



# La Voz de Comal County

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En las palabras  
hay poder





# People in the News



## Alfredo Benavides Publishes New Book on Hispanics

Alfredo Benavides is Professor of Bilingual Education and Diversity Studies in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Texas Tech University. He has been in the field of bilingual education for over thirty years having also held joint administrative and faculty appointments at the University of Iowa and Arizona State University.

He received his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Michigan State University. He served as Editor of the *Bilingual Research Journal* from 1997 to 2006 and is a member of the BRJ Editorial Board as well as serving on the Editorial Board of the *Bilingual Review/Revista Bilingüe*. He has also performed editorial work for the *National Forum of Multicultural Issues Journal*, the *International Migration Review*, the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, Longman Publishers, and Harper and Row Publishers.

He was honored as the recipient of the 2007-2008 Outstanding Researcher Award in the College of Education. He joined the Texas Tech University faculty in 2002.



## Chahin honored by Texas A&M-Kingsville

Jaime Chahin, dean of the College of Applied Arts at Texas State University-San Marcos, has received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Chahin has been a long-time supporter of the higher education of Hispanic students and has made an impact in this area through his research and writing. Among his publications are *Engaged Scholarship in Hispanic Serving Institutions* (2009), *US Latino Psychology Handbook* (2009) and *Latina Immigrant Transnational Mothers: The Voices of Leaders* (2007).

In addition, Chahin has been the executive producer of two PBS documentaries, opened the Center for Migrant Education and received the Outstanding Latino in Higher Education Award from the American Association of Higher Education and the Hispanic Caucus. He is also the recipient of a National Kellogg Foundation Leadership fellowship (1993-96)

and received the Ohtli Award from the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2002).

In April, Chahin was recognized by the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District for his commitment to academic excellence through his program *Caminos and Caminitos*, which provides 8<sup>th</sup> grade students an opportunity to get a head start on high school during the summer prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Chahin received a bachelor's degree in sociology and political science from Texas A&I University in 1974. A year later he received a master's in administration and policy from the University of Michigan and in 1977 earned a doctorate in education administration from the same institution. He currently serves as an advisor for several foundations and as the treasurer of the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.



## SVREP announces nonpartisan campaign to raise Latino voting in Texas to 2 million in 2012

"Through Latino Vote 12n12, SVREP will help increase Latino turnout in Texas to an unprecedented 2 million votes cast in 2012," said Lydia Camarillo, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project National Vice President "In 2008, Latinos cast 1.7 million votes, but in 2012 given the likelihood of Gov. Rick Perry's Republican nomination for President, a hot US Senate Race in Texas with a Latino Democratic aspirant, as well as many new opportunities for Latinos to elect candidates of their choice for Congress and state legislature across Texas we expect significant electoral motivation from Latinos in Texas," Camarillo continued. "



Texas gained 4 new congressional seats, and, after the litigation process concludes we expect the courts will remedy the current congressional and House maps to increase the political strength where Latino can elect candidates of their choice in 9 seats, compared to the current 7 congressional seats, and 3 more state house seats," concluded Camarillo, SVREP Vice President.

These optimum conditions will give the SVREP sponsored Latino Vote coalition fertile ground to work helping to significantly raising Latino electoral participation to 2 million votes cast and 2.8 million registered in 2012. SVREP has targeted Dallas-Fort Worth, Harris, Bexar, Travis, El Paso and South Texas for its efforts.

Founded in Texas in 1974 by the late William C. Velásquez, SVREP is America's largest and oldest non-partisan, nonprofit, 501(c)3 Latino civic engagement organization. SVREP has registered 2.5 million Latinos across the southwest and southeast, trained over 100,000 leaders, thousands of whom have served as elected officials. For more information contact: Lydia Camarillo (210) 922-0225

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**Para cualquier pregunta llámenos**

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## The Divided Community

The issue of whether to ban cans and other disposable containers on certain public waterways in New Braunfels has produced a heated debate in the community. Each side has put together their arguments and supporters and come November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the voters will have their chance to decide the matter.

For some, this issue has produced great resentment, animosity and bitterness. But for others it has produced an opportunity to stand up and show leadership. Leadership is one of those human qualities that is not bestowed. It is a quality that is earned by taking a public position and defending it.

This issue regarding the ordinance is a great opportunity to see where the next generation of leadership in New Braunfels is coming from. For those who have hidden and avoided taking a public stand on this issue, there is probably not a whole of leadership potential to be found. For those who worry about what others will think of them if they come out on either side of this issue, it is probably best if they quietly acknowledge to themselves that they are not ready for prime time.

One only has to look back in history to discover which men and women stood up when the time came to confront difficult issues. I am thinking of Juan Seguin, George Washington, Benito Juarez, Theodore Roosevelt, and Mahatma Gandhi. These were men who stood up and defended ideals and values while preferred to hide behind the safety of anonymity.

## La Comunidad Dividida

El asunto de prohibir las latas y otros contenedores en ciertas vías navegables públicas en la ciudad de New Braunfels ha producido un debate tremendo en la comunidad. Cada lado tiene su gente que se les esta apoyando y tienen sus argumentos en favor o en contra. Pero el día 8 de noviembre, 2011, los votantes tendrán su oportunidad de decidir el asunto.

Para algunos, este asunto ha producido gran resentimiento, la animosidad y la amargura. Pero para otros ha producido una oportunidad de pararse y mostrar liderazgo. El liderazgo es uno de esas calidades humanas que no es concedida. Es una calidad que es ganada tomando una posición pública y donde uno lo tiene que defender.

Este asunto con respecto a la ordenanza es una gran oportunidad para ver de donde va venir la próxima generación de liderazgo en Nuevo Braunfels. Para los que se han escondido y han evitado tomar una posición público en este asunto, probablemente no existe mucho potencial de liderazgo en este momento. Para los que se preocupan por lo que otros pensarán en ellos si salen a ambos lados de este asunto, es probablemente mejor si reconocen calladamente a sí mismos que ellos no están listos para meterse en asuntos de la comunidad.

Uno sólo tiene que fijarse en la historia para descubrir que hombres y mujeres se pusieron de pie cuando el tiempo llego de enfrentar asuntos difíciles. Estoy pensando en Juan Seguin, George Washington, Benito Juarez, Theodore Roosevelt, y Mahatma Gandhi. Estos fueron hombres que se pararon y defendieron ideales y valores mientras prefirió ocultar detrás de la seguridad del anonimato.

