Arlington.

Wright is to the far right on most major issues. He supports cutting entitlement benefits such as Social Security and Medicare, opposes any kind of deal for DACA/Dreamers, opposes abortion in all instances (even in cases of rape and incest), opposes any kind of gun control, does not believe it is the government’s job to make sure everybody is insured, doesn’t believe in climate change, supports school vouchers, and opposes any sort of gay rights issue.

Wright has touted some specific credentials on the campaign trail that should draw questions. He claims to have gone to “war with Planned Parenthood” when he refused to have his county office participate in a fundraising drive for the United Way, which 20 years earlier, he wrote a column about how great the organization was, and that “almost every human service organization you see or hear about in Arlington benefits directly from United Way.” When he found out the United Way marked a small amount of money to the “evil” Planned Parenthood at the request of specific donors, he compared the effort to Nazi Germany, saying, “I will remind all of them that Hitler made the trains run on time.”

Wright touted that he was the official who put “In God We Trust” on all of his office’s official documents, which is unsurprising given that he sees no real line between church and state.

He also brags about being the tax collector that refused to collect red light tickets and has been endorsed by a prominent Tea Party official who said that Wright would lead the effort to ban red light cameras in the United States. However, Wright was part of the Arlington City Council when it approved those very same cameras and was one of its biggest proponents, saying, “They’re saving lives, that’s the reason they’re here. ... if it was a net zero for the city, it would still be worth it to reduce accidents and death.”

Prior to serving as an elected official, Wright was an opinion columnist for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. While his columns often were meant to be tongue-in-cheek and humorous, at least a couple had a racist tint to them. In one 1995 column, he wrote about how white males are the only species without federal protection. In a 1997 column, Ron Wright criticized the Oakland School District for making Ebonics a second language, saying, “Black English is troubling as a national phenomenon.”

Wright has managed to avoid any major scandal during his career, though he isn’t completely clean on ethics. In 2003, Wright wanted Gov. Perry to veto a bill that required elected officials to file detailed personal financial disclosure statements, saying, “You have to wonder at what point is that information anyone’s business.” Additionally, as a city councilman, Wright’s campaigns were heavily financed by individuals associated with the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers. Wright sided with the teams on major city-related issues during his council tenure. He also took contributions from the city’s towing contractor and voted to approve a higher rate in the company’s towing fees.

Personal Financial Disclosure Overview

While he claims to be a fiscally conservative Republican calling for drastic cuts in spending, Ron Wright doesn't seem to maintain the same mantra in his personal life. According to his financial disclosure statement, his liabilities outweigh his assets by hundreds of thousands of dollars. Wright lists six separate car loans (two of which have supposedly been paid off), and numerous creditors related to home improvement projects.

Nearly all of Wright's assets reside in Charles Schwab international equity funds. He doesn't list the specific funds, though they are presumably not concentrated on domestic companies based on the description.

Reports Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars More in Liabilities than Assets.

On Ron Wright's financial disclosure form, filed on Jan. 2, 2018, he lists a net worth in the negative, somewhere in the range of -\$244,005 and -\$315,000. It should be noted that some of the liabilities say they were paid off in 2017, though he still lists them on the report. ([Ron Wright Financial Disclosure Report](#))

Asset	Min Value	Max Value
Charles Schwab Free Market Int'l Equity Fund	\$15,001	\$50,000
Charles Schwab Cash Account	\$1,001	\$15,000
Charles Schwab Int'l Equity Fund	\$100,001	\$250,000
	\$116,003	\$315,000
Creditor	Min Value	Max Value
Frost Bank Home Mortgage	\$100,001	\$250,000
Frost Bank Personal Line of Credit	\$15,001	\$50,000
Tarrant County Employees' Credit Union Personal Loan (Home Improvement Project)	\$15,001	\$50,000
USAA Personal Loan (Spouse)	\$10,000	\$15,000
GM Financial Services Auto Loan	\$15,001	\$50,000
Acura Financial Services Auto Lease	\$15,001	\$50,000
GM Financial Services Auto Loan	\$150,001	\$50,000
Lincoln Financial Services Auto Lease (Paid off May 2017)	\$15,001	\$50,000



USAA Auto Loan (Spouse - paid off July 2017)	\$15,001	\$50,000
Discover Card (Kitchen Remodel)	\$10,000	\$15,000
	\$360,008	\$630,000

Made \$172,481 as Tax Collector. Ron Wright reported making \$172,481 as the Tarrant County Tax Collector. ([Ron Wright Financial Disclosure Report](#))

As Conservative as it Gets

Ron Wright has developed an extremely conservative reputation going back decades. He was involved in numerous GOP groups before being elected to the Arlington City Council in 2000, where he was considered the most conservative and partisan member of the body.

Wright has shown that he will go to battle for President Trump, as he calls the district “Trump Country” and has praised the president at every opportunity.

However, Wright is even further right than Trump, as he has pledged to join the far-right Freedom Caucus and has been endorsed by national and local Tea Party groups.

Wright has been attacked for being a clone of his former boss, Joe Barton, though Wright is even further to the right. Wright praised Barton’s congressional service and seemingly defended his nude photo scandal, saying Barton “owned up” to those mistakes.

Loyal Trump Acolyte

Joked about Heat during Trump’s Texas Visit to See Families of School Shooting Victims. In May 2018, Ron Wright greeted President Trump on the tarmac at Love Field when the president stopped in Texas for fundraisers and to visit families of the victims of the Santa Fe school shooting. Wright joked about how hot the weather was.

'He picked one of the hottest days of the year to visit,' Wright said with a chuckle. 'We were hot, but I tried not to let it show.'

After waiting at least 15 minutes in the scorching Texas heat, Air Force One arrived and Trump greeted Wright -- Tarrant County's tax assessor collector and the Republican nominee for the 6th Congressional District -- and Lance Gooden, the GOP nominee for the 5th Congressional District.

'I said, 'Welcome back to North Texas, Mr. President,' ' Wright recalls saying. 'It was typical chit chat with the president of the United States.'



He said they spoke with the president for maybe one or two minutes before Trump headed to a private fundraiser in Dallas.

During that time, Trump asked how the campaigns of Wright and Gooden were going and both men replied that they thought they were doing well. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 31, 2018)

Calls 6th District “Trump Country.” Ron Wright will proudly be an ally of President Trump, calling the 6th district “Trump Country.”

'Obviously the president is going to be a big issue in the election,' Wright said. 'It's a national election and Democrats will go after him.'

'But the 6th District of Texas is Trump country,' Wright said, adding that he told the president 'he would have an ally' in him in Washington. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 31, 2018)

At parties 5 miles apart across Arlington, both candidates described the fall campaign in almost the same words.

'She'll support what President Obama did, and I'll support what President Trump is doing,' said Wright, a former Arlington mayor pro tem, county tax assessor and co-founder of Arlington's largest Republican club. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 23, 2018)

For Ending Mueller Investigation. Ron Wright has said Mueller's investigation had “gone too far”, and that “it should conclude.” (Corsicana Daily Sun, Apr. 11, 2018)

Praised Trump's Supreme Court Pick. Ron Wright supported President Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, and said, “we must continue to elect Republicans who will stand with him and his conservative agenda.”

President Trump has again delivered on his promise of choosing conservative justices for the Supreme Court by nominating Brett Kavanaugh. Judge Kavanaugh, is one of the numerous nominees listed as potential picks before the election. It is my supreme hope he is someone who will uphold the constitution for generations to come. Now it is time for the Senate to do its job and confirm him. It's times like this that remind us: elections have consequences. With the possibility of another judicial vacancy under President Trump, we must continue to elect Republicans who will stand with him and his conservative agenda. Onward to November and more conservative



victories! [#SCOTUS](#) (Ron Wright for Congress Facebook Post, Jul. 9, 2018)

For Continuing Trump's Regulation Cuts. Ron Wright said, "I wanna continue the reforms of the Trump administration and cut back on the onerous regulation." (Texas Tribune, [Apr. 18, 2018](#))

Compared Himself/Sanchez to Trump/Obama. After winning the runoff election, Ron Wright tried to compare himself and Jana Lynne Sanchez to Presidents Trump and Obama, respectively.

"She'll support what President Obama did, and I'll support what President Trump is doing," said Wright, a former Arlington mayor pro tem, county tax assessor and co-founder of Arlington's largest Republican club. (May 23, 2018)

Affiliated with Far-Right Groups

Will Join Far-Right Freedom Caucus. Ron Wright has no desire to seek a leadership position, but will join the Freedom Caucus if elected. (Corsicana Daily Sun, Apr. 11, 2018)

If he makes it to Washington, Wright has pledged to join the hardcore conservative Freedom Caucus, a group of nearly three dozen lawmakers who rail against the political establishment, at times roiling their party's leadership.

"Sometimes the most courageous vote a member can cast is a no vote," said Wright told the Star-Telegram Tuesday. "Some ideas really are that bad."

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Though Republicans now control the White House and have majorities in both chambers, Wright said: "That doesn't mean conservatives are in control." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, [Feb. 28, 2018](#))

Ron Wright knows the district well. We are somewhat concerned his pledge to join the Freedom Caucus would make him less independent. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 21, 2018)

Endorsed by Tea Party Express. The Tea Party Express has endorsed Ron Wright's congressional campaign.

Tea Party Express Co-Founder and Chief Strategist Sal Russo said, *"We are excited to support Ron Wright for Congress because he is a principled conservative leader who embodies the Tea Party principles of limited government, lower taxes and economic freedom."*

"Having spent three decades in the private sector, Wright understands the struggles that individuals and businesses face every day because of high taxes and overregulation. As Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector, he called upon his private sector experience as he fought to implement tax reforms and return hard-earned money to taxpayers. We are confident he will be an effective leader in the fight to reduce the size, scope and intrusiveness of the federal government and return control of the economy back to job creators and taxpayers.

“After eight disastrous years of anemic economic growth and fiscal irresponsibility under President Barack Obama, things are finally turning around thanks to the principled leadership of President Trump and the conservatives in Congress. Taxes are lower, unemployment is down, economic growth has picked up, and stifling regulations are gradually being repealed. But much more work needs to be done to reign in a federal government run amok and place our country back on a solid fiscal footing. That’s why it is so important to send more conservatives like Ron Wright to Washington to ensure that the job is finished,” Russo concluded.

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“Ron Wright is the best qualified candidate in this race. He is conservative to the core and worked to educate people on how property taxes are estimated and charged. As a former City Councilmember, Ron did an awesome job to privatize several things like trash. He has led the fight to take oil and gas revenue and put it in a “Tomorrow Fund” that receives earnings and pays for funding city projects. Ron is forward-thinking, a really great human being, strongly Pro-Life, and will always work to lower taxes. Ron Wright has my full support.” – **Craig Ownby, Arlington Lone Star Tea Party, GOP Precinct Chair and Grassroots TEA Party Activist**

“Ron has my full support and endorsement. He has proven over the last few years how dedicated he is to the individual taxpayer. As Tax Assessor, Ron fought for property tax reform relief when all the municipalities were against him. He has also supported our efforts to remove red light cameras from Austin, Arlington, and Fort Worth, and has promised to promote a bill to remove them throughout the entire United States. I support Ron because of all he has done in past for people of Texas. Ron Wright has more than proven his salt.” – **Kelly Cannon, V.P. of Arlington Tea Party, Tarrant Co. GOP Precinct Chair and Grassroots Tea Party Activist**

“I have known Ron Wright for over thirty years, and he is the most conservative man I know. Ron was active in the Tea Party from its inception in 2008. He is as conservative as any conservative you will ever meet. Ron has led with distinction as the Tax Assessor by explaining to the general public how the property tax process works and who votes for property taxes. Ron is a straight up guy and has

my full support to be the next Congressman from District 6.” – **Dan Fernandez, President, Arlington Tea Party** (TeaPartyExpress.org)

Touts Endorsement of Local Tea Party Group. Ron Wright touts the endorsement of the NE Tarrant County Tea Party. (Ron Wright Facebook Post, Feb. 15, 2018)



More of the Same

Praised Barton's Actual Service, Not His Personal Conduct. Ron Wright praised Joe Barton's record of actual service while acknowledging his mistakes, saying Barton "owned up" to them.

"Well I can't say that he went wrong in terms of his congressional service. He made some personal mistakes that everyone knows about. He owned up to those mistakes." (Texas Tribune, [Apr. 18, 2018](#))

Wright Attacked for Being a Barton Clone, Said He is Different. Ron Wright was attacked for being "more of the same" in the Republican primary, as he worked for Joe Barton for more than a decade. Wright has said that is not true, and emphasized that he would support President Trump.

For the next five months, Wright will hear four words over and over: "more of the same."

As Barton's former chief of staff — but an even more conservative border hawk — Wright inherits both the good and bad of Barton in a November campaign against Ellis County Democratic activist Jana Lynne Sanchez.

At parties 5 miles apart across Arlington, both candidates described the fall campaign in almost the same words.

...

Wright faced the same-old-Barton label throughout the primary.

"I am not more of the same," he said as early votes came in at a Courtyard by Marriott meeting room in south Arlington.

"For one thing, I have a lot of experience Joe never had. Joe never held office before. ... I'm not running away from Barton. It's because of Barton that I have Washington experience that I have." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 23, 2018)

- **Touted His Experience as a Bonus.** Ron Wright has touted his experience as a bonus, saying his learning curve will be less steep.

"The learning curve of a freshman member of Congress is significant. My learning curve is going to be much shorter, because I know what it's like up there." (KERA News, [May 10, 2018](#))

Moved to DC to Become Barton's Chief of Staff. In 2009-2010, Ron Wright moved to Washington DC to work as Joe Barton's chief of staff.

The latest storm brought D.C. and the surrounding suburbs to a halt. The federal government and nearly every area school system has been closed this week. Public transportation has nearly disappeared, and thousands are without power.

Most congressional hearings have been rescheduled, and even the hearty souls of the U.S. House canceled all votes this week.

'It was kind of neat at first, but that wore off the first time I drove the streets,' said **Ron Wright**, 56, who moved from **Arlington** to Washington last spring to become Rep. Joe **Barton's** chief of staff. (Dallas Morning News, Feb. 11, 2010)

Kept Official Resident and Voter Registration in Arlington. During his time in DC, Ron Wright kept his official resident and voting registration address in Arlington.

A promotion to Washington, D.C., may postpone former **Arlington** Councilman **Ron Wright's** aspirations to be a county commissioner.

In September, **Wright** announced that he was considering running against **Tarrant** County Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay in 2010.

But **Wright**, 55, said those plans may have changed with his recent promotion from district manager to chief of staff in Washington for Rep. Joe **Barton, R-Arlington.**

'I would say those plans are on the far back burner at this point, but never say 'never,' **Wright** said from the Washington office Tuesday. 'I think it would have been a very serious race. But it is still two years away.'

Wright did not run for re-election in 2008 after serving eight years on the **Arlington** City Council, including four as mayor pro tem. **Wright** said that he will keep his residency and voter registration in **Arlington.** His duties will include overseeing **Barton's** offices in Washington and Texas. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jan. 7, 2009)

Far Right Miscellany

“Clearly the Most Conservative and Partisan Member of the Council.” In 2006, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* said Ron Wright was “clearly the most conservative and partisan member of the [city] council.” (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Apr. 27, 2006)

Incredibly Critical of Obama’s “Leftist Agenda.” In a 2009 letter, Ron Wright was sharply critical of President Obama’s “leftist political agenda” that proposed the most divisive policies of any president in recent memory.

Obama has squandered good will and political capital on political miscues and a leftist political agenda that many Americans find disturbing. The candidate who promised to be a uniter has advanced some of the most divisive policies of any president in a generation, and his promise of bipartisanship and transparency has been largely a myth.

Instead, we have ballooning deficits, a mushrooming debt made worse by more government spending, a gargantuan stimulus package that has failed to create promised jobs, a flawed cap-and-trade energy tax based on dubious global warming predictions, an equally flawed government plan to take over healthcare, and finally, the infamous lesson plans produced for schools in advance of his speech with the question about how the schoolchildren can help the president.

Fear mongering? Unfortunately, the president has given the American people much to fear.

Ron Wright, Arlington (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 8, 2009)

Says Left is Attacking “Personal Freedom, Economic Freedom, Freedom of Religion.” Ron Wright has said that his top priorities are “personal freedom, economic freedom, freedom of religion - all three of which are under attack by the left in this country.” (KUOW.org, Mar. 5, 2018)

Wright is prioritizing tax reform, repealing Obamacare, stronger border security and a strong national defense, according to a news release.

“Job One is to elect a Republican Congress to stop Democrats from killing reform,” Wright stated. “And when the election is over, we have some important conservative priorities that still must be passed.



Texas has shown how lower taxes can result in economic prosperity.” (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, [Dec. 1, 2017](#))

Controversial Newspaper Columns

Ron Wright was a columnist for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* in the 1990s, where he wrote about whatever he wanted for about five years. While his columns often were meant to be tongue-in-cheek and humorous, at least a couple had a racist tint to them. In one 1995 column, he wrote about how white males are the only species without federal protection. In a 1997 column, Ron Wright criticized the Oakland School District for making Ebonics a second language, saying, "Black English is troubling as a national phenomenon."

He also wrote a few columns in which he made his deep hatred for the city of Dallas known.

Wrote Joking Column about White Males Being Only Species Not Protected.

In a 1995 column, Ron Wright wrote a tongue-in-cheek column in which he said that white males are the only species without some sort of federal protection.

The Supreme Court's recent decision to uphold the Endangered Species Act was timely. A few days later, the Wright family traveled to Florida, where the importance of this landmark legislation was underscored. Florida is home or breeding ground to a large number of endangered species, and people there are serious about protecting them. I soon discovered I could use some protection myself.

Our vacation destination was New Smyrna Beach in Volusia County, a prime nesting place for three threatened species of sea turtle. And our arrival coincided with the turtles' hatching season.

The greatest man-made threat to the turtles is artificial light near the beaches. The hatchlings find their way to the water at night by an instinctive attraction to the reflection of moonlight on the ocean. Lights from beach homes, particularly outdoor lights, often cause the turtles to emerge from their sandy nests and migrate inland, where they soon die.

