

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

NEWS & INFORMATION FOR GARLAND AREA DEMOCRATS

June 23, 2012

Garland, Texas

Edition 34 Revised

## 2012 Democratic Texas State Convention



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Delegates, from all over Texas, ready to do the hard work of the convention, are pictured at the entry to the Exhibition area with **VOICE** editor, Rachel Baker Ford.

On June 7 and 8, 2012, Democrats from all over Texas met in Houston for their biennial Democratic Party convention. The delegates caucused in a myriad of groups, electing officers and developing party resolutions and platform planks. Several general sessions were held where the delegates elected Judge Gilberto Hinojosa to lead the state party for the next two years. National delegates and SDEC leaders were also chosen during the convention. *(More information and photos inside)*

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## EDITORIAL

“These are the times that try men’s souls.” Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis*

“This simple quotation from Founding Father Thomas Paine's *The American Crisis* not only describes the beginnings of the American Revolution, but also the life of Paine himself. Throughout most of his life, his writings inspired passion, but also brought him great criticism. He communicated the ideas of the Revolution to common farmers as easily as to intellectuals, creating prose that stirred the hearts of the fledgling United States. He had a grand vision for society: he was staunchly anti-slavery, and he was one of the first to advocate a world peace organization and social security for the poor and elderly. But his radical views on religion would destroy his success, and by the end of his life, only a handful of people attended his funeral.” [www.ushistory.org/paine/](http://www.ushistory.org/paine/)

My funeral does not concern me. What is of concern, what frightens me, is the current climate in these United States in America. We are bombarded with the destruction of our rights and well-being by the angry assault of the GOP’ers on all levels of our government.

On Primary Election Day, I served as a clerk for the Democratic Judge, Jenee Whitener, for Precincts 2700 (I am precinct chair) and 2701 (Jenee is precinct chair). The turn out for we Democrats was very small. With plenty of time to observe the folks – young, old, men, women, some with children in tow, well-bodied and infirm and ethnically diverse. The GOP’ers turnout was about 5 to 1 of ours. “Why hadn’t I worked harder to get out the vote?” “What can I do to increase the turnout for the next elections?” And, “How could these good folks vote for the GOP’ers?”

The GOP’ers are doing everything to end (err ... privatize) Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, women’s healthcare, ‘Obama-care’ especially ending coverage for young adults and those with pre-existing conditions. Funding for education, infrastructure, and environment has been slashed in the name of the deficit, ignoring the employment potential of these projects. Instead the GOP’ers refuse any tax increases and insist the extension of tax breaks for the wealthy saying this will create jobs. With the Citizens United decision, corporations can buy favorable legislation and elections; ALEC has been doing this since the 70s. I worry my funeral will come before my time; not how many people will attend.

The only path I have, and I urge you to join me, is to get out the vote. Get out the vote at the grassroots level. Talk to your neighbors; people you meet when out and about. Reiterate the achievements of the Obama administration. The GOP’ers are relying on buying the election. We will win this election with knowledge and truth. If each of us, we regular voting Democrats, get 10 folks to the polls, the outcome will be a landslide for, “Truth, Justice and the American Way.”

Without apologies, I am taking note of the late publication date of this edition of the **VOICE**. Some of the delay is the Texas Democratic Convention coverage by myself and my husband, Chuck. The work of the convention is done in the caucuses and committees of grassroots Democrats representing you. The Texas State Democratic Platform is an incredible and progressive document providing for all the people. It calls for educating our young, provisions for the poor and the elderly, healthcare for all especially for women’s healthcare, fair and equal employment for all, marriage equality, decriminalizing marijuana possession, ending the death penalty and so much more. Download the platform ( [www.txdemocrats.org/2012/platform.pdf](http://www.txdemocrats.org/2012/platform.pdf) ), read it and spread the word!

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.” *The Declaration of Independence*, In Congress, 1776

– Rachel Baker Ford, editor

# GARLAND AREA DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## GET OUT THE VOTE

### Majority Must Vote to Rule

– Willa Kulhavy



“Don’t hope someone else will volunteer.” said Robert Miklos, “You are the volunteer.”

Robert Miklos, our candidate for Texas House District 107 gave members and guests at Garland Area Democratic Club May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting the key to saving our public schools, funding health and human services, and protecting voters rights in the great state of Texas.

