

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR NORTH TEXAS DEMOCRATS

July 14, 2015

Garland, Texas

Volume 2, Number 7

**Texas Governor Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton stated their opinion advising civil employees to not issue licences for same sex couples. They are misguided; wrong.**

**Their opinions do NOT supercede the decision of the United States Supreme Court.**



**Marriage equality  
is the law of the land.**



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# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## EDITORIAL

**“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”**

*George Santayana (1863-1952), Reason in Common Sense, The Life of Reason, Vol 1.*

Recently and under great public outcry, the state of South Carolina removed the Confederate Battle Flag from its flag pole located on the state house grounds. Gov. Nikki Haley (R) signed the removal order following the public outcry after the murder of nine people. “Before adding her signature to the legislation, Haley spoke of the black victims, who were killed by a white man after they welcomed him into a June 17 prayer meeting at Emanuel African Methodist Church.”

“Haley had previously opposed calls to lower the flag, and had voiced support of a 2000 compromise in which the flag was moved from atop the Capitol dome to a nearby flag pole. But she shifted her view amid the furor that followed the shootings.”

Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley Jr. said the flag had been an insult to many people, and its removal would help heal those wounds. “Our state’s response to a horrific act of racial hatred has been a clear and decisive act of graceful unity, respect and healing for all of our citizens,” he said. “The flag will be [was] removed at 10 a.m. ET Friday.” The flag, itself, was relegated to a Confederate memorabilia museum.

[www.nbcnews.com/storyline/confederate-flag-furor/gov-haley-sign-bill-removing-confederate-flag-n389231](http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/confederate-flag-furor/gov-haley-sign-bill-removing-confederate-flag-n389231)

One symbol, one reminder of hate is removed.

Of course, one of the results of this action, is sales of this symbol have soared. As the call for removal of the symbol increases, critics cry, “it is part of our heritage!” “My [relative] served honorably in this war.”

Proponents of the removal cite the only place for the battle flag is next to the swastika — in a museum.

“General Robert E. Lee, returning to his pre-war stance of no-secession, swore allegiance to the United States. “I think it wiser moreover not to keep open the sores of war, but to follow the examples of those nations who endeavoured to obliterate the marks of civil strife and to commit to oblivion the feelings it engendered,” he wrote.

[www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/01/15/even-robert-e-lee-wanted-the-confederate-flag-gone.htm](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/01/15/even-robert-e-lee-wanted-the-confederate-flag-gone.htm)

The change in these hearts was the murder of nine precious souls in a sacrosanct place. *AND* because their families *choose* to forgive the self-confessed murderer. Have these folks learned from history (think of the riots following “alleged” wrongs upon one part of our citizens in Missouri, New York, Detroit, Los Angeles etc.) thus choosing to learn from the past? Absolutely. Forgiveness, not absolution, instead of revenge.

Time for all of us to learn from history. Take down hate-filled symbols and put them in a place where they can serve as a grim reminders of atrocities and teach us to follow a path given to us.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men [people] 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 [people], deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

[www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration\\_transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html)

*Rachel Baker Ford, editor*

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## COMMENTARY

### The Day Love Won a Break and Escalated the Religious War Campaigning

— Willa Kulhavy

Did you see that great TV show about love and marriage Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>? I think I saw it on Fox, could have been something else, a lot of stations showed it. I'm writing about that show at Dallas County Courthouse with a huge crowd of people who had lined up to get marriage licenses. When I tuned in they had licenses and were either waiting to be married or just celebrating.

Most of them were whooping it up like they were back in the 1960's at Woodstock. (Many looked old enough to have been there but now looked like Chamber of Commerce members.) The whole crowd was so happy, it was perfect entertainment.

Suddenly, everyone looked over their shoulders and moved to make a bridal path for George Harris and Jack Evans to march forward to be the first couple married. I bet that marriage lasts. George and Jack have been mates for 54 years.

I saw so much joy or heard so many love stories I wasn't ready for the 10 o'clock news interview with the a minister who called it the darkest day for religion and said, "all God's directives have been lost."

I don't know what that means. But yuck, that wasn't a very long break from a religious war was it?

