

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR NORTH TEXAS DEMOCRATS

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Garland, Texas

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Rockwall Mayor Wants Potty Rule Rockwall Citizens Say “NO” City Council Agrees

Rockwall, Texas 5/2/16:

“Rockwall Mayor Jim Pruitt found no support for his polity to regulate bathroom usage by birth gender Monday.” [DMN 5/2/16](#)

A rousing City Council meeting was held this week in deep red Rockwall City. Rockwall Mayor Jim Pruitt proposed a “potty ordinance.”

Before the meeting, The Rockwall Democratic Party with the **Equality Texas** hosted an informational meeting for citizens. Three speakers delivered information on humanitarian, business/legal and public policy aspects of the ordinance.

“We need to ensure that everyone is educated on the issues pertaining to these type of laws.” stated Judith Matherne, Rockwall County Democratic Chair.



At the city council meeting resident-only concerned citizens spoke against the “bathroom ordinance.” It was inspiring to see people stand up for others — a mother for her child, a clinical psychologist explaining gender issues, and a lawyer ready to sue the city.

Four city council members said they originally liked Pruitt’s suggested ordinance and its intent to enhance public safety, [ed. after hearing community testimony] said the intent wasn’t captured as written.

The three hour meeting’s final act was for Mayor Priuit to enter a motion to implement the ordinance again. Not one of the council members would enter a second to the mayor’s motion.

The motion died.

(More articles on the Rockwall decision are found on pages 7, 8 and 9 of this issue.)

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GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

EDITORIAL

From the Ford Kitchen Table — May 2016

From time to time this editor takes editorial privilege to explore current events from the Ford Family kitchen table. The facts presented are documented and to be trusted, as usual for the **GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE**.

For several years now the GOP'pers and especially the Tea Party-Gop'pers have been wailing about. "NO NEW TAXES!" "LOWER THE TAXES ON THE WEALTHY AND CREATE JOBS!" "Government is too big!" "They won't get my gun!" "Stop the EPA — Eliminate the Regulations!" "Protect our girls — Use only the bathroom which matches what is on the birth certificate!" "Close the IRS!" "End the Post Office!" End Social Security, Medicare, the ACA ("Obamacare"), public education, benefits for our veterans, and don't forget: "Texas must secede from the U.S.! To name just a few of the GOP'per cries.

This last Saturday Texas held the Municipal Joint Elections. As a presiding election judge in Precinct 2700, we checked in a total of 51 voters out of 3,132 or so registered voters. All 51 voters had photo id's required by Texas to prevent supposed rampant voter fraud. The total count for 2700 was 107 voters or roughly 3 percent. Voter turnout for Dallas County was 5.6 percent, according to Dallas County Elections.

The big issue on the May ballot in much of the county was to vote on school board bonds. Those of us in Richardson Independent School District, RISD, voted for a \$437.1 MILLION Bond. A flyer, sent before the election shouted in big letters: "Cost to You? \$0". In small letters on the bottom of the column this was explained that this is for over-65 homeowners whose tax levy is frozen.

Back to the kitchen table: Chuck has written a very informative article in this issue covering the specifics for the bond issues passed on May 7th. As he explained the article to me, the plan by our Tea Party-laced local government became very clear. Yep, no new taxes. My new-found understanding of bond issues is they are simply a credit card. "Charge it! Just put it on the card!" We don't have to pay for anything!" What this doesn't address is the little talked of, "servicing the debt," which means the interest to be paid and not payment on the principle loan amount. Again, Chuck has reported some of the staggering amounts in this category for several of the districts. Sit down before reading them.

It all makes sense to me. All we must do is "Charge it!" Eliminate the taxes on the wealthy so Social Security, Medicare, public education, caring for our veterans are no longer a problem. Eliminate the IRS so there's no one to collect the taxes. Close the Post Office so we can't get tax bills or send payments and then secede from the Union so they can't get us after defaulting on our payments, especially debt service amounts.

God bless you Texas!

— Rachel Baker Ford, editor

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

ARTICLE

Ole' Texas Boys Abbott and Paxton At It Again Ride'em Cowboys!

— Willa Kulhavy

The Dallas Morning News kept asking the Attorney General's staff to provide evidence justifying the payment of two months salary payments made in return for voluntary resignations. Attorney General Paxton's only recourse was to whine about it. Governor Abbott didn't hear the publicity. Abbott, who, as the Attorney General, has sued the U.S. government 25 times, has been ominously quiet.

At the same time and most fortunate, for the boys, Target stores announced a transgender restroom policy which allows a person who feels they are a person who was born with the some or all of the wrong physical gender parts to go in the restroom appropriate for the gender their brain and heart say they are. I don't think it changed who uses which Target restroom. I've never had to present my birth certificate at any women's restroom door.

But it did give Attorney General Paxton the press coverage he wants for a while, and Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick is also starring on the potty policy patrol. He whacked the Fort Worth school system's potty policy such a good one by demanding the resignation of their superintendent that President Obama made a potty policy decree stating the school districts would comply with the decree of bathroom usage based on personal ID'ing of preferred gender rather than by birth certification.

It seems to me that we all will be in a restroom line until former Texas governor Gregg Abbott completes his plan for Texas to either secede or take over all the authority of the federal government. See: <https://www.gregabbott.com/issues/> ; and Abbott's Bicentennial Blueprint <http://townhall254.gregabbott.com/forum/bicentennial-blueprint/> .

These documents are scarier than a person who believes she is a woman being allowed in a restroom for women.

<http://trailblazersblog.dallasnews.com/2016/04/attorney-general-ken-paxton-still-paying-top-aides-who-left-agency-a-month-ago.html/>

editor: Our Texas Boys completely ignored the events in Rockwall. The Rockwall City Council refused to even take up the potty matter by not giving a second to Mayor Pruitt's motion to limit potty usage to birth-type certification.

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Ken Paxton Video is a Con Job... on His Supporters

Yesterday, Ken Paxton released a video message to supporters that takes the same dishonest con job approach that got him indicted in the first place.

In the video, Paxton tries to downplay the seriousness of the criminal charges against him and presents himself as a victim. During the very first minute, Paxton looks straight into the camera and lies about why he is under criminal indictment, who gathered the evidence, who handed down the indictments and who is prosecuting him.

