



Trump & Tinderholt: Same Divisive Style & Destructive Substance ***Tinderholt's history of division and obstruction***

Even before Donald Trump brought his dangerous incompetence and divisive approach to politics, Tony Tinderholt was practicing Trump's broken approach to politics and public office. Tinderholt first ran on a platform built on obstruction. Tinderholt was known for blowing up Arlington city council meetings and making Trump-like demeaning comments. Tump's time in office has only made Tinderholt worse.

Backed by some of the most divisive special interests in Texas, Tinderholt does the bidding of the Trump-wing of the Texas Republican Party in Austin. From working to block access to healthcare to dismantling Texas public schools, Tinderholt's approach puts radical special interests ahead of Arlington-area families who need a voice at the State Capitol.

No healthcare for working Texans or Texas women: Tony Tinderholt stays on the attack against affordable, accessible healthcare for the working families of Tarrant County. Tinderholt [supports overturning the Affordable Care Act](#) which provides protections for Texans with pre-existing conditions so they can access a doctor and prescription drugs. In office, Tinderholt has voted [against the expansion of healthcare for over 1 million Texans](#) and the [creation of thousands of good-paying healthcare jobs](#). Tinderholt has also worked to block access to healthcare for Texas women who support their families. Tinderholt filed legislation [that would impose the death penalty for women who had an abortion](#). Tinderholt even opposes reproductive healthcare choices [for women who are victims of rape and incest](#).¹

Failed COVID-19 approach: Tinderholt contracted COVID-19 and [continues to ignore the advice of public health professionals and local officials](#). Even before contracting COVID, Tinderholt called wearing masks "[tyranny](#)" and joined with ideologically driven lawmakers [to irresponsibly push for a reopening plan that was detrimental to the health of Texans and the economy](#).²

¹ [iVoterGuide 2014](#); [HB 1, Amendment 72 \(86R\) RV 107](#); [Texas Monthly, 1/16/2015](#); [NBC News, 4/10/2019](#); [HB 3994, Amendment 9 \(84R\) RV 1061](#)

² [Texas Tribune, 7/31/2020](#); [Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 6/27/2020](#); [Facebook](#)

Allowed a minor to drive drunk: Court documents reveal that while working as the manager of a bar, Tinderholt allowed an employee who had not yet reached the legal drinking age to be served to the point that records say he was a “[clear and present danger to himself and to others](#).” The lawsuit states that Tinderholt was involved in allowing the employee to leave the bar and drive away. The employee was unable to manage the vehicle, left the roadway and crashed, causing “[severe injuries](#).”³

Attacks on Public Schools: Tony Tinderholt has voted to cripple public schools and [prevent the expansion of high-quality pre-K](#). Tinderholt [voted for private school vouchers](#) that would shift millions of dollars away from local neighborhood public schools and give it to unaccountable private schools.⁴

Tinderholt left children in the care of drug-abusers: Statements made by Tony Tinderholt during a court ordered psychological evaluation in 1999 reveal that Tinderholt invested in a child care business where his then-wife worked as a child care provider. Documents detail that [Tinderholt was aware that both his wife and at least one other child care provider were abusing drugs](#) – including crack cocaine – and were embezzling money from the business in order to buy drugs. The embezzlement to acquire drugs eventually [caused the child care business to become insolvent and Tinderholt filed bankruptcy](#) to avoid responsibility for debts incurred⁵.

³ [Lone Star Project, 10/1/2014](#)

⁴ [HB 21, Amendment 32 \(85R\) RV 309; SB 1, Amendment 8 \(85R\) RV 165](#)

⁵ [Lone Star Project, 10/1/2014](#)