

Pol. adv. paid for by Craig Eiland Campaign

“... State Rep. Craig Eiland has embodied ... four things: tireless will, unshakable courage, relentless leadership and faith — faith in the future, faith in his fellow citizens and faith in God.”

“EILAND NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR”

— Galveston Daily News, April 22, 2009



Craig and his wife, Melissa, have four children: Blake, Tucker and twins Gray and Delaney. They are members of Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church.

“Prior to Ike’s arrival, I participated in statewide Emergency Management calls and heard dire predictions of a devastating storm surge. They seemed unbelievable.



“After Ike made landfall, I was monitoring the situation in the State Operations Center at the DPS. The damage reports and calls for help were heartbreaking. Our worst fears were coming true.

“Soon, I felt the weight of my responsibilities settle in. We cannot let these people down, I told myself.

“Then, as I did so many times in those days, I prayed for everyone that Ike touched.”

—Craig Eiland

The Eiland Comeback Plan

1. Save UTMB

After Hurricane Ike inflicted heavy damage to UTMB, the UT Board of Regents discussed closing it down and moving it farther from the coast.

Craig Eiland battled back.

Eiland worked with students, faculty, alumni and the community to marshal the facts to prove that UTMB and its thousands of jobs should stay in Galveston County. He expanded support in the Legislature and worked with the Governor, building the pressure against moving.

Today, there's no more talk about moving UTMB. There won't be, as long as Craig Eiland is our State Representative.

2. Repair The Damages

How did Craig Eiland convince his colleagues to spend \$360 million on Ike repairs at the same time they were slashing the state budget?

Craig was relentless. He sought out every legislator – regardless of party – and argued for Galveston and Chambers counties.

He was resilient. When some suggested other ways to spend the money, he fought back and persuaded them against abandoning us.

By itself, the \$360 million made a big difference. But it also made us eligible for matching funds, which raised the total Ike repair budget to more than \$1 billion.

3. Fight Back Against TWIA

Craig Eiland doesn't like it when someone gets cheated.

He especially didn't like it when the insurance companies, including Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA), repeatedly tried to deny or lowball homeowners, businesses and even local taxpayers.

As our State Representative, Craig Eiland fought to reform TWIA, and now he's leading the current fight against astronomical rates that would put an unfair burden on coastal businesses and homeowners.

Eiland also acted as a private attorney for home owners, businesses, schools districts and local governments and forced insurance companies, including TWIA to pay previously denied claims – saving the taxpayers from having to pay millions of dollars for repairs.

“In the days after Ike hit, it was hard to imagine how we could ever repair all the damage.”

“We’ve come a long, long way in the last four years.”

“At UTMB, we have had ground breakings and cranes are in the air and it is up and running with more than 10,000 employees. Most of our schools and public facilities are fully repaired.”

“We’re not done yet. But we can see finish line. We’re coming back.”