Miklos started by telling us Garland has the lowest percentage of registered voter turnout in Dallas County. Due to redistricting, 10 Garland precincts are in his HD 107. He and volunteers have been walking those Garland precincts for the last three weeks and needed us to join the walk on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Miklos, himself, had already knocked on 1,000 Garland doors and said the number of people he has talked with who look startled by the idea of voting is scary. This reaction is not unique to a particular race or ethnicity. It is across the board; white, black, Hispanic, whatever.

For the 2010 election Miklos, who was running as the incumbent then,

said he did manage to raise half a million dollars but the opposition’s late multimillion-dollar ad campaign against him and the low voter turnout resulted in his loss of the seat.

This year he will update his website, and produce campaign literature and ads when he has enough money.



“Don’t think someone else funds campaigns,” said the voice we need in Austin. “If you don’t donate to my campaign, Carol Kent’s (HD 114), or Rich Hancock’s (HD 102): No one does.”

“If you don’t get out the vote for the candidates you need in office, we get the government we have today.”

I went to my daughter’s graduation Saturday, May 12, so, as far as I know, no one was knocking on doors with Robert or any other candidate that day.

I didn’t do it. As a result less 7 percent of the registered Democratic voters in Dallas County voted in the primary. Less than 4 percent voted in the 2012 Garland City Council and School Board election. A 37.43 percent voter turnout on November 2, 2010, caused us to have the government we have today. In 2008, 61.57 percent gave us a good start toward the government we need.

I need Robert Miklos, Carol Kent, and Rich Hancock in the Texas House. I need Katherine McGovern, in Congress, Paul Sadler in the Senate (need a good turnout in the runoff first), and need President Obama reelected.

What do you need? How are you going to get it? I’m going to make a list of Democratic voters and check to be sure they get to the polls in November. If I do that someone else will do it, too. Will you? There are more voters than there are Republicans.



# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## KEYSTONE PIPELINE DEBACLE

### Jobs? What Jobs?

Letters to the Business Editor  
Dallas Morning News 06/17/12

#### Funny math on jobs

Re: "Fracking may create 1.5 million jobs" by Elizabeth Souder, June 13 Business section

The article makes it sound like the Sierra Club endorses fracking and believes that industry will act responsibly. Articles like this contribute to the widespread public misconception that we can trust industry to behave responsibly. Quite the contrary, conservationists are working hard to force industry to behave responsibly. Clearly industry has all of the power but little interest in protecting either the environment or people's health. For example, recently in Dallas, a coalition of various groups worked on drafting fracking regulations only to have city officials come in at the last moment and overturn what had been agreed on, giving the drilling companies carte blanche.

In counting jobs created by fracking, did you include the EMS workers who will drive people to hospitals when the drilling companies allow leaks at the wellhead, as they are doing in Arlington? The drilling companies have never acknowledged these leaks, although there is a long history of them.

Did you count the hospital workers who will treat people exposed to carcinogenic chemicals like benzene released within 600 feet of people's homes? These chemicals are leaked every day because drilling companies do nothing to prevent their release at the well site. Exposure to carcinogens takes a while to cause cancer, but we already have cases in Arlington where people get sick with respiratory problems. Yet the drilling companies continue to push in Arlington and Dallas to drill even closer to homes and schools than 600 feet.

Did you count the extra police personnel who will have to evacuate schools or hospitals when chemical spills and releases occur?

Did you count the workers who will try to clean the aquifers when fracking fluids get into people's wells? This has happened all over the United States and ought to create a lot of jobs because it's virtually impossible to clean up a contaminated aquifer. Think about job creation then. We can haul all of our water in trucks if we need to. That's a lot of jobs!

When you cite industry reports on jobs creation, you should be also aware that job-related claims by oil and gas lobbies have been challenged as being inflated and self-serving. Consider the claim by TransCanada that the Keystone pipeline could create as many as 20,000 jobs when the State Department put the number of construction jobs at just 5,000 to 6,000. In formulating these numbers, TransCanada brazenly counted any job lasting two years as two jobs.

In a similar situation, a Texas-based consultant listed spin-off jobs such as 51 dancers and choreographers, 138 dentists, 176 dental hygienists, 100 librarians, 510 bread bakers, 448 clergy, 154 stenographers, 865 hairdressers, 136 manicurists, 110 shampooers, 65 farmers, and (our favorite) 1,714 bartenders. He even suggested the project would create jobs for 898 reporters and 98 public relations people. Surely you do not want to encourage the public to blindly accept ridiculous job creation assertions based on figures like these.

