Dock Line Republican Primary Scorecard

As part of our ongoing commitment to investigative clarity and civic responsibility, Dock Line evaluated Republican primary candidates using a consistent standard built on three core principles: Truth, Transparency, and Accountability. Each candidate below is marked according to documented public record, verified reporting, and campaign conduct.

What the Check Marks Mean

• ✓ Truth — Public statements align with documented record. No verified pattern of materially misleading claims or unresolved credibility issues in mainstream reporting.

• ✓ Transparency — Willingness to answer questions publicly, maintain a visible platform, engage in Q&A coverage, and address controversy directly when it arises.

• ✓ Accountability — When faced with scrutiny, investigation, controversy, or error, the candidate engaged the process openly and did not evade legal, ethical, or institutional review. Resolution matters.

• ✓✓✓ — Candidate met all three standards based on currently available public record.

Montgomery County

County Judge

Mark Keough

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Keough is currently involved in active litigation that includes serious allegations and counter-allegations. Rather than avoiding scrutiny, he has addressed the matter directly through formal legal filings and public statements, allowing the process to unfold transparently. Regarding his prior DWI, Keough pleaded guilty, accepted responsibility, and did not attempt to deflect blame. He has publicly acknowledged the incident and discussed the circumstances, including the involvement of prescribed Ambien, while accepting the legal consequences.

Wayne Mack

✓ **Transparency**

Mack has maintained a visible campaign presence and engages publicly, which supports a Transparency mark. However, elements of the current campaign have included aggressive personal attacks and messaging that critics argue mischaracterizes opponents. Additionally, after referencing personal matters in campaign communication, subsequent clarification regarding his divorce history has been viewed by some voters as incomplete or inconsistent.

County Commissioner – Precinct 2

Charlie Riley

✓ **Transparency**

Riley maintains a visible public presence and participates in campaign activity, which supports a Transparency mark even with his inability to answer questions completely. Several public statements have been criticized as incomplete or selectively framed. Multiple constituents have reported being blocked or having comments removed from campaign social media pages after expressing disagreement. Critics argue broader political accountability for policy shortcomings has not been clearly demonstrated.

Bob Harvey

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Harvey has conducted a campaign focused on policy substance rather than personal attacks, maintaining a consistent and disciplined message centered on fiscal oversight, infrastructure planning, and open government. His rhetoric has emphasized responsibility and ownership, including a willingness to address difficult questions directly rather than deflecting criticism. No verified ethics concerns or adverse legal findings surfaced in this review.

Justice of the Peace – Precinct 1

Brian Luly

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Public campaign platform and no verified adverse ethics findings identified.

Scott Carson

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Public campaign presence and no verified adverse ethics findings identified.

William Waggoner

✓ **Transparency**

Recent arrest on DWI and unlawful weapon charges remains a serious pending matter. Until full legal disposition and public accountability are clear, Accountability and Truth marks cannot be awarded.

Justice of the Peace – Precinct 3

Jay Mac Sanders

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

No verified disciplinary findings surfaced. Active public campaign engagement.

Brittany Gable-Hale

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Public platform presence and no verified adverse ethics findings identified.

Justice of the Peace – Precinct 5

Ashton Hedrick

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Public platform presence and no verified disciplinary findings identified.

Billy Masden

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Masden has maintained a consistent and issue-focused campaign centered on judicial temperament, professionalism, and service to the community. His public messaging has avoided personal attacks and remained aligned with the role and responsibilities of the office he is seeking. No verified ethics violations, disciplinary findings, or adverse legal matters surfaced in this review.

Montgomery County Republican Party Chair

Scott Baker

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Baker has maintained a visible leadership presence within the county party and has aligned public messaging with documented party operations and organizational priorities. No verified ethics violations or disciplinary findings surfaced in this review.

Gwen Winthrow

✓✓ **Transparency • Accountability**

Winthrow has presented a reform-focused campaign centered on internal party direction and grassroots engagement. No verified ethics violations surfaced in this review. Ongoing disputes regarding internal party narratives and contested characterizations prevent awarding a full Truth mark at this time.

