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BUSINESS TURN AROUND SPECIALIST, CHURCH LEADER MIKE HENNEFER RUNNING FOR HOUSE SEAT IN CARROLLTON, LEWISVILLE

Promising to stand up for conservative values in Austin, business turn-around specialist, Carrollton resident and church leader Mike Hennefer has announced he is running in the Republican Primary Election for State Representative in Carrollton and Lewisville, to replace retiring eight-term State Representative Burt Solomons in Texas House District 65.

A 26-year resident of Carrollton and president of Dallas-based Corporate USA, Asset Management, Leasing & Investments, Hennefer has specialized in turning around under-performing lease properties for dozens of companies for the past 20 years, including some of the nation's leading commercial real estate companies and investors.

Once elected, he said voters can count on him to use his financial expertise to keep State government spending and taxes low, balance State budgets, maintain a healthy Rainy Day Fund, plus reduce regulations on businesses to encourage greater productivity.

The State is currently projecting another \$15 billion budget deficit in 2013. Surging Medicaid costs, and the new mandates in ObamaCare will make it the largest line item in the next State budget and will likely crowd out priorities such as education. Whether or not the projected \$9 billion Rainy Day Fund, generated by oil & gas revenues, should be used is highly controversial among lawmakers.

"I know how to turn businesses around and make them profitable because I've done it for 20 years," said Hennefer. "I can use this same skill to cut unnecessary government spending and help balance the budget for the good of the State – hopefully without touching the Rainy Day Fund."

"Reading and analyzing financials is my forte. I've become very good at finding creative ways to turn around financial pictures. I have the toughness and experience to do what the average business owner won't. None of my opponents in this campaign have this valuable kind of financial expertise."

A fiscal conservative, he added that he believes in limited government.

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“I believe in the Founding Father’s vision of a limited government,” he said. “I’m a fiscal conservative. I believe government is too big and it over regulates. To reduce the size of government, we have to cut and trim. Real sustaining and lasting change usually is painful. To reduce the size of government will require some pain. I am prepared to do whatever we must to make the necessary changes in Austin.”

Hennefer says he is also a pro-life, pro-traditional marriage social conservative who has dedicated his entire life to strengthening families and individuals through his various church callings and community service activities.

He wants to put his many years of leadership experience to good use in Austin, to provide a higher quality of life for residents of Carrollton and Lewisville, as well as Texans across the State.

For example, as a former Bishop for seven years for the Carrollton congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he counseled youth and adults weekly about everything from developing faith in God and Jesus Christ to improving family relationships to overcoming financial hardships, as well as gambling, drug and pornography addictions.

As the current Group Leader and instructor for his Faith’s Pornography Addiction Recovery Group, he has gained first-hand insight into how pornography rips apart families and ruins lives.

“I am acutely aware of the devastating effects of pornography,” he said. “We must find a way to educate the public concerning these effects, which contributes heavily to divorces, child abuse and violent crimes, including murder.”

Once in Austin, he plans to establish a State Commission to determine what can be done to discourage the use of porn and limit its devastating effects on users and their families. He worries that too many citizens have become too complacent about the onslaught of porn, assuming there’s little our State or communities can do to stop it.

“I know for a fact we can do more to limit the use and effects of porn. I’ve seen addicts overcome their addictions and I’ve seen couples reunited. The State legislature unanimously passed a law last session making it illegal for parents, spouses and guardians to show porn to their children. There is much more that we can do. Our Commission will identify what we need to do and then we’ll take the necessary actions to strengthen families and reduce crime.”

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Regarding his community service, Hennefer is a HAM radio operator, currently serving as Carrollton's Emergency Coordinator for Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), and as Radio Officer for Carrollton Radio Amateur Radio Emergency Services (RACES). Appointed by the City of Carrollton, ARES and RACES provide emergency back-up communications and storm spotter services for Carrollton, Farmer's Branch and the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

After Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, he also served as Group Leader, supervising clean-up crews, when hundreds of members of his Faith went to New Orleans to help with the aftermath.

Solving our State's educational system financing problems and modernizing our immigration system to stop illegal immigration are two of the most pressing issues that Hennefer plans to address.

With Lewisville ISD facing a \$54 million deficit and Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD a \$22 million deficit over the next two years, he believes he can use his business turnaround skills to help the State find ways to turnaround the school financing problem. He believes parents should have more control and choices when it comes to their children's education, and promises to fight to help them, as well.

Hennefer and his wife of 37 years, Vali, raised all four of their children in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD. Although they all are now grown, he is still very supportive of local school districts because he says he has learned through his own experiences that a quality education is the key to success in life.

After graduating from high school, he voluntarily served as a full-time missionary for two years in Florida and Puerto Rico (71-73) for his Faith, calling it one of the greatest educational experiences of his life. He then attended Brigham Young University in Utah, where he studied marketing and business. After working in sales, he started his career in commercial real estate and says his education was the key to becoming successful as a corporate vice-president and then owner of his own business.

Hennefer says his top priorities in life are God, family and country, and he is a strong believer in American exceptionalism.

"I am a grateful believer in Jesus Christ. I believe the greatest work any man or woman will ever do is within the walls of their own home. I am proud to be an American. I am proud of our heritage, where we came from & how we got here today. The United States of America is the greatest nation in the history of the world. The future is bright. We should all stand tall and have a positive view of where we can take this great Nation."

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