

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR NORTH TEXAS DEMOCRATS

January 30, 2018

Garland, Texas

Volume 5, Number 1

## Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid To Go !

Now that Congress has given away \$10,000,000,000,000 in tax relief, most of which went to the super rich and corporations, they will turn their phony concerns to entitlements. They will attack Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid with a vengeance. They have two goals, destroy the current programs and pass the money from these programs to friends “to invest and administer for us”. Remember that in 2008 and 2009 when the recession hit private funds lost about 30 percent of their value while social Security met its obligations in full. Administration costs of Social Security and, Medicare, and Medicaid are far lower than similar civilian programs.

Our best defense is a well informed public that knows fact from fiction.

- ▶ In 2017, 62 million Americans received almost \$1 trillion in Social Security benefits. That includes 45 million retired workers and dependents and, 10.6 million disabled workers and dependents, and 6 million survivors.
- ▶ Nine out of 10 individuals age 65 or older receive an average of \$1,369 Social Security Benefits each month. That is about 33 percent of their monthly income.
- ▶ An estimated 173 million workers are covered under Social Security. 46 percent have no private pension coverage and 39% have no money saved for retirement
- ▶ The number of Americans 65 and older will increase from 49 million today to over 79 million in 2035 and there will only be 2.2 workers for each beneficiary.
- ▶ Starting in 2022 a portion of the Social Security obligations will exceed the income from the payroll tax. The obligations will be met by withdrawing fund from the Social Security Trust Fund. The withdrawal will increase each year until the fund is depleted around 2035. In 2026 the withdrawal will be \$130 BILLION.

It is not reasonable to expect 125 million workers to support 79 million Social Security beneficiaries. That is what we are facing. Congress has already made several cuts to Medicaid and passed a large cut to Medicare in the tax bill of which they are so proud.

▶ The Congressional Budget Office has recommended an immediate cut in our benefits of 27 percent. They may attack Social Security before the election this year if they still believe Democrats will be the majority in the House after the election. Be aware and speak out!

[www.statista.com/statistics/192361/unadjusted-monthly-number-of-full-time-employees-in-the-us/](http://www.statista.com/statistics/192361/unadjusted-monthly-number-of-full-time-employees-in-the-us/)

[www.ssa.gov/oact/TR/2017/tr2017.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/oact/TR/2017/tr2017.pdf) [www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/quickfacts/stat\\_snapshot/2017-11.html](http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/quickfacts/stat_snapshot/2017-11.html)

### What's Inside?

Front Page ..Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid to go...	Page 1	Bits & Pieces... Information About the Election.....	Page 6
Editorial.....Trust, Due Process and the Rule of Law.....	Page 2	Out & About .....	Page 7
Article .....How About a Solution for Social Security?.....	Page 3	Article .....Candidates.....	Page 8
Article ....Republican Lawsuit is Totally Baseless.....	Page 4	Article .....Coward Cruz/ BETO'S NO COWARD .....	Page 8
Article ....Rockwall Commissioners Support 287G.....	Page 5	Bulletin Board ... News/Advertisement/ Ad Rates.....	Page 10

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## EDITORIAL

### Trust, Due Process and the Rule of Law

The events of the past week [especially] have been difficult and wearing.  
In a nutshell:

1. A law suit was filed by the Republican Party seeking to remove candidates from the primary ballot stating improper (illegal) procedures in preparing the candidate filing forms. Specifically that Carol Donovan, chair of the Dallas County Democratic Party had not personally signed the forms. The suit demanded 128 candidates be removed from the ballot.
2. Dallas County Democratic Attorney, Sarah Duncan, reviewed the information in the suit, researched the law and prepared the proper response: A motion to dismiss which was filed with the court. In layperson's terms this procedure stated the following reasons. A: Lack of standing (briefly for incorrect basis). B: Question is moot because the ballots have been issued and mailed to out-of-the-country voters. C: According to the election code (1.007) the forms can be signed by the County Chair or *any* designated worker.

The research by the staff of the GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE waded through the reports of this happening which came to our attention via local news reports, *The Dallas Morning News*, attendance at official Dallas County Democratic Party meetings, personal contact with party officials, and the Internet. We are satisfied in the due process and the rule of law. We trust the outcome will reveal the facts. Justice will be served.