Obviously, liberal Democrats are not the only species to become endangered because they saw the wrong light and lost their way.

...

New Smyrna Beach also is home to some of the whitest sand, the most penetrating sun rays, and the best mother-in-law and father-in-law in the world. (Note to self: Send copy of this to wife's parents.) It was here that I began to truly understand what it means to be endangered. No, not because white males are the only species without some form of federal protection. First, there was the sun, which reflects off the sand and waves with devastating effect. The sun turns most white skin pink, then red, then deep crimson. I didn't waste time. With masochistic abandon, I went straight to blisters. Gallons of sunscreen couldn't prevent it.

...

Yes, I know what it's like to be endangered. Although I am safe once again in Arlington, Texas, I still believe the Supreme Court made the right decision. My only question is, how can I get on the protected list? (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jul. 23, 1995)

Critical of Decision by Oakland School District to Make Ebonics a Second Language, Called Black English “Troubling as a National Phenomenon.” In a 1997 column, Ron Wright writes that, “Black English is troubling as a national phenomenon.” The column is written tongue-in-cheek, declaring that Texonics should be its own language.

We mizewell admit what our language is

Public education has come a long way since Texas Gov. Miriam Ferguson, in a hissy over a proposed bilingual education bill for students in South Texas, proclaimed, “If English was good enough for Jesus Christ, it's good enough for the school children of Texas!” But perhaps it hasn't come far enough.

The decision last month by the Oakland Unified School District to give Ebonics, or black English, official status as a second language created a nationwide uproar that has yet to subside. Members of the African-American community as well as professional educators are split on the issue.

Detractors condemn it as nothing more than vernacular, a form of slang that should be corrected. Supporters are convinced that the language - including its bothersome misuse of the verb “to be” - is distinctive, with roots in the languages of western Africa that were brought to America by slaves. They believe that only by recognizing

it as a separate language with its own rules of grammar can teachers help black students master the fundamentals of standard English.

Black English is troubling as a national phenomenon, but it is particularly dangerous in Texas - not because it is wrongheaded but because it obscures a much greater problem in our schools. As any schoolteacher in Texas will attest, the real issue is not Ebonics but Texonics.

Texonics, of course, is the distinct, colorful language of the Lone Star State. It has its roots in a mixture of places, but most influential were Mexico and the Deep South. It is a language born of hard-won independence, the hardscrabble life of determined pioneers and the heart-wrenching struggle to tame a powerful wilderness.

In fact, Texonics is our birthright as Texans. It's part of our heritage. Men fought and died at the Alamo so we could have the right to speak it. It should be revered by young and old, native and immigrant, parent and teacher alike.

Texonics is a language of utility born of necessity. When the right word wasn't available, a new word that everyone could understand was introduced. In some cases, it was a new way of saying an old word - again, to make it more understandable. Certain variations just sounded better and were easier to use. This was particularly true of adjectives.

A dress with lots of flowers on it is a flowerdy dress. To wear a dress that people will notice is to wear a flouncy dress. A pompous person who acts like a big shot is biggity. A road with lots of turns is windy (that's with a long i), like a long and windy road.

A number of creative verbs can also be found in Texonics. If you want kids to be less noisy, you tell them to quieten down. The not uncommon response to the neighborly, "How ya been?" is "I been being fine." Any receptacle (a cup, bucket, tub) knocked over is tumped, the inevitable result when something is tipped and dumped. And to wag is simply to carry. These are in addition to perennial favorites like y'all, bob war, oll bidness, wharbouts and, of course, damnyankee.

I began to appreciate Texonics as a distinct language after numerous consultations with two self-styled linguistic experts - one from Connecticut and the other from Colorado. I live with one and work

with the other. Both scoff at Texonics and would rob Texans of their heritage. Both, I am sometimes tempted to say, should book one-way passage back to their native states.

An informal and unscientific survey of schoolteachers I recently conducted in the Arlingtonansfield area has revealed that this native language of Texas poses a greater challenge to teachers than black English ever will. This should come as no surprise, as it is the language that adult Texans often speak at home. What could be more difficult for a teacher, particularly in the elementary grades, than to try to teach proper English to 22 eager pupils who trip over their own good Texas tongues to learn it?

Texonics is largely misunderstood. It is not a language that students should be taught (many children, especially those with two first names, already speak it fluently). Rather, it is a language that teachers should learn. An appreciation of Texonics will prevent little Bobby Joe from feeling inferior or out of place, will save him from being hounded by the grammar police, and will allow him to avoid growing up with the belief that his family is a bunch of mindless country bumpkins who can never be part of polite society.

The time has come to give Texonics official recognition as a second language. I have not approached any school boards yet, but as we practitioners of Texonics like to say, I'm fixin' to. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jan. 9, 1997)

Hates the City of Dallas. In numerous columns, Ron Wright wrote about how much he hates the city of Dallas.

Connor was right. If only we could pick up Dallas and drop it. New Jersey would be a nice final resting place.

I am a man of few prejudices: liver, liars, bigots, drunks, elitists, and a couple of others. Dallas is up there with liver and liars. It is the most undignified and pretentious city in Texas.

In case you failed to pick up on the hints, I don't like Dallas. I don't like its haughtiness, its traffic, its racism (black and white), its trash-mouthed sports heroes, and most of all, its location so close to the rest of us. I don't like the city, the county or the name, especially when it appears in Tarrant County.

I value authenticity, the genuine article, real people. That's why I live in Arlington.

I am aware of the prevailing school of thought that encourages us to view things from a regional perspective, that says what's good for any city in the Metroplex is good for every city in the Metroplex. Pardon me if I take a more parochial view.

We did venture eastward one evening last year to attend a concert at the much ballyhooed Morton H. Myerson Symphony Center. The Myerson is all right if your taste in architecture runs toward early crypt. It definitely belongs in Dallas.

Connor's column struck a familial chord because disliking Dallas is a family tradition.

My great-great-grandfather moved to Texas after the Civil War and settled in Dallas in 1872. Like many since, he had the good sense to relocate to Tarrant County a year later and stay. He moved because he didn't like the eastern influence in Dallas. Obviously, some things never change.

Arlington is the birthplace of the Metroplex. Fort Worth is where the West begins. And Dallas, my friends, still is where the East peters out.

When I was a young boy and used the bathroom in my dear grandmother's house, she would yell, "Flush the toilet! Dallas needs the water!" I knew she was serious. My grandmother was a godly woman who liked godly things. She did not like Dallas. Little wonder that I grew up believing the people of Dallas were always parched.

I am older and wiser now, but I still believe Tarrant County is the best place on earth to live and raise a family. The best people I ever knew live right here. They are honest, friendly, hard working, fun loving, God fearing, patriotic, and real.

And I still believe Dallas needs the water. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mar. 31, 1996)

I had hoped that as mayor, he would change Dallas. Regrettably, I must conclude that Dallas has changed Ron Kirk, for he now seems to personify the shallow pettiness of a self-absorbed city that confuses bigness with greatness. Like a flask of hot air, Dallas is an



empty promise. One had hoped that its mayor would be something greater.

...

I can't blame the poor of Dallas for wanting to leave. In fact, I couldn't blame the rich of Dallas for wanting to leave. And I can't blame anyone for wanting to relocate to Arlington. The problem with the Dallas Housing Authority plan is it does nothing to prevent or overcome poverty; it simply moves it. It seeks to solve a Dallas problem by forcing it onto other cities, proving once again that Dallas officials seem to believe that's why the rest of us are here. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Nov. 9, 1997)



For Cutting Entitlement Benefits

On the stump and in surveys, Ron Wright has indicated that he is for cutting entitlement benefits and lowering the retirement age for Social Security, blaming the “financial sins” of the Obama administration for the tough choices now needed.

Favors Cutting Social Security Benefits for Young Workers. Ron Wright says that he favors cutting Social Security benefits for younger workers.

Wright promises to take a hard line on the federal budget, including cutting social security benefits for younger workers. (KERA News, [May 10, 2018](#))

For Lowering Retirement Age, “Changing Benefit Structure.” In response to the question, “How would you guarantee Social Security benefits for future generations,” Ron Wright answered, “We must evaluate our Social Security System and its long term sustainability. All options must be on the table including shifting the age of retirement for future beneficiaries and changing the benefit structure in order to keep Social Security solvent.” ([iVoterGuide.com](#))

For Discussing “Meaningful Entitlement Reform.” Without offering specifics, Ron Wright said that Congress needed to discuss meaningful entitlement reform, blaming the left and the “financial sins” of the Obama administration.

It's time for Congress to discuss meaningful entitlement reform. The only way to save our children and grandchildren from the financial sins of the Obama administration is to stand up and make tough choices today. We cannot cow tow to the Left's attempts to villainize true reform. [#backthebowtie](#) [#wright4congress](#) [#stopthemadness](#) (Ron Wright for Congress Facebook Post, Apr. 19, 2018)

Government spending is out of control and Congress must do more to stop it. Once elected, I will fight to reduce spending, reform entitlements, and institute a flat tax program. [#backthebowtie#wright4congress](#) (Ron Wright for Congress Facebook Post, Feb. 28, 2018)



Tax & Spend Republican

For more than 20 years, Ron Wright has railed on dishonest local governments who claim to not be raising taxes when they keep the tax rate the same. In Wright's mind, if the tax rate is the same, but home values go up, then they are voting for a tax hike.

However, as an elected official, Wright routinely voted for budgets that had the same tax rate as the year prior, and once even voted to increase the tax rate itself.

In 2007, Wright voted for hiking the storm water fee for all properties, the first such hike since 1994. More notably, Wright refused to reconsider allowing school districts to be exempt from the fee, saying, "some of us refuse to be intimidated," and that it was only fair. That same year, Arlington schools posted their worst test scores since 2001, and after Wright and the council learned of the academic struggles, reconsidered and exempted the school districts.

Wright voted for and supported a number of other tax and fee hikes during his time on the Arlington City Council.

As a congressional candidate, Ron Wright supports a flat tax and the Fair tax, which opponents deem as regressive taxes. He supported the GOP tax reform bill, but said more needs to be done to cut spending to avoid going further into debt.

Railed on Dishonest Tax Hike Claims...

Property Tax Rate Jumped in 2003, Stayed the Same after During Entire Council Tenure. During Ron Wright's tenure on the Arlington City Council, the tax rate increased in 2003 and stayed the same for the rest of his tenure. ([City of Arlington](#))



Year	TDC	Jurisdiction Name	Tax Rate
2014	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2013	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2012	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2011	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2010	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2009	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2008	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2007	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2006	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2005	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2004	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2003	024	City of Arlington	0.648
2002	024	City of Arlington	0.634
2001	024	City of Arlington	0.634
2000	024	City of Arlington	0.634

1996: Praised City Councilman for Voting against Budget with Same Property Tax Rate as Previous Year, Compared Yea Votes to Tax Hike Support. In a 1996 column, Ron Wright praised Joe Ewen for being the lone dissenter on the city council's budget vote, which kept the property tax rate the same. However, Wright said it was an insult to voters to tell them taxes weren't going up when property values were increasing.

To detractors, he is a stubborn, unrealistic anachronism. To supporters, he is a man of his word who does not sacrifice his principles and does not stray from what he calls his core values. All agree on this: Ewen is the best friend that Arlington taxpayers have on the council.

On Tuesday, Ewen cast the lone dissenting vote as the council adopted a \$107 million operating budget for fiscal 1997. In the words of Yogi Berra, it felt like déjà vu all over again. Ewen has known the loneliness of the number "one" many times before, usually when he cast dissenting votes to curb the growth of city government or prevent residents from paying more in taxes.

As a result of the council's action this week, a large number of Arlington residents will pay more in property taxes. The council voted to keep the property tax rate at 64 cents per \$100 of property value.

Property evaluations increased again this year for many residents, so the city once again will receive a windfall worth millions of dollars without adjusting the tax rate upward. This allows council members to increase government spending but still pat themselves on the back and claim to hold the line on taxes. Never mind that for many of us the city property tax bill is higher - in addition to the increase in the water rate that the council approved - and that it insults our intelligence every time we hear one of them say it.

This is not to suggest that the new spending programs in the budget are not worthwhile. They are. No one disputes the need for funding the east Arlington police station, new police officers and Fire Department improvements. And the new parks funding and merit raise for city employees enjoy widespread support. The problem is that the increase in spending consumes the entire windfall from higher property evaluations.

A reasonable alternative would have been to split the windfall with taxpayers - use half for new spending programs and let half go to taxpayers in the form of a lower tax rate. This is what Ewen had in mind when he voted against the budget. He remembers how the taxpayers of Arlington went along with increases in the tax rate during the lean years when property values were static. He believes that taxpayers should share in the surplus that results from higher property values during prosperous years. Not a bad idea, especially for those whose incomes have not kept up with the increased cost of living in Arlington.

But Ewen's lone dissenting vote was more than a gesture of gratitude to taxpayers; it was a demonstration of his convictions as a rock-solid fiscal conservative. He is a champion of economic development, privatization, low taxes and minimal interference by government in the marketplace and the lives of citizens. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 26, 1996)

1997: "If the Taxes Go Up, It's a Tax Increase." In a 1997 column, Ron Wright writes that when property values rise and property tax rate stays the same, it is a tax increase.

One more time: Any increase in the amount of taxes that taxpayers pay is a tax increase.

When property values rise and the property tax rate stays the same, it is a tax increase just as much as if the tax rate were raised and property values stayed the same. "Holding the line on taxes" does not mean "no increase in the tax rate. " It means "no increase in the amount of taxes that taxpayers pay. " Last week, Arlington City Manager George Campbell proposed a \$115.4 million general fund budget for next year to the City Council.

The budget keeps the present tax rate of 64 cents per \$100 of property valuation but provides almost \$7 million more in spending because of increased revenue from sales taxes and increased property values.

Property values in Arlington increase 4.7 percent over last year.

That includes new construction and higher appraisals. City figures reported earlier in the week indicate that the owner of a \$89,660 home - the average value of homes in Arlington - will pay \$459 in property taxes next year. That same home last year was valued at \$86,352 and cost the owner \$442 in taxes.

A lot of numbers are being tossed around, so it may be useful to remember the cause and effect of the tax rate in Arlington. Every cent of increase in the tax rate costs the average homeowner about \$7 per year. We already know what an increase in the value of the property being taxed can produce: The \$3,308 increase in the value of the average home at the current tax rate produces an additional \$17 in taxes. The city can easily adjust the tax rate to mitigate the effects of the increased property values, but if it does, somebody's favorite spending program will not be funded, or funded as much. A one-cent decrease in the tax rate would cost the city \$1 million in revenue.

Boring stuff, right? Except when one considers that the \$17 additional tax the average homeowners will pay is only one year's increase from only one of several taxing entities, and almost all of them have conveniently raised our taxes by not lowering the tax rate when property values rose. In the past, the more cynical of the elected officials from those taxing entities have been too quick to use the windfall to increase government spending and congratulate themselves for holding the line on taxes while their constituents faced a rising tax bill.



Why not spend less and not raise anybody's taxes? Why not cut the tax rate to a level that neutralizes the impact of the increase in property values but still leaves additional tax revenue for some new spending programs? Why not share the windfall with taxpayers? (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 24, 1997)

2016: Blamed Local Governments for Not Being Truthful about Property Tax Hikes, Not Lowering Values. In 2016, Ron Wright blamed local elected bodies for not lowering tax rates to counteract increasing property values, essentially hiking taxes in his mind.

For candidates for local offices, in 100 words or less, are local governments doing all they can to provide property tax relief? No, they are not. Local elected bodies determine how much property taxes we pay when they set the tax rate each year. This year, values rose significantly, but only a few taxing entities are lowering their rates more than a fraction of a penny. This undoubtedly invites action by the legislature to provide relief in ways local governments will not like. Just as important, however, is the need for local governments to be truthful about their tax increases and be accountable. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 30, 2016)

Incredibly, some believe that if they approve a tax rate that is the same as the year before and values go up, they haven't really voted to increase taxes!

...

No matter if the rate goes up, down, or stays the same as the year before, if the adoption of the tax rate results in a higher tax bill, it's a tax increase.

Appraisal districts, tax offices and local elected bodies should work together to provide as much honesty and transparency in the property tax system as possible.

Blaming value alone for higher taxes should stop. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jun. 15, 2016)

..but Voted for Same Tax Hikes in Annual Budgets

Voted for 2000 Budget that Lowered Tax Rate; Property Tax Rates Still Increased. In 2000, Ron Wright voted for a budget that lowered the property tax rate by .4 cents. However, because of rising property values, homeowners would still see a \$23.18 increase in property taxes.

Arlington City Council members unanimously approved a \$ 145 million operating budget that lowers the city's property tax rate by .4 cents to 63.4 cents.

An average homeowner will save \$ 42.80 because of the tax cut and also because of breaks in their water and garbage collection fees. Each homeowner will receive a one-time \$ 32 rebate on December water bills and a break of \$ 6 on the waste disposal fee in increments of 50 cents per month.

The owner of a \$ 101,564 home - the average value of a residence in **Arlington** - will pay \$ 23.18 more in property taxes next year. That is because average home values increased this year.

Council member **Ron Wright** supported the budget but was not completely satisfied with it.

'I would have preferred less on the spending and more of a tax cut. I think we can do better than that next year,' he said. (Dallas Morning News, Sep. 20, 2000)

2002: For Preserving Tax Rate. In Sep. 2002, the Arlington City Council voted unanimously to keep the city property tax rate at 63.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Ron Wright previously voted against even discussing a tax hike.

Arlington residents escaped a city property tax rate increase this year. But Mayor Elzie Odom said they may have to 'bite the bullet' in the future.

Arlington officials struggled for months to balance the budget after facing a shortfall estimated to be between \$ 7.5 million and \$ 10 million. Like many other cities, **Arlington** faced extra security costs after Sept. 11, the recession and tax revenue that didn't keep pace with population growth, officials said.

As a result, the city cut employee raises, 88 positions and 11 programs, among other reductions. The city avoided further cuts by

transferring \$ 5.3 million from the landfill fund and used \$ 1.7 million in unallocated reserve funds.

The majority of the nine-member council voted against a public hearing to discuss raising the tax rate 1 cent. The measure would have raised \$ 1.4 million.