## Editorial



**Alfredo R. Santos c/s**  
**Editor & Publisher**



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# Dr. Emilo Zamora's Book Wins Award

The **Texas Institute of Letters (TIL)** awarded **Zamora** their most significant scholarly book award for *Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas; Mexican Workers and Job Politics during World War II* (Texas A&M University Press, 2009) "All three of the judges for the Scholarly Book Award from the **Texas Institute of Letters** agreed that **Emilio Zamora's** *Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas* deserved the prize because of its innovative use of sources and its overall conception and execution," according to **Professor T. Lindsay Baker**, chair of the selection committee.

The prize comes with a monetary award of \$2,500. The **TIL** was established in 1936 during the **Texas Centennial Exposition** in Dallas to foster and promote **Texas** literature. Their goal has been to acknowledge the exemplary literature of **Texas**. To that end, the **TIL** has held competitions for outstanding achievements in literature since 1939 with the first book award going to **J. Frank Dobie**. The organization has grown in prestige and its book prizes are coveted by writers from throughout the state.

## Texas Institute of Letters

Another organization with an illustrious history, the **Texas State Historical Association (TSHA)**, honored **Zamora** twice during their 114th annual convention this spring. He received the annual Coral Horton Tullis Memorial book prize for 2009, and was also selected to be a **TSHA Fellow**.

**Professor F. Todd Smith**, Chair of the selection committee noted, "Out of the 40 or so books that were submitted to the **Tullis Award Committee** for consideration, **Emilio Zamora's** was clearly the best written and had the most in-depth research. The three committee members readily agreed that *Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas* was the obvious choice."

**Zamora** was especially honored to receive this award because it is named after **Professor Coral Horton Tullis**. She was the **TSHA's** treasurer and corresponding secretary for 40 years and a member of the Department of History at the **University of Texas at Austin** for 35 years. She taught in the 1920s when few women were employed as professors. Officers of the TSHA also announced during the organization's awards luncheon that **Zamora** had been selected to become a **TSHA Fellow**. The association's bylaws provide for the Board of Directors to annually honor members who have excelled in **Texas** history through research, teaching, and scholarship.

He is currently working on a translation of a WWI diary authored by a co-founder of **LULAC, Jose de la Luz Saenz**. The diary was first published in Spanish in 1933. It is the only known diary written by a Mexican soldier and one of only a few written accounts by any member of the U.S. military.



# Recall of Mayor Pospisil

City Council Members,

The intent of this letter is to provide adequate notice of the Recall of Mayor Gale Pospisil on her 181st day in office, along with other council members if the city does not immediately release the documents substantiating the volume of litter which is the very foundation of City Council members voting to pass ordinance # 2011-65 making it a criminal offense for the mere possession of a water bottle on the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers.

Mayor Pospisil,

The City is obligated to explain how the tax payer's money was utilized in determining the "trash" and "litter" numbers that were reported by the contractor to River Manager Nathan Pence and City Manager Michael Morrison - and subsequently reported by City Management to Council members. You allowed information you knew was incorrect to stand as the determining factor in their votes to pass this ordinance. It is easy to conclude that the truth is not important to you, as the it interferes with your personal agenda.

Our tax dollars were spent developing documents to present "litter" volumes to the public. Garbage from cans was never distinguished from litter on the river bottoms in reports that completely polarized our community and divided its citizens.

Originally the City reported a total of over 700,000 gallons of "river litter". After city council passed this ordinance based on this inflated total, you Mayor Pospisil spoke to Kevin Wall on the radio stating that the ordinance was simply about "cleaning up the river" and further stated that over 500,000 gallons of cans were taken out of the river in less than 3 months. Your claim is beyond ridiculous. You Mayor Pospisil have disgraced both the office of the Mayor and the citizens of New Braunfels by shoving your long standing personal agenda to BAN ALCOHOL on the rivers.

The only known litter total that can be verified as "removed" from our rivers for the entire year is the 5,600 pounds of aluminum reported and recycled by Pristine Texas Rivers. So where are the other 3.3 MILLION cans? I believe everyone would like to know.

Mayor Pospisil, you openly admitted that you were in possession of the "correct" numbers with regard to "litter" in the Comal River. Yet you declined to offer to correct those numbers that were publicly stated by the city, instead you deliberately ignored them and allowed the citizens of New Braunfels to believe something you knew to be untrue.

It was not until the citizens pressed the media to review and report the inaccuracies, that the City chose to respond. The "new" numbers you provided at your meeting were not only incorrect but still purposely inflated to persuade voters to continue to support the ordinance by grossly overstating the amount of what you claim to be as "litter" in the Comal River. You, along with City Management have shown no discretion in hiding the fact that the City of New Braunfels cannot produce the documentation that is the very foundation of the writing of Ordinance 2011-65.

Mayor Pospisil, you were made aware by City Manager Mike Morrison on October 14 that the river cleanup "trash" numbers were

not only in question, but that testimony existed that disputed the City's totals with regard to the number of gallons of trash and litter collected in the City Parks and Rivers. You understood that City Manager Michael Morrison was made aware of the contractor's testimony which grossly contradicts the volumes of litter being reported by the City.

Mike Morrison knew this testimony placed serious doubt that the City would have any credibility whatsoever in respect to the volumes of trash and litter reportedly collected, since the city had already been called out by local media for reporting all the trash in the parks as "river litter". This newly provided testimony undeniably disputes the litter numbers and is from the very person responsible for the river cleanup.

Mike Morrison and Nathan Pence have both openly stated that in regard to the "river litter reports" that there are no documents to substantiate the claims to any specific volumes of litter, ONLY to the amount of aluminum that is recycled from river clean up, of which 90 percent of the volume is collected from the river bottom.

You Mayor Pospisil MUST also explain to the citizens of New Braunfels why you refused to utilize Comal County Sheriffs officers who had budgeted money for river presence. Since there was no flow on the Guadalupe River, and the numbers of people were not sufficient for officers to remain on duty, these officers were MADE AVAILABLE to the City of New Braunfels and could have been extremely useful in crowd control and law enforcement during this very busy season on the Comal. You must explain your reasoning for simply saying "we're not going to use Sheriffs officers because they don't get along with our Police officers." Please provide the citizens with an explanation of why you over-burdened the police force by refusing the Sheriff Department's help at NO COST to the City of New Braunfels.

More registered voters of the City of New Braunfels signed a petition to repeal Ordinance 2011-65 banning all disposable containers than voted to elect you. You refused to hear their voices. You have displayed contempt for the citizen's right to speak.