The "Monday Morning Quarterbacks" have in many cases angrily called for the removal of our leaders while disrupting the information process. At one meeting, a group appeared with stickers covering their mouths demanding the ouster of the county chair. Refusing to listen and follow the rules of order, these folks succeeded in disrupting the proceeding and preventing the propagation of information regarding the matter at hand.

In the meantime, The GOP'pers (Republican Executive Committee) in Austin have voted to censure the Speaker of the Texas House, Speaker Joe Strauss (TX121R) . This action was brought about because Strauss has taken moderate stances which, "angered those on the far right who supported, among other legislation, school vouchers and the ill-fated bathroom bill."

[www.dallasnews.com/news/texas-politics/2018/01/27/state-republicans-vote-censure-house-speaker-joe-strauss](http://www.dallasnews.com/news/texas-politics/2018/01/27/state-republicans-vote-censure-house-speaker-joe-strauss) .

Both the candidates for Dallas Democratic Chair (Incumbent Carol Donovan and Chris Hamilton) have called for unity. **THE GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE** echos and repeats the call for unity.



*E pluribus unum.* Out of many, ONE (motto of the United States of America)

We are a united force standing against any individual or group calling for the silencing of those who seek to disrupt our freedoms, ending the rule of law, due process and justice for all.

*Rachel Baker Ford, editor*

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## ARTICLE

### How About a Solution for Social Security?

*Charles E. Ford, Jr.*

Monthly Social Security or Disability benefits are supported by the payroll tax paid by workers and employers. Currently, 67 million people depend on a monthly check from Social Security, Supplemental Security (SSI), or both. If the taxes are insufficient to cover Social Security's monthly obligations an amount equal to the shortage is withdrawn from the \$2.8 trillion Social Security Trust Fund. The income for the trust fund, taxes and interest, has exceeded the obligations every year since 1982. When you hear otherwise, it is because someone has decided the interest income should not be considered when referring to the long term solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund.

Social Security actuaries predict taxes will exceed the obligations through 2021. After that, as the Baby Boomers, (people born between 1945 and 1964) retire, the payroll taxes will not be sufficient to support the obligations and the amount withdrawn from the trust fund will increase until the fund is depleted in about 2035. Congress will forget the tax bill they just passed reducing taxes for the super rich, corporations, and most of the current tax payers. Congress will bring out their fake crying towel while they try to convince us the only solution is to reduce your Social Security monthly benefits.

There are many alternative solutions suggested but most involve a tax increase on those in the upper income brackets. One suggestion, not totally unreasonable, is to remove the current cap on taxable income (\$118,500).

How about this idea? Many of the Social Security recipients earn enough from other sources that their Social Security is taxed. That money is returned to the Social Security Trust Fund. Why not tax their remaining income tax or a portion of it as needed and put that money in the Social Security Trust Fund also.

Many of us have a retirement fund such as a 401K. The money that went into some of these funds were not taxed prior to being deposited in the fund. The Government wants the tax money from those funds. Their solution is to require us to withdraw a certain amount, approximately 5 percent, each year. That money is added to our annual income and taxed at current tax rates. Since that is the retiree's money the tax on that money should also go to the Social Security Trust Fund.

Neither of these suggestions raise taxes on anyone or require anyone to contribute an additional cent. The exact amount of our tax to divert to the Social Security Trust Fund would have to be altered annually. This approach would not require younger people, corporations, or the Government to contribute additional money while providing a secure future for retirees.

There are concerns my solutions will increase the national debt. Don't be. We have been promised 4 percent GDP growth, corporations flooding our shores to get back into the United States, higher wages for everyone which means more tax money for the Government.

What can go wrong? Apparently Congress has decided since we can't pay off a \$20 trillion debt we might as well go for \$30 trillion or \$40 trillion.

<https://www.ssa.gov/oact/TR/2017/tr2017.pdf> [https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/quickfacts/stat\\_snapshot/2017-11.html](https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/quickfacts/stat_snapshot/2017-11.html)  
<https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/basicfact-alt.pdf>



# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## CAROL DONOVAN DALLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR



### **DALLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATS ANSWER: REPUBLICAN LAWSUIT IS TOTALLY BASELESS**

January 24, 2018 — The Dallas County Democratic Party (DCDP) will file an answer today to the lawsuit filed by the Dallas County Republican Party meant to remove 128 Democrats from the primary ballot. DCDP lead attorney Randy Johnston will assert that the Republican's case is completely baseless and should be dismissed as frivolous litigation. The answer will seek sanctions and legal fees and counter the falsehoods perpetrated by the Republican Party lawsuit.