Council member **Ron Wright**, who opposed discussing a tax rate increase this year, said he was pleased that the city balanced the budget without the increase. Most property owners will pay higher taxes anyway because their homes and businesses have increased in value, he said.

As for next year, Mr. **Wright** said he also expects to face some difficult decisions.

'We don't know what the future holds,' Mr. **Wright** said. 'We should keep in mind this country is at war.' (Dallas Morning News, Sep. 12, 2002)

'This is not the year to raise taxes,' Mr. **Wright** said. (Dallas Morning News, Aug. 15, 2002)

'It ain't going to happen,' Mr. **Wright** said. Raising taxes in a slow economy would be unfair to residents and would slow down a recovery, he said. (Dallas Morning News, Jul. 18, 2002)

But council member **Ron Wright** told his colleagues last Tuesday that given the sluggish economy, he's 'ready to pledge right now' that he will oppose raising the rate. (Dallas Morning News, Apr. 20, 2002)

2003: Voted for 1.4-Cent Property Tax Hike. In Sep. 2003, the Arlington City Council APPROVED (7-2) a 1.4 cent property tax increase. Ron Wright voted for the measure.

The council voted for a series of budget cuts, an employee pay increase and a property tax rate of 64.80 cents per \$100 of assessed value, slightly below the rollback rate of 64.88 cents per \$100. City Manager Chuck Kiefer had recommended that the council raise the property tax rate by 3.4 cents.

If the council had not set a tax rate, the effective rate of 63.40 cents per \$100 of assessed value would have automatically been implemented for the next fiscal year, requiring about \$5.7 million in additional cuts.

...

To pass, the tax rate required support from six council members, and members **Ron Wright** and Bill McFaddin yielded to support the proposal. The council will vote on final passage Monday, the legal deadline.

Wright had been adamant against any tax increase, but fearing the effective property tax rate, Wright joined the other council members although he disagreed with the increase.

"We're at the 11th hour," he said. "It is clear that my position is not going to prevail. As much as I want to lower taxes and government spending, this year we need to avoid the effective tax rate."

Wright has said that more cuts could be made to balance the budget rather than raise taxes, but he was alone in that opinion. He said that most of what was cut were items the city should not have provided anyway. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 24, 2003)

- **Would Have Rather Made Cuts than Increase Taxes.** In 2003, the Arlington City Council restored some cuts and talked about increasing taxes, an idea that did not sit well with Ron Wright.

The City Council intended to make more budget cuts Tuesday but instead reinstated some of the funding it cut last week.

The council cut about \$1.5 million last week, eliminating 27 jobs and curtailing services in an effort to stave off a \$14 million budget shortfall in the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

But council members decided against reducing library branch service hours, saving six part-time jobs, a move that would have cut costs by about \$97,000. They decided to continue the library's collection development program, which would have saved the city about \$103,000 in the next fiscal year. The council cut both items from the budget last week.

...



City Manager Chuck Kiefer recommended the 3.4-cent increase, which would bring the tax rate to 66.8 cents per \$100 and leave the city with a surplus of about \$450,000. But with the library and police cuts reinstated, the surplus would be about \$170,000.

If the council approves the property tax increase, the owner of an average Arlington house, valued at \$124,950, would pay an additional \$70.53 per year after the \$15,000 homestead exemption. The property tax rate has not been increased since 1992.

...

But seven council members said that they do not want to raise taxes but that the 3.4-cent increase is necessary.

"If there's a service level you want to keep, you have to pay for it," Councilman Bill McFadin said.

Councilman **Ron Wright** has long said the tax increase would not be necessary if the council made enough cuts.

He said there should be no "sacred cows" when the council examined the budget for money-saving measures. The budget includes a 2.5 percent pay increase for city employees that Wright said is inappropriate.

"I have a problem giving some employees a salary increase while other employees are losing their jobs because it's the main reason for a tax increase," he said. "I think raising taxes in a slowing economy is counterproductive. I would have preferred we make the cuts to avoid that." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 3, 2003)

2004: Against Tax Hike. In 2004, Ron Wright opposed any talk of tax hikes.

After offsetting a \$17 million shortfall for the past two months, the City Council plans to take its first vote on next year's budget.

The \$173.9 million spending plan does not include a property tax rate increase. Instead, city officials balanced the general fund budget by taking more than \$9 million in one-time money from landfill accounts and making a few cuts.

Some of the cuts include:

- * \$1.2 million for the retirees' benefit reserve fund.

- * \$201,000 for council chamber audio-visual and voting system improvements.

- * \$150,000 for third-floor carpeting at City Hall.

- * \$94,407 for parks and recreation renovations and maintenance.

- * \$700,000 for code enforcement improvements recommended by the Citizens Policy Review Committee.

...

Councilman **Ron Wright** said the council does not need to raise taxes again.

Last year, the council raised the tax rate by 1.4 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. This fiscal year's budget keeps the rate the same at 64.8 cents per \$100.

Wright said he hopes that the code recommendations can be implemented when the city leases the city-owned landfill, a move that the council will consider during the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

...

"I'd like to see us cut the tax rate back to where it was before last year," he said. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 21, 2004)

2005: Supported Budget, which Held Line on Taxes, Made Cuts to Retiree and Employee Health Care Costs. Ron Wright supported the 2005 budget, which kept the tax rate the same and made some cuts, including \$5 million from retiree and employee health care costs.

Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** said he is pleased with the budget but wants to discuss adding a few items.

...

The proposed budget cuts about \$5 million from retiree and employee health care costs and offers them several plans, some of which have higher deductibles and lower city subsidies for premiums.

Many retirees have complained that with the higher costs, it will be hard to make ends meet because they have planned their retirement at present levels.



Wolff said she wants to see how much it would cost to "grandfather" benefits for retirees and keep them on the current plan.

"I think the proposed benefit plan is fair, but I'm concerned about some of our retirees, who are not yet Medicare eligible and don't have another job," she said. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 6, 2005)

2006: Supported Budget, which Kept Tax Rate the Same. Ron Wright supported the FY 2007 budget and tax rate, which kept the levy rate the same but led to increased property taxes because of rising home values.

Though the property tax rate wouldn't increase, homeowners may still pay more. The Tarrant Appraisal District reported that the average home value in Arlington increased from \$129,483 in 2005 to \$132,489 this year. That means that the average property owner who takes the standard 20 percent exemption would pay the city \$686.82 this year, or \$15.58 more than in 2005.

Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** said there are several reasons the city has more money to spend for fiscal 2007, which begins Oct. 1.

The economy has improved, and that has brought more businesses to town, such as the Highlands retail development at Matlock Road and Interstate 20; the Cowboys stadium project; and the North Collins overlay, intended to spark redevelopment in north Arlington. He also said the city has new revenue from the lease of the city-owned landfill and up-front money for gas well exploration.

"We took the right steps," Wright said. "We have been responsible stewards during the lean years. ... We have set the stage with our economic development policies to create economic expansion." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 9, 2006)

2007: Absent for Vote. On Sep. 18, 2007, the Arlington City Council voted for the \$358.6 million 2007-08 budget, which kept the property tax rate the same. The owner of an average-priced home saw a \$14.32 tax increase due to rising property values. Ron Wright was absent for the vote because he was sick. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 19, 2007)

Controversy over Storm Water Free Hike

2007: For Raising Storm Water Fees For First Time Since 1994. In Jul. 2007, the Arlington City Council unanimously voted to increase storm water fees, the first hike since 1994.

Arlington has the second-lowest storm water fee in the region, and a rate increase is necessary to begin paying for the more than \$100 million in needed storm water drainage improvements, Public Works Director Bob Lowry said. More than 120 homes flooded during storms May 2, Lowry said, but the city already had a five-year list of improvement projects to handle on a limited budget.

The current rate, which is \$1.30 a month for residents and a maximum of \$390 a month for commercial properties, generates about \$2.8 million a year for improvements to the storm water system, Lowry said.

Under the new rate structure, residents would pay \$4.25 a month no matter the size of their homes.

Commercial properties, including apartments, would pay \$4.25 a month for every 2,800 square feet of impervious surface, which includes sidewalks, patios, driveways, parking lots and foundations. Those areas do not absorb rainwater and contribute to flooding.

...

Arlington City Council members **Ron Wright** and Robert Rivera said they would like to see exemptions to ease the financial burden on larger commercial properties added to the storm water fee before the next council vote. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jul. 4, 2007)

- **Voted to Gradually Increase It.** Later in the month, the City Council PASSED (7-2) a motion to gradually increase the fee instead of raising it all at once. Ron Wright voted for the gradual increase.

The City Council voted 7-2 Tuesday to slightly increase the monthly storm-water fee starting in October but will wait until 2010 to fully implement the higher rate it had considered.

...

The school district, churches and members of the business community have harshly criticized the council since it voted

unanimously July 3 to raise the storm-water fee to \$4.25 per 2,800 square feet of impervious surface and remove the \$390-a-month cap for nonresidential customers. The change would have cost those customers hundreds or thousands of dollars more each month.

The ordinance passed Tuesday doesn't include discounts or exemptions for the school district or churches but does offer ways for property owners to receive credit if they implement storm-water mitigation efforts, such as adding retention ponds or creating porous areas in parking lots that allow rain to be absorbed.

"The only way it can be fair is for it to apply to everyone ... because everyone contributes to our storm-water drainage problem," Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** said. "We've got to deal with this problem effectively, and we've got to have the revenue to do it."

...

Wright suggested the phased-in rate as part of his five-point plan to address the growing storm-water runoff issue. The council largely supported Wright's plan but took action on only two points.

Gradual increase

Residential: Monthly rates will increase from \$1.30 to \$2 in October.

Nonresidential: Businesses, churches, apartment complexes, the school district and others will pay \$2 a month for every 2,800 square feet of impervious surface that creates storm-water runoff. Those surfaces include building foundations, sidewalks, patios, driveways and parking lots.

The nonresidential rate will increase to \$2.75 in 2008, \$3.50 in 2009 and \$4.25 in 2010. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jul. 25, 2007)

Refused to Exempt Local School Districts. Ron Wright refused to reconsider exempting school districts, saying, "Some of us refuse to be intimidated."

The fee increase, which was implemented Oct. 1, would have cost the school district an estimated \$110,000 more this fiscal year. The district had been paying \$6,000 a month. Since the increase, the school district has withheld the storm-water fee payment, setting the money aside in an escrow account, and has paid the rest of the bill while it considered a legal challenge. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Dec. 5, 2007)

Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** said the fee must apply to everyone to be fair.

'It is not likely that a majority will want to reconsider it,' he said. 'Some of us refuse to be intimidated.' (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 6, 2007)

The City Council voted 7-2 Tuesday to slightly increase the monthly storm-water fee starting in October but will wait until 2010 to fully implement the higher rate it had considered.

City officials say the fee, which hasn't been raised in 13 years, needs to be increased to address more than \$100 million in storm-water improvements needed to alleviate flooding citywide. **Arlington** raises about \$2.8 million a year for such projects with its current fee. The city had expected to collect \$5 million a year with the full rate increase.

The school district, churches and members of the business community have harshly criticized the council since it voted unanimously July 3 to raise the storm-water fee to \$4.25 per 2,800 square feet of impervious surface and remove the \$390-a-month cap for nonresidential customers. The change would have cost those customers hundreds or thousands of dollars more each month.

...

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Arlington School District Posted Terrible Scores; Wright Said Council Didn't Know of Academic Struggles. At the time, Arlington School Districts posted their worst performance numbers in years. Ron Wright said the council was not aware of their struggles.

The city said it needed the money to help pay for more than \$100 million in infrastructure improvements to prevent flooding. In refusing to pay the fee, the **Arlington** school district said that it was unfair for one governmental entity to tax another and that the fee increase would take hundreds of thousands of dollars away from education.

The city threatened this fall to turn off water to the campuses for nonpayment. The school district was considering a lawsuit and had scheduled a closed-door meeting with lawyers Thursday.

But this week, Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** said the council didn't know the district was struggling academically when it passed the fee increase.

Arlington district schools posted their worst performance on federal standards since the 2001 No Child Left Behind law -- 10 schools missed the mark, according to reports released this summer. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Dec. 5, 2007)

12/07: City Council Agreed to Exempt Local School Districts from Paying Stormwater Fee. In Dec. 2007, the City Council agreed to exempt local school districts from paying the stormwater fee. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Dec. 5, 2007)

For Hiking Sales Tax to Fund Street Repairs

2000: Voted against New Utilities Fee to Fund Street Repairs. In 2000, Ron Wright was the lone council vote against instituting a street maintenance fee to fund street improvements. (Dallas Morning News, Feb. 20, 2002)

Mr. **Wright** argued that a sales tax increase is a better way to fund badly needed street repairs than the city's monthly fee on residents' utility bills. (Dallas Morning News, Feb. 7, 2002)

Council members brushed aside legal concerns in October and approved the fee by a 7-1 vote. Council member **Ron Wright** cast the opposing vote, urging his colleagues to seek an attorney general's opinion on the city's authority to adopt such a fee.

'At the time, I wanted to make sure all the legal questions were answered,' he said.

Mr. **Wright** said Tuesday that he supports the fee, but said the city should suspend collection until the lawsuit is settled. (Dallas Morning News, May 16, 2001)

Council member **Ron Wright** cast the opposing vote. He said the fee was the city's best option to fund road improvements, but urged his colleagues to delay final action on the ordinance, citing legal concerns about the city's authority to adopt such a fee. He said seeking an attorney general's opinion would help clarify the issue.

'I think this is a serious legal issue, and my personal preference is to wait 60 or 90 days before finalizing the ordinance,' Mr. **Wright** said. (Dallas Morning News, Oct. 25, 2000)

2002: For Repealing Street Maintenance Fee, Implementing Quarter-Cent Sales Tax Hike to Fund Street Repairs. In 2002, Ron Wright voted for an ordinance to repeal street maintenance fees and replace it with a voter-approved quarter-cent sales tax hike.

'It's been a long time coming,' City Council member **Ron Wright** said Tuesday. 'With this vote, we keep our word to the people of **Arlington** to do away with the street maintenance fee.'

The quarter-cent sales tax is expected to raise \$ 3.9 million more for street maintenance than the fee would have generated during fiscal year 2002-03.

As a result, the council voted to increase the repair budget to \$ 11.3 million - 54 percent more than the \$ 7.3 million that would have been collected from the fee. (Dallas Morning News, Oct. 10, 2002)

Arlington voters overwhelmingly approved a quarter-cent increase in the city sales tax Saturday, sending the message that fixing the city's ailing streets is a high priority, officials said.

Arlington's new sales tax rate of 7.5 cents on the dollar, which will take effect Jan. 1, will produce about \$ 10.7 million a year to address an estimated \$ 76 million backlog in street repairs. The tax would expire after four years.

'If you're going to have a sales tax election, you have to have a resounding voice from the people,' said City Council member **Ron Wright**, who co-chairs the **Arlington Drives** political action committee backing the tax increase. 'We got it.'

Arlington voters have rejected a series of proposals to raise the sales tax for other projects, including a transit proposal and economic development projects along Johnson Creek. But some of the strongest critics of those measures supported the sales tax increase for street projects, arguing that street repairs should come first.

'The difference here is, this was a tax for an essential service that people recognize would benefit everyone, not just certain groups,' Mr. **Wright** said. 'In previous tax elections, there was a widespread feeling that, 'That's nice, but it won't help me.' This one, it's money they will see results from. That was the appeal.' (Dallas Morning News, Sep. 15, 2002)

Co-Chaired PAC Backing Tax Hike. Ron Wright was a co-chairman of Arlington Drives!, a PAC supporting the sales tax hike.

But members of **Arlington Drives!**, a newly formed political action committee supporting the street tax initiative, say the public has shown again and again that it is willing to pay taxes for things it needs.



'**Arlington** and its citizens are taking action,' Andrew Piel, co-chairman of the group, said in a release this week. 'For years, **Arlington's** streets have been our biggest problem. For **Arlington** voters, this is our opportunity to take the bull by the horns and fix our traffic mess.'

Council member **Ron Wright** is the group's other co-chairman.

'When I talk to residents, the first issue they mention is the deteriorating condition of our streets,' he said. 'They tell me that we are going to have to fix the streets, or everyone in **Arlington** is going to have to buy an off-road vehicle. This is the only realistic plan to eliminate the huge backlog of street repair work we have in **Arlington**.' (Dallas Morning News, Aug. 30, 2002)

For Renewing Quarter-Cent Sales Tax for Street Repairs. In 2006, Ron Wright supported renewing the city's quarter-cent sales tax to pay for street repairs. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Apr. 27, 2006)

Local Tax & Spend Miscellany

Supported 2007 Sales Tax Hike to Fight Crime. Ron Wright backed a 2007 proposal to raise the sales tax rate an eighth of a cent to pay for crime prevention. Wright actually suggested the hike was not enough, wanting a quarter-cent hike.

But Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** said an increase of an eighth of a cent may not be enough. He said a quarter-cent could be more effective.

'I don't want to regret that we didn't do a full quarter when we had the opportunity,' he said.

Councilman Robert Rivera supported **Wright's** suggestion, but the rest of the council didn't want to use the last amount of sales tax available to the city. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 15, 2007)

- **Voters Rejected Tax Hike.** In Nov. 2007, Arlington voters rejected an 1/8 cent sales tax hike to fund crime prevention.

'The voters have spoken, and we need to listen,' **Wright** said. 'We need to focus on neighborhoods, increase patrols and decrease response times. Tourism is important, but the most important people in this city are the people who live here.'

...

Wright said he doesn't want to rehash why the election failed, but wants to move forward to address the city's crime problem with a new plan that he hopes to present to the council in the coming weeks. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Nov. 8, 2007)

Begrudgingly Supported Quarter-Cent Sales Tax Hike to Fund Transit Projects. In Jan. 2002, the Arlington City Council unanimously passed a ballot measure to let voters decide on raising the sales tax by a quarter-cent to fund transit improvements. Ron Wright supported the plan, but not with full support.

The plan residents will vote on that day calls for a quarter-cent tax increase to pay for buses, expanded Handitran service for the elderly and disabled, and shuttles to the Trinity Railway Express. It also calls for spending up to about \$ 6 million during the plan's first five years on studies involving the city's potential development of commuter rail.

