

As presented on Pratt on Texas:

Abortion: As a Democrat, Strayhorn supported abortion rights. Then Strayhorn became a Republican and opposed abortion and even signed the Republican National Coalition for Life pledge to protect the unborn. And now as an Independent she refuses to answer the question.

(Houston Chronicle, 8/20/06)

Appraisal Caps: In 2003, Strayhorn included in her e-Texas Recommendations support for “a constitutional amendment limiting annual residential property tax appraisal increases to 5 percent.”¹ Less than a year later, Strayhorn spun 180 degrees and said “homeowners want cuts not, caps.”² And now Strayhorn won’t take either position saying let the voters decide “whether they want appraisal caps.”³

(1e-Texas Recommendation – ED 18 April, 2003;

2Austin American Statesman, 3/12/04;

3Dallas Morning News, 4/7/2004)

CHIP Funding: Strayhorn told the legislature in 2003 that they should require participants of the Children’s Health Insurance Program to re-enroll every 6 months instead of once a year. When lawmakers adopted her recommendations, Strayhorn attacked them and said they should immediately reverse the changes.

Illegal Immigration: Just last year Strayhorn said, “Immigrants, legal or otherwise, come to Texas to ‘put a roof over their heads: and Texas has a responsibility to provide them education and health care once they are here.”¹ Well today Strayhorn says she is, “adamantly opposed to illegal immigration.”²

(1 Associated Press, 8/16/05; 2 Strayhorn’s Campaign Website)

Pay Raise: Nearly a decade ago Strayhorn refused a pay raise passed by the Legislature saying “it is my strong opinion that if the Legislature has some pay raises to hand out, they ought to go to teachers.”¹ Just last year when another Legislature pay raise was approved Strayhorn “had no plans to rebuff a \$33,000 pay raise.”² Four days later when Strayhorn was reminded about her previous opinion on pay raises...

she changed her mind AGAIN.³

(1 Dallas Morning News, 6/2/97; 2 Austin American Statesman, 7/2/05; Associated Press, 7/6/05)

School Finance Plan: In March 2004, Strayhorn said she was “working on a plan” to address school finance.¹ Two years after promising a school finance plan, Strayhorn now “has declined to offer a specific plan” to address the school finance issue.²

(1Houston Chronicle, 3/31/04; 2Dallas Morning News, 2/16/06)

Standardized Testing: In 1998 Strayhorn, a former teacher, said the state should make some “students pass a basic skills test before letting them advance to the next grade.”¹ Nearly a decade later, Strayhorn is turning back the clock saying she would “scale back the importance of the state’s standardized TAKS test,”² returning our education system to the failed social promotion method.

(1Dallas Morning News, 10/4/98; 2Associated Press, 5/7/06)

Toll Roads: In a 2001 report, Strayhorn recommended that Texas “build more toll roads.”¹ Today, she now says “I am adamantly opposed to any toll roads in Texas.”²

(1Strayhorn Press Release, 1/12/01; 2Strayhorn Campaign Website)

Tuition Deregulation: In 2003, Strayhorn supported tuition deregulation saying “We’ve got to be competitive, not only within the state of Texas but with other states.”¹ Today, Strayhorn now says she opposes tuition deregulation and supports a “tuition lock.”²

(1Associated Press, 5/29/03; 2Associated Press, 4/10/06)

School Choice: Speaking at a 1998 campaign event in Dallas, Strayhorn said she supported school vouchers.¹ Today, Strayhorn says “vouchers are off the table in a Strayhorn administration.”²

(1Dallas Morning News, 9/30/98; 2Dallas Morning News 2/16/06)

PROMISE – In 1994 while running for Railroad Commission, Strayhorn criticized her opponent for “accepting money from individuals and businesses with cases pending before the commission and pledged to refrain from doing so if elected.”

(Austin American Statesman, 10/16/94)

BROKEN PROMISE – In 1996, the Austin American Statesman called Strayhorn out on breaking her promise to Texas voters. Strayhorn’s response was to change the rules halfway through the game. She says “now she meant she wouldn’t accept money from companies while they have a case on the commission’s docket” but would be “happy to take money from those companies before or after their issues are adjudicated.”

