

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR NORTH TEXAS DEMOCRATS

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Garland, Texas

Volume 3, Number 12

## “Abandon all hope, ye who enter here”

Graphic by Jon Sullivan [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons



“Facing ruin, Dante contemplates suicide, but he is rescued by the spirit of the poet Virgil who conducts him on a journey through Hell. When he enters the gates of hell, Dante sees the famous line “Abandon all hope, ye who enter here”. And that is indeed the chief punishment of all the inhabitants of the Inferno: they have no hope of salvation, no hope of release, no hope of any improvement or escape from their punishments.

Virgil guides Dante through the nine circles of Hell. The circles of Hell are concentric. Each deeper level holds greater sinners and greater punishments. The deepest circle of Hell is at the center of the Earth and it is here that the chief sinner, Satan, is held bound in a lake of ice for all eternity. The sinners that Dante encounters in the Inferno are each punished in a fashion befitting their crime. The most severe punishments are reserved for the residents of the lower depths of Hell.”

<http://danteinferno.info/index.html>

### What's Inside?

Front Page .....“Abandon all hope, ye who enter here.”.....	Page 1	Article ...Dallas Co Dems.Holiday Prep.: Deck the Halls...	Page 7
Editorial .....“You can’t make a horse drink” .....	Page 2	Article ..Rockwall Dems: Op-Ed School Finance  Party!..	Page 8
Article ..Bad News for Native Amer. Tribal Treaty Protected Land..	Page 3	Article ..10 Ways to Help Planned Parenthood .....	Page 9
Article .....Happiness Is a Great Recession?.....	Page 4	Bits & Pieces ..... K. Estes Obit \ GOP Massive Cuts.....	Page 10
Article .....Get Ready for the Cuts to Social Security!.....	Page 5	Out & About:..Judge Don Adams Retires \ ACLU Event..	Page 11
Article ....Steve Love Thoughts: Electoral College & Mourning.....	Page 6	Bulletin Board ..News./Advertisement/ Ad Rates.....	Page 12

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## EDITORIAL

### You Can Lead A Horse to Water, but You Can't Make Him Drink

(MEB, constantly)

Don't get me wrong, I am grateful for the recent trip by Texas education officials to Singapore to explore the outstanding Singapore education system. Thank you, H-E-B chief executive, Charles E. Britt in partnership with *Educate Texas* for organizing and funding the trip. According to *The Dallas Morning News* article 12/12/16, Texas attendees included superintendents of schools, the managing director of *Educate Texas*, the dean of the education school at the University of North Texas at Dallas and several other education executives.

Though an award-winning teacher was quoted in the article, there is no evidence that the touring committee included a working-in-the-classroom teacher.

[She] “agreed that focusing on quality is vital. But it’s not always obvious which (teacher) candidates will be the best.” This recently named teacher of the year, “often works beside teachers-in-training at her school. It’s not unusual for her to see some burn out before they even enter the profession [ed: classroom]. They get overwhelmed by the responsibilities of working with children and the demands from state and federal authorities. ... A true quality-teacher loves the students coming to you every year to where you build a relationship with them and their families. That care and concern for the kids makes you work harder to get better every year.”

John Gasko, dean of the School of Education at UTD stated, “Colleges and school districts must work together to be deliberate in making teaching an attractive career.”

✓ In Singapore, teachers are paid on the level with engineers. The average salaries for engineers in Texas: \$87,000 <http://www.indeed.com/salary/q-Engineer-I-Texas.html>.

✓ In Texas, the average starting teacher salary is \$38,091 with an average of \$48,819 [www.teacherportal.com/salary/Texas-teacher-salary](http://www.teacherportal.com/salary/Texas-teacher-salary) Source: National Education Association (nea.org), National Center for Education Statistics (nces.ed.gov), 2012-13

✓ In addition, the average teacher spends from \$500 to \$1,000 on supplies for the students in their charge. [www.forbes.com/sites/nicoleleinbachrehyhle/2014/08/19/teachers-spend-own-money-school-supplies/#5cd167512e88](http://www.forbes.com/sites/nicoleleinbachrehyhle/2014/08/19/teachers-spend-own-money-school-supplies/#5cd167512e88) This does not include feeding that child who is hungry. Rep. Paul Ryan just declared that children who get “free” breakfasts have lost their souls.