That plan, council member **Ron Wright** explained Tuesday, was the result of a significant compromise among council members.

'If the art of government is compromise, then this was a success,' said Mr. **Wright**, whose opposition to the transit election had been steadfast since his election in 2000. 'This quarter-cent proposal was the most some of the members could accept, and it was the least some others could accept.'

...

Still, Mr. McCollum and Mr. **Wright** said they will stop short of stumping for the proposal as the campaign leads up to the May 4 election. (Dallas Morning News, Jan. 24, 2002)

- **Initially Supported a Smaller Sales Tax Increase.** In Nov. 2001, Ron Wright opposed a ballot measure to raise the sales tax by a half-cent for transit projects.

'I believe that the best approach is to start small, so we can determine where and what demand we have,' council member **Ron Wright** said. (Dallas Morning News, Nov. 21, 2001)

Members **Ron Wright**, Robert Cluck and Steve McCollum continued to press for a quarter-cent sales tax increase, half of which - \$ 5.5 million annually - would go to a scaled-down transit system.

'We should start small and stay flexible,' Mr. **Wright** said. 'We don't even know if there's a demand there. I think it will be a huge mistake to start with 68 vehicles and have taxpayers see their tax money going to pay for empty buses.' (Dallas Morning News, Jun. 13, 2001)

At least three council members have indicated that they will not actively endorse a plan that oversteps their preferred system.

'For some of us, I would submit that accepting the possibility of an eighth-cent sales tax for mass transit already is a compromise,' Mr. **Wright** said. (Dallas Morning News, Jun. 10, 2001)

For Raising Fees by 38 Percent to Collect Taxes. In 2012, Ron Wright raised fees the office charged to determine how much tax property owners in Tarrant County had to pay.

For the first time in five years, the **Tarrant** County tax assessor-collector's office is raising the fee it charges annually to determine how much tax each property owner should pay on homes, businesses, oil and gas royalties and land, and to collect the taxes.

The increase is expected to generate an additional \$800,000 for the county, which says it has not been charging enough to cover its manpower, software, postage and other costs associated with the service. Tax Assessor-Collector **Ron Wright** said he requested a cost-recovery analysis to determine the shortfall soon after he was appointed in May 2011.

'By the end of last summer, I knew that we weren't even close to covering our costs. It means the county is subsidizing the cost for collecting for cities and schools,' **Wright** said. 'By law, I can't provide a service or part of a service for free. I have to cover my costs.'

Taxing entities now pay the county 65 cents per account, but that fee will jump to 90 cents this fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1. The county collects more than \$3 billion annually for 65 taxing entities, which total more than 4 million accounts, **Wright** said.

...

The 38 percent increase will most affect taxing entities with the most accounts, which include the cities of **Fort Worth** and **Arlington**, the school districts in **Fort Worth** and **Arlington**, John Peter Smith Hospital and **Tarrant** County College.

JPS, for example, expects to pay the county \$2.25 million next fiscal year -- a \$200,000 increase -- to handle its accounts. The county hospital projects to receive \$280.7 million in property taxes, said Diana Carroll, public relations manager.

...

Wright, whose office has a \$20 million budget, said the fees were calculated conservatively and are lower than all other urban Texas counties. Bexar County, for example, charged \$1.60 per account this fiscal year. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 9, 2012)

Supported Tax for New Rangers Stadium. Ron Wright supported the sales tax hike to help fund The Ballpark in Arlington.

If there were no real controversies swirling about The Ballpark, opponents of the project would hurriedly create one. Ironically, the enduring and phenomenal success of the project seems to feed rather than dispel people's suspicions. Liberal and conservative opponents alike continue to find scandals with every dollar earned and every attendance record set.

Fortunately, they are but a vocal few. While they conduct their witch hunts and rant and rave about the corrupting influence of the Texas Rangers, the rest of us are having a ball. We enjoy the team and The Ballpark and take pride in the fact that both are in Arlington.

...

The people rule, and an overwhelming number elected to increase the sales tax in the city to pay for construction of The Ballpark. Those who opposed the tax lost the election. Deal with it. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jul. 3, 1997)

He agreed with votes rejecting transit and floodway projects, but he said he supported the temporary half-cent sales tax that helped build the Texas Rangers' baseball park. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 12, 2004)

For Bill Seeking to Cap Property Tax Increases; Opposed by Mayor Price.

Ron Wright supported a 2017 bill that required an election for municipal entities that wanted to collect 5 percent more in property taxes than the previous year. Opponents said it would threaten public safety, but Ron Wright supported the bill. Mayor Betsy Price testified against it.

Critics of the bill say it glosses over the fact that an election could be triggered when the actual tax rate remains flat because rising property values play a major role in calculating the election trigger. Many local officials also say the bill would threaten their ability to hire police officers, build new parks and fill potholes.

The Texas Municipal League, which represents more than 1,100 cities, has emerged as one of the leading opposition groups, calling the bill 'a direct assault on public safety, economic development, and transportation.'

Many police and fire chiefs from across the state testified against the bill last week.

...

Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price was among a group of mayors and local officials from around the state that joined public safety officials in testifying against the bill last week.

'We're all in favor of tax relief but this bill doesn't provide tax relief,' said Price, who called the measure 'a one-size-fits-all' approach that would effectively put revenue caps on county and municipal governments, hobbling their ability to serve constituents. 'Honestly, I am incredibly worried at attempts to remove local authority of our cities.'

Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector **Ron Wright** expressed an opposing viewpoint, saying the bill is being subjected 'to gross misrepresentations being employed by local government officials and their lobbying organizations to drum up opposition to the bill.' (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mar. 21, 2017)

Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector **Ron Wright** expressed support for the bill and sparked an outburst of laughter with a folksy assessment of the rollback feature. 'You can warm your boots in the oven, but that doesn't make them biscuits, and calling a rollback a cap doesn't make it a cap,' **Wright** said in disputing local government's description about the impact of the rollback threshold.

...

Wright, saying he was speaking for himself and not the state's assessor-collector organization, said that many local governments have steadily increased property taxes, 'often by leaving tax rates the same for years on end while property values rose, producing a windfall of new tax revenue that only rarely was shared with taxpayers.

'Worse, they refused to be accountable for the increases, claiming that taxes rose because property values rose,' he said. The notion 'that property value drives taxes and taxes will always rise if values rise is and has always been a myth,' he said. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mar. 14, 2017)

Criticized by Mayor for Openly Campaigning against 2003 Bond Issue. In 2003, Arlington Mayor Elzie Odom strongly criticized Ron Wright after he openly



campaigned against Proposition 6, an \$80.6 million bond package to fund road work. Voters rejected it by a 57-43 margin.

Wright said the proposal was rushed and unfairly mixed with unpopular ideas, such as downtown streetscaping and video cameras to monitor traffic. He suggested splitting up the ideas into four parts for a May election.

"This is not an I-told-you-so," Wright told the council. "But we rushed this."

Mayor Elzie Odom, who is usually reserved, responded sharply. Odom accused Wright of defeating crucial road work needs included in the proposition, such as a long-sought redesign of the Collins Street/Interstate 30 interchange. A city engineering official said the I-30 project might be delayed for up to a year.

Odom also said Wright never offered any constructive help and that his automated phone bank campaign even called Odom's wife.

"It sickens me to hear you come forward at this time," Odom told Wright. "You have single-handedly set this city back. You have said you were working in the city's best interests, but I question that a great deal."

City officials and former City Secretary Cindy Kemp, a 38-year employee, all said they could not recall Arlington voters ever defeating a bond proposition for street work.

Wright was the lone council member to vote against authorizing the election, and it is not unusual for members to work behind the scenes against city proposals. Last year, for example, some members rallied voters against the city's public transit proposal.

But in private interviews, officials and council members on Tuesday said Wright broke tradition by campaigning against the bond election so openly -- even though he had distributed a memo about his intentions. Many staff members and secretaries also privately praised Odom's remarks. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Feb. 5, 2003)

Initially Backed Moratorium on Internet Sales Tax Collections; Changed Opinion on Council. In the early 2000s, Ron Wright said at one point he backed a moratorium on Internet sales tax collections, but then became concerned it had a negative impact on small businesses.

City Council member **Ron Wright** said prior to being elected in spring 2000, he favored a moratorium, but now is concerned about mom-and-pop, brick-and-mortar businesses and their ability to compete within the e-commerce world.

'We've heard that some of these businesses are moving to the point where they will set up a computer in their shops,' Mr. **Wright** said. 'When a customer makes a purchase, they'll have them go over to the computer, log on and purchase it over the Internet to avoid paying the sales tax. That's what we've heard it going toward.' (Dallas Morning News, Feb. 19, 2001)

Against \$103.5 Million Bond Package for Streets, Police. In 2003, Ron Wright was the lone city council vote against a \$103.5 million bond to help fund improvements for street facilities, police and fire facilities, and other issues.

The ballot will feature six propositions - for animal services, firefighting facilities, library equipment, police facilities, storm drainage and erosion control, and street improvements. General voting is Feb. 1.

Mayor Elzie Odom said the just-the-basics projects would not require the city to raise the property tax rate to pay off the debt.

...

City Council member **Ron Wright** cast the lone vote against the package, saying the city should have created separate propositions for the downtown improvements and the cameras because the items are controversial. (Dallas Morning News, Jan. 12, 2003)



Congressional Priorities on Taxes and Spending

For Flat Tax or Fair Tax. Ron Wright said if elected to Congress, he will push for a flat tax or the Fair tax, which many consider to be regressive taxes.

Government spending is out of control and Congress must do more to stop it. Once elected, I will fight to reduce spending, reform entitlements, and institute a flat tax program. [#backthebowtie#wright4congress](#) (Ron Wright for Congress Facebook Post, Feb. 28, 2018)

What changes should be made to the tax code?

Wright: It should be simplified and rates lowered across the board. Ideally I would switch to a flat or fair tax but in the mean time we should lower rates across the board and return more money to the people who earn it. ([iVoterGuide.com](#))

Makes Cutting Spending, the National Debt a Priority. Ron Wright has said that reducing spending and the national debt is a top priority of his.

Wright's top priorities if elected would be to protect life and liberty, and reduce the National Debt.

"We can't leave this debt to our grandchildren and great grandchildren, if we do its criminal." He said. (Corsicana Daily Sun, Apr.11, 2018)

"We've got to cut spending. We've got to get it under control. We've got a 21 trillion dollar debt." (Texas Tribune, [Apr. 18, 2018](#))

Applauded Tax Cuts, But Said More Needs to Be Done. While Ron Wright supported GOP tax reform, he said that Congress needs to cut spending.

"The other half of the equation is addressing spending," he said. "Because if you don't address the spending side, it doesn't matter what you do on the tax side — the country's still going to go further into debt." (KERA News, [May 10, 2018](#))

For Balanced Budget Amendment. Ron Wright strongly agrees that Congress should pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. ([iVoterGuide.com](#))

All Talk, No Walk on Corporate Welfare

As an Arlington City Council member, Ron Wright continuously stressed that he opposed tax breaks for corporations, saying that he personally hated them and that “people are just as tired of corporate welfare as they are of any welfare.”

However, Wright voted repeatedly for millions of dollars in tax breaks and incentives for large companies in Arlington throughout his council tenure.

Against Tax Incentives for The Parks at Arlington Mall. Prior to being on the city council, Ron Wright strongly opposed a deal for The Parks at Arlington Mall in which the property got a sales tax rebate.

The Parks' \$ 70 million cost will be repaid partly through a sales tax rebate to General Growth Properties Inc. Under the deal, the mall owner will receive 55 percent of the sales tax generated by the expansion for the next 15 years.

General Growth had estimated in 2000 that it would receive at least \$ 14 million over the life of the agreement. The city of **Arlington** also was expected to receive about \$ 1 million a year in additional sales taxes. Ms. Lisius said she did not expect the economic downturn to change those numbers.

...

Council members and residents who opposed the tax rebate have said the mall did not need the incentive. City Council member **Ron Wright** did not serve on the council at the time of the vote. But he was vocal about his opposition and made the decision a campaign issue before he was elected in May 2000.

'I can't help but feel they would've had the expansion anyway,' Mr. **Wright** said this week. 'They had to grow the mall to keep it competitive.'

Mr. **Wright** and others against the plan expressed concerns that other retailers would ask the city for sales tax rebates, but that has not happened.

Regardless of the past controversies over the rebate, Mr. **Wright** agreed that the new shops and other features are a good addition.

'Everybody's glad they did the expansion,' Mr. **Wright** said. 'I'm happy to see it opening up, and I think it's going to be good for the city.' (Dallas Morning News, Nov. 8, 2002)

- **Against Granting Extension for Expansion Project.** In 2001, Ron Wright was the lone council member to vote against granting an extension to General Growth Properties to complete an expansion project at The Parks at Arlington mall.

Mr. **Wright** said he could not support the extension because he did not want the council to grant the tax rebate in the first place. Although Mr. **Wright** was not a council member when it was approved last year, he criticized the council during his campaign.

'I had to do it as a matter of principle,' Mr. **Wright** said Tuesday. 'I believed a year ago, and I believe now, that to give one of the most popular and successful shopping malls in North Texas a rebate is a terrible precedent and bad public policy.' (Dallas Morning News, Feb. 28, 2001)

- **Against Maintaining Sales Tax Rebate.** In 2000, the Arlington City Council Fiscal Stewardship Committee PASSED (3-1) a measure to maintain a sales tax rebate as an option for large retail projects. Ron Wright was the sole dissenter.

'We need to weigh every option,' Dr. Cluck said. 'Even though I can't see how I would vote in the future on a sales tax rebate, I don't want to be limited. I don't need that discipline to say I'd never do it again. There are always circumstances that could change.'

Mr. **Wright**, the lone nay vote, said he is concerned that future councils won't exercise that discipline. He said people are tiring of corporate welfare just as they are of regular welfare. (Dallas Morning News, Aug. 3, 2000)

"It's a tool we don't need, and if it's offered it will be used," Councilman **Ron Wright** said. "It would be better to delete it entirely. People were so incensed over The Parks mall rebate." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jun. 20, 2000)

"It will be an outrage again if it comes up again. People are just as tired of corporate welfare as they are of any welfare." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 2, 2000)

Supported \$4.5 Million in Tax Credits for Siemens. In 2002, Ron Wright supported \$4.5 million in tax breaks for Siemens.

City leaders ushered through a landmark economic incentives package for Siemens Dematic Postal Automation on Tuesday as a clearer view emerged of the multimillion-dollar deal struck with the company.

The City Council voted 7-0 for a five-part economic incentives package worth at least \$4.5 million over the next 10 years. Siemens, a postal equipment manufacturer, plans to transfer and consolidate its Arlington facilities into a campus worth up to \$49 million northwest of The Ballpark in Arlington.

Figures released Tuesday show that even with the city's tax break, the Siemens project would provide local taxing entities a total of nearly \$10 million over the next decade, including \$6.9 million to the Arlington school district.

City leaders say the incentives package, which includes a 90 percent property tax break from the city, was crucial to keep the firm in town and to jump-start development around the stadium.

"Incentives are made for projects like this," Councilman **Ron Wright** said. "This is the kind of project you can't get without them." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Dec. 18, 2002)

For Tax Credit for National Semiconductor. In 2001, Ron Wright backed a 10-year, 80 percent property tax abatement for National Semiconductor.

City officials estimated they would lose \$ 364,727 in property taxes and would collect \$ 190,910 during the 10-year abatement. The discount would save the company about \$ 600,000 in city and county taxes. Tax abatements reduce the amount of taxes that businesses owe on property such as buildings and equipment.

...



Council member **Ron Wright** said he generally does not like giving up tax dollars. He was critical of his colleagues who supported a tax rebate for The Parks at **Arlington** mall last year. That tax rebate was granted so the South **Arlington** mall would expand.

'I believe it's in **Arlington's** best interest to keep Semiconductor competitive,' he said. 'This is also different because we're talking about retaining and adding high-paying jobs that you won't find at the mall.' (Dallas Morning News, Apr. 4, 2001)

Council members support the deal, saying the high wages and high-tech nature of the new jobs make the abatement an easy sell.

"This is exactly the kind of industry we want to help," Councilman **Ron Wright** said. "This would bring the kind of jobs and industry to town that we want, and the more we get, the more we can attract." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Apr. 4, 2001)

For Tax Break for Luxury Hotel. In 2000, Ron Wright said he would back a tax abatement for a luxury hotel that would be attractive for conventions.

'I'm not exactly a champion of tax abatements, but if we think that it could generate big dividends to bring more people to town, I'd entertain the idea,' council member **Ron Wright** said. (Dallas Morning News, Feb. 25, 2001)

For Tax Break for AmeriCredit. In 2000, Ron Wright supported a \$1.5 million tax break for AmeriCredit to build a twin to an existing office building in South Arlington.

AmeriCredit's expansion is expected to add about 1,200 new jobs, with an average annual wage of about \$ 32,600, according to its application. The added jobs would make the company one of the city's top five employers.

AmeriCredit's expansion will cost about \$ 29 million, according to the company's estimates. The company also plans to invest an additional \$ 6 million for office equipment and other personal property inside the building, according to the plans.

The value of the city's tax break is projected to be about \$ 1.5 million over 10 years, according to city staff calculations. The city would still collect about \$ 416,850 in property taxes during that time.

...



Council member **Ron Wright** said he supports AmeriCredit's request.

'Personally, I hate tax abatements,' said Mr. **Wright**, who added that abatement deals are getting more and more scrutiny from the public.

But the company has said it needs the tax break to make the deal work financially and it meets the city's tax abatement policy, he said.

'You have to ask some questions,' Mr. **Wright** said. 'Is it the type of business we want in the corridor? And the answer is yes. Does it provide a significant number of jobs? And the answer is yes.

'It meets all the criteria we set up, and as long as it does that, and there is a net gain, and it is viable, I think we have to go along with it.' (Dallas Morning News, Nov. 21, 2000)

Hardliner on Immigration

Ron Wright has little sympathy for undocumented immigrants, opposing any sort of DACA deal or allowing Dreamers to stay in the country at all. He supports fully funding a border wall and opposes sanctuary cities. He did support Ted Cruz's bill that would stop the Trump administration from separating families while also speeding up asylum reviews.