Here are some of the false statements made by Paxton followed by facts:

Paxton says: "I never imagined that after being fairly elected by the people of Texas I would wake up one day to find myself charged with crimes I didn't commit."

FACT: Paxton admitted and was fined by the State Securities Board for one of the crimes that resulted in an indictment by May 2, 2014 — several weeks BEFORE he was nominated for Texas AG and six months BEFORE he was elected.

Paxton says: "The Chief witness against me in these charges is a political adversary of mine."

FACT: Paxton's principal accusers are a former friend and legislative colleague, Republican State Representative Byron Cook, and a Florida businessman Joel Hochberg who trusted Paxton with his savings. They became adversaries only after Paxton swindled them.

Paxton says: "Some folks are still upset that their moderate candidate didn't win. There are those folks that are mad that I'm a conservative Christian and made no bones about it. They say that people of strong faith don't belong in public service."

FACTS: No one participating in Paxton's prosecution has expressed political or ideological differences with him and none have questioned his faith or the right of any person of faith to serve in public office. Here is who is involved in the criminal investigation and prosecution of Paxton:

- The Texas Rangers conducted the investigation and gathered the facts that were presented to the Grand Jury.
- A Collin County Grand Jury indicted Paxton after reviewing the evidence presented against him. Collin is Paxton's home county and is staunchly Republican.
- The attorneys in charge of Paxton's prosecution both have Republican ties. One of them helped defend former Republican Congressman Tom DeLay.
- The District Court Judge presiding in Paxton case, Judge George Gallagher, is a Republican.

Bottom Line:

Paxton is in a cold sweat panic about Texans learning more and more details about his ongoing felony criminal prosecution. He's dealing with it by lying to, and keeping facts from, even his most trusting and ardent supporters.

May 12, 2016
Matt Angle

Permission to reprint granted by Lone Star Project

Should Texas Have a Sales Tax Instead of the Property Tax?

— *Charles E. Ford, Jr.*

The question is nothing new but no state has taken the bold and foolish step of substituting the sales tax for the property tax. Texas already has a state sales tax of 6.25 percent. Various entities within the state have the option of adding as much as 2 percent to the state's 6.25 percent so most Texans pay 8.25 percent tax on taxable items.

Proponents point out the state already collects the sales tax and returns the portion above the 6.25 percent to the source that submitted the sales tax. From their point of view, all we have to do is raise the percent the state receives to balance out the revenue the state lost by eliminating the property tax. The income to the state, the counties, the cities, the schools, and other entities would not change.

Proponents argue the property tax is not fair because the property owner has no control over it. You buy the property at a value you can afford but typically the value increases and so does your annual property tax. The property tax can increase to the point the owner can no longer afford the property. There is also a problem with a somewhat arbitrary and inconsistent system used to assign a value to your property.

Opponents fear the change, partly because no one has ever made a change of this magnitude. The state collected \$49.1 billion dollars from property taxes in 2015 and \$28.9 billion in sales taxes. If the property tax goes away the entire burden will fall on the sale tax. You cannot force people or businesses to spend more so one option is to raise the rate. If that is the only change you make the rate would be 16.87 percent for the state plus the 2 percent for the local entities like municipalities, school districts, hospital districts and some transportation districts. That \$500 TV you were about to buy would now cost you \$594.35 the car for \$17,000 will be \$20,207.90 (and that does not include the cost of credit card interest).

Another option is to tax items like food and medicines that currently are not taxed. Items that are sold from one business to another for later resale are not currently taxed but it will be included in the price when you buy the item along with another sales tax.

The major drawback to substituting the sales tax for the property tax is all the sales tax money will go to Austin. Municipalities, school districts, hospitals, parents and taxpayers will no longer have local control of the funds. They will be given what some anonymous individual in Austin tells them they can have. This is not a trivial argument. The October 2015 Issue of the **GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE**, Volume 2, Number 9, reported on Proposition 1 on the November 2015 ballot. The proposition increased the amount of the residence homestead exemption for public school purposes from \$15,000 to \$25,000. The state will compensate the school district for the loss of funds.

BUT, a commissioner in Austin will decide how the money is distributed and the commissioner's decision is final and may not be appealed.

Not many people want to lose local control and to be subservient to Austin when it comes to schools or municipal issues. The politicians in Austin have already demonstrated their willingness to attack the school budget when revenues to the state reduced. They took billions of dollars from the school budget and didn't blink an eye. They could have found an alternative if they had tried.

Social Security Update

The scams and fear mongers have been going wild with ridiculous stories about changes to Social Security that took place on May 1st. Perhaps this will help clear the air.

You did not get a cost of living raise this year but you probably already knew that. Employee and employer contributions to Social Security remain at 6.2 percent of your wages. The employee still contributes 1.45 percent of your all your wages to Medicare. The contributions to Social Security are only taken on the first \$118,500.

If you are under your full retirement age one dollar of your benefit will be withheld from each \$2 earned over \$15,720/year. If you are over your full retirement age one dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above \$41,880/year.

Social Security Disability Thresholds for non-blind increased from \$1090/month to \$1,130/month. The maximum Social Security for a worker retiring at full retirement age has been reduced from \$2,663/month to \$2,639/month. The SSI Federal Payment Standard, SSI Resources Limit, and SSI Student Exclusions are unchanged.

What changes were made to Social Security? A spouse can no longer file only for the spousal benefit and delay filing for his or her own benefit. A second change allows you to voluntarily suspend benefit payments at your full retirement age in order to earn higher benefits but during the voluntary suspension, other benefits payable on your record, such as payments to your spouse, are also suspended.

www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2016.html

Don't be fooled by this either. The OASDI fund, which most of us know as the Social Security trust fund currently at \$2.8 trillion will be depleted in 2036 if action isn't taken soon. There is no sign the politicians in Washington, DC are about to do anything. In fact, the disability portion of the fund will run out of money this year if congress doesn't transfer money from Social Security or take some other action.

