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**For Immediate Release:**

**Joel Romo elected President of Washington on the Brazos Historical Foundation**

Joel Romo has been elected president of the [Washington on the Brazos Historical](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/park-association/) Foundation for 2025 through 2027. Chartered in 1955, the Washington on the Brazos Historical Foundation is the support group for [Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org), which includes [Independence Hall](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/independence-hall/), [Star of the Republic Museum](http://www.starmuseum.org/) and [Barrington Living History Farm](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/barrington-living-history-farm/) on the Washington on the Brazos site, and [Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/fanthorp-inn/) in nearby Anderson, TX.

Dedicated to supporting the site’s preservation projects, celebrations and educational opportunities, the foundation has played an integral part in the creation, expansion and reconstruction of the Historic Site. A $57.4 million renovation began in fall 2023 to bring to life the events that took place at Washington-on-the-Brazos in 1836 and explore the significance of the Convention of 1836 within the story of the Texas Revolution and Washington’s role as the last capital of the Republic of Texas. When re-opened in November, visitors will experience state-of-the-art exhibits at the Star of the Republic Museum and enhanced historical storytelling in the Visitor’s Center to introduce real people that lived and led the Republic of Texas. The Washington Townsite Experience will open in early 2026 which will allow visitors to walk the streets of Washington, experiencing reproductions of pivotal landmarks in Texas history.

Romo has been a board member of the Historical Foundation for more than 5 years, and previously served as vice president for 2 years.  He and his wife Denise co-chaired the Sundown Social in 2018-2022 — the Foundation’s primary annual fundraiser.

Joel Romo is President & Founder of Texana Public Affairs which focuses on local, state and federal legislative affairs. Romo possesses over 30 years of experience at the Texas Legislature where he served as Chief of Staff for members of the Texas House and has experience on state budgetary issues and has advocated for clients on topics ranging from public and higher education, transportation, public health, to taxation. Prior to forming Texana Public Affairs, Romo served ten years as the State Government Relations for the American Heart Association. His work with non-profit and public sector entities has provided him with the opportunity to engage on local, state and federal issues. Additionally, Romo is a member of Bank of Brenham Board of Directors, Vice President of the CASA for Kids of South-Central Texas, and President of the Chappell Hill Chamber of Commerce.

“I am honored to serve as President of the Washington on the Brazos Historical Foundation and work with such an amazing group of individuals,” said Romo. “A native of Washington County, I have many fond memories of family gatherings at the park, field trips as a child and proud of the Texas history that we can share with others, throughout Texas and beyond. From the signing of the Declaration of Independence to the impact on our state’s independent way of life, we are blessed to have such a Texas treasurer along the Brazos River that we can share with future generations.  The Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site is a beacon for Texas history and traditions, and I look forward to contributing to the mission of the foundation.  God Bless Texas”

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site is found on the Brazos River at the original townsite of Washington, Texas, a major political and commercial center in early Texas. For additional information about this historic site, the Historical Foundation or the capital campaign, call 979-830-1824 or visit the site’s website at [**www.wheretexasbecametexas.org**](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org).