Harsh Rhetoric on Immigration. In Apr. 2018, Ron Wright said, "I reject this notion from the left that we have laws that don't mean anything. That we have laws and it's okay to break them. It's not. I want the laws of the United States to be respected and I want them enforced. We need to do some things that will protect the American people before we make any accommodations for illegal aliens." (Texas Tribune, [Apr. 18, 2018](#))

Against any DACA Deal. Ron Wright strongly opposes making any sort of deal on DACA/Dreamers.

All nine candidates who spoke Saturday rejected any deal, including former Barton aide **Ron Wright**, now the Tarrant County tax assessor-collector.

"I think the party and Joe have been at odds on that a long time," Wright said after the forum.

"I don't see any reason to make an exception. If they were brought here as children, they're still illegal." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jan. 20, 2018)

After Wright, Ellzey and other candidates told an Arlington forum they opposed keeping Dreamers, Barton said they 'ought to get the census numbers and look at them.'

'He and I have a friendly disagreement on that,' Wright said.

Wright isn't another Joe Barton. He's more conservative than Joe Barton. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 23, 2018)



For Fully Funding Wall, Sending National Guard to the Border. Ron Wright called for fully funding a border wall and cheered President Trump for sending the National Guard to the border.

I applaud President Trump's decision to send the National Guard to protect our border. Congress should support the president on this including fully funding the wall. It's time to stop playing politics with the National security of the United States. [#FundTheWall](#) [#NationalGuard](#) (Ron Wright Twitter, [Apr. 7, 2018](#))

Supports Comprehensive Immigration Reform only after Border Wall is Built. Ron Wright “thinks Congress should take up comprehensive immigration reforms. But not until the border is fortified.” (KERA News, [May 10, 2018](#))

On immigration, Wright thinks Congress should take up comprehensive immigration reforms. But not until the border is fortified.

“This is one of the greatest failures of the federal government in my lifetime,” he said. “Absolutely one of the greatest failures.” (KERA News, [May 10, 2018](#))

Against Sanctuary Cities. Ron Wright opposes sanctuary cities. ([iVoterGuide.com](#))

Supported Cruz’s Family Separation Bill. Ron Wright supports Ted Cruz’s bill to keep families together, double the number of immigration judges, and speed up the asylum review process.

The recent border scenes of crying children being torn from their mothers and fathers are heartbreaking. It’s clear this needs to end now. I’m encouraged to see Senator Cruz take the lead by introducing the Protect Kids and Parents Act. His bill keeps families together while doubling the number of immigration judges and speeding up the asylum review process for those with children to 14 days at most. Keeping families together while reducing the massive immigration backlog is exactly the type of good governance and government efficiency my campaign is all about. All Texans should be proud to have such a principled, capable leader representing us in the Senate. I stand behind Senator Cruz and his bill, and I look forward to standing with him in Congress. (Ron Wright for Congress Facebook Post, Jun. 21, 2018)





A War on Abortion

Ron Wright is as pro-life as a political candidate could possibly be. He touts his work defending the unborn, opposes abortion under any circumstances, considers abortion views a litmus test for Supreme Court nominees, and has fought against any public or private effort that gives any funds to Planned Parenthood.

More than 20 years ago, Ron Wright dedicated one of his columns to United Way, specifically promoting all the good it did in Arlington, saying, “almost every human service organization you see or hear about in Arlington benefits directly from United Way.”

However, in 2015, Wright infamously refused to participate in a countywide fundraising drive for the organization because it contributed a small amount of money to Planned Parenthood at the specific request of some individual donors. When talking about United Way forwarding money to the “evil” Planned Parenthood, he invoked Nazi Germany, saying, “I will remind all of them that Hitler made the trains run on time.”

Wright is continuing to tout his effort, which was panned by the local media and deemed “irresponsible” in his congressional campaign.

Pro-Life, with No Exceptions

Against any Abortion Exceptions. Ron Wright answered “under no circumstance” to question, “Under what circumstances should abortion be allowed?” (iVoterGuide.com)

Against Taxpayer Funding for Organization that Provide Abortions. Ron Wright opposes any government funding for Planned Parenthood or any other organizations that provide abortions. (iVoterGuide.com)

President Trump's decision to unilaterally defund taxpayer-funded abortions from Planned Parenthood is more than just fulfilling a campaign promise, it is a giant step in the direction of ending the death of millions of babies every year. Not since the days of Ronald Reagan have we seen such a dramatic policy. Taxpayers' money should never be used to fund the murder of human life. I stand with



our president in this decision. (Ron Wright for Congress Facebook Post, May 25, 2018)

Thinks Life Begins at Conception. Ron Wright strongly agrees with the statement, “Human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every stage until natural death.” (iVoterGuide.com)

Supportive of Supreme Court’s Planned Parenthood Decision. Ron Wright supported the Supreme Court’s decision to allow Arkansas to enforce a law that bars pill-induced abortions.

I applaud the Supreme Court's decision to reject an appeal by Planned Parenthood to overturn an Arkansas law that will save the lives of many unborn children. In Congress I will continue to fight Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers, as I have for decades. We must continue to foster a culture of life, and the Supreme Court's decision today is good news for Texas, and the nation. [#prolife](#) (Ron Wright for Congress Facebook Post, May 29, 2018)

Considers Abortion Views a Litmus Test for Supreme Court Nominees. Ron Wright has stated that he only wants pro-life judges on the Supreme Court.

I don’t know about you, but when it comes to picking our next Supreme Court Justice, I want someone who will follow the Constitution and defend the unborn! We must fight for the most vulnerable among us. Based on President Trump's previous choice of Neil Gorsuch, I am optimistic we're about to get another fantastic choice for the court.

Who do you think Trump should pick as our next Supreme Court Justice? [#SCOTUS](#) (Ron Wright for Congress Facebook Post, Jun. 30, 2018)

The Republican nominee for Congress, Ron Wright, praised Justice Kennedy, for a distinguished 30-year tenure, calling him a “maverick, though philosophically inconsistent.”

“Justice Kennedy was influential because he was the swing vote on many issues,” he said.



“I hope President Trump will nominate someone who is more reliably conservative who will uphold the Constitution and the right to life,” Wright said.

Wright who was in Washington meeting with the Texas delegation said that he had a few moments to speak with Senator John Cornyn (R-TX). (Corsicana Daily Sun, [Jul. 2, 2018](#))

Hypocrite on United Way Fight

1997: Encouraged People to Donate to United Way. In a 1997 column, Ron Wright wrote a column encouraging people to donate to United Way for all the good they do.

People who wonder if the money they donate to United Way ever makes its way back to Arlington should visit the human service center on Sanford Street or learn more about Arlington Human Service Planners.

So says Tom Cravens, Arlington banker, civic leader and one of the co-chairmen of this year's United Way campaign in Arlington. He and fellow banker and co-chairman David Jackson plan to attract more businesses and expand participation in the campaign this year. One way to do that would be to point to AHSP as a tangible result of past United Way campaigns and as a model city/United Way partnership that other cities should copy.

AHSP began as Arlington Human Service Project with a 1979 needs assessment and the ground breaking study "Who's Minding the Children? " that resulted in an after school child-care program in the public schools that has cared for more than 14,000 children. The name changed to Arlington Human Service Planners to reflect its primary mission to assess needs and plan activities and services to meet them.

From its inception, the organization was a United Way/City of Arlington/local business partnership. It still is today, plus a lot more. It now involves hundreds of volunteers throughout the city. Its main coordinating committee consists of representatives from the city council, city administration, police department, Arlington school district, the Arlington Ministerial Association, Chamber of Commerce, Junior League, Council of PTAs, UTA and numerous social service providers, as well as business owners and interested individuals and organizations.

As human service planners, AHSP acts as a planning arm of United Way and an advisory group to the city of Arlington - both of which share equally in the organization's cost. But it functions most notably as a catalyst that brings volunteers and organizations together to provide real solutions to social problems in the city.



Hardly a human service project exists today in Arlington that has not been impacted by AHSP. Some of the city's most well known human service successes are a direct result of the organization's planning and implementation efforts: the Allan Saxe Dental Clinic, Arlington Career Center, Arlington Community Health Clinic, Arlington Teen Court, Arlington II Child Care Center and Welcome House for runaways.

Other projects that benefitted from AHSP involvement include AIDS Outreach Center-Arlington, the Arlington Substance Abuse Project, the creation of the city's Youth and Families Board, the development of the Social Service Providers Network, and dozens of others - some for specified periods and many ongoing.

In addition to its better known projects, the organization makes periodic assessments of community needs, conducts community forums, reviews Community Development Block Grants for the city, reviews zoning as it applies to human service issues, provides technical assistance to the Arlington school district and city task force groups, and addresses specific human services needs through the creation of ad hoc committees.

It also increases public awareness of human service issues affecting Arlington through media interaction and the publication of issue-specific studies with recommendations for community-based solutions. These include the 1995 "Priority Home Continuum of Care Plan" for homeless people in Arlington and the "Adolescent Pregnancy in Arlington" report issued earlier this year by AHSP's Teen Pregnancy Task Force.

In his United Way pitch, Cravens calls the organization the premier private/public partnership in North Texas. The former AHSP chairwoman, Ann Morris, calls it one of the best kept secrets in Arlington and the best pooling of talent in Tarrant County. Barbara Carter, who took the reins of the organization from Morris when she completed her term last week, agrees. Carter attributes AHSP's success to its grassroots quality and the strong commitment of its volunteers.

Whatever it is, it works. So the next time a friendly banker in town asks you or your business to participate in United Way, don't wonder if your money will make a difference in Arlington. Get in your car and drive around. Almost every human service organization you see or



hear about in Arlington benefits directly from United Way or indirectly through Arlington Human Service Planners.

And that benefits all of us. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 29, 1997)

2015: Compared United Way to Hitler for Earmarking Money for Planned Parenthood, Refused to Participate in Countywide Fundraising Campaign. In 2015, Ron Wright refused to participate in a countywide fundraising effort for United Way, which earmarked a small portion of donor gifts to charities requested by donors, including a small amount to Planned Parenthood. This incensed Ron Wright, who compared it to Nazi Germany.

Wright described United Way's forwarding of gifts to Planned Parenthood, a family planning and reproductive services agency that provides abortions, as a 'stain on a very worthy organization,' and said:

'I will remind all of them that Hitler made the trains run on time.'

...

The United Way sending along an average of \$2,000 per year meant for the local Planned Parenthood chapter definitely is not like the Holocaust. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Oct. 8, 2015)

A Texas official says his office will not to donate to the United Way because some agency donations are used for the 'evil' done by Planned Parenthood.

Tarrant County tax assessor **Ron Wright** says employees outside of work are free to still give to the United Way, which forwards donations to social service organizations.

Wright says he learned some donors ask the United Way to send their contributions specifically to Planned Parenthood, which provides an array of services for women including the abortion services that **Wright** condemns. (Associated Press, Oct. 8, 2015)

Wright will no longer urge employees to contribute to the charitable organization, telling the **Fort Worth Star-Telegram** that "Hitler made the trains run on time" and the "good that's being done doesn't compensate for the evil that's being done by Planned Parenthood." (Dallas Morning News, Oct. 8, 2015)

- **Blasted by Local Media.** The Fort Worth Star-Telegram blasted Ron Wright for his grandstanding on the issue, calling it “wrong.”

Wright is wrong in his remarks on United Way

Ron Wright is not only wrong about United Way. The **Tarrant** County tax assessor-collector is also wrong to invoke the name of Adolf Hitler in disparaging the community fundraising campaign,

Wright's choice of a hyperbolic and wildly inappropriate analogy discredits his complaint about the United Way of **Tarrant** County over a small amount of money that local donors intended for Planned Parenthood.

United Way has not supported Planned Parenthood since 1980, but it forwards donors' gifts marked for that or any other outside charity.

Because United Way allows contributors to give money to any agency they choose, **Wright** and County Commissioner Andy Nguyen will not join in this year's countywide \$30 million charity fundraising campaign.

...

Given the small amount of local money forwarded to Planned Parenthood, **Wright's** decision seems silly.

Wright's argument fails again when he compares the gifts to United Way forwarding donations to the Ku Klux Klan. Only 501(c)3 charities are eligible.

To be sure, **Wright** and Nguyen can choose any favored office charity.

Both chose specific United Way agencies, Meals on Wheels for **Wright** and the Salvation Army for Nguyen.

But **Wright** and Nguyen should not disparage a United Way campaign that supports 42 partner agencies doing so much good across **Tarrant** County.

Coming from a public official, **Wright's** comments are not only wrong-headed but irresponsible. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Oct. 8, 2015)



Touting Anti-United Way Efforts in Congressional Campaign. At a Jan. 2018 event, Ron Wright took credit for cancelling the United Way fundraising drive.

"I'm the tax assessor who put our official motto on the tax statements ['In God We Trust']. I'm the tax assessor who went to war with Planned Parenthood" (by canceling a United Way drive because donors' gifts could be directed to any charity). (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jan. 20, 2018)

As an elected official, Ron has long fought against government support of Planned Parenthood, proclaiming that "Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortions in the United States. I'm not going to support any organization that supports or aids Planned Parenthood in any way. Period."
(Wright4Congress.com)

Lacking Ethics

While Ron Wright hasn't been immersed in any major scandal, his record on ethics is less than perfect. In 2000, Wright said he would support requiring elected officials to file financial disclosure statements, though he did not support extending that to members of city boards and commissions. However, in 2003, Wright wanted Gov. Perry to veto a bill that required detailed personal financial disclosure statements, saying, "You have to wonder at what point is that information anyone's business."

As a city councilman, Wright's campaigns were heavily financed by individuals associated with the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers. Wright sided with the teams on major city-related issues during his council tenure. He also took contributions from the city's towing contractor, and voted to approve a rate in the company's towing fees.

Against Transparency for Elected Officials' Finances

Against Requiring Members of City Boards and Commissions to File Financial Disclosure Statements. Though Ron Wright supported requiring elected officials to file financial disclosure statements, he did not think the same way for members of city boards and commissions.

Council member **Ron Wright** said he would support requiring financial disclosure for elected officials. But he questioned whether the same requirements are necessary of those who serve on city boards and commissions.

'Taken too far, this will scare people away from serving, and we don't need to throw roadblocks to service,' Mr. **Wright** said. (Dallas Morning News, Jul. 20, 2000)

2003: Wanted Perry to Veto Bill Requiring Detailed Financial Disclosures. In 2003, Ron Wright said he hoped that Gov. Perry would veto a bill that would require elected officials and top city administrators to disclose detailed personal financial information.



Under the proposal, those officials would have to file a personal financial statement to disclose employment income sources, but not the amount.

Income sources for spouses and dependent children must also be disclosed.

Income from stock, bonds, dividends, royalties and other sources must be listed in ranges: \$500-\$4,999, \$5,000-\$9,999, \$10,000-\$24,999 or more than \$25,000.

Information about liabilities, real estate holdings, business interests, gifts, trust income, and corporate and partnership assets and liabilities must also be disclosed in broad dollar ranges.

Currently, elected officials, school board members and candidates are required to file scheduled campaign finance reports with the city secretary's office. The reports require candidates to list a treasurer and list contributors and the amounts contributed to the campaign.

...

Arlington Councilman **Ron Wright** said he hopes the governor will veto the bill.

"You have to wonder at what point is that information anyone's business," Wright said. "It's a bad deal." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jun. 7, 2003)

Conflict of Interest with Pro Sports Teams

Took More than \$12,000 from Cowboys/Rangers Interests in 2006. Leading up to his May 2006 election, Ron Wright received \$12,100 in donations from individuals associated with the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers.

Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** received a reported \$12,100 in such donations; council members Steve McCollum and Sheri Capehart received \$2,200 and \$2,000, respectively, from team representatives. **Wright's** tally also included a \$5,000 donation from Yaromir Steiner, a partner with Rangers owner Tom Hicks in the pending Glorypark development. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 2, 2006)

Arlington Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** may well have chosen one of two conflicting alternatives in connection with requesting and receiving major political contributions from donors such as Rangers owner Tom Hicks and Cowboys Vice President Stephen Jones.

He may have raised the bar significantly for what kind of money would-be candidates will be expected to raise, at least for those who hope to win.

Or he may have focused future attention on a critical campaign issue: The propriety of accepting large donations from people who financially benefit from their dealings with the city.

...

Meanwhile, the contributions have already become a hot topic at local Republican Clubs, cornerstones of **Wright's** local support.

If **Wright** were a congressman instead of a councilman, he would be limited to contributions of \$2,100 from individuals or \$5,000, at most, from political action committees for each election. A runoff would be considered an election in itself.

According to his three mandatory financial disclosure statements, **Wright** raised \$45,759. So the \$12,100 would be a little more than a quarter of his total contributions. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 28, 2006)

Arlington Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** may well have chosen one of two conflicting alternatives in connection with requesting and receiving major political contributions from donors such as Rangers owner Tom Hicks and Cowboys Vice President Stephen Jones.

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...

According to his three mandatory financial disclosure statements, Wright raised \$45,759. So the \$12,100 would be a little more than a quarter of his total contributions. But even without the big donations, he would have demonstrated a remarkable ability to raise cash for a local election — in effect a new, higher hoop for would-be politicians to jump through.

...

Wright is unrepentant about his fundraising tactics; in fact, he's rather proud of the achievement. Regardless of how someone feels about contributions of that size, the mayor pro tem was clearly upfront about them. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 28, 2006)

Politicians who supported **Arlington's** efforts to bring the new **Cowboys** stadium and the proposed **Glorypark** development to town got a little assistance in the recent local elections.

...

Glorypark developer **Yaromir Steiner** and **Rangers** owner **Tom Hicks** donated \$5,000 each to **Wright's** re-election campaign, and **Stephen Jones**, vice president of the Cowboys, donated \$1,000. **Wright** also received political donations from other executives working on Glorypark.

The three council members have said the new stadium and town center development are part of the city's economic development



success and will contribute to the city's revenue without an increase in taxes. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 21, 2006)

Backed Cowboys Stadium. Ron Wright was a big backer of the new Dallas Cowboys stadium.