By the next morning, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued a statement encouraging county clerks to ignore, due to their religious beliefs, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in favor of same-sex marriage and deny licenses to such couples. Governor Gregg Abbott also expressed his religious opposition to same sex marriage and hatred of Federal authority in a much more eloquent anti-marriage equality religious declaration which closed with the following two sentences:

"As I have done in the past, I will continue to defend the religious liberties of all Texans — including those whose conscience dictates that marriage is only the union of one man and one woman. Later today, I will be issuing a directive to state agencies instructing them to prioritize the protection of Texans' religious liberties." (See Abbott's entire statement at <http://gov.texas.gov/news/press-release/21131>)

So what? All this screaming about religion is irrelevant. Those happy same sex couples didn't get a marriage license from a holy institution. They got it from a government office in Texas in the USA. They married according to civil law. No clerk who issues a marriage license is required to believe the couple getting the license is considered married in God's eyes.

Texas judges who perform a marriage ceremony, such as George and Jack had on the night love won, perform that ceremony on the, "authority given to me by the State of Texas."

There are many state and national laws as well as some business practices and contracts and health care decision rules which make it beneficial for a person who is living with and sharing financial and other responsibilities with a mate to be married than to be a single half of a couple.

Beware: Even if God considers you married, you shouldn't file a married, filing jointly tax return unless you are legally married.

### Obamacare is Alive and Well

— Charles E. Ford, Jr.

The Affordable Care Act, nicknamed Obamacare, has survived another attack from the Republicans. On June 25, 2015, the Supreme Court upheld the Federal premium subsidy issued in the form of a tax rebate for those enrolled through exchanges operated by the Federal Government. Opponents tried to extract the phrase “an Exchange established by the State” from the 2400 plus page law and claim federal exchanges were not eligible for the subsidies.

Like the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the battle isn't over. The Republicans still want to pick away at the ACA like a vulture picks at a dead carcass. Of course their idea of the dream act is to repeal the entire ACA but that won't happen with President Obama in the White House. They may try to repeal the Medical Device tax because it partially funds the premium subsidies or reduce the subsidies to make it less affordable to individuals.

Republicans still want to eliminate the employer mandate and the dreaded death panels which are tasked with lowering cost while improving health care. More than likely, they will attach amendments to critical legislation that have nothing to do with the ACA. Meanwhile, about 17 million Americans enjoy healthcare coverage they might not have without Obamacare and Medicaid expansion.

And guess what, Obamacare is not a job killer, it is a job creator! Sometimes, Republicans forget to mention that fact.

Reference: [www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform](http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform) and [www.obamacarefacts.com/sign-ups/obamacare-enrollment-numbers/](http://www.obamacarefacts.com/sign-ups/obamacare-enrollment-numbers/)

**AFFORDABLE CARE ACT** JUNE 26, 2015

### IMPROVING OUR HEALTH CARE & INCREASING HEALTH SECURITY

Five years in, the Affordable Care Act is no longer just a law or theory. It is the reality on the ground helping make people's lives better at all stages of life.  
**It is health care in America.**

The Supreme Court upheld a critical part of this law – the part that has made it easier for Americans to afford health insurance regardless of where they live. But financial assistance for those who need help affording health insurance is just one component of President Obama's health care reform effort.

#### Thanks to President Obama, most if not all, Americans:

- ✓ Can stay on their parent's insurance until age 26.
- ✓ Have no limits to the amount of essential care they can receive each year and in their lifetime.
- ✓ But do have limits on the out-of-pocket costs they pay like copays and deductibles on key health benefits.
- ✓ Cannot lose coverage or be kept out because they have a pre-existing condition.
- ✓ Cannot have their coverage cancelled when they get sick.
- ✓ Cannot be charged more because they are a woman.
- ✓ Can access preventive services like certain cancer screenings, contraceptive services, and immunizations for free.
- ✓ Can strike out on their own to create a business or retire when ready without worrying about losing health coverage.
- ✓ Have a competitive, transparent Health Insurance Marketplace to shop for health coverage.
- ✓ Get assistance to pay for health insurance through tax credits for the middle class no matter where they live.
- ✓ Can access Medicaid benefits in more states.
- ✓ No longer face double-digit insurance premium rate hikes without justification.
- ✓ Receive rebates from insurers if not enough is spent on health care and quality improvements.
- ✓ Experience improved Medicare benefits and can save money on medications (by closing the “donut hole” coverage gap).
- ✓ Have the peace of mind that the Medicare trust fund will be around for 13 more years since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act.
- ✓ Are better protected with tougher penalties for health care fraud.
- ✓ Have access to hundreds of newly built and improved community health centers.
- ✓ Receive care from more and better trained nurses and doctors.
- ✓ Experience improved patient safety that has saved lives and reduced patient harms (like adverse drug interactions, pressure ulcers, hospital acquired infections, etc.)
- ✓ Have an electronic health record in nearly all hospitals and most doctors' offices.