The Republicans want to privatize Social Security and invest the money in the stock market. We saw in 2009 how fast that money can evaporate. Most retirement funds lost about 30 percent of their value. Not to mention the fact the \$2.8 trillion doesn't exist. The fund consists of U.S. Treasury notes or bonds. So, as we draw from the fund, we cash the notes but the treasury has no money so they borrow from other countries and add to the national debt of \$19.2 trillion.

The longer we wait to make changes the more severe the changes will be. If you complained about changing the method for calculating the cost of living increases, just wait, you ain't seen nothing yet!

It's Damned Ridiculous!

Texas has an epidemic because bonds are approved at a 93 percent rate by voters. Bonds are a giant credit card for school boards or municipalities to spend with little oversight. It is a political stunt to avoid raising taxes and pass the debt on to your children and grandchildren.

Municipal and school district have low turnout voter participation. This works for those in favor of approving the bond. People who will gain from the bond issue are sure to vote. It is much harder to generate the interest in others who might oppose the bond. Bonds are issued for huge amounts of money based on a vaguely worded proposition. Approval is akin to handing a teenager an American Express card with no limit. The May 7th ballots in Dallas and Collin Counties illustrates the concern.

Coppell ISD:	\$249,040,000	2,741 for / 2,650 nay
Richardson ISD:	\$437,000,000	6,361 for / 3,136 nay
Allen:	\$24,445,000	3,772 for / 645 nay
	\$27,000,000	3,524 for / 891 nay
	\$16,045,000	3,342 for / 1,052 nay
	\$23,890,000	3,867 for / 552 nay
	\$1,770,000	2,409 voters for / 1,977 nay
McKinney ISD:	\$220,000,000	6,870 voters / 4,244 nay
Plano ISD:	\$481,000,000	8,039 voters for 2,196 against
Total:	\$1,480,190,000	

\$1,480,190,000 was authorized by 27,432 voters in these districts. That is \$60,000 per voter to approve the bond issue (3,867 voters for Allen). The remainder of the voters are either rich enough they don't care or they are oblivious of what is going on around them. They are not alone.

The story gets worse. Coppell ISD already had a debt of \$218,772,323 on their books. Richardson ISD 429,804,988. Allen \$100,610. McKinney ISD with a debt of only \$465,965,000. Second only to Plano ISD with a debt of \$922,505,466. Yes, Plano ISD already owed almost a billion dollars before this bond was authorized.

I'm not picking on the Allen or the school districts above. The disease has spread across the state. There were 95 bond propositions on the ballots across Texas for a total of \$4,608,908,180. 69 were approved 26 defeated.

www.texastransparency.org/Special_Features/Bond_Elections/bond-results-all.pdf

Not all bonds should be defeated, but in Texas we are surrounded by candidates claiming to be conservatives wanting smaller government and better fiscal responsibility. Look at the list above. Tell me what you got. You elected children with no knowledge or belief of what a candy bar costs or who will pay for it. It didn't cost anything. They handed the little rectangular piece of plastic to the person behind the counter and in return got a candy bar.

What a wonderful world!



GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE ROCKWALL ROCKS!

Bathroom Ordinance Flushed Down in Rockwall, Texas The Miracle in Rockwall Really Did Happen

— Susie Stansel

The citizens of Rockwall showed up at the city council meeting on Monday, May 2, and proved that we do have compassion and caring for others. We won this battle, but the war is not over.

The Rockwall County Democrats, **Equality Texas**, **Lambda Legal**, various other LGBT organizations, and the caring citizens of Rockwall defeated an ordinance that was unenforceable and unnecessary. The defeat of the ordinance gave transgendered people a voice. Yes, there are transgendered people living in Rockwall!

Rockwall residents told their city council that the Rockwall they love is not a city that would support discrimination. There is no place for discrimination anywhere in Texas. Small town Texas values were on fine display and Rockwall shows what Texas is really all about. Local communities.

Judith Matherne, chair of the Rockwall County Democratic Party, told Mayor Pruitt and the city council to produce data that would demonstrate the existence of a problem to be solved. In the absence of such evidence, they voted “no” on a policy that was not fully inclusive or fair-minded.

Karen Roggenkamp a mother of a 17 year old transgender daughter, stated she wouldn't let her daughter be a target of uninformed and backward legislation. Roggenkamp stated her child is very vulnerable and she would protect her with legal action against the city if necessary.

James Montgomery, General Manager of Hilton Rockwall Lakeside, stated this ordinance would affect the stores, restaurants, gas stations, and more that fuel the economy in Rockwall. He urged a no vote stating his company pays up to one million dollars a year in property taxes to Rockwall.

The open forum lasted three hours with 30 Rockwall residents speaking for or against the ordinance. There were close to 300 in attendance including large group of LGBT activists from Rockwall and other communities. The mayor only allowed Rockwall residents to speak.

One of the most heart wrenching speeches was from a young man who used to attend Rockwall Heath High School. He came to speak against the ordinance, because he was a transgender male. He told about how he had been bullied in school and had been told it would be best for him to drop out and home school on line. He talked about how difficult this decision was for him and how he was in constant fear of his life. This was a very difficult life changing step for him. He just wanted the rights as everyone else has — to be able to live his life without fear and be loved and not hated for who he is. There wasn't a dry eye in the house when this brave young man finished. We applauded his courage to speak out.

Other speakers were Sol Villasano, lawyer and civil rights activist, spoke about the economic destruction the ordinance would cause, also how unenforceable it was and what kind of image this would give our city.

Lawyer David Smith stated he and his partner would open their law firm up to defend any person who was fined if this passed and he would also file civil suits against the city and they wouldn't charge a fee.

A 30-something aged woman in her speech stated she was a Republican and loved living in Rockwall but was against this ordinance. She told a story of how she came to the event. She asked a gentleman for directions to the building and he gave them and after she thanked him, and as she walked away she overheard the man saying to his friend, “She must be one of them.” The women broke down in tears. The judgmental bigotry is disgusting and so hurtful. This is what happens when hate is fueled.