Arlington voters have a unique opportunity to help secure the economic future of our city by voting for the Cowboys Stadium on Tuesday. The economic impact will be tremendous and, in the years ahead, will help pay for more police and firefighters as well as improvements to our streets, libraries and parks. In the context of city/NFL stadium deals, it is one of the best ever written: a 50/50 split on costs with **Arlington's** portion capped. Any cost overruns for any reason must be paid by the Cowboys organization. **Arlington** will receive a portion of the revenues from naming rights, plus \$60 million in rent payments, plus \$16.5 million donated to youth programs. The county is dedicating \$25 million for additional roadwork to alleviate traffic, and as many as 2,000 new jobs are expected to be created.

There has been considerable debate over future economic benefits. Both proponents and opponents have recruited economists to support their arguments. But we in **Arlington** have something more reliable than the opinion of economists: real-life experience. Revenue from tourism is one of the chief reasons **Arlington's** sales tax and property tax are among the lowest of any city our size anywhere.

And the Cowboys and Texas Rangers have agreed to work together on a master plan for development near the ballpark and stadium to ensure that future development around these venues will be the quality, mixed-use developments the city wants. The stadium is a good deal for **Arlington** and will help secure the economic future of our city.

Ron Wright, mayor pro tem (Dallas Morning News, Oct. 31, 2004)

Council member **Ron Wright**, who campaigned against the rebate when he ran for council, said it's tempting to deny the extension request.

'The temptation is there,' he said. 'If I thought it would make a difference, I would vote against it. But it's just a construction delay,

and I think we need to do what we can to make sure the project is complete.' (Dallas Morning News, Feb. 18, 2001)

- **For Eminent Domain for Cowboys Stadium.** Ron Wright backed eminent domain to buy homes in the way of the Dallas Cowboys new stadium.

Ron Wright, **Arlington's** mayor pro tem, said that most notices would be delivered on Friday and that letters would be mailed to absentee landlords by Pinnacle Consulting Management Group, a company hired by the city to help with land acquisition.

'By the end of the weekend, every property owner should be notified,' Mr. **Wright** said.

The **Arlington** City Council approved the list of buyouts Thursday, but they are keeping the map of the stadium site and parking lots secret until all property owners are notified. Mr. **Wright** said the city would buy mostly residential land for the stadium and leave all but a few commercial properties - primarily along Collins Street - untouched. (Dallas Morning News, May 7, 2005)

- **Against Giving Property Owners Near Proposed Cowboys Stadium the Future Value of Their Home.** In 2005, Ron Wright said that the city should only pay the current value of property to homeowners whose land needed to be bought to make room for the Cowboys stadium, not any future increased value.

Ron Wright, **Arlington's** mayor pro tem, said he believes that the appraisals should take into account only the current value, not some unknown future value.

'It would be terribly unfair for the taxpayers who are footing some of the bill for this,' he said. (Dallas Morning News, May 16, 2005)

Many residents have already expressed a 'keen interest' in selling, and precincts in that area showed a high number of votes for the project, **Wright** said.

But if any homeowners refuse to sell or ask an outrageous price, officials said, the city's last resort would be eminent domain, in which governments can take over the property after paying fair market value.

'We don't want them holding a gun to our heads; we've got to protect the taxpayers' interests,' **Wright** said. (Associated Press, Nov. 7, 2004)

- **Criticized for Eminent Domain Flip-Flop During 2006 Campaign.** During his 2006 campaign, Ron Wright was criticized for voting for allowing eminent domain for the Cowboys stadium after saying he opposed it when first elected.

Pikulinski said **Wright** was opposed to eminent domain when first elected, but voted for the football stadium, which led to the condemnation of about 100 homes and 1,000 apartments.

'To suggest because of the stadium vote I have changed my positions is ridiculous,' said **Wright**, adding that he supported the ballpark when it was built. 'This was too great an opportunity for **Arlington** to pass up.'

After he was elected, **Wright** successfully pushed in 2000 to restrict the council's ability to raise property taxes and in 2001 to impose eminent domain by increasing the required number of votes from five, a simple majority, to six, a supermajority. It bothered him, he said, to hear city officials refer to **Arlington** residents as customers.

'Citizens are the owners of local government,' **Wright** said. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Apr. 27, 2006)

Now Says He Opposes Eminent Domain. Currently, Ron Wright opposes using eminent domain for private businesses.

Each man opposes the use Eminent Domain for private enterprise, and both are against the High Speed Rail which they agree would harm the district. (Corsicana Daily Sun, Apr. 11, 2018)

Backed Arlington Town Center, Which Had Major Financial Support from Cowboys and Rangers. Ron Wright was a big backer of the Arlington Town Center project, which the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers both threw their weight behind.

The first phase of **Arlington's** town center project, shown from the west in this conceptual drawing, would replace the parking lots to the west and south of Amerquest Field. The site of the Dallas Cowboys stadium is to the west, or below the bottom edge of the drawing.

...

Initial plans had the town center spanning the creek and sprawling between both stadiums. At one point, Johnson Creek would have been rechanneled through the development, Hicks said. However, since it would have taken several years to get government approval to work on the creek and incorporate it into the town center, the development team decided to keep the first phase on the east side of the creek.

'In our master plan, we are still planning on connecting both sides with bridges and pathways, but the green space is a bit wider than before,' Steiner said.

Instead, the creek will get a face-lift in a conservation project that will be 65 percent funded by the federal government and the rest paid for at the local level. The project includes erosion and sediment control, retention ponds, walking trails and picnic areas.

'The development has forced us to look at the creek again in a comprehensive way,' **Arlington** city councilman **Ron Wright** said. 'This will be the best thing that has ever happened to Johnson Creek.'

Contrary to previous reports, which indicated that the Cowboys and the Steiner-Hicks partnership would pay more, each has committed to pay up to \$1.9 million for the \$12 million initial phase of the conservation project, essentially covering the city's \$4 million portion. The federal funding for the first phase, which will improve the creek between the ballpark and the railroad tracks, could be appropriated later this year, **Wright** said.

The town center's effect on Johnson Creek has worried some residents, including members of the **Arlington** Conservation Council.

'We want to see the developments done in a more natural way to help stop the erosion and use native plants around Johnson Creek,' council president Wayne Halliburton said. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Apr. 12, 2006)

Pay for Play with Towing Contractor

For Increasing Towing Fees for McKnight's Wrecker Service. In 2002, Ron Wright voted to increase the towing fees for Kelly McKnight Wrecker Services from \$154.64 to \$167.29. Ron Wright voted for the increase.

'The contractor's charging the highest rates in the metroplex and saying it's not enough,' council member Julia Burgen said.

Others urged the city to reach an agreement with Mr. McKnight, citing his long record of service for the city.

'We shouldn't be dictating what the market will bear as far as towing rates,' Mr. **Wright** said. (Dallas Morning News, Dec. 22, 2002)

Mr. **Wright**, another committee member, said Mr. McKnight has been one of the city's best vendors for years.

'We get fewer complaints about Kelly McKnight than any other contractor,' he said. 'I believe he deserves it.' (Dallas Morning News, Oct. 4, 2002)

McKnight Contributed to Wright's Campaign. Kelly McKnight contributed to Ron Wright's city council campaign prior to the vote to hike towing fees. (Dallas Morning News, Dec. 22, 2002)

Mixing Faith and Politics

Ron Wright will no doubt intermix his Christian faith in Congress. One of his most talked-about “accomplishments” as the county tax collector was adding “In God We Trust” to his office’s official documents. He is also for giving tax exemptions to anybody who claims they are a church, regardless of proof, saying, “For the most part, a church is a church if they say it’s a church. And if it’s a church, then it’s tax-exempt.”

Wright likes to run on a pro-business platform in which he says he will cut down on regulations. However, that hasn’t applied when businesses don’t meet his moral standards. Wright was known as the leader in pushing for stricter regulations for sexually oriented businesses.

For six years, Wright fought an alcohol sales permit for a Hooters restaurant he thought was too close to a high school, and he even asked if the city could categorize it as a sexually oriented business. Wright also fought a similar permit at Six Flags over Texas.

In the 1990s, Wright blasted Clinton not only for lying, but also for having “immoral” sex.

No Separation of Church and State

Added “In God We Trust” to Back of Official County Documents. In 2014, Ron Wright’s office added “In God We Trust” to the backside of his office’s documents, which he is still touting in his congressional campaign.

Tarrant County Tax Assessor Collector **Ron Wright** recently added the national motto that already decorates paper money — In God We Trust — to the backside of his office’s envelopes. It soon will be on tax statements themselves and every official document for the office.

“I’ve been thinking about it for some time,” he said. “This is the official motto of the United States of America, and I think it should be used by public entities more often.”

...



"My message to other public officials is be not afraid," **Wright** said.
"This is the official motto of the United States of America. Use it."
(Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 17, 2014)

"I'm the tax assessor who put our official motto on the tax statements
['In God We Trust']. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jan. 20, 2018)

"A Church is a Church If They Say It's a Church." Ron Wright is a big fan of religious freedom, saying the government should just take a church's word that it is actually a church when it came to tax exemptions.

'For the most part, a church is a church if they say it's a church. And if it's a church, then it's tax-exempt,' says **Ron Wright**, tax assessor-collector in **Tarrant** County, Texas, where Daystar is located.

Congratulations to our friends in **Tarrant** County. May all your homes be churches. (Dallas Morning News, Apr. 1, 2014)

Thinks Religious Liberty Deserves Highest Level of Legal Protection. Ron Wright answered "strongly agree" to the statement, "Religious liberty is at risk in the United States and deserves the highest level of protection in the law."
(iVoterGuide.com)

Strongly Believes Christianity Guides Government. In several survey questions, Ron Wright's answers to questions about religion and government show that he believes Christianity guides American democracy.

Judeo-Christian values established a framework of morality which permitted our system of limited government.

Wright: Strongly Agree

What in the nature of mankind caused America's Founders to carefully define, separate, and limit powers in the Constitution?

Wright: The fallen nature of mankind requires the boundaries of laws to keep him from resorting to his selfish, power seeking tendencies. (iVoterGuide.com)

Faith Guides His Life. Ron Wright describes his personal faith in the following way:



I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he came to earth to die for my sins. Without God's presence in my life I am nothing. I believe he loves and cares for His children of which I am one. God's grace is sufficient for my day to day needs and my faith in Him is what guides my life. (iVoterGuide.com)

Legislating Morality

Cracked Down on Adult Entertainment Businesses on City Council. Ron Wright was the leader behind heavy regulations on adult entertainment businesses in Arlington in the early 2000s.

Arlington's adult entertainment businesses would face much tougher regulations under a series of proposed city ordinances.

The city may require a six-foot buffer between strip club dancers and customers. It also might restrict the performers to raised platforms. In addition, **Arlington** is considering specific regulations for adult bookstores.

Arlington has 13 sexually oriented businesses, mostly concentrated along State Highway 360 near Interstate 30. Some city officials said the strip clubs conflict with **Arlington's** image as a family entertainment center.

'In **Arlington** we have The Ballpark, all the entertainment venues, and we're a great place for businesses to relocate to,' City Council member **Ron Wright** said. 'The one thing that characterizes this city is it's a town for families.'

Mr. **Wright** serves on a council committee that has recommended the proposed rules.

'We recognize they have a First Amendment right to exist, but we also recognize we have the right to regulate them,' Mr. **Wright** said. 'We need to regulate them to the fullest extent of the law.' (Dallas Morning News, Nov. 22, 2002)

Fought Alcohol Permit for Hooters in Southwest Arlington. In 2001, Ron Wright led the charge to deny an alcohol sales permit for a Hooters restaurants in southwest Arlington near Martin High School. The restaurant got its permit years later in Oct. 2007. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Dec. 28, 2007)

Arlington City Council member **Ron Wright** said no one would have protested Hooters if it had opened in a primarily commercial zone, such as the area around The Parks at **Arlington** mall. However, the current site is within a few miles of schools, churches and hundreds of homes.

'It's voyeurism with fries on the side,' and that's not appropriate for the location, Mr. **Wright** said. (Dallas Morning News, Mar. 19, 2004)

Arlington City Council member **Ron Wright** said the neighborhood's opposition to Hooters had less to do with scantily clad waitresses and more to do with responsive government.

'The waitresses and their uniforms are a small part of this,' Mr. **Wright** said. 'The real issue has always been whether a community has the right to establish standards of decency and expect the government to respect those standards. When the [Hooters] in North **Arlington** opened, no one opposed it because it is in the entertainment district. This is in what everyone acknowledges is a family part of **Arlington**. The vast majority of people here don't want it there.' (Dallas Morning News, Mar. 7, 2002)

'Nobody is trying to close down Hooters,' council member **Ron Wright** said. 'We just want it to find a more appropriate location.' (Dallas Morning News, Sep. 8, 2001)

- **Wanted Hooters to Be Grouped with Sexually Oriented Businesses.** Ron Wright initially asked city attorneys whether the city's ordinance regulating sexually oriented businesses could be amended to include Hooters.

'That was shot down almost immediately,' Mr. **Wright** said. 'You just can't do that.'

Rick Norris, assistant city attorney, agreed, saying, 'That would be too broad.'

Still, Mr. **Wright** said he will be among those testifying against Hooters' permit at the hearing. (Dallas Morning News, Sep. 8, 2001)

City Council member **Ron Wright**, who is among those upset about the prospect of a new Hooters in **Arlington**, should not have raised questions about possible new regulations for Hooters.

As one of the council's more conservative members, he often criticizes the city for over-regulating businesses and residents. Yet, ultimately, he has raised the question of regulating what waitresses wear. (Dallas Morning News, Aug. 2, 2001)

Formally Protested Six Flags Beer Sales. In the late 2000s, Ron Wright formally protested Six Flags over Texas' license to sell beer.



Ron Wright, a former **Arlington** City Council member, said he expected this result but was still disappointed. He predicted that Six Flags will get its licenses.

'That kind of license in a family-style park is inconsistent,' he said. 'It poses a certain amount of risk.' (Dallas Morning News, Jan. 10, 2009)

'I've always been a big supporter of Six Flags,' **Wright** said, 'but to me public safety trumps that.' (Dallas Morning News, Feb. 26, 2009)

Sought Moratorium on Licenses for Sexually Oriented Businesses. In 2001, Ron Wright pushed for a moratorium on licenses for sexually oriented businesses.

Meanwhile, sex and business are causing concern for some council members on another front. At the City Council's meeting Tuesday, Mr. Ogle - with support from Mr. **Wright** - asked city attorneys to prepare an ordinance imposing a temporary moratorium on granting licenses for sexually oriented businesses.

Prompting the concern is an adult bookstore that has signaled its intent to begin construction by late September near Festival Discount Mall on Pioneer Parkway, Mr. **Wright** said.

Under city law, there is little the council could do to prevent the bookstore from opening, he said.

'I want to take a look at whether our sexually oriented business ordinance needs strengthening, and I think it does,' Mr. **Wright** said. He supports a moratorium on granting licenses for sexually oriented businesses. (Dallas Morning News, Sep. 6, 2001)

Blasted Bill Clinton for Immorality. In 1997, Ron Wright blasted Bill Clinton for lying and for having sex, calling it "immoral."

Ron Wright, who writes for the Arlington Star-Telegram on Sundays, struck a chord with: "If Clinton had sex - no matter what kind - it was wrong and immoral and demonstrated terribly poor judgment. It also would mean that he has lied - again. " (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Feb. 4, 1998)



Health Careless

Ron Wright has said that repealing Obamacare is a top priority of his, doesn't believe the government needs to ensure that every individual has insurance, and wants less involvement from the government altogether in the insurance market.

Making Obamacare Repeal a Top Priority. Ron Wright says that repealing Obamacare is a top priority of his if elected. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, [Dec. 1, 2017](#))

Doesn't Believe Health Care is a Right. Ron Wright answered, "Strongly disagree" to the statement, "It is the government's responsibility to be sure everyone has health insurance." ([iVoterGuide.com](#))

For Minimal Federal Government Involvement in Healthcare. Ron Wright's solution to affordable healthcare is for Washington DC to be less involved.

Wright: The decision making power to provide affordable healthcare should reside less in Washington DC and more in the hands of the doctors who provide it. Empowering patients to make their own healthcare decisions and opening the purchase of insurance across state lines will begin the process of lowering healthcare costs across the board. ([iVoterGuide.com](#))



Locked and Loaded

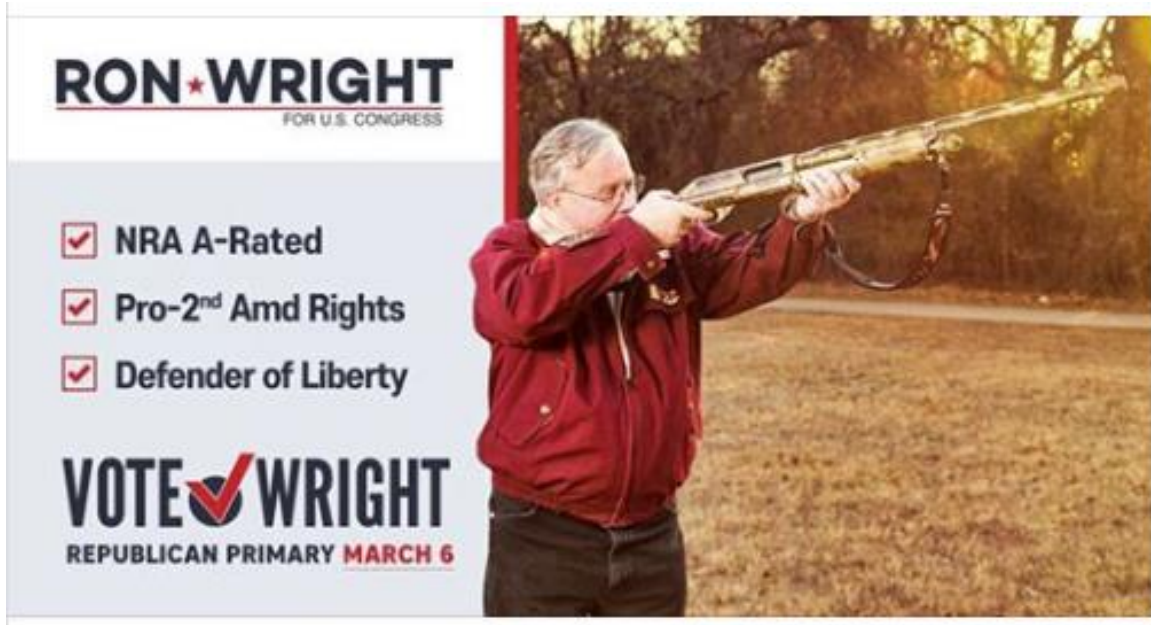
If elected to Congress, Ron Wright has pledged to protect the 2nd Amendment from liberals trying to strip away gun rights. He appears to not support gun control of any kind.

