

# Star-Telegram

## Vicki Truitt's solid record in Texas House District 98 merits the Republican nomination

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State Rep. Vicki Truitt, 57, continues to be targeted by Tea Party supporters as not being conservative enough.

The attacks echo those leveled at the small business owner by her primary opponent in her re-election race two years ago, and that could be because Giovanni Capriglione, 39, is making another run against the seven-term representative.

Capriglione, who lives in Southlake, is back with more of the same. Voters in Texas House District 98, which encompasses Grapevine, Colleyville, Keller, Southlake, Westlake and part of far north Fort Worth, would do well not to be swayed from Truitt.

In a Tuesday telephone interview, Capriglione, a small-business venture capitalist, claimed to know "better than anyone ever has what people in this district want" after knocking on doors during this campaign.

Given Truitt's obvious longtime devotion to serving the people in the area where she grew up, her opponent's certainty may be a wee misplaced.

Truitt, who lives in Keller, brings an understanding of healthcare issues to Austin during a time when that expertise is crucial.

Texas is wrestling with how to respond to the soaring costs of Medicaid and other health programs.

Even if the Supreme Court dismantles the Affordable Care Act, it won't erase the challenges facing the healthcare system in one of the country's fastest growing states.

"If Obamacare is thrown out, I want to be part of the solution to create a paradigm shift in the healthcare delivery and reimbursement system," she said. "There are things we can do to refocus how we consume and deliver healthcare."

Beyond healthcare, Truitt said she wants to continue to work on strengthening the infrastructure necessary to keep Texas strong, and that includes education, transportation and water.

In the area of transportation, for example, Truitt has been a mainstay in the Tarrant County delegation fighting to secure funding for the \$12 billion in transportation projects that are underway right now in the county. But continuing to fund projects through bonded indebtedness means what Texans pay in interest is extremely expensive.

"The state fuel tax hasn't been raised since '91," she said. "And I'm not suggesting it be raised now. But the math doesn't work."

Truitt is willing to look at creative ways to make sure progress in North Texas doesn't grind to a gridlocked halt.

Northeast Tarrant County has been well served by Truitt. Why else would all the mayors in District 98 endorse her re-election?

The *Star-Telegram* Editorial Board recommends **Vicki Truitt** in the May 29 Republican Primary for Texas House District 98.

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