The city councilmen were unanimous in their opposition to the ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem, Dennis Lewis stated the solution was if you don't like a business's bathroom policy then don't shop at that store. Councilman David White stated he didn't like it when it was first presented to him and he still didn't like it and wouldn't vote for the ordinance. He stated there was no need for it as there was already laws on the books. White, a member of the GOP Executive Committee for Rockwall County, east of Dallas, opposed Pruitt's ordinance. “I believe in limited government and this is private property issue for stores. If someone doesn't like the policy of a store, then don't go to that store. Government doesn't need to dictate who pees where. Enforcement would be next to impossible without requiring people to carry a special card or their birth certificate. I'd also oppose police stopping people to verify possession of such identification. Laws already exist to prosecute for ‘peeping toms’ and assault and the other aggressions people are claiming to which not having this ordinance will lead.”

The mayor still trying to get some type of bathroom bill passed, so he said let's just prohibit city owned bathrooms. David White again challenged him stating the city didn't own anything. The taxpayers of Rockwall owned the public facilities. They began a heated back and forth conversation.

The mayor moved to vote on the ordinance and no second was made and the ordinance ended with not vote.

The meeting ended, *sine die*.



GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

ROCKWALL ROCKS!

This is the statement given as part of the public comments during the city council meeting in Rockwall on May 2, 2016 by Judith Matherne, chair of the Rockwall County Democrats and resident of the City of Rockwall.

“Greetings Mayor Pruitt, Council Members and Members of the Assembly.

Mayor, I voted for you and encouraged other to do so. This is not what I expected from you.

The role of public servants and city government is to make public policy by scrutinizing the data available to inform that policy.

So, my question to you Mayor Pruitt, and members of the Council, “what data have you used for information regarding this Ordinance?”

Based on my reading of experts in the fields of medicine, psychology, social work, law enforcement, and gender studies, I find no basis for this proposed ordinance.

I cite the following studies: [listed in next column] Based on these studies, I can only conclude that this ordinance has no basis in science or fact.

It endangers citizens and visitors to Rockwall County.

It is ideologically and politically motivated.

The second “whereas” statement speaks of the public policy of the city of Rockwall and concludes these policies as defined in the ordinance “shall not constitute discrimination.”

I am sure your intent is for it to be non-discriminatory.

However, the effect is discriminatory.

And, as such, it is unconstitutional.

If passed by the council, you are opening the City of Rockwall to lawsuits.

The reputation of Rockwall as a welcoming destination will be smeared.

Transgender youth and adults will be subjected to vigilante violence.

Mr. Mayor, the citizens of Rockwall deserve an answer from you. “What studies have informed this ordinance?” Show us your research. Show us the local police data that points to this as a problem to be solved.

Members of the Council, I urge you to vote NO to this ordinance.”

— Judith Matherne, chair
Rockwall County Democratic Party

Documentation Studies and Positions

1. Joint letter to governors about proposed legislation regarding restrooms and gender identity: American Academy of Pediatrics, American Counseling Association, American School Counselor Association, Child Welfare League of America, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of Social Workers, National Education Association
www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/state-advocacy/Documents/AAP_HRCLetter.pdf
2. Press Release: The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women
www.lgbtmap.org/file/allys-guide-talking-about-trans-inclusive-ndos.pdf
3. Statement: The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women
<http://endsexualviolence.org/files/NTFNationalConsensusStmntTransAccessWithSignatoriesUpdated4-29-16.pdf>
4. 15 Experts Debunk Right-Wing Transgender Bathroom Myth Experts in 12 states -- including law enforcement officials, government employees, and advocates for victims of sexual assault -- have debunked the right-wing myth that sexual predators will exploit transgender non-discrimination laws to sneak into women's restrooms, calling the myth baseless and “beyond specious.”
mediamatters.org/research/2014/03/20/15-experts-debunk-right-wing-transgender-bathro/198533
5. A OSHA: Guide to Restroom Access for Transgender Workers www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3795.pdf
6. An Ally’s Guide to Talking about Transgender-Inclusive Non-Discrimination Laws
www.lgbtmap.org/file/allys-guide-talking-about-trans-inclusive-ndos.pdf
7. National Association of Social Workers: Transgender and Gender Identity Issues
www.socialworkers.org/da/da2008/finalvoting/documents/Transgender%202nd%20round%20-%20Clean.pdf
8. Amer. Psychiatric Assn: Position Statement on Discrimination against Transgender and Gender Variant Individuals
www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/About-APA/Organization-Documents-Policies/Policies/Position-2012-Transgender-Gender-Variant-Discrimination.pdf
9. American Psychological Association: Transgender, Gender Identity, & Gender Expression Non-Discrimination
www.apa.org/about/policy/transgender.aspx
10. Amer. Medical Ass’n: AMA Policies on LGBT Issues
www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/about-ama/our-people/member-groups-sections/glb-advocacy-committee/ama-policy-regarding-sexual-orientation.page
11. Statement from the Episcopal Bishops of N. Carolina Regarding HB2 www.dionc.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/3178627
12. PGLAG: Guide to Being a Trans Ally
www.community.pflag.org/document.doc?id=904
13. Report: National Transgender Discrimination Survey
http://endtransdiscrimination.org/PDFs/NTDS_Exec_Summary.pdf
http://endtransdiscrimination.org/PDFs/NTDS_Report.pdf

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GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

ROCKWALL COUNTY ROCKS!

A Reason for Hope

— Paula Minnie Ellis

I'd like to thank the Rockwall County Democratic Party on behalf of the trans community of North Texas. My dear friend Andrea Carey reached out to Mike Rawlins, Chair of the Collin County Democratic Party, who put us in touch with Karen Owens Jacobs [ed: Karen is running for TXHD 33, a gerrymandered district in the crescent-shaped district from Rockwall around to Frisco) and Judith Matherne, chair of Rockwall County Democrats. Andrea, Finn, and I met with them on Sunday afternoon, the day before the City Council meeting where this ordinance would be voted on. We kind of hoped we'd just get some idea of what we'd be up against with the council — maybe identify someone to speak on our behalf. I didn't really know what to expect, the truth be told. But I can tell you that I surely didn't expect to see a room packed full of people, speakers lined up, talking points ready to go, real organization and planning. But that's exactly what I found! Steve Rudner, from Equality Texas, joined us out there for the meeting, Lou Weaver joined by phone.