Brags about Pro-Gun Credentials. Ron Wright has made his pro-gun views a major theme of his platform.

WELL REGULATED MILITIA, BEING NECESSARY TO THE SECURITY OF A FREE STATE, THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS, SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

Since the time of the Founding Fathers, Americans have lawfully owned and used firearms for hunting, sport shooting, and defense of their families and homes. Gun ownership has been a part of Texas culture for countless generations. In Congress, Ron will fight efforts from liberals to infringe on Texans' right to bear arms, and will promote laws protecting responsible gun ownership for all law-abiding Americans. (Wright4Congress.com)

I will always fight for your right to bear arms and fight against attempts to dilute that right. The 2nd Amendment is an individual right not limited to militias as the Left has often argued. I stand with all Americans who want to lawfully own and carry arms to protect themselves and their families. I agree with and believe the Founders intended for us to have a constitutional right to keep and bear arms. Don't forget to early vote through Friday; Primary Day is March 6th! (Ron Wright for Congress Facebook Post, Feb. 27, 2018)



Strongly Disagreed that More Gun Control is Needed. Ron Wright answered “strongly disagree” to the topic of “More restrictive gun control is needed to protect public safety.” (iVoterGuide.com)

For Allowing Gun Shows on Public Property. Ron Wright supports local governments allowing gun shows on public property they control. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Feb. 5, 2016)

Ron Wright doesn't believe in gay marriage and supports allowing businesses to discriminate against gays, specifically applauding the Supreme Court decision in favor of a Colorado baker who refused to make a cake for a same-sex wedding.

Wright criticized the NEA in the 1990s for proposing a Gay and Lesbian History Month and now opposes gender identity bathroom choices.

Opposes Gay Marriage. Ron Wright answered, "Strongly agree" to "Governments should define marriage as between one man and one woman; no other definition of marriage should be legalized or supported with taxpayer or public funds." (iVoterGuide.com)

For Allowing Business Discrimination against Gays. Ron Wright answered, "Strongly agree" to "Governments should not discriminate against individuals, organizations or small businesses because of their belief that marriage is only a union of one man and one woman." (iVoterGuide.com)

Applauded Supreme Court's Decision to Side with Colorado Baker Who Refused to Make Same-Sex Wedding Cake. Ron Wright celebrated the Supreme Court's recent decision siding with a Colorado baker who refused to make a same-sex wedding cake.

Today's 7-2 decision at the Supreme Court to uphold the religious liberties of a Colorado baker is an important step in the protection of free speech.

Government should never have the right to punish law-abiding citizens from exercising their God-given rights. Government cannot, and must not compel speech or action from those same citizens. While this fight is not yet over, SCOTUS' decision protects the rights of ALL Americans, and we should celebrate it. (Ron Wright for Congress Facebook Post, Jun. 4, 2018)

Critical of NEA for Wanting to Have Gay and Lesbian History Month, Among other Things. In a 1996 column, Ron Wright blasted the National Education Association, saying it was okay to blast the union without going after teachers.



Once again with feeling, allow me to set the record straight: Dole dislikes the powerful teachers unions, their liberal agenda and their public support of his opponent, President Clinton. But Bob Dole loves schoolteachers! There.

...

I would be the first to congratulate Hale for her outstanding performance as superintendent, but I question whether she should publicly support a teachers union or associations like the National Education Association that hold political positions so far to the left of most Americans.

...

The NEA is the chief purveyor of politically correct multiculturalism in America. This is the group that last year proposed a Gay and Lesbian History Month in the public schools. And it applauded attempts to distort our nation's history with revisionist hash in textbooks and the ill-fated national standards. One has to stand in a long line to criticize these people. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 8, 1996)

Against Transgender Bathroom Choice. Ron Wright strongly disagrees that people should be allowed to use public restrooms based on “gender identity.” (iVoterGuide.com)

Is Our Children Learning?

If elected to Congress, Ron Wright will seemingly do anything he can to strip federal government power over education and mitigate union involvement. Specifically, he said he would put the Department of Education on the chopping block. More than 20 years ago, he had harsh words for the National Education Association, blasting them for proposing a Gay and Lesbian History month and using “revisionist” textbooks. Wright is an unabashed supporter of school vouchers and homeschooling. He opposes guaranteed free tuition at public colleges and universities.

Ron Wright was also a founding board member of Arlington Classics Academy, the first proposed charter school in the city, which had its initial application rejected in 1998 but was able to open its doors the following year.

Hostile Toward Public Schools, Unions

For Putting DOE on the Chopping Block. Ron Wright has said that if elected, he would put the Department of Education on the chopping block. (Corsicana Daily Sun, Apr. 11, 2018)

Critical of NEA for Wanting to Have Gay and Lesbian History Month, Among other Things. In a 1996 column, Ron Wright blasted the National Education Association, saying it was okay to blast the union without going after teachers.

Once again with feeling, allow me to set the record straight: Dole dislikes the powerful teachers unions, their liberal agenda and their public support of his opponent, President Clinton. But Bob Dole loves schoolteachers! There.

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America. This is the group that last year proposed a Gay and Lesbian History Month in the public schools. And it applauded attempts to distort our nation's history with revisionist hash in textbooks and the ill-fated national standards. One has to stand in a long line to criticize these people. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 8, 1996)

For Less Government in Education, Supports School Vouchers. "In Congress, Ron will back legislation that maximizes government support for education and minimizes government interference with parental rights. Ron will fight for the autonomy of local school districts, the expansion of school vouchers, and the rights of parents to home school their children." (Wright4Congress.com)

Against Free College. Ron Wright strongly disagrees that tuition-free public education should be guaranteed through college. (iVoterGuide.com)

Endorsed by Home Schools Group. Ron Wright has been endorsed by the Texas Home School Coalition.

Thankful for the endorsement of Texas Home School Coalition. I will always stand with them to protect family rights and continue to expand the rights of parents to educate their children as they see fit!

"Ron Wright is the best choice for families in Texas Congressional District 6. He is committed to fighting for homeschooling and family rights, and we fully support his candidacy." - THSC [#backthebowtie](#) [#wright4congress](#) (Ron Wright for Congress, Apr. 22, 2018)

Board Member of First Proposed Arlington Charter School

1997: Wrote Column Promoting Proposed Charter School in Arlington. In 1997, Ron Wright wrote about the Arlington Classics Academy, the first proposed charter school in Arlington.

One of the most intriguing innovations in education in Texas in recent years has been the advent of charter schools. First created as part of a revision to the Texas Education Code in 1995, the program quickly proved to be successful and popular - so much so that the Legislature expanded it earlier this year. The number of charter schools allowed to operate in the state has been dramatically increased, including one that may soon be operating in Arlington.

If you are not familiar with the charter school concept, you will have the opportunity to learn more about it at 8 p.m. in the Northeast Branch Library's community room. Organizers of the proposed Arlington Classics Academy will hold a public hearing to discuss and entertain public comment on the charter application that the group plans to submit later this month to the Texas Education Agency.

...

Norred was attracted to the charter school concept because the establishing legislation frees them from many of the regulations and most of the standardized curriculum imposed on the public schools. In charter schools, teachers and administrators have greater latitude with subject matter and methodology.

...

Once its application is approved, ACA will operate as an open-enrollment charter school, one of three types allowed under the enabling legislation. Open-enrollment charter schools are public schools that operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Most are established by nonprofit organizations, universities or other government entities. Funding comes from the local school district in the form of a stipend equal to 95 percent of the annual expenditure that the district would spend if the students were enrolled in the traditional public school.

Although somewhat more relaxed than most public schools with regard to religion, the charter school may not be religious in nature



and may not have "chapel" or teacher-led prayer. Norred expects that the school will allow a moment of silence every morning.

...

If you have an interest in education and want to know more about the innovative trend called charter schools, or if you want to participate in establishing this one in Arlington, don't miss the presentation. It's one more way that innovation and decentralization are changing the educational landscape in Texas. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Dec. 7, 1997)

Was on Board of the School, Which He Did Not Mention in His Column. Ron Wright was on the board of Arlington Classics at the time, which he did not mention in his column. (Arlington Classics Academy Charter Application, [Jul. 22, 1998](#))

A prominent group of local leaders will request the state's blessing for the city's first charter school, which would be called the Arlington Classics Academy.

...

On board are: Dr. Wayne Duke, vice president for student affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington; Tarrant County Criminal District Judge Sharen Wilson; Brian Eastin, a candidate for justice of the peace, Precinct 2, a political adviser and on leave as the executive director of the Tarrant County Republican Party; Byron Reed, vice president of Wells Fargo Bank, chapter president of 100 Black Men of America and former Arlington City Council candidate who lost to incumbent Wayne Ogle; John Mauldin, co-chairman of Goal Arlington, which supported a sports arena in Arlington; Reji Puthenveetil, Young Life area director and member of Fielder Road Baptist Church; businessman **Ron Wright**; and Jennifer Fryar. (Arlington Morning News, Dec. 10, 1997)

Arlington Classics Initially Rejected by State. In 1998, the State Board of Education turned down Arlington Classics' application to open a state-funded charter school.

The Arlington Classics Academy, which has state Rep. Kent Grusendorf and County Commissioner Marty VanRavenswaay on its board, lost out by one point in the scoring system.

The state board accepted the top 41 applicants, all of which had scores of 89 or higher on the subcommittee's scoring system. The subcommittee ranked Arlington Classics Academy 42nd with a score of 88.

"I am incensed by the arbitrary and capricious nature of the procedure," said Warren Norred, a local engineer and president of the academy. "I had no idea this was a numbers game. I thought they wanted quality. " Norred said he will ask the State Board of Education to reconsider the process at its May meeting. If not, Arlington Classics Academy will be forced to join two other Arlington applicants, Celebration Academy and William Arthur Locke Charter School, in trying again next year.

...

Nonetheless, Norred said he hasn't given up and will ask the board to consider those applicants that had a score of 85 or higher, which would bring in 12 additional schools, including a number that focus on at-risk students.

"If we don't get that, we may have to rethink our strategy," Norred said. "There's also the option of just opening a private school. " The Arlington Classics board includes **Ron Wright**, project manager for Ceramic Cooling Tower Inc. and an Arlington Star-Telegram columnist, and Wayne Duke, vice president of student affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington. The board has a letter of intent to buy a Montessori school building in 1999. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mar. 7, 1998)

School Established in 1999. The group applied again and was approved. In 1999, the school started with less than 200 students. It now has two campus locations and more than 1,300 students. ([Arlington Classics Academy](#))



Climate Change Denier

Ron Wright is a climate change denier, saying scientists predicted another ice age when he was in high school. However, he has also said that a balance should be struck between industry and the environment, though he opposes any additional regulations to prevent climate change.

Blows Off Climate Change Being Real. In Apr. 2018 statements, Ron Wright blew off climate change as a real thing, saying scientists predicted another ice age when he was in high school.

“I think we have to strike a balance and that’s what Joe tried to do. ... When I graduated from high school, they were predicting another ice age. ... Well that didn’t happen.”

We can have both. We can have clean water and clean air and robust industry.” (Texas Tribune, [Apr. 18, 2018](#))

Doesn’t Want Additional Regulations to Prevent Climate Change. Ron Wright answered, “Strongly disagree” to his opinion on “additional regulations are needed to prevent climate change.” ([iVoterGuide.com](#))

Inconsistent on Red Light Cameras

Though Ron Wright initially opposed red light cameras because of civil liberties concerns, he went on to become a huge advocate of them, as he was part of the Arlington City Council when they approved installing them and collecting fines.

On his change of mind, he said, “It’s OK to change your position on an issue over time when you become more informed and have additional information – that’s what intelligent people do” and that, “They’re saving lives, that’s the reason they’re here. ... if it was a net zero for the city, it would still be worth it to reduce accidents and death.”

However, once he became the county tax assessor-collector, he refused to block motor vehicle registration renewals for drivers who owed cities money for red light violations.

On the 2018 campaign trail, he is bragging about being the “tax assessor who said ‘no’ to [collecting] red-light camera tickets” and has been endorsed by a prominent local Tea Party figure who said that Wright “supported our efforts to remove red light cameras from Austin, Arlington, and Fort Worth, and has promised to promote a bill to remove them throughout the entire United States.”

Initially Opposed Red Light Cameras, Went on to Become Huge Advocate.

As a city councilman, Ron Wright initially opposed red light cameras, thinking they were a civil liberties infringement. However, he went on to become a huge advocate of them, saying public safety trumped those concerns.

Arlington Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** said he originally had a few problems with the cameras.

But when he heard that **Arlington** has had six fatalities and 1,508 collisions resulting from red-light runners since 2003, he changed his mind.

'Basically the public-safety concern overrides the civil libertarian concerns because of the number of accidents and deaths,' he said.

Annual city surveys show that residents consider running red lights a major problem.

'It's been a problem over the last few years, and the people are demanding we do something,' he said. 'If people don't like it, don't run red lights.' (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jun. 27, 2006)

Arlington Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** joined the City Council majority who voiced support this week for the police plan.

'The public safety need trumps the civil libertarian concerns,' he said.

'It's really easy to be a purist when you have no responsibility.' (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 25, 2006)

'It's OK to change your position on an issue over time when you become more informed and have additional information -- that's what intelligent people do.' (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 25, 2006)

Arlington officials say their red-light camera program is meeting revenue expectations and making city streets safer. The city collected \$601,032 from 14,404 citations generated by the cameras from June through December. That sum factors in the amount sent to the state.

...

'They're saving lives, that's the reason they're here,' Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** said. 'If it was a net zero for the city, it would still be worth it to reduce accidents and death.'

Wright said it would be unwise for Dallas to back off on the program because the revenue was less than anticipated.

'To stop it because they're not getting enough revenue -- they should be jumping for joy that they're doing what they're designed to do,' he said. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Apr. 7, 2008)

Arlington City Councilman **Ron Wright** said the cameras cut down on accidents from red-light runners and that saving lives trumps any concerns about civil liberties. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Nov. 28, 2007)

2006; Voted to Hire Collection Agency to Collect Outstanding City Fines and Fees. In 2006, Ron Wright backed hiring a collection agency to help collect \$16 million in outstanding fines and fees.

'These fines are imposed for breaking the law. If they are not paying the fines, they are not being punished,' Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** said. 'We want people to know if they violate the law in **Arlington**, they will be punished and we will go after them to collect.'

...

The city wants to contract with Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, which it has used since 1990 to collect delinquent property taxes. If the firm is hired, outstanding fines would increase 15 to 30 percent to cover the agency's collection fees, Byrd said. For example, a \$175 speeding ticket issued after June 18, 2003, would increase 30 percent to \$227. Tickets issued before that 2003 date would increase by only 15 percent under the proposed contract. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Apr. 22, 2006)

2014: Refused to Block Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals for Drivers Who Owed Cities Money for Red-Light Violations. Ron Wright refused to block motor vehicle registration renewals for drivers who owed cities money for red light violations.

With unpaid fines topping \$2.5 million, **Arlington** had hoped to reach a deal this year with **Wright's** office to begin withholding vehicle registrations from scofflaws. The **Arlington** City Council voted in May on proposed agreements to pay the county \$5.24 for every delinquent fine that was cleared.

But **Wright** ultimately rejected the proposal this summer. **Fort Worth** and a handful of other **Tarrant** County cities were interested in the same arrangement, he said.

"The longer we looked at it and the more people I talked to here at the county, the less desirable it was. The downside for the county was much greater than the upside," said **Wright**, adding that his clerks would have to notify residents why they couldn't get a registration and then help them again on a second visit once the fine was paid. "It's a controversial issue. It's going to remain controversial."

...

While a state law implemented in 2009 has allowed tax assessors to enforce that hold, they don't have to.

"Other counties apparently can do it without a whole lot of controversy. Our politics are more conservative," **Wright** said.

...

Wright said he expects renewed efforts to eliminate red-light cameras during the next session of the Legislature. Either way, he said, the county will not take on the added responsibility of helping cities collect their unpaid red-light fines as long as he's tax assessor-collector.

"There will always be resistance to turning law enforcement over to a machine," he said. "That is always going to be an issue for Americans and Texans in particular. There is a healthy skepticism of government anyways. It's part of our heritage." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 8, 2014)

- **Rejected a Deal to Take \$5.24 from City of Arlington for Every Delinquent Red-Light Camera Fine it Collected.** In 2014, the Arlington City Council agreed to a deal where it would pay Tarrant County \$5.24 for every delinquent fine cleared by Ron Wright's office. Wright rejected the deal. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Oct. 6, 2014)

Bragging about Refusal to Collect Red-Light Camera Tickets on the Campaign Trail. On the campaign trail, Ron Wright has said, "I'm the tax assessor who said 'no' to [collecting] red-light camera tickets." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jan. 20, 2018)

Endorsed by Tea Party Because of Promise to Remove Red Light Cameras throughout Country. Kelly Cannon, Vice President of the Arlington Tea Party, a Tarrant County GOP Precinct Chair, said of Ron Wright, "He has also supported our efforts to remove red light cameras from Austin, Arlington, and Fort Worth, and has promised to promote a bill to remove them throughout the entire United States. I support Ron because of all he has done in past for people of Texas. Ron Wright has more than proven his salt." (TeaPartyExpress.org)



Tarrant County Tax Collector Issues

Ron Wright had a pretty smooth tenure as the Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector, though it wasn't completely free of controversy.

Wright was chosen for the job despite not having any qualifications, namely an academic degree or professional certification. Instead, he was chosen by Republicans because of his ability to get elected.