[WH.gov/Health-Care-In-America](http://WH.gov/Health-Care-In-America)

# Supreme Court Scorecard: Big Decisions This Month

(Updated June 29)

## 1. *Elonis v. United States*

Subject: Facebook entry  
(heard 12/1/14; decided 6/1/15)

Anthony Elonis challenged a 44 month prison sentence for posts on Facebook that appeared to threaten his wife with violence. The Supreme Court said the lower court that convicted Elonis needs to rehear the case after not requiring evidence the threats were made with malice.

## 2. *EEOC v. Abercrombie & Fitch*

Subject: Religious accommodation to wear a hijab  
(headscarf) (heard 2/25/15; decided 6/1/15)

Samantha Elauf applied to work for the famous clothing retailer but was rejected. The Court said Samantha Elauf was not required to make a specific request for a religious accommodation to wear a hijab when applying for a position.

## 3. *Zivotofsky v. Kerry*

Subject: Jerusalem, Israel as birthplace on birth certificate (heard 11/3/14; decided 6/8/15)

Menachem Binyamin Zivotofsky was born in Jerusalem. His parents, American citizens, asked for a passport that listed "Jerusalem, Israel," as his birthplace. The State Department refused. The Court upheld a lower court ruling that the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 2002 was unconstitutional. The act directed The State Department to "record the place of birth as Israel" in the passports of Americans born in Jerusalem, if the children born in Jerusalem or their parents requested it.

## 4. *Walker v. Sons of Confederate Veterans*

Subject: Confederate flag on specialty license plates  
(heard 3/23/15; decided 6/18/15)

The state of Texas has the right to ban a specialty license design that features the Confederate battle flag. The state's decision fell under the government speech doctrine of the First Amendment, superseding the private free speech claims of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV).

## 5. *Reed v. Town Of Gilbert, Arizona*

Subject: Restrictions on signs announcing church services (heard 1/12/15; decided 6/18/15)

This case was about local zoning laws that pertain to temporary signs that give directions to where people can attend church services. The town violated the First Amendment by placing restriction on of signs announcing church services.

## 6. *King v. Burwell*

Subject; Healthcare subsidies  
(heard 3/4/15; decided 6/25/15)

The Supreme Court upheld Obamacare subsidies in about three dozen states with federally operated marketplaces.

## 7. *Texas Department of Housing v. Inclusive Communities Project*

Subject: Housing Discrimination  
(heard 1/21/ 15; decided 6/25/15)

The lawsuit claims the distribution of tax credits reinforces and increases racial segregation. The Court backed the concept of disparate impact, where housing policies with outcomes that discriminate can be challenged under the terms of the Fair Housing Act, even if there wasn't a deliberate intent to discriminate.

## 8. *Obergefell v. Hodges*

Subject; Same-sex marriage  
(heard 4/28/15; decided 6/26/15)

The Supreme Court said the Fourteenth Amendment requires a State to license a marriage between two people of the same sex and to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-State.

## 9. *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*

Subject: Redistricting (heard 3/21/15; decided 6/29/15)  
Proposition 106, passed in 2000 by 56 percent of Arizona voters, established a statewide, bipartisan committee to oversee the redistricting process for state and congressional seats. The Court ruled the Elections Clause and the federal statute allow Arizona to use a commission to draft federal congressional districts.

## 10. *Glossip v. Gross*

Subject; Lethal injections  
(heard 4/29/15; decided 6/29/15)

Inmates claimed that the use of midazolam as a sedative during lethal injection violates a prisoner's Eighth Amendment right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment. The court said the death-row inmates failed to establish their claim that the use of midazolam violates the Eighth Amendment.