We went over some talking points, talked about the folks they'd found to speak, the ones we had found to speak, went over what we'd talk about so we didn't all just say the same thing, and miss important points, and talked over how the city council meetings go there. We didn't have to educate them - they understood the issue, and were furious their mayor had proposed the ordinance. We didn't have to explain a thing to them. They just got it.

They told us of the difficulties involved in being a Democrat in an area where Republicans just about always win, no matter what. But they persevere, no matter the circumstances, and even though they didn't think we could win Monday night, they were in for the fight.

And oh my gosh, did they deliver on Monday! Their support was really crucial in defeating this unjust and discriminatory ordinance. And yes, this really was all about transgender people — the lies about this were quite transparent. If this were about sexual predators, why did the ordinance target things that made life difficult for trans people, and not the bulk of sexual predators? Oh, there were, and will continue to be, denials of that — but the good people of Rockwall weren't fooled by any of that.

I want to point out to the members of the trans community that most of the people in that room on Sunday, and who stood up to support us in the city council meeting, were people with no connection to the trans community whatsoever. None. They were just good people who recognized a terrible injustice and stood up to speak against it. I was speechless at the number who showed up to speak against the ordinance. I never expected that.

And so, I hope my trans brothers and sisters will take note of this, and realize that while it sometimes seems as if the entire world is against us, the truth is, it isn't. We have friends and allies. There are good people who may not understand us completely, but believe we deserve to be treated no less than they themselves deserve to be treated. We have reason for hope.

And that is really what I want to thank the good folks in the Rockwall County Democratic Party, and those in the city of Rockwall itself who stood with us. Thank you for standing up for your neighbors, the transgender citizens of Rockwall, and the trans people of North Texas — you gave us hope when many of us doubted we had much reason for it. We are in your debt.

<https://www.facebook.com/RockwallDems/>

Posted on Facebook 05/04/16



GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE WORDS FROM OUR COUNTY CHAIR

The Red Votes Are Coming!

If Paul Revere were alive today and living in Dallas County, he might ride his horse through town, warning us that “The red votes are coming! The red votes are coming!” Actually, the red votes are already in our midst. On May 12, 2016, the Texas Republican Convention convened in Dallas at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center.

Over 1,000 delegates were expected to attend the convention this week. Based on news interviews, these delegates plan to propose platform issues related to secession, guns, immigration, property taxes, reparative therapy for gays and lesbians, and “the bathroom movement.”

Yes, you heard me. Republicans have become obsessed with who uses which public restrooms in America. It may have started in North Carolina, but it didn’t take long for the Republican state leaders in Texas to start the fear-mongering about “boys in the girls bathrooms.” The fact that this has never been a problem in our lifetime doesn’t seem to matter to them. The fact that this non-issue does nothing to address the real challenges we face seems to be of no consequence.

Mark my words: It is no coincidence that Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick chose the week of the Texas Republican Convention to use Fort Worth as his bully pulpit. He called for the immediate firing of the superintendent of the Fort Worth School District. What terrible thing did this superintendent allegedly do? He informed the schools in Fort Worth that children were to be allowed to go to the bathroom for the gender with which they identified.

However, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick was in for a shock. He evidently assumed that the people of Fort Worth would rally behind his “bathroom movement.” Instead, he was booed by the crowd. Most people thought that his performance was “much ado about nothing.” The superintendent was not fired, and the little children of Fort Worth have continued to go to the bathroom of their choice, without incident.

For those of you who have been involved in politics for 30 years or more, you may remember that the bathroom catastrophe stories have been previously used by the Republicans. Specifically, they argued that, if the Equal Rights Amendment was passed, we would have “unisex” bathrooms. More recently, similar arguments were made in Houston to defeat an ordinance requiring equal rights for gays and lesbians.

The important thing to remember with regard to the bathroom issue is that it is pure fear-mongering. So many other issues of importance ought to be center stage for the 2016 presidential race. Why are the Republicans not concentrating on these issues? Could it be that they have no answers for those issues?

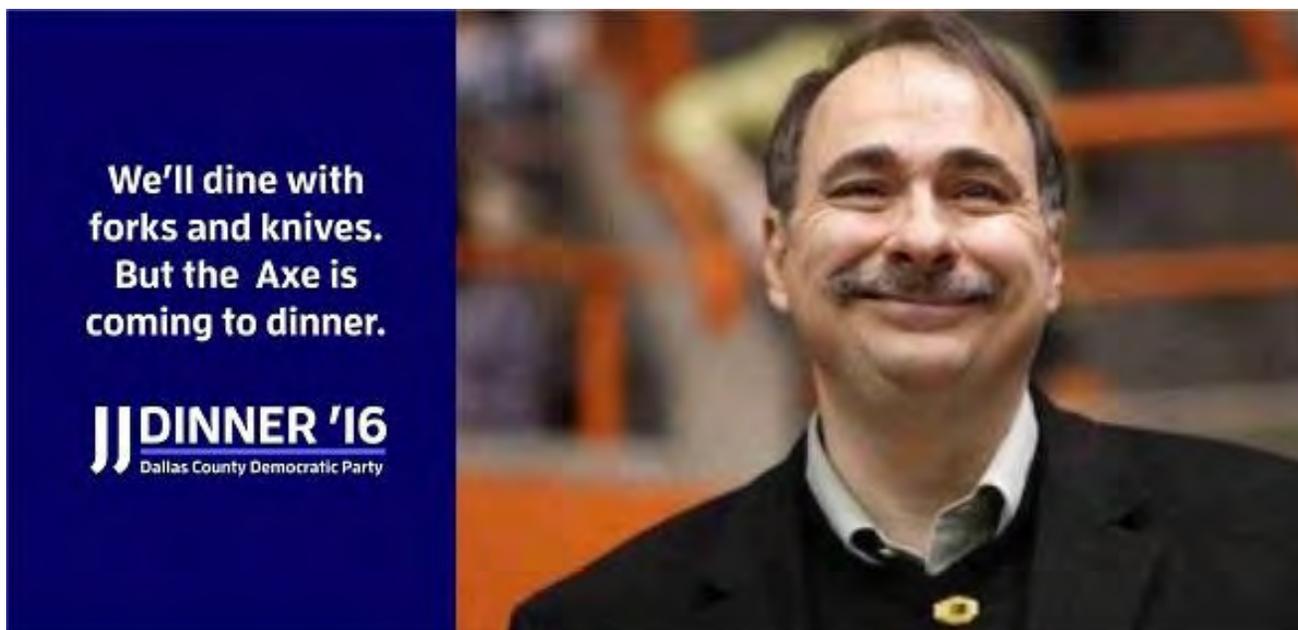
There’s only one way to battle those who try to use hate and fear to divide us and distract us from the real issues. We need to elect Democrats who are ready to roll up their sleeves and make practical progress on education, healthcare, equality, social justice, and economic opportunity. These are the hard, real challenges that are before us. Will you join us in this critical fight to elect Democrats who will stand up for real Texas values? We need you.