Through a lawsuit and subsequent demand for open records I am in possession of all your emails since you were elected Mayor. You have displayed partiality that is beyond my comprehension. I have seen you following the guidance of the formerly recalled Council Member Ken Valentine. I am astounded by the email correspondence between you and Valentine, former Council Member Kathleen Krueger and the others, not only in respect to this ordinance, but the general "back-door politics".

As the Mayor you are responsible for ensuring the information produced by the city is accurate. If you think that this vote by the citizens does not warrant a vigorous investigation and fact finding mission and that the numbers simply are not important - I assure you the next numbers you will see are the correct number of signatures on a petition to recall you.

**Mark McGonigal, Citizen, New Braunfels, Texas**

For more information visit <http://www.facebook.com/NBLocal?sk=notes>

# The People's Perspectives

**1.** I am a citizen of New Braunfels and care deeply for this town. We moved here in 1997 because work brought us to the San Antonio area and we wanted to raise our kids in a small town with great core values. We were drawn to this area because we camped and played together as a family and we wanted to be able to do these things at any given time. Is this town not family friendly? I don't see that....my kids are well-rounded, strong individuals that I think would have been forever changed had we moved to a bigger town. Would we have changed our minds or have done it any differently? Absolutely not!

As a United States Citizen, we are afforded the rights of any other individual with the freedom of speech and the freedom to live life uninhibited from the way we eat, sleep, play or feel. To have these rights squashed by a City Council with their own agenda, and have no way of speaking out due to being oppressed by City Council is simply unspeakable. Our fore fathers spoke for freedom and the right to bear arms, so we, as citizens, who put these officials into office, should bear these same rights.

We have raised our children to be respectful, listen to all points of view and to take into consideration that not only their ideals are correct but also to keep in mind that someone else could shine a new perspective on the way we think and feel. Be respectful, even if you don't agree, tell the truth and you will be taken as such.

I am a "tourist" in many perspectives, as we like to spend our dollars in tourist attractions. We have spent the last 11 years, spending our money here at home. We have respect and gratitude to establishments and there owners that make this city and this community who, like ourselves, only want to be able to provide housing, clothing, food and necessities for their families. We just want to live a comfortable life in this great town. This, I feel makes our community humble. This will also make our family foundation strong, unshakable and loving. All a citizen wants to be is loyal, recognized and heard.

When the Disposable Container Ban came up, I went to the City Council meeting, and to my surprise was blown away by the cross-armed council who had already made their minds up. I was deeply offended and down right angry to hear that I wasn't only living in an area of town that "wasn't worth spending time on because historically we don't vote" kind of atmosphere, but was also "just another person who floats the river and leaves litter in it". To lay a foundation of restrictions on those who made this community what it is and who are now just called "day trippers who only spend \$27 a day" is profoundly discouraging.

I, as a resident and a "day tripper" not only spend \$27 per person in a family of 4 on floating the river, but also put my dollars in the restaurants, local mom and pop shops, clothing stores, tourist attractions and all other businesses that make their living working and playing here. On any given weekend, YEAR ROUND, we spend at least \$200 +/- here.... So am I just a "day tripper" that doesn't put enough dollars

into this town? You do the calculations and tell us again, are we just "day trippers" that don't care about the well-being of our community? I ask you the same thing. Do you want to be labeled a "day tripper" like my family is? To generalize us as people who cause "cesspools" in our rivers, cause noise pollution, beer-bonging, dope-smoking, fighting on our rivers and don't care about the environment? To even insinuate that we don't care is the same as insinuating that we along with the tourists that bring in the revenue for the year are the "trash" these people in City Council have been talking about for many years now. We aren't ready to stand for that, are you? Are you like us; the cooks, cleaners, restaurant and store managers, mom and pop shop owners and workers, mechanics, realtors, cashiers, doctors, nurses, hospitals, clinics and tourist attractions wait staff, hotel managers, hotel staffers, gas station attendants, clothing and apparel manufacturers, laborers, construction workers, city employees, etc. that they are talking about? It's time for me to do a reality check, how about you?

So, in closing, I will just say that our economy is thriving even with the economic instability in this Country, and with the Ordinance 2011-65 Disposable Container Ban in place, we jeopardize the freedom of owning our own businesses, owning our own homes, making a living to raise our families and the freedom we have to just be normal.

Are you willing to take the risk of someone in city counsel telling you what your town should do or should you be telling your city council members how you would like to see it done? It's your decision, but for me, I want those in office to do as the citizens ask.

I ask you to get out to the polls and vote. Vote AGAINST Ordinance 2011-65.

I heard a saying just this Sunday..... "If you run the same program, you get the same data" ..... REWIRE CITY HALL!

—Matthew Gibson

**2.** This city is crazy. You can't ban alcohol from the rivers. The rivers are everything the people come for. Not everyone drinks but a lot of people do.

We Hispanics have big families and like to spend time on the parks and rivers and making someone put beer in a Tupperware is like telling them just to go somewhere else. All of my friends from out of town will not come back if this law passes.

Hey, if you don't think this is law will drive tourists away, try banning beer from Wurstfest and see how many people show up... NONE! Don't take my rights and don't ruin this city!

Vote AGAINST the ban.

—José Rivera



# The People's Perspectives

**3.** I have been following this issue with the Disposable container ban since the beginning of August, 2011. I didn't think that the idea was good then, and I think it's a worse idea now.

I think the idea is not really about the litter, but about alcohol. They keep making it where you can't take a beer, coke or snack on the river. I know the city has been basically run by the same people for a long time, and I know, since 2000 when they tried going to the state to ban alcohol on the Comal River.

It's not just the rights that they are taking away, but the jobs also. I know that I have over 120 friends from Houston and other places that called me and said this city council is crazy and they are ruining the river for everyone. This is not just the tourists they are speaking about, but the citizens of New Braunfels.

I am just one person, that knows about 120 people that won't be coming back if we don't vote AGAINST this ordinance. Think about the options, there really aren't any other options than voting against the ban. Voting for this ban means we lose our rights.

Think of all the rest of the people that won't come if this law passes. It's hard enough to pay the bills already. If we lose millions of people that come to have a relaxing good time on the rivers, like the Hispanic families do. I read a lot about the city lying about the litter to make people think it's a bigger problem than it is. The people that voted didn't get to hear the truth. Only the lies of those voted in.

