



July 7, 2020

Governor Greg Abbott
County Judge Lina Hidalgo
Mayor Sylvester Turner
Chairman James Dickey, Republican Party of Texas

Dear Fellow Texans,

As you know, the greater Houston region, like much of the state, is experiencing an extreme surge in COVID-19 cases across our community. All the metrics, including confirmed positive cases, hospitalizations and ICU usage in the region, are well above where they were just a month ago and are quite concerning. We know the next few weeks are critical to getting the virus back under some semblance of control.

As the region's principal business organization, the Greater Houston Partnership is working with state and local officials to ensure all Houstonians take the proactive steps necessary to protect themselves, friends, and families to ensure their health and safety. If we are able to arrest the growth of cases here in Houston, we can continue on the path to reopening our economy and moving forward towards full recovery.

It is with this in mind that we ask those with the authority to cancel next week's in-person Republican Party of Texas state convention to do so expeditiously.

In normal times we would welcome an event that was expected to draw some 6,000 delegates from across Texas to the George R. Brown Convention Center. Unfortunately, these are not normal times.

We are grateful to be home to the world's largest medical center, the Texas Medical Center, and have been working alongside the leadership of the major TMC institutions since the beginning of the pandemic. These medical experts are unanimous in their view that holding such a large indoor event would be unsafe for all involved. With COVID-19 surging in our region, the health and safety of the delegates and that of hotel, convention center and other hospitality workers must come first.

We respectfully request that you take these actions for the sake of the health of all Texans, and just good common sense. A virtual convention can accomplish the objectives of the convention without putting all of us at greater risk.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bobby Tudor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bobby Tudor
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Harvey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Harvey
President and CEO