First up is go to the polls and vote in the Democratic Primary Election Runoff. Early voting runs through Friday, May 20th. Election Day is on May 24th. [*ed: see page14 of this VOICE*]

Yours Democratically,
Carol Donovan, DCDP Chair

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

DALLAS COUNTY NEWS



On June 20, 2016, David Axelrod will be the keynote speaker for the Annual Johnson-Jordan Dinner sponsored by the Dallas County Democratic Party (DCDP). The event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Dallas.

Mr. Axelrod was Senior Strategist for the 2008 and 2012 Obama presidential campaigns. Between campaigns, he served as the Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama from 2009 to 2011. After serving in the White House, Mr. Axelrod was the founding Director of the Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago. In addition to his work with the Institute, Mr. Axelrod is a Senior Political Commentator for CNN.

In the past year, David Axelrod published his autobiographical book *Believer: My Forty Years in Politics*, which is a *New York Times* bestseller. The critic for the *New York Times* describes the book as “a stout defense — indeed, the best I have read — of the Obama years.” Doris Kearns Goodwin, the author of *Team of Rivals*, describes Axelrod’s book as follows: “Beautifully written with warmth, humor, and remarkable self-awareness, *Believer* is one of the finest political memoirs I have ever read.”

The net profits for the Annual Johnson-Jordan Dinner will benefit the DCDP, and particularly the 2016 Coordinated Campaign, through which the DCDP supports Democratic candidates in Dallas County.

Individual tickets will be available for purchase later. At this time, the DCDP is offering sponsorships at various levels. To sponsor this event, contact the DCDP.

Dallas County Democratic Party Carol Donovan, County Chair
4209 Parry Avenue, Dallas TX 75223

Phone: 214-821-8331 Fax: 214-821-0995

Website: www.dallasdemocrats.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/DallasDemocrats

Twitter: twitter.com/dallasdemocrats Instagram: <http://instagram.com/dallasdemocrats>

Every Vote Counts!

Steve Love 5/10/16 Facebook

Just saw a posting of someone claiming that the reason they don't vote is that their "vote does not matter."

My response is this: Did not 1,999th G.I. who stepped out of a landing craft on Omaha Beach only to be killed instantly MATTERED to the winning of WWII? His family could take that position, but don't!!!! He was DOING HIS DUTY! The least we civilians, in the safety of a polling booth, can do is OUR DUTY to signal to our fellow citizens that he gave his life so that we could enjoy the freedom to vote and HIS LIFE MATTERS until today!!!!

Comments [abridged]

Eric V. Moyé: Think your vote does not count? Think again! Irving faces \$70,000 special election after incumbent falls one vote short of win!
www.thescoopblog.dallasnews.com

Michael E. Young: 5/10/16 10:08 a.m.
Irving faces \$70,000 special election after incumbent falls one vote short of win.
www.thescoopblog.dallasnews.com/2016/05/irving-faces-70000-special-election-after-incumbent-falls-one-vote-short-of-win.html/

Ron Baselice: Dallas County's election administrator is waiting to see approved forms of ID before counting the ballots of two voters in Saturday's election, which — along with overseas military ballots — could tip the scale in favor of City Council incumbent Allan Meagher.

How much is a vote worth? In the race to represent Place 2 on the Irving City Council, a single ballot for incumbent Allan Meagher could save the city \$70,000, the cost of a runoff election.

Tom Spink: Unless the provisional and overseas ballots tip the scale, the result is a citywide runoff election between Meagher and Spink, requiring 13 polling places across town and a cost that Pippins-Poole estimated at \$70,000.

There's also the possibility of a recount, said **Shanae Jennings**, Irving's city secretary, but it's up to one of the candidates to request one. None has so far.

Allan Meagher stated: The immediate plan is to see what happens with the provisional ballots. "We hope they will settle this," he said "For now, both candidates await word from the election office."

"I was involved in a race where there was only a three-vote difference" between candidates, Jennings said, "but this is my first race when a candidate got exactly 50 percent of the vote."

That's true for Pippins-Poole, too, she said, "but I have experienced elections when candidates received exactly the same number of votes. That's why every vote counts."

Statement on April Jobs Report Press Releases 05.06.16

— Hon. Nancy Pelosi,
House Minority Leader (CA8D)

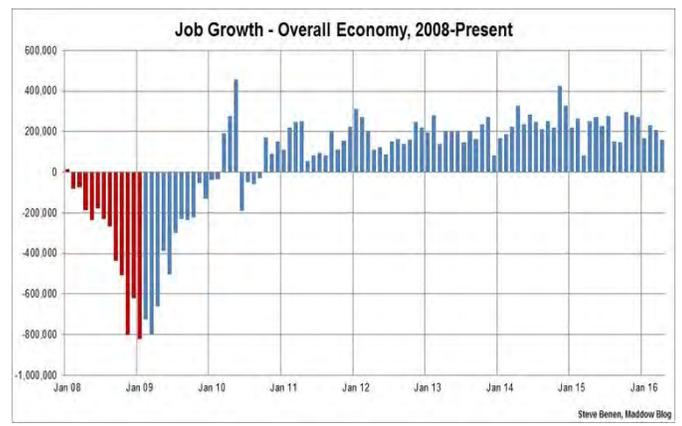
Washington, D.C. – Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi released the following statement today after the Department of Labor announced that the economy added 160,000 jobs in April. With businesses adding 171,000 jobs last month, April represents the 74th consecutive month of private sector job growth.