Katie Walsh, president of the National Council on Teacher Quality said [in the *DMN*] “Texas faces a big hurdle in marketing education to high-achieving students unless the state raises standards for teaching programs.”

The Texas Legislature proclaimed that a 2.5 point grade average as the minimum to enter a teacher-prep course of studies. What else has the Texas Legislature done for education? For teachers? They *CUT* funding by 5.4 BILLION dollars, returning only part of the funding in the following session. Another travesty is the Texas voters have continually elected extreme right-wing religious fundamentalists to the State Board of Education - folks who deny climate change, slavery [Indentured servants in the triangle trade], the U.S. Constitution [writers were Christian and the document is based on Christianity], wrote and published a textbook on Mexican Americans which declared Mexicans as lazy, and another book that proclaimed Moses was a founding father. Remember, this trash from the SBOE is sold to many other states.

The oxymoron is that high school stadiums costing many millions of dollars are being built in Texas school districts and coaches are not paid on regular teacher-scale amounts. McKinney ISD has just broken ground for a \$68,000,000 sports stadium.

All the fact-finding trips and studies in the world will not solve our teacher staffing problems. Until teachers are paid a respectable amount (equal to engineers *ala* Singapore), given honest respect and time to teach children and are freed from administrative paper — passing and administering test after test (with their livelihood based upon student achievement), we will not have schools where children can achieve greatness.

— Rachel Baker Ford, editor & teacher

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE UPDATE

### Bad News for the Native American Tribal Sacred and Treaty-Protected Land

Update: Garland Democratic Voice Sept, 2016 Page 7  
<http://garlanddemocraticvoice.com/GarlandDemocraticVoiceV3N9Fop.pdf>

— Charles E. Ford, Jr.

Fred Flintstone might shout with joy, “DAPL, DAPL, Doh” when he heard the Army Corps of Engineers deny Energy Transfer Partners a permit to drill under the Missouri River for the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) after months of protest by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to protect their water supply and sacred sites from possible pollution or damage. They have legitimate reasons to be concerned, not the least of which is the future operator of the pipeline, Sunoco Logistics has spilled crude oil from its onshore pipelines more often since 2010 than any other U.S. pipeline operator, with at least 203 leaks disclosed to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, with a total of 3406 net barrels (170,000 gallons) of crude oil spilled. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dakota\\_Access\\_Pipeline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dakota_Access_Pipeline)

Multiple tribes and numerous environmental activists had joined the protest. On December 6, 2016 the chairman of the Standing Rock Tribe, Dave Archambault II, asked the thousands of protesters camped at the construction site to go home. The tribe got what it wanted, the permit denied, and the daily temperatures are dangerously low for those not equipped to camp in sub-zero temperatures.

Perhaps, the most significant thing to come from the successful protest is native American tribes demonstrated that by banding together they have the power to protect the rights and land provided in century old treaties. *The New York Times* estimated 280 Native American tribes participated in the protest. Together they can stand up to large corporations and the Federal Government when their land or resources or rights are threatened. [www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/12/us/12tribes.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/12/us/12tribes.html?_r=0)

*The Huffington Post* on August 31, 2015 listed 13 issues facing Native Americans that will best be resolved as a consolidated group. The list consists of: 1) mass incarceration 2) communities that are impoverished and jobless 3) the federal government stripping them of their land 4) exploitation of natural resources 5) violence against women and children 6) a failing education system with high school graduation rates as low as 51% 7) overcrowded and poor quality housing 8) inadequate healthcare 9) a lack of capital and financial institutions 10) right to vote but no polling places nearby 11) an epidemic of youth suicide 12) their native languages are dying, and 13) many communities do not have their rights recognized by the federal government. [www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/13-native-american-issues\\_us\\_55b7d801e4b0074ba5a6869c](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/13-native-american-issues_us_55b7d801e4b0074ba5a6869c)