The DCDP legal team is also evaluating whether the Republican Party lawsuit violates the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 because it appears calculated to deny minorities the right to vote for candidates of their own ethnicity and disproportionately harms minority Democratic candidates.

The first version of the Republican Party petition was apparently released to the press before it was even filed, and it contained the private information — including home addresses, email addresses, phone numbers and other private information — of elected officials and candidates that could lead to identity theft or other harm. Among the judges whose private information was released are several judges who have active stalkers and who have received death threats.

The Republican lawsuit includes numerous inaccuracies that have been repeated by the news media as if they were true. For example, Chair Carol Donovan did not improperly file ballot applications merely because she did not personally sign each application. The election code does not designate the Chair as the only person authorized to sign. This is simply misinformation. In addition, the Republican Party lawsuit alleges that Carol Donovan's signature was forged on ballot applications, and some news outlets have repeated this false information as if it were true. In fact, with the explicit instruction of the Texas Democratic Party, which also uses agents to sign applications, Chair Carol Donovan legally appointed the DCDP Executive Director, Carmen Ayala, as an additional agent authorized to sign ballot applications. The signatures that are being called dubious are in fact the signature of Carmen Ayala, acting in her appointed role as agent authorized to sign.

"The frivolous and disrespectful manner in which this lawsuit was distributed to the press before it was even filed has resulted in much of the resulting media attention misconstruing the facts. The facts will come out, and we will seek relief from this attempt to use a lawsuit as a press release," said Johnston. "The true intent of this lawsuit is to cause confusion among the voters. The Republican Party needs to accept the fact that elections are determined by the voters, not by lawsuits. We cannot tolerate this attempt to disenfranchise voters from this process."

"Many of the candidates the Republicans are trying to remove from the ballot do not even have Republican opponents, so it is hard to see how the Republican party has been hurt. The Republicans are desperate and fearful of the blue wave they know is coming. They cannot field candidates, so they resort to these tactics. We will stand together as Democrats, defeat this lawsuit, and move forward to victory in November," said Chair Carol Donovan.

###



## GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE ROCKWALL COUNTY CHAIR

### **Rockwall Commissioners Unanimously Support 287G Breaking the Trust**

Rockwall County Sheriff Harold Eavenson signed up for the federal 287G program which makes some jail deputies agents of ICE. Strong opposition was voiced by Judith Matherne, Chair of the Rockwall County Democrats and from Sol Villasana, Rockwall LULAC president.

In the January 9, 2018 Public Forum of the Rockwall Commissioners Court both Matherne and Villasana addressed the court. Sheriff Eavenson announced reversed his position first made in a public forum for local law enforcement chiefs regarding SB4 sponsored by Democrats and later at a LULAC Meeting. Eavenson changed his position and announced he is in the process of contracting with ICE.

Villasana spoke on the harm the program would do to the immigrant community, the cost to the county, the potential for law suits and the need for monitoring should the Commissioners approve the program. Matherne addressed the issue of transparency reminding the sheriff and the court that the sheriff stated that he saw no reason for Rockwall County to sign on to 287G. Sheriff Eavenson position first made in a public forum for local law enforcement chiefs regarding SB4 sponsored by Democrats and later at a LULAC Meeting.

During the Commissioners meeting, information indicated Eavenson was acting without the knowledge of some of the Commissioners. Kenda Culpepper, Rockwall County Criminal District Attorney, also disavowed any knowledge of the Sheriff's action and stated she would look into it.

The Sheriff and allies from the Republican Party responded at the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Commissioners Court meeting. Eavenson brought in ICE officials to explain the program and members of the Republican Party defended Eavenson's character and supported his position. Villasana and Democrats continued to voice objections. Both asked the Court to withhold funding for 287G. Ericka Ledferd, Democratic Candidate for County Commissioner 4, spoke passionately about the fear in the immigrant community that was keeping them from reporting crime and accessing services. Ledferd addressed the political dynamic since Eavenson is head of the National Sheriffs Association. After two hours of heated public testimony and the presentation by ICE agents the Court voted unanimously in favor of the sheriff contracting with ICE.

During the sheriff's address to the court he stated 70 prisoners had already been removed from the Rockwall County Jail by ICE, and that five would be removed as soon as they served their sentence. My question is, "If the laws we have are effective in removing undocumented people who commit crime, why does the sheriff and commissioners find it necessary to become involved in a federal program?"