Once on the job, Wright has butted heads with a few other agencies. In 2016, the county had to issue more than \$7 million in refunds over botched property tax collections, a problem Ron Wright blamed squarely on the Tarrant County Appraisal District, which had a software problem. He also sued a car dealership for not paying penalties for failing to file vehicle inventory reports despite saying he didn't agree with the law or the penalties.

Chosen to Be Tax Assessor-Collector for Political Reasons; Had No Credentials. In 2011, Ron Wright was chosen to replace Betsy Price as the county tax assessor-collector despite having no qualifications for the job.

The **Tarrant** County Commissioners Court's choice of a new tax assessor-collector was an act of pure politics.

Identifying the most experienced business manager or degreed professional or licensed CPA from among the 57 applicants wasn't what drove the process; electability in 2012 did.

Republican **Ron Wright** was sworn in May 20 to complete the unexpired term of Betsy Price, who faces attorney Jim Lane in a June 18 runoff election for **Fort Worth** mayor.

Wright may well turn out to be an excellent tax assessor-collector. But it wasn't academic degrees (**Wright** doesn't have one), professional certifications (none were listed on **Wright's** application) or a long track record of owning and operating a business that made the **Arlington** resident the ideal candidate for court appointment.

...

'We deemed it was important that whoever we appointed could be elected by the voters,' Nguyen said. 'If **Ron Wright** gets elected, it would affirm that we have made the right decision.' (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, May 29, 2011)

Squabbled with Appraisal District over Botched Property Tax Overcollections. In 2016, Tarrant County had to issue more than \$7 million in refunds over botched property tax collections, a problem Ron Wright blamed squarely on the Tarrant County Appraisal District, which had a software problem.

First, they had to deal with \$7 million in botched property tax overcollections owed taxpayers as refunds, most to be repaid later by cities or school districts.

The **Tarrant** Appraisal District, a separate agency, blames us. The chief says we filed too many taxpayer protests.

County Tax Assessor-Collector **Ron Wright**, an **Arlington** Republican up for re-election Nov. 8, blames the appraisal district along with its failed software upgrade.

Both **Wright** and commissioners griped about TV headlines such as '**Tarrant** County Owes \$9 Million' that reported a 'Cash-Flow Problem.'

But **Wright** had used those exact words in an interview.

Brooks told him to always ask commissioners first about a budget matter: 'If someone had come to us and asked ... before going to the press we could have avoided all of the misrepresentations. The court should be the one to decide.'

For his part, **Wright** said the news reports had 'thrown a spotlight on this problem at the appraisal district, and that's where the problem is.' (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 20, 2016)

County officials blame the refund snafus on TAD's software problems in April. TAD generally sends supplemental tax roll changes to the tax-assessor's office monthly, with changes ranging from homes being sold to new owners, property increasing in value, and property owners requesting new exemptions.

Typically, the county will get changes on a few thousand accounts.

But the tax assessor-collector's office did not get a supplemental roll in May, then received three in June before getting one that was usable, according to a letter that **Wright** sent to taxing entities this month. All that led to a supplemental report with more than 80,000 changes and 5,100 refunds totaling \$8.7 million.

...

TAD Chief Appraiser Jeff Law has said that the refunds are not related to software problems but to the higher volume of exemption requests and a bigger number of tax protests.

To avoid paying interest on the refunds, **Wright** must pay taxpayers within 60 days of getting a certified roll. So far, he has been able to do so.

'We're making a lot of progress here,' **Wright** said. 'We've been paying the refunds from the start.' (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 16, 2016)

- **Threatened to Suspend Allocations to Local Tax Entities Until Refunds Were Complete.** Ron Wright said he would suspend allocations to local taxing entities until the refunds were complete.

That's not good, because cities, school districts and the county itself need tax revenue to pay their own bills. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 31, 2016)

- **Squabbled with County Officials Over \$1 Million Tax Refund Owed to GM.** In 2016, county officials squabbled with Ron Wright over quickly issuing a \$1 million tax refund to GM, which employs thousands of individuals in Tarrant County. Ron Wright said he would wait to issue refunds to individuals before corporations.

Wright also said he has held back a \$1 million refund to General Motors but told commissioners it would be paid on time. GM makes sport-utility vehicles at its **Arlington** assembly plant, which employs about 4,200 workers. GM also employs 3,700 workers at its GM Financial unit, based in downtown **Fort Worth** and also has an **Arlington** campus.

Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley urged **Wright** to send the refund to the automotive giant with the new influx of funds.

'I would get it out,' Whitley said.

After the meeting, **Wright** said that 'people come before corporations' and that he would issue refunds to individuals before sending the check to GM. **Wright** said he would meet the Oct. 19 deadline to issue the refund to GM.

Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Brooks said commissioners should be the ones to determine if 'we're going to cut off the spigot' and not have to read about it in news reports.' I sent you the email before it went to the taxing entities, but I understand what you're saying,' **Wright** said.

The next round of tax bills generating revenue won't be sent out until Oct. 1. **Wright** said there should be enough residents paying taxes early to reimburse the county by the end of that month.

The idea for floating the money came from county commissioners, but **Wright** said he hopes it doesn't happen again anytime soon.

'Generally speaking, this is not a good idea,' **Wright** said. 'It's setting a precedent of the county fronting the money for other taxing entities. We're essentially loaning money to the taxing entities.' (Citation)

Sued Car Dealership over Not Filing Required Reports Despite Calling Penalties “Egregious.” In 2016, Ron Wright's office filed a lawsuit against Park Place Maserati after the dealership didn't file required mandatory state motor vehicle inventory statements for a few months in 2014, which meant a \$500 per month penalty per report. In Aug. 2016. The lawsuit was settled for \$86,000. Ron Wright said he didn't like the laws or the penalties.

Wright had sued the dealership for not filing mandatory state motor vehicle inventory statements for several months in 2014. The business shut down and merged with its store in Dallas. **Wright** stressed that the lawsuit was over a reporting violation and that the dealership did not owe money on its inventory.

But the penalties for not filing the reports -- \$500 a month per report -- were 'onerous,' **Wright** said. The tax collector uses the inventory tax statement to assess and calculate taxes, prepare tax bills and collect the proper amount of taxes owed by dealers on the sale of motor vehicles.

Within a week of the lawsuit being filed, Park Place settled the dispute by paying \$86,000, and the lawsuit was dropped, **Wright** said.

While saying he doesn't like the vehicle inventory reporting laws and calling the penalties for not filing properly 'egregious,' **Wright** said it's still the law.

'I'd like to see them lowered, but they are the law and I have to comply with the law,' **Wright** said. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Oct. 10, 2016)

The penalties for not filing the reports -- \$500 a month per report -- are 'onerous,' **Wright** admits. The dealership could owe up to \$99,000 in fines, penalties and attorneys fees, when compounded, if the issue is not settled by the end of the year, according to court documents.

'I don't like it, personally, but the law doesn't give you any discretion. I can't say, 'I'm going to ignore it,' ' **Wright** said. 'They know the law and they have to comply.'

Wright stressed that the lawsuit is simply over a reporting violation and that the dealership does not owe money on its inventory of vehicles. The prices of the cars ranged up to \$130,000. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 2, 2016)

Flip-Flop on Term Limit Pledge

In Jan. 2018, Ron Wright promised to serve no more than four terms in Congress, though he also refused to sign a term limits pledge. One day before his primary runoff in May 2018, he signed the pledge.

FLIP: Against Signing Term Limits Pledge. In Jan. 2018, Ron Wright has said that he will serve no more than four terms if elected to Congress, though will not sign a term limits pledge.

Ron Wright, a Tarrant County Republican who is running to replace Rep. Joe Barton, who decided not to seek re-election in 2018 after nude selfies of the longtime lawmaker surfaced last year, said he's "very sympathetic" to term limits.

Wright noted that incumbency is in many ways undergirded by tax-funds: constituent newsletters for example. In Congress, 97 percent of those who ran for re-election in 2016 won another term.

"If you have someone who's been a representative or a senator for 20 or 30 years they have a sort of political lock," Wright said. "Quite often a member has to be defeated by the other party for there to be a change."

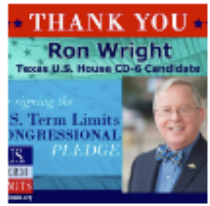
Wright has publicly said he'll serve no more than four terms if elected but won't sign the U.S. Term Limits pledge, barring a change. He wants the amount of time both U.S. senators and House members serve to be equal — 12 years for both. "Why penalize a House member," Wright said. "It's good to have fresh blood but at the same time we have to be careful we don't cut off our nose to spite our face." (Cleburne Times-Review, Jan. 9, 2018)

FLOP: Signed Pledge in May. In May 2018, Ron Wright signed the term limits pledge. (Ron Wright Twitter)



Ron Wright ✓ @ron4congress · May 21

A very important part of commitment to serving is committing to returning home.



U.S. Term Limits @USTermLimits

Thank you Ron Wright @ron4congress for signing the congressional term limits pledge. [termlimits.com/wp-content/upl...](https://termlimits.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/052115-RonWright-CD6.jpg)

#TermLimits



Federal Issues Miscellany

On federal issues, Ron Wright:

- Opposes a living wage,
- Supported the president's decision to withdraw from the Iran deal,
- Thinks the United States should protect its sovereignty from the UN,
- Thinks the best way to maintain peace is through a strong military, and
- Supports the death penalty.

Against a Living Wage. Ron Wright strongly disagrees that it is the government's responsibility to be sure everyone has a livable income. (iVoterGuide.com)

Supported Decision to Withdraw from Iran Deal. Ron Wright strongly supported President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran deal.

I commend Pres. Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran Deal. This deal was fatally flawed from the start. The United States & the free world will only exist in peace and security if we operate from a position of strength. Another Obama decision bites the dust!
[#IranNukeDeal](#) (Ron Wright Twitter, [May 8, 2018](#))

For Defending Israel. Ron Wright answered "strongly agree" to the statement, "The United States should help defend Israel from attack by its enemies." (iVoterGuide.com)

For Protecting Sovereignty from UN. Ron Wright strongly agrees with the statement, "The United States should protect its sovereignty from the United Nations." (iVoterGuide.com)

Best Way to Maintain Peace is Through a Strong Military. Ron Wright strongly agrees with the statement, "The best way to maintain peace is through a strong military." (iVoterGuide.com)

Supports the Death Penalty. Ron Wright strongly supports the death penalty. (iVoterGuide.com)

Local Issues Miscellany

While in Arlington, Ron Wright:

- Advocated for natural gas drilling on city-owned land,
 - Pushed for a full-time city lobbyist job,
 - Voted to stop work on a juvenile curfew ordinance, citing costs,
 - Supported an abstinence education grant,
 - Supported cutting funding for the theater and art museum in Arlington, and
 - Voted against raising the minimum square footage size on new homes in the city to 1,500 square feet of living space.
-

For Gas Well Drilling in Arlington. Ron Wright was a big advocate of natural gas drilling in the City of Arlington.

The City Council hopes to swell the municipal bank accounts by leasing oil-and-gas interests on about 1,900 acres in the far north and south of the city.

The council plans to vote Tuesday to begin the bid process, and members say they hope to see drilling begin by year's end.

Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** has been working for the past several years to advance the drilling measure as the city has struggled with shortfalls and a lean budget for 2006.

'Based on what other cities have done, it's going to have a significant increase on revenues without raising taxes,' **Wright** said. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Jan. 21, 2006)

'It's going to mean millions of dollars in revenue, now and in the future, to enhance our quality of life,' said **Arlington** City Councilman **Ron Wright**, an advocate for the city's natural gas well drilling program.

Arlington is fortunate to sit on the eastern edge of the natural-gas bearing Barnett Shale, Texas' largest natural gas field, he said.

...

The city has already received about \$29.5 million for drilling rights. **Arlington** will also receive royalty payments of a little more than one-quarter of the value of the gas that is extracted over the life of the well.

Earlier this month, the City Council created a nonprofit foundation, called the **Arlington** Tomorrow Foundation, to manage a multimillion-dollar endowment funded by gas-well revenues.

Instead of spending millions on one-time expenses, the council decided to invest most of the money. Interest income will be spent on **Arlington's** libraries, arts groups, parks and neighborhood groups. The municipal airport, animal services and historical preservation are also included in the list of recipients. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Nov. 28, 2006)

Water used in drilling natural gas wells shouldn't be a big concern for residents, city leaders said Monday at the **Arlington** League of Women Voters gas well forum.

Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** and Community Services Director Lee Hitchcock fielded residents' questions, which mainly concerned water use. A third panel member, Georgia Kidwell, was absent.

Wright, who has long advocated gas well drilling, said problems that have occurred in other counties, such as Parker, where wells have run dry, wouldn't occur here.

'If we were using water from the aquifer, that could be a problem,' he said. 'But all our water comes from the **Tarrant** County Water District,' which draws from lakes and reservoirs. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 12, 2006)

Pushed for Full-Time City Lobbyist Job. In 2006, Ron Wright was one of the main backers behind creating Arlington's first full-time city lobbyist job, which paid \$82,000 per year. The city hired Amy Fitzgerald.

City Councilwoman Kathryn Wilemon said Fitzgerald has already helped her on rail and highway transportation issues. Wilemon, along with Councilman **Ron Wright**, pushed for the creation of the government-relations job.

'She has the credentials, the background and will be of great benefit,' **Wright** said. 'We have never had anybody who could work all levels

of government for us year round.' (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 17, 2006)

"It's obvious that so much that happens in Austin and D.C. affects us," he said. "We need a government affairs person who works here." Wright said most large cities have such a position, including Dallas and Fort Worth.

"We're not talking about a whole lot of money here," he said. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sep. 6, 2005)

Voted to Stop Work on Juvenile Curfew, Citing Costs. In 2006, Ron Wright voted to stop work on writing an ordinance for a juvenile curfew in Arlington, citing the cost to the police budget.

Mayor Pro Tem **Ron Wright** was among those who voted Tuesday to stop work on writing an ordinance, which would have been modeled on the Dallas curfew. Other area cities including Grand Prairie, Irving, **Fort Worth** and North Richland Hills have them. 'I don't want us deciding which police department services we want to cut. I will not support the curfew, not for a million-dollar hit to the budget,' **Wright** said.

Larry Roberts, the Colonial Estates community watch coordinator, said he feels the council's decision Tuesday conflicts with what residents want. He said his home has been egged at least four times this year, and his southeast **Arlington** neighborhood has suffered many petty crimes he suspects were committed by juveniles.

'I am surprised by the decision. Most of the cities around us got it,' Roberts said. 'This is going to hurt the city.' (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Dec. 13, 2006)

Supportive of Abstinence Education Grant. In a 1997 column, Ron Wright praised a sex education grant obtained by the Arlington Coalition for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention for abstinence education.

Efforts to increase sexual abstinence among Arlington youth and reduce teen pregnancy just got a big boost. Members of the Arlington Coalition for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention have learned that their application for a \$361,649 Abstinence Education Grant has



been approved by the Texas Department of Health. Money from the grant should start flowing to Arlington soon after the first of the year.

...

Credit Don Kromer of the Arlington Boys and Girls Club, Susan Herman of Arlington Youth Services, Ann Allsbury at the Parenting Center, and Sylvia Nichols at the Arlington school district for getting things started. The group brought together nonprofit organizations, youth service groups and government agencies to discuss ways to work together in a cooperative, comprehensive way to address issues related to teen pregnancy. The coalition was formed and working when the Department of Health announced the grant program.

The grant will fund the creation and implementation of a "demonstration model" that will show that when surrounded by a common message - the same message given consistently and often by schools, youth organizations and churches - the young will be more likely to abstain from sex. The program goes beyond the old concepts of sex and sexuality education by promoting overall wellness, giving youth a sense of expectation, and focusing on life skills.

The program will be implemented in the Sam Houston cluster (Sam Houston High School and its feeder schools) because of the higher incidence rate there and will include the following components: Arlington Youth Services will provide a highly successful after-school program, "Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy," developed by Girls Inc. The Boys and Girls Club will provide their national after-school program, "Smart Moves. " Big Brothers Big Sisters will provide additional case management in the targeted area and an additional 50 matches with mentors. Center Street Counseling as well as Family Services (Welcome House) will provide facilitators and counselors in the seventh through ninth grades for the Arlington district's "Teen Outreach Project. " Center Street also will approach churches in the Sam Houston cluster area to conduct seminars and counseling in the churches.

The Parenting Center will provide parenting education for parents with children in the cluster's elementary and junior high schools, including ways to communicate effectively with children about sex.

The Junior League will provide volunteers.



The Women's Shelter will teach a violence prevention component and ensure that clients receive abstinence education. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Dec. 14, 1997)

For Cutting Funding for Theater, Art Museum. In 2001, Ron Wright led the charge to make small cuts to what he called arts "entitlements."

Newly elected City Councilman **Ron Wright** initiated the proposed change to reduce what he called arts "entitlements."

Wright heads the council's Social Capital Committee. The committee recently voted to trim \$6,000 each from Theatre Arlington and the Arlington Museum of Art in the 2000-01 grants recommended by the Arts Grant Review Board. The board is charged with recommending who gets what in the Arlington arts community. Based on a written policy, the museum, Theatre Arlington and Creative Arts Theatre & School split 55 percent of the arts grants equally.

...

Wright said last week that he wants to cut the funds from Theatre Arlington and the museum to give the struggling Arlington Symphony Orchestra \$12,000. The symphony last year ended its relationship with founding conductor Mary Roussel and performed only one of the three concerts it had contracted for with the city the previous year.

...

Stovall said Friday that the orchestra will present a full season regardless of whether the city grants the \$12,000. But Wright calls giving the group no city funding "an egregious error."

Some arts administrators, however, said it is the proposal to cut the money from other organizations that is wrong.

"In my opinion that is setting a very dangerous precedent," Switzer said. "To waver from that criteria is a very dangerous thing to do." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Aug. 1, 2000)

Against Raising Minimum Square Footage Size on Arlington Homes. In Nov. 2002, the Arlington City Council PASSED (6-3) new housing standards that required new homes to have at least 1,500 square feet of living space.

Council members Wayne Ogle, Steve McCollum and **Ron Wright** voted against the proposal. The three council members favored



allowing developers to obtain permits to build 15 percent of the houses in their subdivisions at less than 1,500 feet. (Dallas Morning News, Nov. 8, 2002)