Wikipedia adds another issue to this list. Native Americans have a life expectancy of 55 years. [https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/American\\_Indians\\_Today/Current\\_problems](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/American_Indians_Today/Current_problems)

Fred Flintstone may be celebrating too soon. ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES! In January a whole new leadership takes office in Washington, D.C. Most have been scraped from the bottom of the barrel with no relevant experience and in some cases complete ignorance of the duties they will be expected to perform. Donald Trump has already indicated he supports the DAPL. The permit may be re-issued. [www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-dakota-access-pipeline-investment\\_us\\_5841d8f9e4b09e21702e8f58](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-dakota-access-pipeline-investment_us_5841d8f9e4b09e21702e8f58)

###

#### More bad news:

##### “Right-Winger Rick Perry, DAPL Board Member, Picked for Energy Secretary

Rick Perry is on the board of the #DAPL parent company. This glaring conflict of interest should disqualify him from serving as Energy Sec.”

[www.commondreams.org/news/2016/12/13/right-winger-rick-perry-dapl-board-member-picked-energy-secretary](http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/12/13/right-winger-rick-perry-dapl-board-member-picked-energy-secretary)  
Tuesday, December 13, 2016 by Common Dreams Nika Knight, staff writer

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## ARTICLE

### Happiness Is a Great Recession?

—Willa Kulhavy

Since Donald Trump became U.S President-elect I've been happily thinking about the great depression of the twenty first century. All Trump did to win the election was insult, embarrass, lie, and promise to "cut taxes and cut regulations" and to "make America Great Again." Now I'm trying to think of justification for being happy when I think of a great economic depression.

When taxes were cut in 2001 for 2003 and in 2003 for 2005 which the Congressional Budget Office said would endanger the economic stability of the U.S.A., Congress put an expiration date of 2010 on those tax cuts. In 2009, new President, Barack Obama agreed to removal of the expiration date on those cuts. I thought that was a mistake which caused the 2009 recession which President Obama had to deal with as soon as he was inaugurated.

I had assumed Obama coped with a bad recession made worse by his agreeing to removal of the expiration date from the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts because the reason they were originally required to expire so they didn't increase the national budget deficit.

I was wrong. Obama did the right thing but I didn't know that until I read the *New York Times* September 29,2012 article, "Obamanomics: A Counter History", while writing this piece. That article said when Obama took office worldwide economic conditions were deteriorating faster than they had on the eve of 1929. Obama did the right thing when he agreed to the removal of the expiration date for the 2003 and 2005 tax.

David Leonhardt, the author of the *New York Times'* article, said the whole Obama administration and most of the other world leaders underestimated the weakness of the worldwide recession.

Well, now I know why I smile when I think of a ruinous depression. It's because it didn't hit full force during Obama's Presidency. And, right now the economy is sluggish but it is no where near the depression of 1929.

###

Morena Hockley shared *NBC Nightly News* with Lester Holt's post.

Facebook: December 12 at 7:38pm ·

My Trump voting friends told me last month to give him a chance because he will be good for the economy and tough on security. So far he has used his Tweets to tank business stocks, he has angered China, and he believes Russia more than he believes our own intelligence agencies. And he hasn't even taken office yet.

**NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt**

December 12 at 9:15am ·

JUST IN: Lockheed Martin's market value drops \$4,000,000,000 after Pres.-elect Trump's tweet on F-35 program. <http://cnb.cx/2hlze5Y>

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## ARTICLE ON THE VOICE

### Social Security Reform 2016 - Get Ready for the Cuts!

— Charles E. Ford, Jr.

Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX), the 86 year old chairman of the House Social Security subcommittee, has introduced a Social Security plan, H.R. 6489, to address the long term solvency of the Old Age, Survivors Insurance (OASI), and Disability Insurance (DI) trust funds. Payroll tax collection is not sufficient to meet monthly obligations already. The difference is made up by cashing in treasury bonds from the trust funds. The government then borrows the money from other countries increasing our annual deficit and the federal debt. If some action isn't taken the trust funds will be depleted about 2034 when there are no treasury bonds left to cash in. The result will be 20 percent lower benefits for everyone. Like all republican solutions Sam Johnson's entire plan depends entirely on reducing benefits. He doesn't have the courage eliminate the cap on the Social Security payroll tax or tax investment income. There isn't even a pretense of identifying new revenue.

The Social Security Office of the Chief Actuary stated in a letter to Sam Johnson that if his plan was fully implemented, "we estimate that the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds would be fully solvent (able to pay all benefits in full on a timely basis) throughout the 75 year projection period..."

What a joke, but not a funny one! As we pointed out on page 4 of the August issue of the **GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE** Volume 3, Number 8, the requirement imposed by Congress to project 75 years in the future is the equivalent of someone in 1941 trying to project pension needs of today! Planning for the future is good if it is a reasonable projection. [www.garlanddemocraticvoice.com](http://www.garlanddemocraticvoice.com)

Some of the of the key elements of the Johnson plan are:

1. Gradually increase the normal retirement age to 69 for full benefits
2. Increase benefits for lower income workers while slowing the growth of benefits for higher income workers.
3. Cost of living increases will be based on Chain-weighted CPI, (CCPI) which generally reduces the cost of living adjustment. [See Page 4 of April 2013 **GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE** Edition 43 at [www.garlanddemocraticvoice.com](http://www.garlanddemocraticvoice.com)]
4. High income people would not receive a cost of living adjustment (\$85,000 single or \$170,000 couple)
5. Benefits will increase if you continue to work after retirement age of 67.
6. Eliminate the retirement earnings test which discourages retirees from working
7. Low wage earners would receive about 10 percent more than they would now
8. Very low wage earners could receive 20 percent more than they would now
9. A 20 percent increase after the 20<sup>th</sup> year of retirement
10. Eliminate the income tax on the portion returned to the trust funds
11. Children must remain in school to receive benefits
12. Alter benefits for government employees with other employment
13. Eliminate the Retirement Earnings Test for everyone. This allows workers to receive benefits—without a penalty—while they are working.
14. Phase out Social Security's tax on benefits for workers who continue to receive income after they retire or stop working due to a disability.
15. Limit the size of benefits for spouses and children of high-income earners.
16. Calculate Social Security benefits by using the same, proportional formula that looks at all of an individual's earnings over the course of his or her career.

Notice the three letter word, **TAX**, is not visible in any of these proposed items. The Grover Norquist, "no new taxes," days are over. The burden needs to be shared. A billionaire has a net worth of at least \$1000 million and most of his or her income is not taxed or taxed as investment at 15 percent. They will sleep better if they share! Another source of income that has been proposed and should be implemented is a small tax on each transaction on Wall Street, big dollars from the people that will miss it the least.

This bill is extremely important to current and future Social Security beneficiaries. The bill is still in committee but we need to carefully track it and express our opinions as details and changes become public knowledge. Don't wait to voice your opinions until after votes in the committee or house are recorded.

