

# Statesman

## Letters to the editor: Nov. 17, 2018

### **Governor must lead and fix school finance**

Re: Nov. 12 letter to the editor, "[An appeal to governor: Solve school finance.](#)"

I would like to echo the Nov. 12 letter to the editor.

One of the top issues — many people I know would say the biggest issue — confronting many Texas residents is the current recapture school finance practice and its impact on property taxes, particularly in urban areas.

The current implementation is a leading cause of the urban unaffordability crisis many express concern over, and also forces too many older, retired Texans to sell the homes they have lived in for years and relocate to a less-expensive area, sometimes resulting in separation from immediate family.

Texans need the governor to make school tax finance reform one of his top priorities in this next legislative session and provide the leadership necessary to permanently fix the ever-escalating property tax problem.

Tom Wilson, Round Rock

### **State's policies reason for last-place ranking**

We like to think of ourselves as pretty free in Texas, so it is worth noting that the Cato Institute's annual survey Freedom in the 50 States has again ranked Texas dead last in personal freedom.

Big reasons are the medieval drug laws and the "lock 'em up and throw away the key" attitude toward incarceration. Those aren't conservative policies — I consider myself a conservative — they are reactionary and stupid, and expensive and ineffective to boot.

Geoff Bradford, Austin

### **Does senator know more than science experts?**

A person experiencing an illness will see a doctor or in some cases seek treatment by an expert or at a premier medical facility. Why? Because such medical advice is based on the critical knowledge and experience that the ill person lacks.

The National Academy of Sciences, The Royal Society, and 32 other academies of science accept that climate change is happening, is caused by human activity and is likely to have catastrophic effects if we do not reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. All internationally

recognized science organizations in the world agree (e.g., American Meteorological Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science). The members of these organizations are the most knowledgeable and respected scientists in the world (many have received the Nobel Prize).

Sen. Cruz claims “The scientific evidence doesn’t support global warming.” Does Cruz believe he is more knowledgeable than the members of these organizations?

What kind of future will your grandchildren have?

Edward Silha, Austin