The whole thing isn't fair and I think that this law was made to benefit the wealthy in our town who live on the Comal River. They are bothered by the tourists. But those people don't pay my bills, and they aren't going to pay yours either. So when you can't spend money with my business, who suffers the consequences of that?

I ask my friends....Vote AGAINST this ban and take our city back!

—Pablo Salazar

**IF WE CAN'T TRUST THE  
INFORMATION CITY  
MANAGEMENT PROVIDES  
CITY COUNCIL THEN IT'S  
TIME TO CHANGE CITY  
MANAGEMENT.**

New Braunfels' Citizens For Responsible Government

**4.** For as long as I can remember my friends and family have all been gathering in the parks to enjoy the cool waters of the Comal River. I remember all the grown-ups with their feet in the water down at "stinky falls" and enjoying a cold beer after a hot day of work. Me and my brothers and sisters and friends would splash around in the water and slide through the tube chute. My friends and family have enjoyed our rivers for generations.

All those memories are about to be erased for our future generations unless we all take a stand. I am reaching out to all my friends and neighbors, young and old, even the friends I have yet to meet. The days of freedom to have a cold beer, soda, water or even a juice box for our kids are about to be over. Unless we VOTE AGAINST the ban on disposable containers, The City of New Braunfels WILL take away our basic rights. If we don't vote AGAINST the ban, the new law will criminalise the possession of even a bottle of water. We ALL have to VOTE "AGAINST" THE BAN that prohibits all disposable containers on the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers. The days of a family get-together in the parks will end in criminal charges. We must act NOW, before it is too late to protect our rights. If we don't stand up and vote, we will lose our parks as well.

Over 7000 jobs in this community rely on tourism to provide employment, and provide for their families. A VOTE AGAINST THE BAN is a vote to preserve these jobs. Our economy is fragile and we rely on 99 days of summer to bring in the majority of 500 million dollars in tourism revenue. If we allow this vote to pass people WILL stop coming to New Braunfels and hotel rooms will be vacant, restaurants will close and development and construction will stop. There won't be any work for those who build, clean, landscape, make repairs or provide services. The city has raised property tax by 12% and is now planning for more tax raises for next year to make up for the loss in tourism revenue. If we let this ban pass job loss in our community will be catastrophic. USE YOUR VOICE AND YOUR VOTE to protect our civil rights. THIS VOTE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE. Save our jobs. Vote "AGAINST" the ban!

Thank you all for your support, please vote "against" this ordinance.

—Joe Reyes

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**ABOVE:** The Comal County Hispanic Council donated \$600 to the Lone Star Elementary library fund....now they can books for their students. In the photo....back row....Principal Deanna Callahan, Librarian Monica Jackson, CCHC President Domingo Medina, and some of the Lone Star students

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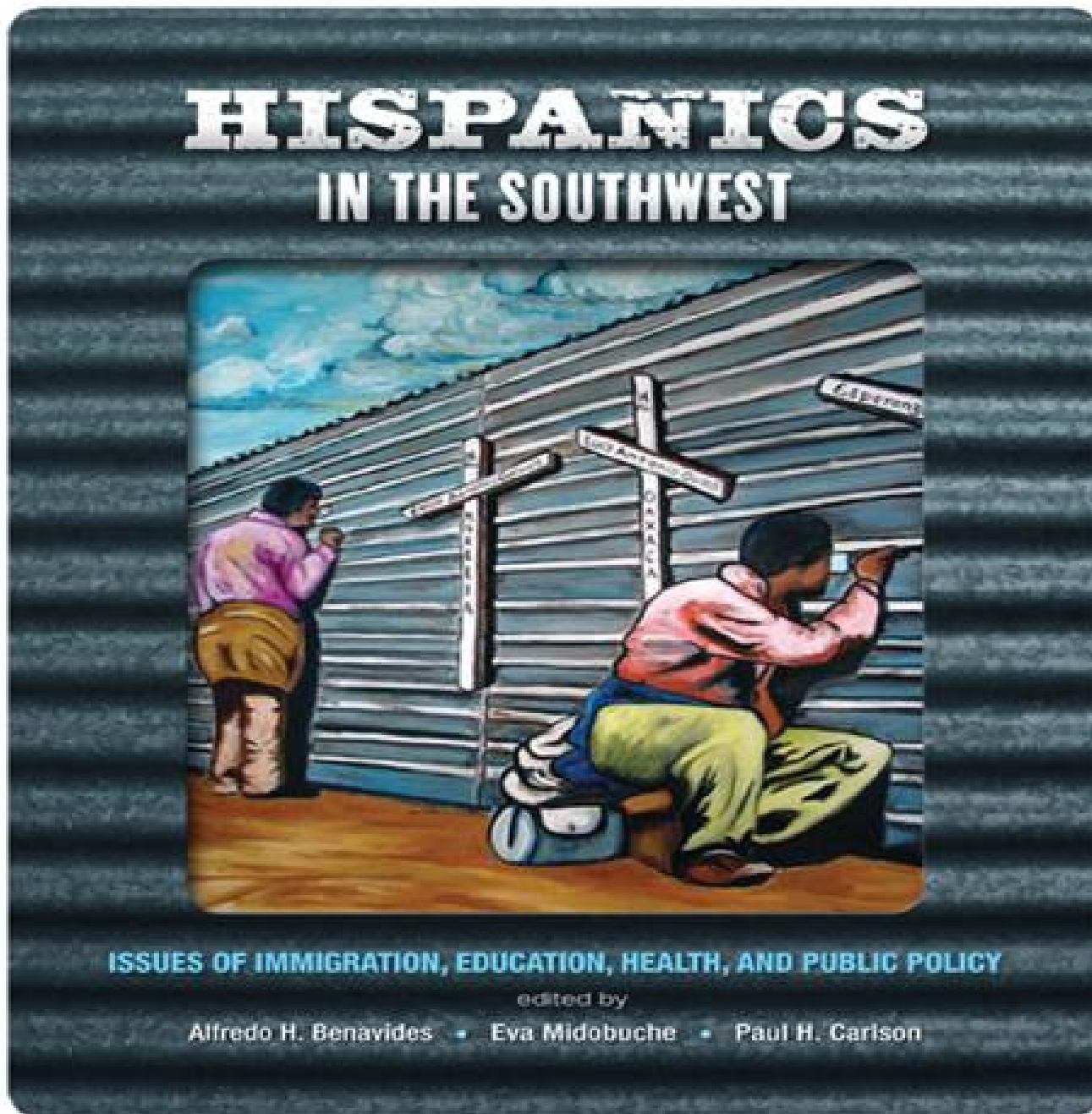
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## Texas Tech Researchers Publish Book on Hispanics

Texas Tech University professors **Alfredo Benavides**, **Eva Midobuche**, and **Paul Carlson** have recently published an edited volume titled **Hispanics in the Southwest: Issues of Immigration, Education, Health, and Public Policy**, (2011), **Bilingual Press**, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona.