Texas & Federal (On Ballot)

United States Senate – Texas (Republican Primary)

John Cornyn

✓✓ **Transparency • Accountability**

Long public record and institutional process. Critics argue positions have shifted over time on certain policy matters, preventing a full Truth mark.

Ken Paxton

✓ **Accountability**

Significant legal and political controversy. Willingness to allow formal processes to conclude weighs toward accountability. Repeated investigations prevent Truth and Transparency marks.

Wesley Hunt

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Clear platform aligned with legislative record. Active engagement. Voting record accessible and subject to scrutiny.

Gulrez "Gus" Khan

✓ **Truth**

Limited public record and campaign footprint. Minimal documented engagement and limited policy depth prevent full Transparency and Accountability.

John O. Adefope

✓ **Truth**

No verified adverse findings noted. Visibility and engagement are limited.

Virgil John Bierschwale

✓ **Truth**

No verified adverse findings noted. Limited statewide infrastructure and engagement.

Anna Bender

✓ **Truth**

No verified adverse findings noted. Public engagement and policy depth limited relative to major contenders.

Sara Canady

✓ **Truth**

No verified adverse findings noted. Limited public campaign engagement.

United States House – Texas District 8

Brett Jenson

✓ **Transparency**

Jenson has maintained a visible campaign presence and engaged publicly on policy issues. However, elements of his campaign messaging have included pointed attacks on opponents that critics argue selectively frame or oversimplify positions. Under Dock Line's Truth • Transparency • Accountability standard, the use of rhetoric characterized as half-truth or attack-driven messaging prevents awarding a Truth mark at this time. No verified ethics sanctions or criminal findings surfaced in this review; however, campaign conduct concerns prevent additional marks beyond Transparency.

Jay Fondren

✓ **Transparency**

Policy priorities and local engagement; limited record makes full Truth and Accountability premature.

Stephen Long

✓ **Truth**

Fiscal conservatism message; limited visibility/engagement prevents additional marks.

Jessica Steinmann

✓✓ **Transparency • Accountability**

High-profile campaign and engagement; limited long-term public record prevents full Truth.

Nick Tran

✓ **Truth**

Publicly active; limited policy depth and fewer high-value forums prevent full marks.

Deddrick Wilmer

✓✓ **Transparency • Accountability**

Substantive engagement highlighted; absence of longer public record prevents full Truth.

Texas Commissioner of Agriculture

Sid Miller

✓✓ **Transparency • Accountability**

Visible public presence; recurring controversies and ethics scrutiny prevent full Truth mark.

Nate Sheets

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Policy-focused campaign, clear positions and public engagement; no noted sanctions; earns all three.

Texas Attorney General

Chip Roy

✓ **Transparency**

Clear positions and engagement; critics argue polarizing/selective framing prevents more than Transparency.

Mayes Middleton

✓✓ **Truth • Transparency**

Consistent messaging and visible campaign; limited tested accountability prevents third mark.

Aaron Reitz

✓ **Truth**

Documented legal background; limited statewide visibility prevents additional marks.

Joan Huffman

✓✓ **Transparency • Accountability**

Extensive public record; tenure supports accountability; full Truth not awarded here.

Comptroller of Public Accounts – Texas

Don Huffines

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Consistent fiscal message; detailed positions; long public record; earns all three.

Christi Craddick

✓✓ **Transparency • Accountability**

Established record and accountability through office; messaging disputes prevent full Truth.

Kelly Hancock

✓✓ **Transparency • Accountability**

Senate record and engagement; policy shift disputes prevent full Truth.

Michael Berlanga

✓ Truth

Professional experience; limited statewide visibility prevents additional marks.

Railroad Commissioner – Texas

Jim Wright

✓✓ Transparency • Accountability

Public record through regulatory votes; critics question enforcement consistency; no full Truth.

Hawk Dunlap

✓ Truth

Industry reform messaging; limited exposure prevents additional marks.

Katherine Culbert

✓✓✓ Truth • Transparency • Accountability

Policy-centered campaign; engagement and no noted sanctions; earns all three.

Bo French

✓ Transparency

Active presence; controversy history and combative tone prevents full Truth and Accountability.

James (Jim) Matlock

✓ Truth

Energy background; limited exposure prevents additional marks.