[www.forbes.com/sites/andrewbiggs/2016/12/08/at-last-a-new-social-security-reform-plan/#47df717c28d1](http://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewbiggs/2016/12/08/at-last-a-new-social-security-reform-plan/#47df717c28d1)

[https://www.ssa.gov/oact/solvency/SJohnson\\_20161208.pdf](https://www.ssa.gov/oact/solvency/SJohnson_20161208.pdf) [http://samjohnson.house.gov/uploadedfiles/social\\_security\\_reform\\_act\\_bill\\_text.pdf](http://samjohnson.house.gov/uploadedfiles/social_security_reform_act_bill_text.pdf)

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## THOUGHTS FROM STEVE LOVE

### Time To End the Electoral College

Have just come back in from the battle over how we respond to the Dump situation. I am hearing and reacting negatively to the voices. I hear finding the fault in Hillary...her “negatives” ... the campaign ... but essentially that, if it had just been someone else, we would not be facing the future we seem to be facing. In all honesty and generosity, I do not see anything to be gained by that thought process. It seems that no connection is being made between what happened to Gore in 2000 and what has happened to Hillary 16 years later.

Have we forgotten that the SCOTUS intervened in a problem created by the same laws which looks to be sending another loser of the popular vote to the White House? It seems we have, but we must not. We must not. Not just because it frustrates our political goals, but because of the signal it sends to voters and those who look to this country as a beacon of democracy.

If we want people to believe their vote counts, especially new citizens, we need laws that insure that they do. The elector system is designed specifically to insure that the popular vote does not count. It was designed to make sure that the states continued to have as significant a say in the Executive branch as they did in the Legislative where every state, regardless of population gets two Senators and a member of the House. The winner-take-all rule, which all but two states have adopted, further makes voting folly if one knows that they are a member of a minority party.

In short, the present state-run elector system guarantees that we have a true democracy in name only. I am as categorically opposed to that system as I was the one which denied African-Americans the vote. The repeal of the elector system should be and must be the civil rights issue of today and into the future until this cancer is excised from our body politic.

*Steve Love FaceBook 12/11/16*

### National Popular Vote

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most votes would be elected. More information at:  
[www.nationalpopularvote.com](http://www.nationalpopularvote.com)

### A Time To Mourn

Just how should Hillary supporters respond to a Trump presidency? Some people say we need to get angry, but anger plays havoc with our body, friendships, and psyche. Others suggest resignation: just suck it up, keep a low profile and wait for 2020. (Echoes from 1930s Germany suggest this might not be a plan.) Then there are the advocates of fighting back by signing petitions, calling Republican electors or calling for martial law ... all great as catharsis but short on expectations of real results, in my mind.

So, how about being in mourning for our country? Not the sad-sack variety but the Irish wake kind. We don't have to be all bummed out to mourn. A wake is both a recognition of a loss but also a time when we celebrate the good times we had at a better time — before the cancer took its toll or the presidential elector system distorted the public will.

Maybe a black arm-band as part of our daily attire ... so if someone asks us who died, we can say: a part of my country — the part where a politician would never say about another politician what they would not want said about themselves ... you know, when the political arena was a place of gentlemanly (dare I say godly) debate over public policies, not a pig sty where the one throwing the most mud of personal attacks wins.

You know, that time when what mattered was the Golden Rule, not who lived in a gold-plated penthouse.

God, how I miss those times!

© Stephen L. Love, Dallas, TX  
12/10/2016

*Permission to print granted*



## GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE DALLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CHAIR

### Holiday Preparations: Deck the Halls

Getting ready for the holidays is similar to getting ready for elections. It requires a plan, a strategy and organization. It takes time; it takes money; and it can be fun, if you do it right! However, when it comes to decorations, former State Representative Harryette Ehrhardt wins the prize, hands down, for the best decorations, inside and out!

#### **So Many Parties**

The holidays are in full swing. In the past two weeks, various elected officials, Democratic clubs and related organizations scheduled over 10 holiday parties. These parties put the "party" in the Dallas County Democratic Party (DCDP). The best part of holiday parties is the opportunity to socialize with fellow Democrats, to get to know them better, and to indulge in personal, as well as political conversations. During the holidays and prior to elections, parties give us an opportunity to meet new friends and learn more about those we already know. These are the Democrats with whom we have worked all year, and with whom we will work again in 2017.