The issue of 287G is reminiscent of the City of Rockwall's attempt to pass a transgender bathroom ordinance which was defeated by the city council after transgender allies and Democrats mounted strong public protests.

Both the transgender bathroom ordinance and the memoranda making local law enforcement agents of ICE are discriminatory and without merit since current laws already protect the public from those who commit crime. Rockwall Commissioners are more accepting of having the federal government involved in Rockwall County with Trump in the White House.

Judith Matherne, chair  
Rockwall County Democratic Party

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## BITS & PIECES

Last Day to Register to Vote: Feb. 5  
Early voting starts: Feb. 20  
Election Day: March 6

### For More Information

**Collin County** 1-800-687-8546 [co.collin.tx.us/elections.org](http://co.collin.tx.us/elections.org)  
[election@collincountytx.gov](mailto:election@collincountytx.gov) 972-547-1990

McKinney (Metro) 972-424-1460 ext. 1990 (Toll Free) 800-687-8546

**Dallas County** 214-819-6300 [dallascountyvotes.org](http://dallascountyvotes.org)

**Denton County** 940-349-3200 [votedenton.com](http://votedenton.com)

**Kaufman County** 972-932-0298 [kaufmancounty.org/elections](http://kaufmancounty.org/elections)

**Rockwall County** 972-204-6200 [www.rockwallvotes.com](http://www.rockwallvotes.com)

**Tarrant County** 817-831-8683 [access.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections.html](http://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections.html)

For help, check your registration status, contact the  
**Texas Secretary of State** 1-800-252-8683 or visit [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov)

### Register Puerto Ricans

Bonny Krahn  
Capital Area Democratic Women

Registering Puerto Ricans misplaced by the floods. I have checked with Matt Flores at the Voter registration office (Austin) and with Cindy Flint about how to qualify Puerto Ricans so they can vote in the Primaries.

I am waiting to hear back from the Elections office though I did get an email referring me to the Voter Registration office.

The bottom line consensus is to completely register them as a new Texas resident. This must be done by the deadline of Feb. 5.

A change of address will not do as they are from a Territory not a state and as a registered Puerto Rican are not allowed to vote in National Politics.

If you fully register them as a Texas resident at their current address then they can vote in the primaries. VDRs and Poll workers please take note. They could make a huge difference in the Democratic outcome of National Congress. Lets make an effort to include them in the process.

*Posted on Facebook*

Editor: Check with voter registration in your county for local information.

### Thoughts on the Shutdown or Another Reason to Get out the Vote

When there's a government shutdown because of a lapse in funding, beyond the impact on every segment of America served directly or indirectly by the federal government, there is a massive economic wave negatively affecting small and large business and financial institutions.

Every federal worker deprived of her/his pay, particularly if they are still required to show up to work, loses the payment for their services already earned plus the payment for work done during a shutdown.

This consequence removes VAST amounts of money from the economy, there causing people/business expecting to be paid by that federal worker NOT to be paid, e.g., childcare, credit cards, rent or mortgages, and many of the everyday expenses routinely paid.

#TrumpShutDown = Stupid Business Practices.

*FaceBook — Katherine Savers McGovern*

# GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE OUT AND ABOUT



**DALLAS WOMEN'S MARCH**  
Saturday | 1.20.2018

Starts at 10:00 AM | ST. PUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1816 BOUTH ST. Ends at PIKE PARK 2907 HARRY HINES BLVD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
DALLASWOMENSMARCH2018@GMAIL.COM  
DALLASWOMENSMARCH



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- 18-year resident of Dallas County. Active mother of two young children.
- Dedicated to work full-time to serve all people fairly.
- 14 years experience as small business owner, residential/commercial real estate broker, CCIM.
- Worked at Amoco, Motorola, and Texas Instruments as an Industrial Hygienist.
- Mediator and arbitrator – earned SMU Graduate Certificate in Dispute Resolution— the art of conflict resolution through negotiation, problem solving, mediation and arbitration.
- B.S. in Chemistry – Stephen F. Austin State University and M.S. in Environmental Science – U.T. Health Science Center School of Public Health.