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*Supreme Court Scorecard (Updated June 29): The big decisions due this month*

<http://blog.constitutioncenter.org/2015/06/supreme-court-scorecard-10-big-decisions-due-starting-today/> Updated June 29, 2015

## **The Importance of Statistics in Proving Housing Discrimination Post SCOTUS' Decision:**

**Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs et al. v. Inclusive Communities Project, Inc., et al.**

— *Katherine Savers McGovern*

On June 25, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) settled a question of “first impression” concerning the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. §3601 et seq. That issue was whether, as in employment discrimination and age discrimination cases, a plaintiff could prove a violation of the Fair Housing Act (FHA) through the use of statistics and the existence of a discriminatory policy or practice causing racial disparity, otherwise known as “Disparate Impact.” SCOTUS found that Disparate Impact evidence could be used to prove a FHA violation.

### **Background**

In Congress’ 1988 amendments to the FHA, protected classifications from discrimination in housing decisions were identified as: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or familial status. See 42 U. S. C. §3605(c).

The question decided by SCOTUS in the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, et al v. Inclusive Communities Project, Inc., et al (“ICP Decision”), 576 U.S. \_\_\_ (2015) was limited.

The question presented for the Court’s determination is whether disparate-impact claims are cognizable under the Fair Housing Act (or FHA), 82 Stat. 81, as amended, 42 U. S. C. §3601 et seq.

#### **Slip Op. 1**

While the ICP Decision was pending before the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) issued new regulations in 2013 which “established a burden-shifting framework for adjudicating disparate-impact claims.” See Implementation of the Fair Housing Act’s Discriminatory Effects Standard, 78 Fed. Reg. 11460 (2013). The majority opinion explained the impact of the HUD FHA Discriminatory Effects Standard as:

Under the regulation, a plaintiff first must make a prima facie showing of disparate impact. That is, the plaintiff “has the burden of proving that a challenged practice caused or predictably will cause a discriminatory effect.” 24 CFR §100.500(c)(1) (2014). If a statistical discrepancy is caused by factors other than the defendant’s policy, a plaintiff cannot establish a prima facie case, and there is no liability. After a plaintiff does establish a prima facie showing of disparate impact, the burden shifts to the defendant to “prov[e] that the challenged practice is necessary to achieve one or more substantial, legitimate, non-discriminatory interests.” §100.500(c)(2).

HUD has clarified that this step of the analysis “is analogous to the Title VII requirement that an employer’s interest in an employment practice with a disparate impact be job related.” 78 Fed. Reg. 11470. Once a defendant has satisfied its burden at step two, a plaintiff may “prevail upon proving that the substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interests supporting the challenged practice could be served by another practice that has a less discriminatory effect.” §100.500(c)(3). [Emphasis supplied]  
Slip Op. 4

A disparate impact claim may rely on a statistical showing of the racially discriminatory consequences of the defendant’s actions, policies or procedures, rather than proof of discriminatory treatment based on a protected category (e.g., intent to discriminate based on race or discriminatory “disparate treatment”), but must meet the burdens described above.

The District Court concluded that the ICP had established a prima facie case of disparate impact. It relied on two pieces of statistical evidence. First, it found “from 1999-2008, [the Department] approved tax credits for 49.7% of proposed non-elderly units in 0% to 9.9% Caucasian areas, but only approved 37.4% of proposed non-elderly units in 90% to 100% Caucasian areas.” 749 F. Supp. 2d 486, 499 (ND Tex. 2010) (footnote omitted). Second, it found “92.29% of [low-income housing tax credit] units in the city of Dallas were located in census tracts with less than 50% Caucasian residents.” Ibid.

#### **Slip Op. 3**

Under the ICP decision, a plaintiff may use a statistical showing but must also identify the defendant’s policies or practices which cause the discriminatory racial disparity. The ICP decision indicates that plaintiff must prove in its prima facie case a “robust causality” between the statistical disparity and the defendant’s policy or policies causing that disparity. See Slip Op. 19-20. Once the prima facie case has been made, the defendant must prove that, although a racial disparity exists due to the policy or practices, no violation of the FHA has occurred because the offending policy or practices are protected by a valid interest or credible explanation. The burden would then shift back to plaintiff to rebut the validity of the interest or the credibility of the explanation as pretext for artificial, arbitrary and/or unnecessary barriers.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

### **The Importance of Statistics in Proving Housing Discrimination Post SCOTUS' Decision:**

The ICP Decision opens the door for the ICP plaintiffs to prove their case without having to prove that the Texas Dept. Of Housing's policies and practices intentionally discriminated, but made clear that the statistical prima facie/causality showing by the plaintiffs required more and could not be successful with simply arguing that plaintiffs', or a courts', judgment should be substituted for the governmental or private actor's judgment, IF such judgment were supported by sound reasons.