#### **Don Our Gay Apparel**

People look and act different when they wear their holiday clothes and accessories. During the holidays, we often wear things we would never wear any other time of the year. Granted, there are still "ugly sweater" contests but, during the holidays, and at fundraisers, we try to look our best.

#### **Make a Statement**

A favorite pastime during the holidays is to cruise through neighborhoods and look at the lights and other decorations. The owners of these decorated homes are making a statement, just as some homeowners post political yard signs in their yards prior to an election. Political consultants tell us that "yard signs can't vote." Yes, that's true, but they, nevertheless, make a statement.

#### **Making a List**

It is said that Santa is "making a list and checking it twice; gonna find out who's naughty and nice." Interestingly, that's what voters do. We look over the track records of our elected leaders to determine whether we will vote for them again. Luckily, our Dallas County Democratic elected officials make us proud. However, there are more than a few officials from the other party who give us inspiration to put "coal in their stockings."

#### **All is Calm**

During the holidays, we take time out. We have worked hard, and we deserve a break. For this reason, and because so many of you will be out of town and/or visiting loved ones during the next two weeks, we will hold off on sending you another Chair's Corner article until the first week in January.

#### **Resolutions**

The year end is when we reflect over the prior year(s). We analyze what worked, what didn't work, and we make our plans for the future. We count our blessings and we look forward to the year ahead. This year, in particular, we, Democrats, are looking ahead. In Dallas County, the stage is set. We have come so far, and we are ready to go places we haven't gone before.

**Join us** Help us accomplish our goals. You can do so by: 1. Volunteer 2. Join a Club 3. Become a Sustaining Member 4. Make a one-time donation 5. Become a precinct chair

Yours Democratically,  
Carol Donovan, DCDP Chair



# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE ROCKWALL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWS & INFORMATION

## Subject: School Finance

As we open a new Texas Legislative session in 2017, we need to hold our local representatives accountable to improve our public education finances. As property values have risen over the last six years, our state's share of public education finance has fallen from 50 percent to 38 percent — increasing the burden on homeowners.

At the same time, local school boards have put homeowners in debt for large extravagant stadiums — in Allen, Katy and the just passed a bond in McKinney for a new stadium to cost over \$60 million.

Texas has just cut the funding for handicapped children's care by \$350 million. "Health and Human Services Commission spokeswoman Carrie Williams said the cuts were implemented Thursday to "achieve savings," as directed by state lawmakers."

[www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Texas-Begins-350M-in-Medicaid-Cuts-Children-Affected-407211905.html#ixzz4TFjRmFOe](http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Texas-Begins-350M-in-Medicaid-Cuts-Children-Affected-407211905.html#ixzz4TFjRmFOe)

Two solutions to suggest to your representative:

1. No more tax breaks for corporations or additional contributions to the Rainy Day Fund until the state funds half of the cost of schools.
2. Separate the bond elections for school buildings and sports venues.

A well-rounded education including sports is important— but it doesn't need to be grandiose. Nor should it be at the sacrifice of services to handicapped children.

— Karen Jacobs

*Editor: Karen is a member of the Rockwall County Democrats. She recently ran for Texas House District 33.*

###

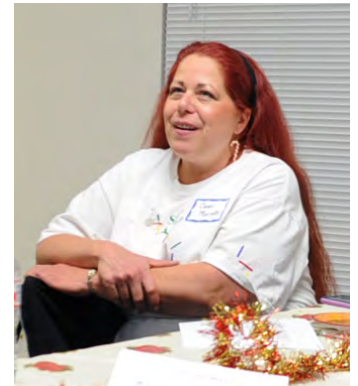
## Rockwall County Democratic Holiday Party



Glen Reid Baker and Friend



Peter, Paul & Mary and Mickey!  
(Paul Harris, Gene Price, Judith Matherne, Mickey Bonesio)



Cassi Maretti



Mrs Hancon & Marie Ann Schiffmann



GARLAND, TEXAS



Carolyn & Joe Teabeu, & Diane Slagle



# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## INFORMATION ARTICLE

### 10 Ways You Can Help Planned Parenthood Today and in the Days Ahead

Photo credit: Christina Hurt Smith



Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas ·  
Wednesday, November 16, 2016

**1. Donate** on-line to support Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas and let us know why you're making the donation. Since the election we've seen an unprecedented outpouring of financial support. Thank you!