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Last day to register to vote in this election Feb 5, 2018  
Early Voting Feb 20 – Mar 2, 2018  
Democratic Primary Election Day Mar 6, 2018

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Lupe Valdez  
for Governor of Texas



“Like so many Texans, I have lived the kind of life where your day starts before the sun rises. From migrant farmworker to U.S. Army Captain, federal agent to the very proud Sheriff of the good people of Dallas County, I’ve dedicated my life to defending Texans and I’m not done yet.”

[info@lupevaldez.com](mailto:info@lupevaldez.com) [lupevaldez.com](http://lupevaldez.com)  
POBox 227501 Dallas, TX 75222



FOR GOVERNOR

In kind donation : GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE, Rachel Baker Ford, editor

### Ted Cruz is a Coward

Charles E. Ford, Jr.

Ted Cruz is a Coward

Ted Cruz and Donald Trump are twins from different mothers. The two of them are the most egotistical beings on earth and they both love to lie. Cruz is currently trying to deny his support for a Government shutdown in 2013 in spite of videos showing him reading Dr. Sues's "Green Eggs and Ham" on the floor of the Senate wasting time when a continuing resolution was imminent to keep the Government operating. Five years as a Senator and Cruz has learned one thing, hide until it is time to run for re-election or for President. Then come out of the shadows and pretend you have conviction about all the issues you have ignored since being sworn in as a United States Senator. He never dared to venture into the world of CNN or MSNBC because he might be forced to take a stand on an issue and explain his position. Cruz' voting record shows he didn't tax his brain, he voted the Republican line.

Votes in 2017 and 2018:

- ▶ He voted for every member of Trump's cabinet including Mnuchin who spearheaded the Tax bill that lined the pockets of the super rich and corporations with gold.
- ▶ He voted against the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection's effort to make it easier for individuals to stand up for their rights against large banks and corporations.
- ▶ He voted to repeal the Affordable care Act (Obamacare) and voted for the Healthcare Freedom Act which was so bad it failed to pass in the Senate.
- ▶ He voted against Expanded and Improved Medicare for All. The Senator voted against internet neutrality giving internet providers more power over the internet and what is available to you and how you use the internet.

Ted's father had a large influence on Ted's attitude toward immigrants. Rafael Bienvenido Cruz, an immigrant from Cuba, told his son, "When we faced oppression in Cuba, I had a place to flee to. If we lose our freedom here, where do we go?" And yet, Ted, whose real name is Rafael Edward Cruz, has no compassion for immigrants, even DACA recipients who were brought here at a very young age and don't really know any other country. Ted says, "Regarding our amnesty giveaway, I do not believe we should be providing a path to citizenship to anybody here illegally." While campaigning in Iowa in 2016, he was asked by a DACA holder if he would deport her if he were elected President? The donkey's behind gave her a long winded yes for a reply because technically she is here illegally. Has he never heard of compassion?

We need to stop this guy or we will have another President like the one we have now. If he were to get elected he would spend every day worrying about his re-election and how history will view him. He has an impressive resume except he had 10 jobs in 13 years and he lacks a personality. He is a "my way or the highway guy."

[www.redstate.com/sweetie15/2018/01/25/ted-cruz-trumps-amnesty-compromise-forget/](http://www.redstate.com/sweetie15/2018/01/25/ted-cruz-trumps-amnesty-compromise-forget/)

[www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2013/06/20/193585553/how-ted-cruzs-father-shaped-his-views-on-immigration](http://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2013/06/20/193585553/how-ted-cruzs-father-shaped-his-views-on-immigration)

[www.cruz.senate.gov/?p=about\\_senator](http://www.cruz.senate.gov/?p=about_senator)

[www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/01/31/us/politics/trump-cabinet-confirmation-votes.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/01/31/us/politics/trump-cabinet-confirmation-votes.html)

[www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2016/01/08/ted\\_cruz\\_to\\_illegal\\_immigrant\\_youth\\_yes\\_i\\_will\\_deport\\_you.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2016/01/08/ted_cruz_to_illegal_immigrant_youth_yes_i_will_deport_you.html)

### Beto's NO Coward !



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## Re-elect Carol Donovan Dallas County Democratic Chair

In kind donation : GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE, Rachel Baker Ford, editor

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**Monday February  
5, 2018  
Last Day To  
Register for the  
March 2018  
Primary Election**

Dallas Co.Elections Dept. (214) 819-6300 [dallascountyvotes.org](http://dallascountyvotes.org)  
NOTE: Other counties contact the TX Secretary of State [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us)