



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, March 17, 2014

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Patrick Cancels His Participation at Closed Door Debate

HOUSTON – Dan Patrick, Texas State Senator and the authentic conservative candidate for Lieutenant Governor, today informed the “C” Club of Houston that he was cancelling his participation in their debate scheduled for Tuesday, March 18.

“I appreciate the “C” Club as an organization, and their members individually. I have had the pleasure of addressing this organization as their luncheon speaker in the past, and hope to have that same opportunity again,” said Dan Patrick. “But debates among major candidates for statewide office are simply not done in private.

“I have made speeches all across Texas, and more often than not, they are not open to the press. That being said, I have never participated in a debate that was closed,” Patrick said.

“Debates are a terrific opportunity for candidates to flesh out their positions on major public policy topics and play a key role in informing voters,” added Allen Blakemore, Patrick’s Senior Strategist.

“If any private organization wants to conduct their meetings in private they are well within their rights. Speeches and other presentations are often conducted in private, however debates are not.

“I believe that this was to be the “C” Club’s very first debate. When the Patrick Campaign accepted the invitation, we failed to discuss the ground rules for press access. I accept responsibility for that failure.

“We appreciate and respect the “C” Club’s rules and customs. However, at a minimum we were hopeful a pool-reporter would be allowed. Given the position of the “C” Club, we regret that we must decline the opportunity to participate.

“The candidates for Lieutenant Governor have debated on scores of occasions and will undoubtedly do so again,” Blakemore concluded.

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