U.S. Representative – District 2 (Texas)

Dan Crenshaw

✓✓ Transparency • Accountability

Extensive record and visibility; disputes about messaging shifts prevent full Truth.

Steve Toth

✓✓✓ Truth • Transparency • Accountability

Alignment between statements and voting record; active engagement; earns all three.

N. Lee Plumb

✓ Truth

Business platform; limited policy record/forums prevent additional marks.

Martin Etwop

✓ Truth

Public presence; limited record/forums prevent additional marks.

Governor – Texas

Greg Abbott

✓✓ Transparency • Accountability

Long record and scrutiny support Transparency/Accountability; outcomes vs promises debate prevents Truth.

Kenneth Hyde

✓ Truth

No widely documented sanctions noted; limited visibility prevents additional marks.

Mark V. Goloby

✓ Truth

No disqualifiers noted; limited engagement prevents additional marks.

Evelyn Brooks

✓ Truth

No disqualifiers noted; limited footprint prevents additional marks.

Pete "Doc" Chambers

✓✓ Truth • Transparency

Clear platform and visible engagement; limited executive record prevents third mark.

Charles Andrew Crouch

✓ Truth

No disqualifiers noted; limited engagement prevents additional marks.

R.F. "Bob" Achgill

✓ Truth

No disqualifiers noted; limited visibility prevents additional marks.

Ronnie Tullos

✓ Truth

No disqualifiers noted; limited visibility prevents additional marks.

Arturo Espinosa

✓ Truth

No disqualifiers noted; limited engagement prevents additional marks.

Nathaniel Welch

✓ Truth

No disqualifiers noted; limited visibility prevents additional marks.

Stephen Samuelson

✓ Truth

No disqualifiers noted; limited engagement prevents additional marks.

Lieutenant Governor – Texas

Dan Patrick

✓✓ Transparency • Accountability

Measurable record supports Transparency/Accountability; disputes over messaging vs outcomes prevent Truth.

Perla Muñoz Hopkins

✓ Truth

No disqualifiers noted; limited visibility prevents additional marks.

Timothy Mabry

✓ Truth

No disqualifiers noted; limited visibility prevents additional marks.

Esala Wueschner

✓ Truth

No disqualifiers noted; limited engagement prevents additional marks.

Texas District Judge – 359th Judicial District

Michael H. Ghutzman

✓✓✓ Truth • Transparency • Accountability

Documented judicial record subject to oversight; no noted sanctions; earns all three.

Jo Ann Linzer

✓✓✓ Truth • Transparency • Accountability

Qualifications-focused campaign; no noted sanctions; earns all three.

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals – Place 9

John Messenger

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Qualifications-focused campaign; no noted sanctions; earns all three.

Jennifer Balido

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Professional campaign conduct; no noted sanctions; earns all three.

Member, State Board of Education – District 6

Tiffany Nelson

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Clear education priorities and engagement; no noted sanctions; earns all three.

Barbara Denson

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Defined platform and conduct; no noted sanctions; earns all three.

Member, State Board of Education – District 8

Audrey Young

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Outlined policy positions and consistent engagement; no noted sanctions; earns all three.

George Brian Vachris

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Clear platform and engagement; no noted sanctions; earns all three.

State Senator – District 4

Charlie Miller

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Consistent platform and engagement; no noted sanctions; earns all three.

Brett W. Ligon

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Established background and clear priorities; no noted sanctions; earns all three.

State Representative – District 3

Cecil Bell, Jr.

✓✓ **Transparency • Accountability**

Voting record and tenure provide accountability; campaign conduct concerns prevent Truth.

Kristen Plaisance

✓✓ **Transparency • Accountability**

Platform and engagement noted; campaign conduct concerns prevent Truth.

State Representative – District 16

Jon Bouche

✓✓ **Transparency • Accountability**

Visible engagement and positions; campaign conduct concerns prevent Truth.

Will Metcalf

✓✓✓ **Truth • Transparency • Accountability**

Extensive legislative record and continuity; earns all three.

Editorial Note

This scorecard reflects publicly available information at the time of publication. If new verified information emerges — positive or negative — Dock Line will update this assessment. Our standard is simple: Truth in record. Transparency in conduct. Accountability in scrutiny. That is the bar.