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**Kinky Friedman Announces Exploratory Committee**

*Friedman takes the first step toward the 2010 gubernatorial election*

April 14, 2009/Austin—Kinky Friedman today announced the formation of “Texans for Kinky,” a ‘specific purpose’ committee that will enable him to explore and raise money for a possible run as the Democratic candidate for governor in 2010.

“I am a humorist, but I know these are not humorous times,” Friedman said in a letter to supporters. “There is a pathetic lack of leadership at the state level. The last governor who was truly on the side of the people was Ann Richards. She was a very funny lady—she was also a great governor.”

Friedman believes Texas needs fresh leadership and new solutions to address issues like the economy, education, health care and energy. He plans to spend the next several months on the road, in conversation with Texans all over the state. “I am an unabashed champion for the working families of Texas,” he says. “We don’t need a governor who doesn’t want to offend anyone; we need a governor who will stand up for right causes and tell the truth.”

San Antonio attorney and Friedman advisor Abel Dominguez will serve as treasurer of “Texans for Kinky.” Dominguez has helped orchestrate several successful campaigns, including Victor Morales’ win in the 1996 Democratic U. S. Senate primary.

Another Friedman advisor, Former Texas Agriculture Commissioner and people’s advocate Jim Hightower, is lending his Democratic expertise to Friedman’s effort, helping to generate excitement and support at the grassroots level.

While Friedman does not officially become a candidate with this move, Texas law requires that all potential candidates appoint a treasurer and file with the Texas Ethics Commission to start raising campaign funds.

Friedman’s letter to supporters can be viewed in its entirety at the committee Web site, [www.texansforkinky.com](http://www.texansforkinky.com) or at Friedman’s Web site, [www.kinkyfriedman.com](http://www.kinkyfriedman.com).

**About Kinky Friedman**

Kinky Friedman is a Texas legend. A singer, songwriter, humorist, *Texas Monthly* columnist and *New York Times* best-selling author, Friedman has been hailed the Mark Twain of the 21<sup>st</sup> century for his satirical observations, music and writing. Friedman is also a founder and benefactor of Utopia Animal Rescue Ranch.

In February 2005, fed up with “Texas politics as usual,” Friedman announced his candidacy in the 2006 governor’s race. Launching a serious—albeit colorful—campaign, Friedman revived the independent spirit of Texas and inspired non-traditional voters to participate in the political process. He plans to continue to inspire Texans as the Democratic nominee in the 2010 gubernatorial race.