Disparate-impact liability mandates the "removal of artificial, arbitrary, and unnecessary barriers," not the displacement of valid governmental policies. Griggs, supra, at 431. The FHA is not an instrument to force housing authorities to reorder their priorities. Rather, the FHA aims to ensure that those priorities can be achieved without arbitrarily creating discriminatory effects or perpetuating segregation.

Slip Op. 18

An important and appropriate means of ensuring that disparate-impact liability is properly limited is to give housing authorities and private developers leeway to state and explain the valid interest served by their policies. This step of the analysis is analogous to the business necessity standard under Title VII and provides a defense against disparate-impact liability. See 78 Fed. Reg. 11470 (explaining that HUD did not use the phrase "business necessity" because that "phrase may not be easily understood to cover the full scope of practices covered by the Fair Housing Act, which applies to individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and public entities").

Slip Op. 19

The ICP case was affirmed as to the issue of the use of a disparate impact standard of proof, but has been remanded to the lower court for further proceedings. One would anticipate that both parties may desire to have the lower court re-open the evidentiary proceedings to allow supplemental submissions in order to meet, if deemed necessary, the SCOTUS explanation of the proof showing. Because SCOTUS only addressed the legal issue of applicable standard of proof, i.e., was disparate impact allowed under the FHA, and did not take up the issue whether, assuming the application of a disparate impact proof standard, the ICP plaintiffs had met that standard or whether the TX Dept. Of Housing had established a valid defense, these questions will be determined in lower court proceedings. The majority opinion reaffirmed the purpose and importance of the FHA in protecting the right to access to housing.

The FHA must play an important part in avoiding the Kerner Commission's grim prophecy that "[o]ur Nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white - separate and unequal." Kerner Commission Report 1. The Court acknowledges the Fair Housing Act's continuing role in moving the Nation toward a more integrated society.

Thus SCOTUS has informed the lower courts that housing policies which result in segregation by race violate FHA. The challenge to the lower court, on remand, is to balance this clear direction with the reality of Texas' segregation by income and race for subsidized, affordable housing.  
Slip. Op. 24

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### **Fair Housing Decision In Lay Terms**

Summary of the Supreme Court's  
Fair Housing Act Decision

— Willa Kulhavy

The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case of Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs versus Inclusive Communities Project (ICP) is important because it allows the use of statistics of population makeup to be used as evidence in discrimination in housing due to race, color, religion, and so on. Evidence of policies which actually cause inequality is called "disparate impact evidence".

This decision also stated the ICP plaintiff had to identify the policies and practices of the Texas Department of Housing which caused discrimination. Intent to discriminate did not have to be proved.

However, the decision did not decide this case. It is to be decided by the lower court in which it originated where ICP would have to prove the Texas Department of Housing policies and practices caused the inequality but did not have to prove there was intent to discriminate.

Please read, "The Importance to Statistics in Proving Housing Discrimination" article if you haven't already.

*[ed: This summary is presented to assist the lay reader with the article.]*

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# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## BITS AND PIECES

### Rewriting by Democrats of the Iraq war history to score points against Hillary

NOBODY voted FOR the invasion of Iraq. The law gave Bush authority to use the force HE determined necessary to protect our national security and enforce UN resolution. Bush and Bush alone decided to invade a country which was no threat to our national security and in violation of international law.

Republicans have been trying to rewrite history in order have the American believe a lie — that Democrats authorized Bush's illegal acts. And now the anti-Hillary are giving their support to the GOP lies in order to win points for their candidate. What they are doing is adding to the lie that the 58 percent of [senate] Democrats who voted to give Bush a vote of confidence in his ability to use the nation's military force in fashion comparable with international law and appropriate to a threat to our national security, must share the blame for the disaster that resulted in Bush's decision.

For those still confused by the GOP's meme, it is the Congress that declares war, which is NOT what the law did, unless these Democrats just want to impugn the character of the leadership of their party — people such as Kerry and Biden — they need to stop aiding and abetting the GOP in deceiving the American people!

*Steve Love Facebook 6/29/15*

*Do not forget Sandy Hook. If 9/11 is the symbol of all that is associated with terrorism, so should Sandy Hook be the symbol of all that is associated with our refusal to deal with guns in the same way we deal with all other threats to public health and safety.*

### I love the Democratic Party and am 100 percent Democratic.

I believe the 2016 Elections will be the most important elections in my lifetime. We must not turn back the clock. If we as Democrats fail to turn out and vote both in the primary and general elections in 2016 all working men and women of all races will see this country become one which is bought and paid for by Koch brothers and other wealthy Americans who could care less about the hard working Americans in this country.

