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**Former Texas Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff Endorses Neal Katz
for Texas House of Representatives**

TYLER, TX—Today, former Republican Texas Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff endorsed Neal Katz, an Independent running for the Texas House of Representatives.

“I proudly served as a Republican State Senator and Lt. Governor for 15 years, spending much of my political career working on behalf of the state’s public education system,” said Ratliff. “It is our constitutional and moral obligation to do right by our next generation of Texans, and we need leaders in Austin who are dedicated to providing unwavering support for our public schools.” Ratliff continued, “I believe Neal Katz is committed to providing this support and I am pleased to endorse him for the Texas House of Representatives.”

Katz is making history in East Texas: He is the only Independent candidate in Texas running for the State House this election cycle, and the first ever Independent to appear on the District 6 ballot.

“I am honored to receive the endorsement of Governor Ratliff,” said Katz. “He understands that I am committed to strengthening our public schools by listening to local administrations and by advocating for active and retired teachers,” Katz continued. “Texas is at its best when we invest in our students and Governor Ratliff knows that I am committed to be a voice for public education.”

Katz is a fiscal conservative, is pro-business, a champion for education, and a consensus builder. Katz’s priorities are good for East Texas and he is dedicated to:

1. **Education = Jobs = Strong Economy:** Katz will work to restore fiscally prudent funding to our local schools. Our current legislature has not kept pace with enrollment growth and inflation. This drives up our local property tax burden.
2. **Low Taxes:** Katz will bring a fiscally conservative approach to balancing the Texas State budget, and work to make sure the State pays its fair share for public school education.
3. **Improved Infrastructure:** Katz will work to secure funds for local improvements. As Texas becomes more interconnected, we need to sensibly fund the maintenance of our current infrastructure and invest in roads and bridges for the next hundred years.

Katz, 45, is the rabbi for Temple Beth El in Tyler, Texas, and has lived in Tyler for 15 years. He has been a leader in multiple community organizations, including serving on the boards of the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Tyler Parks and Recreation Board, Hospice of East Texas, PATH, the Samaritan Counseling Center, the Discovery Science Place, and is a former chair of the Tyler Ministerial Alliance. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three children attending public schools in Tyler.

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