Dr. Alfredo Benavides

The 200-page book presents a series of topics authored by some of the most well known scholars in the United States. The book features the topics of immigration, education, health, and public policy and introductions to each section by other noted scholars. This book and its content represents the thinking of scholars and academicians who provide provocative views and data sets that spur us to think more deeply about these issues.

The book was published as an E-book in order to make it more cost efficient and accessible to students and teachers throughout the country. It can be ordered directly from the **Bilingual Review Press** (Bilingual Review Press: 1-866-965-3867 or <<http://www.asu.edu/brp>>).

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# The Battle Over the Comal

By Stoney Williams

Former Mayor – City of New Braunfels



If you are a long time resident of our great city you are probably shaking your head in disbelief that, yes, once again we are embroiled in river drama. Our council is at it again with their plan to ban all disposable containers on the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers. This means everything from cans to juice boxes to zip locks to...well according to the ordinance virtually anything a police officer deems as disposable. If you are like me, you are asking yourself “why are we

wasting the majority of city time, effort and dollars on these little stretches of river while the rest of our city goes virtually ignored.” For the answers we need to go back the dawn of the new Millennium, 1999-2000 when a group of council members and home owners along the banks of the Comal and pushed for a vote to ban alcohol in the rivers in the city limits. The state of Texas said you don’t own this river, the people of Texas do and what you want isn’t legal. This didn’t stop the “banners”; they forced a referendum to the city council and got their vote to ban alcohol on the rivers, but just like they were told, the state stepped in and said “No this isn’t legal your ordinance is void.”

We don’t hear much about the rivers after that because we get a little thing called a “High water event” aka flood that keeps the River Dwellers busy rebuilding their million dollar homes, but like the Chupacabra during a drought we started hearing from them again. In comes our most famous city council member, well except for me, Mr. Ken Valentine. Before he became the only city councilman ever to be recalled in the history of New Braunfels, he brought a large laundry list of wonderful plans to keep people off the river, small coolers, an illegal tube tax, banning little cups, no music that can be heard beyond the radius of your inner-tube and an army of police officers working over-time to patrol his back yard. Did I mention Mr. Valentine lives on the river? These ridiculous ordinances pass but to no one’s surprise they only cause more problems. The one saving grace for this council was hiring a contractor to clean the river. This brings us to today.

Today we have a new mayor and council but their focus is the same. A few months ago the mayor went on record saying the river was filled with 700,000 gallons of trash in it, a virtual river of beer cans. She went on and on how the river was being destroyed by wild drunken out of town litter bugs and if something isn’t done right now the federal government is going to step in and tell us no one is ever allowed in the river again because the fountain darter is in danger. All but two of the council fell in lock step and beer barrel. The two

that questioned it were Steven Diggs, the councilman that replaced the recalled Ken Valentine and life-long resident Richard Zapata. They asked for more information, they asked for more discussion, they asked where these numbers came from because they don’t seem possible. They were ignored and the votes went on. It took another referendum by the voters, but this time aimed at stopping the ban. A group of citizens started running numbers and asking questions.

If we are paying the river contractor all this money why is the river so trashed? How come we don’t see the 18 wheelers hauling off all this trash? How come in the past years there was only 5,000 lbs. of trash collected and recycled? How come this year there was only 6,000 lbs. of trash recycled for the whole year? How come the mayor and council lead the citizens to believe there was 700,000 gallons of trash pulled out of the river, but the contractor that cleans the river said they took out 6,000 lbs. again this year. How come river manager Nathan Pence said the river was crystal clear after the Memorial Day river clean up and two months later it was on the verge of dying? How come the Herald Zeitung is a mouth piece for this particular agenda item? Why is the city council willing to risk over 400 million dollars in river related income and then tell us we need to raise taxes to make up for the new city budget?

A handful of concerned citizens took the initiative and did the work the city council should have done and dug for the real facts of this issue. The results were not surprising. The company contracted to clean the river bottom reported once again only 6,000 lbs. of debris out of the river, not 700,000 gallons. The mayor and city manager knew the real numbers but continued to misrepresent them to us. The city manager to this date has not complied with an open records request to release the reports given to him by the river cleaning contractor. In 2006 Herald editor suggested we ban all disposable containers on the river and has lost objectivity and ignored the facts of the issue even when they are handed to him. The recreational part of the Comal was never considered and endangered habitat for the fountain darter and was never considered being closed by the federal government.

The decision should be simple for all of us. Do we want a government that misrepresents the facts to us? Do we want a tiny percentage of wealthy part time citizens dictating what goes on in our city where we try to make a living and raise a family? Do we want more government, more taxes and fewer rights? Do we want to lose jobs in an already depressed economy? Do you want to be ignored for another 3 to 6 years? On Election Day, voice your opinion, I have made up my mind.



# The Ordinance # 2011 - 65

## For Para

<b>Kathleen Krueger</b>	Former City Council Member
<b>Roger Vann</b>	Civic Leader
<b>Bart Bartholomew</b>	Retired USAF Col / Retired Comal County Treasurer
<b>Ramon Chapa, Jr.</b>	Former Dir. Of Edwards Underground Aquifer Board & Former Mayor Pro-tem
<b>Dottie Duke and Charles Duke</b>	U.S. Air Force Brigadier General & Former NASA Astronaut
<b>Sara Daso</b>	Two Rivers Yoga
<b>Carola &amp; John Davis</b>	Settlement Partners
<b>Ellen &amp; Donald Duncan</b>	Community Activist / Past President Hope Hospice
<b>Mike Fitsko</b>	Retired Educator, Writer & Motivational Speaker
<b>Matt Harrison</b>	Former Chairman of NB Industrial Development Corporation (4B Board)
<b>Sherry Harrison</b>	NBISD School Board Member
<b>Susanna &amp; Doug Harrison</b>	The Scooter Store
<b>Rev. Darryl Higgins</b>	Sr. Minister First Protestant Church
<b>Matthew Hoyt</b>	Planning & Zoning Commissioner
<b>Nina Guinn &amp; Joe Guinn</b>	Retired Colonel
<b>Pat Keyes</b>	Community Activist
<b>Bob Krueger</b>	Former U.S. Senator
<b>John K. Landry</b>	Very Concerned Citizen Former Dentist/Dental Professor
<b>“Ranger Ray” Martinez</b>	Former Texas Ranger
<b>Valin &amp; Joe Miller</b>	Comal Rapid Transit
<b>Sandy Morales</b>	Constable
<b>Rick Myrick</b>	Planning & Zoning Commissioner
<b>The Rev. Patricia &amp; Dr. Mike Riggins</b>	Associate Rector St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church Adjunct Faculty, Texas Lutheran University
<b>Danny Scheel</b>	Former County Judge