The next president will decide the make up of the Supreme Court which could reverse the progress of working Americans and minorities. They [SCOTUS] could change the laws that takes away the rights of certain people to vote. Remember, at one time, minorities and women did not have the right to Vote!

We must not let this happen.

Please vote and make sure that everyone you know votes as well. This is the only time in your life that you have the same power as the richest and most powerful people in this country.

*— Joe Burkleo*

*[ed: Joe is precinct chair of precinct 4043. He has served Dallas County for 45 Years as Precinct Chair and Election Judge and an Early Voting Judge for Dallas County.]*

### More Bad News About the TPP

*— Charles E. Ford, Jr.*

Granted it is hard to comment on a secret document, the Trans Pacific Partnership, so I chose to use history as a guide. Nixon opened the door to China. The trade balance with China in 2013 was \$318 billion. Before NAFTA we had a slightly positive trade balance with Mexico. Now the trade imbalance exceeds \$40 billion a year. The cumulative U.S. trade deficit from 1976 to 2013 was \$9.6 TRILLION.

It isn't just about the almighty dollar. Every deficit represents exported jobs, lower wages for Americans, a lower standard of living for Americans and more power for corporations over which we have no control except one. Boycott imported products and buy American when the option exists.

According to rumors, there may be another issue that should concern us if the rumor is true. Corporations may have new legal avenues available to them if the TPP becomes law. Because it is secret, who knows? Why should we expect the TPP to be improved over prior trade agreements?

Note to editor: Refer to [www.garlanddemocraticvoice.com](http://www.garlanddemocraticvoice.com) and [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

*[ed: This is an unpublished Letter sent originally to The Dallas Morning News.]*

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE OUT & ABOUT

## North Texas Civil Rights Project Opens New Office in Dallas

— Kim Morris, NTCRP Founding member



Tony Krause



Don Johnson  
(Auctioning a signed copy  
of the U.S. Constitution)



Lon Burham  
Former Texas State Rep.

On July 9, 2015, supporters and activists opened the new office for the **North Texas Civil Rights Project** (NTCRP.) This group is dedicated to advocacy and litigation for violations of civil rights in racial, and all social and economic justice areas. They advocate on behalf of those who have historically been under served or excluded from the justice system because of socioeconomic status, ethnic background, race, immigration status or lack of access to civil rights attorneys. Their services include impact litigation, direct legal representation, community education and public awareness campaigns.

The event honored home office founder, Jim Harrington and initiated raising funds for the NTCRP office. Other offices are in Houston, Odessa, the Valley, El Paso and Austin. An interim office opened February of 2014. The North Texas office, a hybrid operation, is totally self-supporting, is independent from Austin, but follows its purpose and tenets and including non-profit status.

The NTCRP *pro bono* attorneys review cases for litigation or resolution. The volunteer staff works with the public to educate, advocate and forward cases to the attorneys. The goal is to hire a full-time staff attorney and permanent executive director. The new office is staffed by Cynthia Lucero, paid part-time manager, and volunteers.

The current interim director, Tony Krause, welcomed everyone to the event and spoke about continuing efforts in light of the marriage equality vote and South Carolina's win of removing the confederate flag. Harrington congratulated the NTCRP founders and spoke about his history in Texas defending civil rights and some of the cases handled by TCRP.

The office is located inside The Grove Building  
501 Elm St, #450  
Dallas, TX 75202

Contact: 972-333-9200 or [ntxcivilrights@gmail.com](mailto:ntxcivilrights@gmail.com),  
Facebook or NTCRP website <http://www.ntcrp.org>



Jim Harrington



Hadi Jawad



Kim Morris



Trish Major



Mandy Price  
TCRP Board Member



# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE OUT AND ABOUT IN DALLAS COUNTY



## What's the Difference?

— James N. White,  
SDEC SD8 Committeeman

I'm occasionally asked: "What is the difference between the parties?" Where upon, I go into full patriot mode: Difference? Democrats believe in fairness of opportunity, equality of justice, and the undeniable arc of history that greater freedom is a better thing, a good thing. We think living in this country is a privilege and thus paying taxes to support it is patriotic. And that it is fair to have a system where those who are blessed to have more are expected to provide more. We believe in clean water, clear air, and arsenic free foods and as such, support the EPA. We understand that companies are NOT citizens, but do understand that corporations are made up of people who deserve protections.