**2. Volunteer** Volunteers help promote and protect access to Planned Parenthood's healthcare and health education services. You don't need any special skills to volunteer, just a desire to help. Since the election we have been overwhelmed by the number of people stepping up to support us with their time. Thank you!

**3. Visit Planned Parenthood Action Fund and Planned Parenthood Texas Votes**, and other reproductive justice

advocacy groups; get engaged and invite friends to also get involved. For the next U.S. Supreme Court nomination, we will need every one of you. #WeWontGoBack.

**4. Follow us on Facebook or Twitter;** and invite friends to too. Show up when we invite you to sign a petition, show up for a rally or public hearing. We will need you when politicians try to defund women's health, dismantle family planning programs, restrict abortion, or block Planned Parenthood patients from healthcare.

**5. Tell your story.** Share why Planned Parenthood and healthcare is important to you. Share your story or send us a short video telling us how Planned Parenthood made a difference in your life. Help us put real faces and people to why access to healthcare is important.

**6. Post an on-line review.** After your next appointment at Planned Parenthood, post an on-line review to remind others why so many Texans come to Planned Parenthood for their annual exams, HIV tests, and birth control. During the holidays, invite friends or family members to share their story and make a joint donation to Planned Parenthood. Look at our history and the challenges we've faced to ensure that sexual healthcare and education is accessible and abortion is safe and legal.

**7. Host a movie night** (*Trapped*) or pick a timely book for book club and connect on reproductive justice issues.

**8. Engage your community for good.** If you are a business owner, make a meaningful commitment to standing together like our friends at Fort Lonesome. Or, ask your favorite salon, coffee shop or boutique to donate to Planned Parenthood. We've heard from local businesses stepping in to show their support. Thank you!!

**9. Know who represents you** at the Texas Legislature and in U.S. Congress— add them to your contacts so they hear from you in the weeks and months ahead.

**10. Share this list!** Thank you for standing with Planned Parenthood, no matter what.

Contact information: Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas  
7424 Greenville Ave. Suite 206 Dallas, TX 75231 P: 1-855-314-0799F: 214-696-2091

[www.facebook.com/notes/planned-parenthood-of-greater-texas/10-ways-you-can-help-planned-parenthood-today-and-in-the-days-ahead/1256070057796953](http://www.facebook.com/notes/planned-parenthood-of-greater-texas/10-ways-you-can-help-planned-parenthood-today-and-in-the-days-ahead/1256070057796953)

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## BITS & PIECES



**Karen Estes, center**, seated on the steps of the Robert E. Lee monument in Lee Park in 2003 with former State Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt, left, and former Dallas City Councilwoman Veletta Lill.

It is with profound sadness that we mourn the passing of Karen Estes who died on Dec. 16, following a brief illness. Her entire life was dedicated to helping others.

Estes was a long-time advocate and ally of the LGBT community and the HIV/AIDS community, she was a former co-executive director of Resource Center.

We send our condolences to the family and loved ones.

### **GOP introduces plan to massively cut Social Security**

Ethan Wolff-Mann, Yahoo Finance: December 9, 2016

On Thursday, Rep. Sam Johnson, a Republican from Texas and chair of the Ways and Means Committee, introduced legislation to significantly cut Social Security.

The bill introduced by Johnson, who is also the chair of the Social Security subcommittee, slashes benefits, adds means testing, and would raise the retirement age from 67 to 69.