(Austin American Statesman, 9/8/96)

The first broken promise didn't hurt her, so why not do it again when running for different office, right??

PROMISE – When running for her first term as Comptroller of Public Accounts she told voters she would "not accept donations from anyone with a contested case before her."
(Houston Chronicle, 4/24/02)

BROKEN PROMISE – Once again she changed the rules of her promise this time saying, "only those donations in those cases that come directly to her for a decision and only while her decision is pending" were the ones that mattered.

What did the Houston Chronicle have to say about it?
"That's a lot of clarification on a seemingly straightforward promise...voters can not be expected to note the asterisk referring to the fine print in a campaign promise."

PROMISE – In March 2004, Strayhorn said she was "working on a plan" to address school finance.
(Houston Chronicle, 3/31/04)

BROKEN PROMISE – Only two years after promising a school finance plan, Strayhorn said she had "declined to offer a specific plan" to address the school finance issue.
(Dallas Morning News, 2/16/06)

PROMISE – In 1996 after being elected to the Railroad Commission, Strayhorn addressing the turnover on the commission promised voters, "I want to bring Cal Ripken-like staying power to the commission" vowing to serve out the full term.

BROKEN PROMISE – Strayhorn showed the "loyalty of a free agent" leaving office a "mere six months into her term" by declaring her candidacy for comptroller.
(Dallas Observer, 12/30/99)

Well, that's not the first time she's left office early and abused voter's trust!

Strayhorn left the Austin School Board a year early to run for Austin Mayor. She quit as Mayor four months early in her third term to take a job at the State Board of Insurance. She left the Insurance Board three years early to run for Congress against J.J. Jake Pickle. During her Railroad Commission campaign she said she was going to be there for the long-term, and only

after six months into her full term on the Commission she announced for Comptroller.

In December 2005, Strayhorn's campaign put out a press release attacking Gov. Perry that was later revealed to have been created in the Comptroller's taxpayer-funded state office. Strayhorn's spokesmen admitted the document was created on a state computer by state employees. The press release featured a large banner across the top that read "Carole Keeton Strayhorn for Governor."

In August 2005, the Strayhorn campaign issued another news release – and this time they didn't even bother to hide their misuse of taxpayer resources, listing the phone number for the Comptroller's state office.

In October 2005, a newspaper revealed that a top Strayhorn aide was doing political work on the taxpayer's dime. The employee, who received a paycheck from both her state and campaign offices, did not take vacation time on several days when he admitted he was doing political work.

State law forbids using taxpayer resources for campaign activity.

Is Carole Strayhorn an Austin Insider or is she an Austin Outsider? You decide...

1957: Strayhorn graduates from Austin High School

1961: Strayhorn graduates from the University of Texas

1960's: Strayhorn is a public school teacher at
McCallum High School in Austin

1972: Strayhorn elected to the Austin School Board

1977: Strayhorn elected Mayor of Austin

1983: Strayhorn appointed to serve on the State Board of Insurance

1984: Strayhorn serves on the Travis County Steering Committee
for Walter Mondale's presidential campaign

1986: Strayhorn runs for the Austin based congressional district
against J.J. Jake Pickle

1987-94: Strayhorn was an Austin business consultant for the
Rylander Consultant Group.

1992: Strayhorn loses a primary race for Railroad Commission

1994: Strayhorn wins a seat on the Railroad Commission

1996: Strayhorn elected to a full term on the Railroad Commission

1998: Strayhorn elected Comptroller of Public Accounts
2002: Strayhorn reelected Comptroller of Public Accounts
2005: Strayhorn announces candidacy for Governor

Fellow Texans: for anyone with a resume like Stayhorn's to then run with her central campaign theme being that she is not an Austin Insider and that she wants to "shake Austin up", stretches credibility to such a limit as to make one assume that she assumes we are all simply stupid.

And, it is for this: for the consummate Austin political-insider to run a statewide campaign on the theme of being an outsider who, once there will shake things up, that Carole Keeton McClellan Rylander Strayhorn becomes the second member of the PrattonTexas.com Liar's Hall of Fame.