"April's jobs report shows our economy continues to move forward. Yet the obstructionist Republican Congress continues to stand in the way of creating more good-paying jobs and growing the paychecks of working Americans.

"Four months into the year, Republicans have no real plan to raise wages and create good-paying jobs in our country. House Republicans still have not brought their latest job-killing 'Road to Ruin' Ryan budget proposal to an up or down vote. Americans with critical public health emergencies threatening their families still see no action or urgency from the Republican Congress.

"The message to House Republicans is clear: do your job! The American people are fed up with a Republican Congress that spends week after week stacking the deck for the special interests, and does nothing to create good-paying jobs or grow the wages of hard-working families. Democrats will continue to fight for strong action to create jobs and increase the paychecks of all Americans."

<http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/job-growth-cools-bit-april-unemployment-remains-low>



The Runoff election for Irving Council Place 2 has been averted. **Allan E. Meagher** was declared a winner when one provisional ballot was cured and gave Mr. Meagher the election with 50.01 of the votes. Every vote counts! [editor]

On this Mother's Day, I am reminded of the old message about love ... that if you set out to love, you will always be able to find a reason to love ... and if you set out to hate, you will always be able to find a reason to hate ... that how we set our sails — to love or hate — will determine which fills our soul's destination.

—Steve Love

Support the Winner

When we vote in the Democratic Primary we take an oath (read the small print at the top of the ballot) to support the winner of the primary.

Bernie said on **Meet the Press**, that he will do everything to make sure Trump loses but that it is Hillary's responsibility to win over his supporters.

What he is saying is that he will do nothing to roll back his charge that she is unqualified, that she voted for the war in Iraq and that she is under the influence of Wall Street because of payment for speeches she has given.

Excuse me, but if Trump is the opposition in November, refusing to roll back these charges is not doing everything to see that Trump is not President!

He is saying that those who voted for Hillary are obligated to vote for him if he wins the nomination but he has no obligation to vote for her or encourage those who voted for him, to vote for her if she wins.

Am I missing something her of is this dirty pool?

Comments

George Nowik: That stance is pretty typical of what Senators wrote/said he did in congress — He could not/would not work with anybody that had a different opinion from his. I mean he insisted on a 100 percent agreement.

Send the old Grump back to the hole he crawled out of.

—Steve Love

Thoughts on the Defense Budget and Feeding Hungry Children

Much is made of the DOD's part of the budget and the reason we have to slash social programs in the federal budget. Let me suggest an alternative view.

Since WWII, the defense budget has been a pipeline of technology to the private sector and an improved civilian quality of life. We would not have the Internet today had it not been for research paid for by the DOD. The same is true for aircraft and aircraft engine technology and the GPS satellite system to name only a few technologies.

The point is made that lots of other countries have much smaller defense budgets. That is because they buy their weapons from us after all the bugs are removed. Weapon sales is a major part of our export revenues.

So, what I have concluded is the DOD budget, as the reason we cannot afford to feed our hungry children, *et.al.* is a red herring!

The problem is that we have slashed marginal tax rates below what they were 50 years ago, when top income earners took home far less than they do today; but, as a consequence, we were able to pay down our war debt AND fight poverty.

—Steve Love
Facebook 5/12/16

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

BITS & PIECES - 3

Garland Officer Honored as Hero

Garland Police Officer, Gregory Stevens and 13 others received the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor at a White House Ceremony on May 9, 2016

Officer Stevens was honored for his courageous duty last May at the Curtis Culwell Center when he stopped two heavily armed terrorists heading for an anti-Muslim event. Gregory stopped the terrorists, using only his department issued side arm. "I was just doing my job." stated Stevens.

In the words of Clay Jenkins, Judge, Dallas County Commissioners Court : "Greg is a true American and a Texas hero."

Thank you, Officer Stevens for your courageous, calm action in the face of such danger. Congratulations on your well earned medal and recognition.



Garland Police Officer, Gregory Stevens is presented with the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor by President Obama.

Senate District Information

Senate District 2 Barbara Rosenberg 214-923-8067 berosenberg@sbcglobal.net
Sally White 214-808-7784 sallywhit@att.net

PRE-convention meeting for SD-2 delegates Saturday, May 21, 2016 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.
Dorothy Smith Pullen Elementary School 6492 FM 548, Rockwall, TX 75032

Senate District 8
Donna Bullard 214-664-3935 terrybullard@hotmail.com

PRE-convention meeting for SD-8 delegates TBA

Senate District 9
Michael McPhail 972-922-6295 mmcpfail1974@gmail.com

PRE-convention meeting for SD-9 delegates TBA

Senate District 16
David Griggs 214-244-5979 wdgriggs@yahoo.com, Janice Schwarz 214-460-7283 tamsterbath@gmail.com
Katherine McGovern 214-755-2762 ksm51711@gmail.com

PRE-convention meeting for SD-16 delegates Sunday June 5, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will be convening at Brookhaven Community College, 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75244 in the H Building.

Senate District 23
Jeff Strater 214-893-1336 jeffstrater@gmail.com Shay Wyrick-Cathey 214-850-9285 shaycathey@gmail.com

PRE-Convention Meeting for SD 23 delegates Thursday May 26, 2016, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Inspiring Body of Christ Church, 7701 S. Westmoreland Rd. Dallas, TX 75237

Rockwall County
PRE-convention meeting for Rockwall delegates Monday, May 23, 2016 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.
Harry Meyers Community Center 815 E. Washington, Rockwall 75087

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

Dallas County Democratic Runoff Election Information

Election Day Voting May 24, 2016

1. Election Day Voting Locations. Many polling places are combined precincts.

Find yours at: <http://www.dallascountyvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/WEB-DEM-Election-Day-Polling-Locations1.pdf>

2. **Mail in Ballots:** Mail in Ballot it can be returned by mail or common/contract carrier and received before 7:00 p.m. on election day. Ballots hand delivered in person (voter) in the carrier envelope with marked ballot on Election Day before 7:00 p.m. to Early Voting Clerks Office: 2377 N. Stemmons Frwy., Suite 835 Dallas, Texas 75207. The voter must provide acceptable form of ID for voting at the time of delivery and must sign in with clerk.