**Democrats?** We put an American on the moon in less than a decade.

**Republicans?** They think Mitt Romney needs a new house.



## From the Dallas County Chair



My first two weeks as Dallas County Democratic Party Chair (DCDP) have been a whirlwind of activity. Within two hours of taking the oath of office on Saturday, June 27, 2015, I was interviewed by a CBS TV crew regarding Governor Abbott's illegal attempt to block enforcement of the marriage equality case rendered by the Supreme Court last month.

My days (and most nights) have been filled with meetings with staff, precinct chairs, committees, and Democratic clubs, with the highlight being my first speech as DCDP Chair at the Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Garland Area Democratic Club.

As your new DCDP Chair, I have relied heavily on my experience as a nonprofit executive, small business owner, and professional mediator. I am grateful for the availability of former DCDP Chair Darlene Ewing and outgoing DCDP Executive Director Taylor Holden during the transition period. I am especially thankful for our capable, hardworking DCDP staff. Though small in number and certainly overworked, they are committed to keeping Dallas County blue.

As you know, we are preparing for the 2016 presidential election, which includes many important local positions as well. We need additional precinct chairs and volunteers. If you are willing to help, please call the DCDP office at 214-821-8331 or come by the office at 4209 Parry, Dallas 75223, across from the State Fairgrounds.

I look forward to working with you.

*Carol*

## DEMOCRATIC PARTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Women's Right to Vote (Woodrow Wilson)
- Social Security (FDR)
- Minimum Wage Law (FDR)
- Unemployment Insurance (FDR)
- Rural Electrification Act (FDR)
- FDIC Bank Account Insurance (FDR)
- G.I. Bill of Rights (FDR)
- Securities & Exchange Act (FDR)
- Marshall Plan (Truman)
- NATO (Truman)
- School Lunch Program (Truman)
- Water Quality Act of 1948 (Truman)
- Peace Corps (Kennedy)
- First Man on the Moon (Kennedy)
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 (LBJ)
- Voting Rights Act of 1965 (LBJ)
- Medicare (LBJ)
- Medicaid (LBJ)
- Guaranteed Pell Student Loan Program (LBJ)
- Operation Head Start (LBJ)
- Workers' Comp
- Motor Voter Act (Clinton)
- Clinton Budget Surplus (Clinton)
- Family and Medical Leave Act (Clinton)
- Affordable Care Act (Obama)

Now name a *SINGLE* Republican accomplishment, *if you can...*

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS

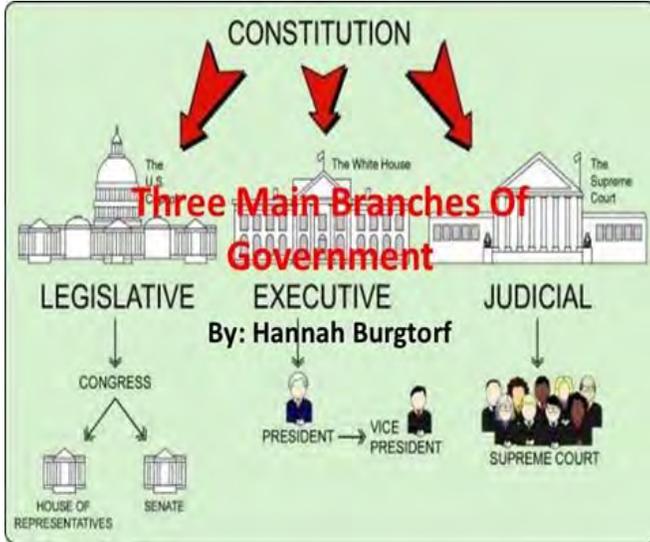
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Information especially for the Governor of Oklahoma, Hon. Mary Fallin.



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“The checks and balances of power between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches — as laid out in Articles I, II, and III of the Constitution — safeguard our freedoms by preventing any single branch from becoming too powerful. There is a second check in the division of powers between the national and state governments — a principle known as federalism. As James Madison put it, “Ambition must be made to counteract ambition.”

<http://constitutioncenter.org/constitution/issues/checks-and-balances>

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