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Ted Cruz picks chief of staff: Chip Roy, chief ghostwriter on Rick Perry's anti-Washington tome *Fed Up!*

By Todd J. Gillman – November 28th, 2012

WASHINGTON – Senator-elect Ted Cruz today named as his chief of staff Chip Roy, a former Senate aide who helped Gov. Rick Perry write his anti-government tome *Fed Up!*

Roy's deep skepticism about federal authority echoes that of his new boss, and he brings a range of expertise that will help Cruz pursue an agenda focused on curbing Washington's power.

When Perry named him in April 2011 to run the state's State-Federal Relations office, Roy, at his confirmation hearing in Austin, vowed to help Texas leaders "push back on Washington where necessary." He promised to use the post to stand up for "liberty, state sovereignty and an end to the crippling pile of debt and regulation coming from Washington that is destroying our nation and endangering the state."

The top job in Cruz' shop – Cruz takes office after New Year's – marks a return to the Senate, where Roy ran Texas Sen. John Cornyn's leadership office and served as his senior counsel on the Judiciary Committee.

He held the State-Federal post for just six months before resigning to help Perry crank out his book. Most recently, he has been serving as a senior adviser to Perry.

"Chip brings an incredible range of talents to the table," Cruz said, calling him "a proud Texan and a principled movement conservative who was an early supporter of my campaign."

Roy holds a law degree from the University of Texas, and bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Virginia.

In a review of *Fed Up!*, Gene Healy – a scholar at the libertarian Cato Institute – credited him as "the guy who did most of the heavy lifting in the book," though it's hard to know exactly how much influence his views had. In the book, Perry called Social Security unconstitutional and a "Ponzi scheme." He called it a mistake to allow direct election of senators, saying it was better to let Legislatures pick. He called for ending life tenure for federal judges and for repeal of the 16th amendment, which authorized a federal income tax. And he denounced as overreach federal efforts to regulate health care, pollution, labor conditions and energy policy.

In the acknowledgments, Perry singled out Roy for “special recognition,” calling him “an outstanding legal scholar” and possessor of a “brilliant legal mind.”

He noted that Roy had resigned as a special assistant U.S. attorney “to devote himself full-time to the completion of the original manuscript. Writing a book of this nature in the midst of a campaign for reelection was a herculean task and wouldn’t have been possible without Chip’s dedication over the course of several months. He brought to this effort an amazing knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and other Founding documents, and a keen ability to frame federalist arguments in striking terms that make complicated law easier for non-lawyers like me to understand and discuss.”