For most workers, the bill would cut Social Security benefits substantially. As Michael Linden, associate director for tax and budget policy at Center for American Progress, pointed out on Twitter, a letter from Social Security's Office of the Actuary calculated workers making around \$50,000 would see checks shrink by between 11% and 35%.

Nearly every income bracket would see a reduction, save for the very bottom. People making around \$12,280 in 2016 who have worked for 30 years would see an increase of around 20%. But young people making the same amount would be hit hard by the changes. If they had 14 years of work experience by 2016, they would see their benefits cut in half.

The plan would also cut entirely cost of living adjustments (COLA) for retirees earning above \$85,000.

If nothing happens, Social Security will start to lose its ability to pay benefits in full in the 2030s. However, Josh Marshall of Talking Points Memo notes that by 2090 it will still be paying at 74%.

Democrats, expectedly, are not pleased with Johnson's plan, preferring strategies like increasing taxes above the Social Security cap—billionaires pay the same amount as someone making less than \$118,000—or raising the Social Security tax itself. There has, however, been a bipartisan effort for a payroll tax to help keep Social Security funded. For now, Congress will deliberate on Johnson's proposal in 2017.

Ethan Wolff-Mann is a writer at Yahoo Finance focusing on consumerism, tech, and personal finance. Follow him on Twitter @ewolffmann. <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/gop-introduces-plan-to-massively-cut-social-security-222200857.html>

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## OUT & ABOUT



Don Adams & John Creuzot



Walter Hofheinz & Don Adams

**Gone Fishin'**  
 Judge Adams has retired from the bench. A judges' judge, his calm, learned decisions will be missed.  
 Wishing him all the best and happiness!



Dallas County Democratic Chair, Carol Donovan and friend



Hon. Don Adams, Criminal District Court #2



Karen Jacobs *etal*

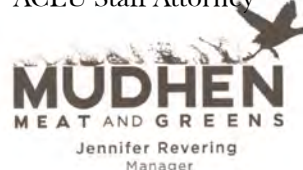


Kali Cohn, ACLU Staff Attorney

The ACLU of Texas held a meet and greet organizational meeting at the Mudhen Restaurant in the Dallas Farmer's Market. The group has announced an all-out assault on the Texas Legislature and the state officials by "Defending our rights in the courts. Empowering communities across the U.S.. Influencing public policy with a powerful voice."

Join the Fight!

ACLU State Offices  
 P.O. Box 8306 Houston, TX  
 77288-8306 713.942.8146  
 888.653.6498 toll free



900 S. Harwood  
 Dallas, TX 75201  
 214.698.7000

MudHenInThe.net  
 manager@MudHenInThe.net



Judith Matherne, chair Rockwall County Democrats



# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE BULLETIN BOARD



Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 11:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.  
Lincoln Memorial Cir NW, Wash., D.C. 20037  
On January 21, 2017 we will unite in Wash., D.C. for the Women's March on Washington. We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families — recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.

To help organize in Texas:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSey22pb6VYx7P0Z2KQ96nM-NMV-V015LS4kAS9XjJUJI9WDvg/viewform?c=0&w=1>

If you are interested for transportation or lodging assistance, please fill out this form:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLQhNfB84oxO0SzfcsWZ4b-TROHgXwrXmkf-4DGChOOH57A/viewform?c=0&w=1>

Link to the national page:  
[www.facebook.com/events/2169332969958991/](http://www.facebook.com/events/2169332969958991/)

This is a sister event to the Women's March on Washington in D.C. Meet at the Capitol Building to show our strength, power and courage in a peaceful march. Spread the word! Let the world know we women stand with all women.

No woman is free unless all women are free.  
Info. on Facebook page: Women's March on Austin  
<https://marchonaustin.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/atxmarch.pdf>  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSey22pb6VYx7P0Z2KQ96nM-NMV-V015LS4kAS9XjJUJI9WDvg/viewform?c=0&w=1>

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