## Against Encontra

<b>Mark McGonigal</b>	Community Activist
<b>Carlos Cedillo</b>	Community Activist
<b>Shauna Ferrero-Donahue</b>	Student
<b>John Camareno Gilbert Silves</b>	Handyman Gil
<b>Cory Michaelson</b>	Country Automart & Westend Autos
<b>Shane Wolf</b>	Rockin’ R
<b>Jamie Gregg</b>	NB Media
<b>Stoney Williams</b>	Former Mayor
<b>Johnny Rodriguez</b>	Comal Iron & Metal
<b>Joe Reyes</b>	Big Al’s Garden
<b>Mikie Farias</b>	Farias Photography
<b>Lupe Gonzales</b>	Mr. Fix-it Auto Service
<b>Matt Pusateri</b>	Current River ADHOC Committee Member
<b>Tanya Garcia</b>	Wingate Stakeholder
<b>Levi McBee</b>	Buffalo Rings & Rings
<b>Felix Valdez</b>	Felix’s Body Shop
<b>Paul Remelin</b>	On the Half Shell Oyster Bar
<b>Irene Allen</b>	Former River Activities Comm. Member
<b>Pauline Elias</b>	Tony’s Taxi
<b>Aaron Tessaro</b>	Blue Collar Bike Werks
<b>Heather &amp; David Larson</b>	Advance Concrete Staining
<b>Pat Gattuso</b>	Gattuso Distributing
<b>Richard Zapata</b>	Resident of New Braunfels

## Social Security Announces 3.6 Percent Benefit Increase for 2012 Cost-of-Living Adjustment is First Since 2009

## de 3.6 por ciento para el 2012 El primer ajuste de costo de vida desde el año 2009

Por **José M. Olivero**

Relaciones Publicas del Seguro Social en Oklahoma City

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 60 million Americans will increase 3.6 percent in 2012, the Social Security Administration announced today. The 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that nearly 55 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2012. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 30, 2011.

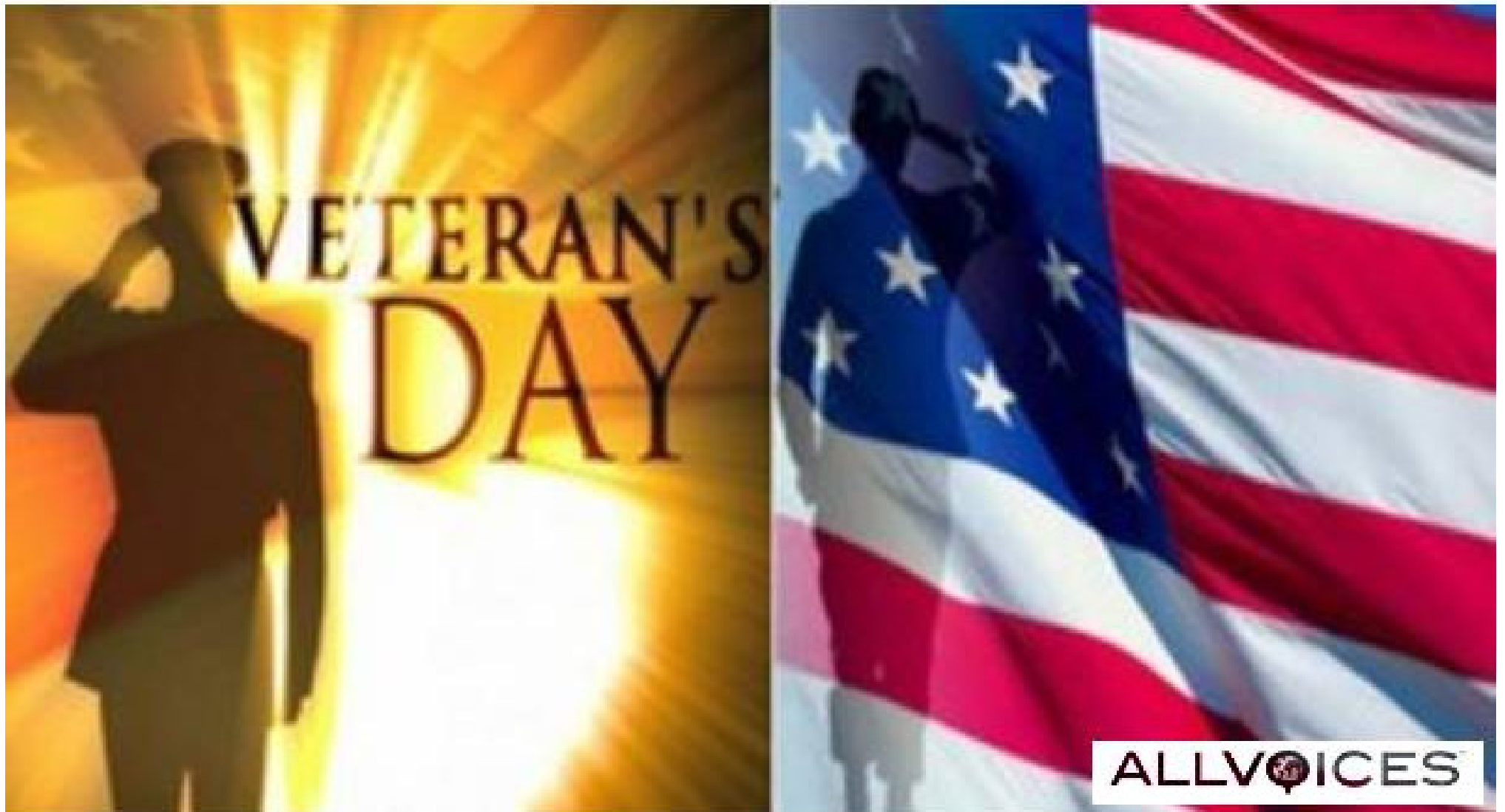
Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$110,100 from \$106,800. Of the estimated 161 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2012, about 10 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum.