Dick Guldi,  
Dallas



### They're at it again!

– Peggy Henger



Republican Legislators in the House, pushed by TransCanada lobbyists, are once again pushing for the Keystone XL pipeline. President Obama delayed the Keystone in January, but now an amendment to new legislation just introduced (H.R. 4348, The House Federal Highway Extension Bill) would require:

- (1) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to approve a permit for Keystone. If FERC refuses to grant a permit, the permit will be granted by Congress after 30 days. (This, of course, does not allow time for ANY environmental review or public comment.)
- (2) H.R. 4348 also authorizes TransCanada to begin construction of Keystone XL outside of Nebraska. (Thanks Nebraska, for continuing to fight this fight for the rest of us.)

The public has demonstrated again and again they do not want any pipeline crossing waterways due to the probability of contamination, in order to ship toxic bitumen from Canada to Houston/Port Arthur for export to Europe and China. There will be no benefit to the U.S. Economists predict draining local tar sand supplies from the refineries in the Midwest via the Keystone XL will actually raise gas prices. As the price of gas and diesel is so much higher in Europe and China, there is no reason to sell refined gas and diesel to markets in the U.S. at a lower price.

Keep in mind, there's a reason TransCanada is not building a shorter pipeline to the west coast of Canada for export. The Canadians who are living with this disaster which has destroyed an area the size of Rhode Island, have said "No Way" loud and clear. Just stick the pipeline across the U.S., the dumb citizens there won't even realize they've made a bargain destined for disaster.

The Pipeline mantra has been "Job Creation!" But the number of jobs created will not begin to offset the environmental costs. The major job creation related to the pipeline will be the employment of the environmental workers, at taxpayer expense, to clean up the inevitable spills. Given TransCanada's record, it's not a question of "if", but "when" and "how bad".

The Bottom Line; If Keystone XL is built, Canada gets the money, China gets the oil, and the U.S. gets the pollution and the injustice of a foreign company seizing a U.S. citizen's private property through eminent domain.

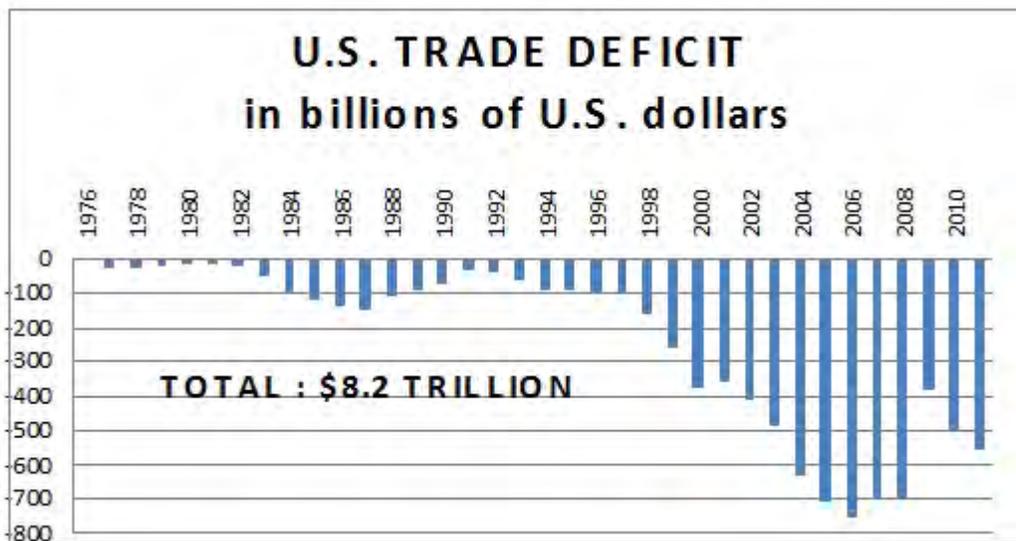
## Living In a Bubble

Charles E. Ford, Jr

The U.S. economy is a bubble. If you go the grocery store you have helped support the grocer, the delivery service, the distributor, the farmer or rancher, and perhaps the government, if any of the items were taxable. Those same people spend their portion of the money to purchase items keeping the money in circulation. In this scenario, the skin of the bubble is thick because the money is in circulation and stays within the bubble.

