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## **Where's the outrage over Patterson?**

By NORMAN PAPPOUS | Posted: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 12:00 am

The recent scandal concerning New Jersey's George Washington Bridge closing as an act of political retribution has been maddening to watch.

The first evidence of a double standard are the media assertions that this likely disqualifies Gov. Chris Christie from serious consideration as a presidential contender — that Christie is a bully and, therefore, unfit for America's highest office.

On the other hand, the criminal, politically motivated actions of the IRS do not put Barack Obama's presidency into question.

That "non-scandal" is not worthy of an independent investigation.

Instead, President Obama is able to appoint a political donor to investigate the IRS scandal, and the media is tight-lipped on this incredible display of beltway cronyism.

At least Gov. Christie fired the person responsible for Bridgegate. No such executive action from President Obama.

Still, the Texas media may wish to take a page from the Christie coverage. Here in Texas, General Land Office Commissioner Jerry Patterson acted in a bullying manner toward the city of Galveston. The media totally ignored the legality of Patterson's actions.

The city had its federal disaster relief funding suspended numerous times by Patterson. This despite voting the way the commissioner expressly ordered and backed by threats.

The first funding suspension was after Galveston's City Council unanimously passed language Patterson's office had written!

Later, Patterson suspended funding because the City Council had the audacity to include language that effectively stated, "The city of Galveston will perform as it has

promised as long as the GLO performs as it has promised.”

That language was meant to protect the residents of Galveston from the GLO acting in a manner inconsistent with state or federal laws. Patterson did not like that. Patterson once again suspended Galveston’s disaster recovery funds rather than be held to a standard that requested an evenhanded partnership.

Patterson’s unethical, and likely illegal, decisions to capriciously suspend Galveston’s disaster relief funding is nothing short of political bullying — acting in a manner because you can, not because it is warranted.

His bullying has cost the residents of Galveston hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars.

No organization can simply start and stop large infrastructure projects without suffering real costs.

The Republican 2016 Presidential primary voters will have to decide if Gov. Christie is fit to lead this country.

The 2014 Texas Republican primary voters will have to decide if they want Patterson to hold the reins of the Texas Lieutenant Governor’s Office — an office that would give him even greater power to abuse.

My personal, front-row experience with Patterson makes that thought simply terrifying.