Information about Medicare changes for 2012, when announced, will be available at [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov). For some beneficiaries, their Social Security increase may be partially or completely offset by increases in Medicare premiums. The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/cola](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/cola).

La Administración del Seguro Social anunció hoy que los beneficios mensuales de Seguro Social y Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario (SSI, siglas en inglés) para más de 60 millones de personas aumentarán un 3.6 por ciento en el 2012. El ajuste de costo de vida (COLA, siglas en inglés) de 3.6 por ciento comenzará con los beneficios que cerca de unos 55 millones de beneficiarios de Seguro Social recibirán en enero del 2012. El aumento de pagos de casi 8 millones de beneficiarios de SSI comenzará el 30 de diciembre del 2011.

Otros cambios que tomarán efecto en enero de cada año se basan en el aumento de los salarios promedio. Basado en ese aumento, la cantidad máxima de ganancias sujeta al impuesto de Seguro Social (ingreso tributable máximo) aumentará a \$110,100 de \$106,800. De los aproximadamente 161 millones de trabajadores quienes pagarán impuestos en el 2012, cerca de unos 10 millones de ellos pagarán impuestos más altos como resultado del aumento del ingreso tributable máximo.

La información referente a los cambios en la cobertura de Medicare para el 2012, cuando se anuncie, estará disponible en el sitio de Internet [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov). Para algunos beneficiarios el aumento de Seguro Social puede ser ajustado parcial o completamente por los aumentos en las primas de Medicare.







# The Toll of the Great Recession Childhood Poverty Among Hispanics Sets Record, Leads Nation

by **Mark Hugo Lopez**, Associate Director, Pew Hispanic Center, and **Gabriel Velasco**, Research Analyst, Pew Hispanic Center

The spread of poverty across the United States that began at the onset of the Great Recession of 2007-2009 and accelerated last year hit one fast-growing demographic group especially hard: Latino children.

More Latino children are living in poverty—6.1 million in 2010—than children of any other racial or ethnic group. This marks the first time in U.S. history that the single largest group of poor children is not white. In 2010, 37.3% of poor children were Latino, 30.5% were white and 26.6% were black.

This negative milestone for Hispanics is a product of their growing numbers, high birth rates and declining economic fortunes. According to the 2010 **U.S. Census**, Hispanics today make up a record 16.3% of the total U.S. population. But they comprise an even larger share—23.1%—of the nation’s children, a disparity driven mainly by high birth rates among Hispanic immigrants.

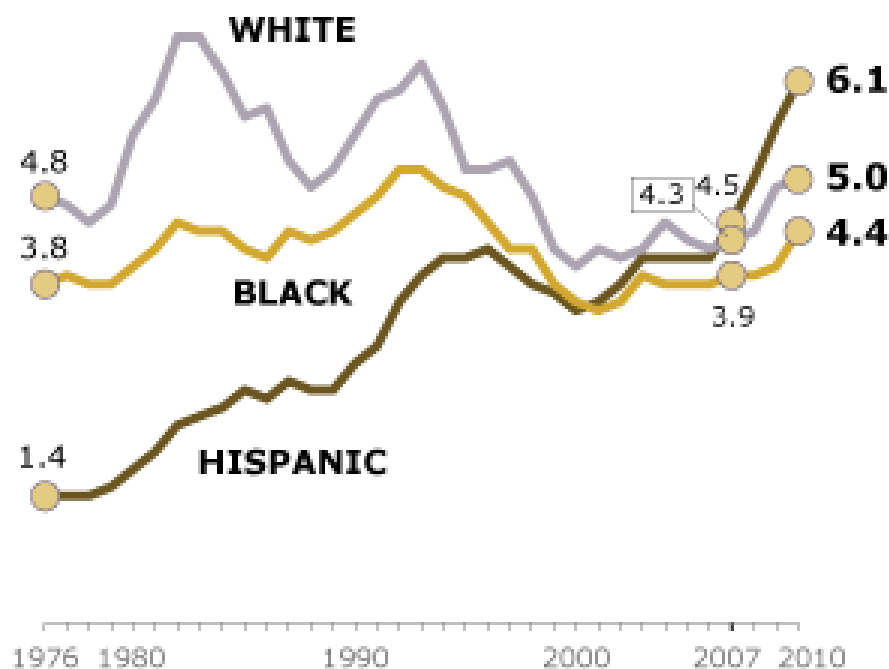
Of the 6.1 million Latino children living in poverty, more than two-thirds (4.1 million) are the children of immigrant parents. The other 2 million are the children of parents born in the U.S. Among the 4.1 million impoverished Latino children of immigrants, the vast majority (86.2%) were born in the U.S.

The Great Recession, which began in 2007 and officially ended in 2009, had a large impact on the Latino community. At its beginning, the unemployment rate among Latino workers increased rapidly, especially among immigrant workers. Today, the unemployment rate among Latinos, at 11.1%, is higher than the national unemployment rate of 9.1%. Household wealth among Latinos declined more sharply than either black or white households between 2005 and 2009. And according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food insecurity among Latino households increased sharply at the start of the Great Recession. In 2008, nearly a third (32.1%) of Latino households with children faced food insecurity, up from 23.8% in 2007.

Prior to the Great Recession, more white children lived in poverty than Hispanic children. However, since 2007, that pattern has reversed. Between 2007 and 2010, an additional 1.6 million Hispanic children lived in poverty, an increase of 36.3%. By contrast, even though the number of white and black children living in poverty also grew, their numbers grew more slowly—up 17.6% and 11.7% respectively

## Number of Children in Poverty 1976 - 2010

IN MILLIONS



PEW HISPANIC CENTER



## The Mexican American Boom: Births Overtake Immigration

Births have surpassed immigration as the main driver of the dynamic growth of the Mexican-American population, according to a new analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.

Between 2000 and 2010, the Mexican-American population grew by 7.2 million as a result of births and by 4.2 million as a result of new immigrant arrivals. This is a change from the previous two decades when the number of new immigrants either matched or exceeded the number of births.