If we change our mind and go to Harbor Freight Store instead of the grocery store, we will help support the store employees, the distributor, the packager, and more likely than not we support a foreign manufacturer and deprive an American manufacturer a sale. This is a thin-skinned bubble, losing air. Without a mechanism to replace the air, the bubble will collapse and be destroyed.

The first paragraph is an analogy of the U.S. economy 50 years ago. We manufactured the goods,



services, and products we sold to each other and imported less than we exported. Even the Federal debt was owned by U.S. citizens. Life was good. Our bubble was strong and secure. Times have changed. Many of the items we buy are imported letting the air out of our balloon. In January, we imported \$52.6 billion worth of goods and services more

than we exported. This would be tolerable if it were an isolated case, but it isn't. The trade balance has been a deficit since 1975 and exceeds a trillion dollars for the years 2010 and 2011 combined. The total removed from the U.S. economy since 1976 is \$8.2 trillion.

Like most of our problems, there is no simple, single action we can take to immediately return to a balanced or profitable trade condition. Europe, our best customer, is struggling with weak economies also. Tariffs on imports are not a solution because the exporting countries will retaliate with tariffs on goods and services from the United States. Efforts to get China to reevaluate the yuan have not been very successful and more trade agreements doesn't give one much hope for improvement. We, as individuals, can reduce the deficit by making a concerted effort to "Buy American."

[ed: <http://madeinusaforever.com> is an excellent online source.]

Don't count on the jobs and technology lost to other countries coming back to solve this problem. Our best hope to reverse the deficit trend is to educate and encourage American youth to be entrepreneurs instead of working for corporations. We must rebuild our manufacturing instead of giving it away.

# GARLAND AREA DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## BULLETIN BOARD



### Garland Area Democratic Club Meeting:

Thursday July 12, 7:00 pm  
Garland Women's Activities  
Building 713 Austin Street  
Garland, TX  
Contact: Fran: 972-414-8822/  
3144 Pebblebrook Ct. Garland,  
[frandonnell@verizon.net](mailto:frandonnell@verizon.net)

### Garland Democratic Woman's Club

Wednesday, July 18, 2012 11:30 am.  
Speaker: TBA Enjoy the company of Democratic women over lunch! All are welcome, bring a friend.  
**Siciliano's Taste of Italy**, 2210 W Buckingham Garland,  
Info: 972-840-1549

### Rowlett Democratic Club Meeting

Sat, June 23, 2012 3:00 -5:00 pm  
PM Rowlett Public Library, 3900 Main, Rowlett)  
Rita Bevin-Griggs, TX Sierra Club Media Director  
Topic: The Seaway Pipeline and the threat to water.  
[www.RowlettDemocrats.com](http://www.RowlettDemocrats.com) Info: Jeff Sheldon 972-475-1836

### House Party Carol Kent, for Texas State Rep. Dist 107

Sunday, June 24, 2012 4 pm to 5:30 pm  
Linda & C.J. Mikkelsen, 3309 St. Cloud Circle, Dallas.  
Info: call 214-212-4749. RSVP [molly@votecarolkent.com](mailto:molly@votecarolkent.com).

### Bob Rector

We are saddened to report the passing of long time Garland Democratic Club member, Robert Rector, on May 19, 2012 at the age of 82. We miss him. All our thoughts and prayers are with Ann Rector, his wife.  
"Another good Democrat who yelled at the TV as much as I do!" - Fran Donnell GADC President

### Dates to Remember

#### Garland Municipal Runoff: For Voters in District #2

7:00 am to 7:00 pm, June 23, 2012

Early Voting is over. Voters must vote in their precinct.

#### Democratic Primary Runoff: July 31, 2012

NOTE: Voters who voted in the Democratic Primary can vote in the Democratic Runoff. Voters who voted in the Republican Primary can vote in the Republican Runoff. Voters who did not vote in the primary can vote in the runoff election.

#### Early Voting

July 23, 2012 (Mon.- Fri.) July 27, 2012 7:00 A.M -7:00 P.M.  
Garland City Hall 200 N 5th ST, Garland, 75040  
Election Day Voting Places To Be Announced

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The Texas Democratic Party elected Gilberto Hinojosa of Brownsville to succeed Boyd Richie as chair of the state party during the state convention.