3. **Military or Overseas** (FPCA application) must received by the fifth day after election day.

Early Voting

Monday, May 16, 2016 through Friday, May 20, 2016 7:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Early Voting Locations are for any qualified voter wishing to vote in the
Democratic and/or Republican Primary Runoff Elections

Early Voting Locations:

Bethany Lutheran Church 10101 Walnut Hill Lane Dallas 75238
Crosswinds High School 1100 N Carrier Pkwy Grand Prairie 75050
Disciple Central Comm. Church 901 N Polk St. Desoto 75115 (*Replaces Desoto Town Center Library*)
Duncanville Library 201 James Collins Duncanville 75116
Eastfield College Pleasant Grove Campus 802 S Buckner Blvd Dallas 75217
El Centro College-West Campus 3330 N Hampton Rd Dallas 75212
Fretz Park Library 6990 Belt Line Road Dallas 75254
George L. Allen Sr Courts Bldg 600 Commerce St Dallas 75202
Grauwyler Park Recreation Center 7780 Harry Hines Blvd Dallas 75235
Irving City Hall 825 W Irving Blvd Irving 75060
Josey Ranch Library 1700 Keller Springs Carrollton 75006
Lakeside Activity Center 101 Holley Park Dr Mesquite 75149
Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library 1600 Veterans Memorial Pkwy Lancaster 75134
Lochwood Library 11221 Lochwood Blvd Dallas 75218
Marsh Lane Baptist Church 10716 Marsh Lane Dallas 75229
Martin Luther King Jr Core Bldg 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Dallas 75215
Martin Weiss Recreation Center 1111 Martindell Ave Dallas 75211
Oak Cliff Sub-Courthouse 410 S. Beckley Ave Dallas 75203
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church 7611 Park Lane Dallas 75225
Paul Laurence Dunbar Lancaster-Kiest Library 2008 East Kiest Blvd Dallas 75216
Richardson Civic Center 411 W. Arapaho Road Richardson 75080
Richland College-Garland Campus 675 W Walnut St Garland 75040 (*change from Primary Election Polling Place*)
Rowlett City Hall Annex 4004 Main Street Rowlett 75088
Samuell Grand Recreation Center 6200 East Grand Ave Dallas 75223
Valley Ranch Library 401 Cimarron Trail Irving 75063

On the Dallas County Democratic Ballot:

Railroad Commissioner

Vote for One 1 Grady Yarbrough 2. Cody Garrett

County Tax Assessor-Collector

Vote for One: 1. John R. Ames 2. Bennie Elenora Brown

Criminal District Judge, Court No. 2

Vote for One 1. Chika Anyiam 2. Nancy Kennedy

Constable, Precinct No. 1, Unexpired Term

Vote for One: 1. Mae Jackson 2. Tracey Gulley

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE
ADVERTISEMENTS

 Susan
BRADLEY
for
SD16 COMMITTEEWOMAN

Dear Fellow 16th District Democrat:

I ask for your support to become the next State Democratic Executive Committee woman for Senate District 16. During my six years as Committeewoman for Senate District 9, I always answered the bell for those who elected me, never missing a general meeting, subcommittee meeting or conference call.

Throughout my political career, whether making over 2000 phone calls for Katy Hubener's legislative campaign in 2004, participating in the rebuilding of the Dallas County Democratic Party in 2005–2006, turning my historically Republican precinct blue in 2006, helping to ensure the inclusion of marriage equality in the Texas Democratic Party platform in 2012 or spearheading the fundraising for the “I Voted” and “I Voted Democratic” stickers that were distributed during this year's primary,

I have dedicated the necessary time and energy to get the job done.

At the Senate District 16 Caucus during the Texas State Democratic Convention cast your ballot for Susan Bradley for SDEC Committeewoman!

See you in San Antonio!

Political ad paid for by the candidate

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

BULLETIN BOARD

Democratic Primary Runoff Election May 24, 2016

Early Voting

Mon. May 17—Fri. May 20 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Election Day:

Tuesday May 24, 2016 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Dallas County Elections

Main Office Phone: (214) 819-6300

Voter Registration Phone: (214) 819-6389

Early Voting Phone: (214) 819-6359

Fax Number: (214) 819-6301

www.dallascountyvotes.org

On the Democratic Ballot

Railroad Commissioner

Vote for One 1. Grady Yarbrough 2. Cody Garrett

Criminal District Judge, Court No. 2

Vote for One 1. Chika Anyiam 2. Nancy Kennedy

County Tax Assessor-Collector

Vote for One: 1. John R. Ames 2. Bennie Elenora Brown

Constable, Precinct No. 1, Unexpired Term

Vote for One: 1. Mae Jackson 2. Tracey Gulley

Advertising Rates

- 1. Club Notices** (Meeting times and Date/Events) :
Business card size, camera ready copy \$10 per mo.
(3 months \$25 / 6 months \$40 / 12 months \$75)
- 2. Advertisements** (Political, Businesses, Events) :
Business card size, camera ready copy \$25 per mo.
(3 months, same copy \$60)
- 3. Advertisements** (Political, Businesses, Events) :
1/6th page size, camera ready copy \$40 per mo.
(3 months, same copy \$100)
- 4. Advertisements** (Political, Businesses, Events) :
1/4th page size, camera ready copy \$50 per mo.
(3 months, same copy \$130)
- 5. Advertisements** (Political, Businesses, Events) :
1/2th page size, camera ready copy \$60 per mo.
(3 months, same copy \$150)
- 6. Advertisements** (Political, Businesses, Events) :
Whole page size, camera ready copy \$100 per mon.
(3 months, same copy \$275)
Additional rates available upon request.
(Set up costs i.e. scanning, touch up, construction etc.)

Contact: Rachel Baker Ford, editor

MultiSMus@aol.com (972) 530-6484 / 214-773-4004

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CAROL DONOVAN, CHAIR
DALLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
GET OUT THE VOTE!