The surge in births is attributable to two factors. Mexican Americans, many of whom are immigrants, are younger and have higher fertility than other groups. The median age of Mexican-Americans in the U.S. is 25, compared with 30 for non-Mexican-origin Hispanics, 32 for blacks, 35 for Asians and 41 for whites. And the typical Mexican-American woman ages 40 to 44 (at the end of her child-bearing years) has given birth to more children (2.5) than similar aged non-Mexican-Hispanic (1.9), black (2.0), white (1.8) or Asian (1.8) women.

Meanwhile, the number of Mexicans annually leaving Mexico for the U.S. declined from more than one million in 2006 to 404,000 in 2010—a 60% reduction. This contributed to fewer new immigrant arrivals to the U.S. from Mexico in the 2000s (4.2 million) than in the 1990s (4.7 million). However, the Mexican-American population continued to grow rapidly, with births accounting for 63% of the group's population increase.

Mexican-Americans are the nation's largest Hispanic group. At 31.8 million in 2010, they comprise 63% of the U.S. Hispanic population and 10% of the total U.S. population. Among Mexican-Americans, some 39%—or 12.4 million—are immigrants. More than half of these immigrants (6.5 million) are in the country without authorization.

## Sudoku

	9			7	2	6		
7			6					
6			3				2	
2	5	1		8				
		6	5	1	7	8		
				2		1	4	5
	2				9			4
					5			1
		5	1	3			7	

## Word Power

### En Las Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of *La Voz de Comal County*.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores de *La Voz de Comal County* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

Water

Agua

Voting

Votando

Protest

Manifestación

Help

Ayuda

Take a stand

Toma una posición

Don't be afraid

No tenga miedo

Taxes

Impuestos

Yell

Gritar

Motivate

Motivar

River

Rio

Tube

Tubo

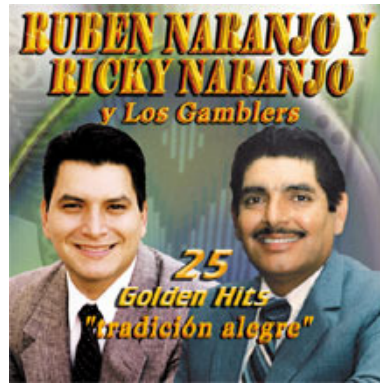
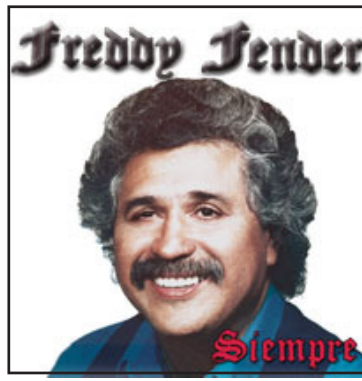
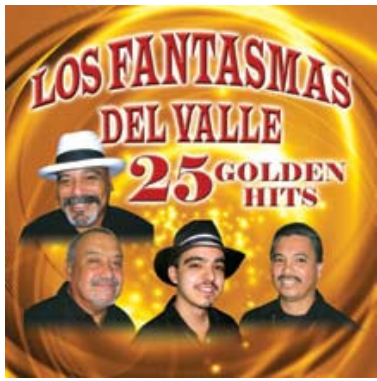
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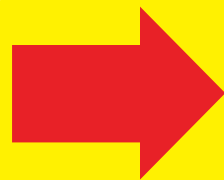
# VOTE AGAINST VOTÉ EN CONTRA

**SAMPLE BALLOT**  
**SPECIAL ELECTION (ELECCION ESPECIAL)**  
**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS (CIUDAD DE NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS)**  
**NOVEMBER 8, 2011 (8 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2011)**  
**OFFICIAL BALLOT (BOLETA OFICIAL)**

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER: Place an 'X' in the square beside the statement indicating the way you wish to vote.  
(INSTRUCCIONES PARA EL VOTANTE: Marque con una 'X' en la plaza junto a la frase que indica la forma en que desea votar)

### PROPOSITION NO. 1

FOR THE ORDINANCE (EN FAVOR ORDENANZA) A REFERENDUM FOR OR AGAINST ORDINANCE 2011-65, AMENDING SECTION 86-14 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROHIBIT ALL DISPOSABLE CONTAINERS CONTAINING FOOD OR BEVERAGES ON CERTAIN PUBLIC WATERWAYS.

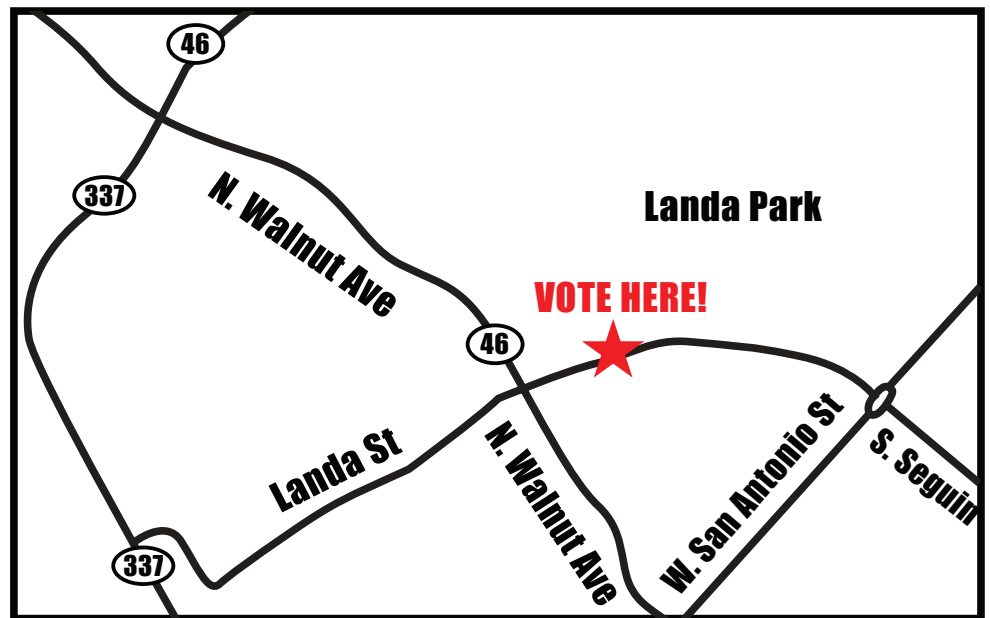


AGAINST THE ORDINANCE (EN CONTRA ORDENANZA) (UN REFERENDO EN FAVOR O EN CONTRA DE LA ORDENANZA NO. 2011-65, ENMENDANDO LA SECCIÓN 86-14 DEL CÓDIGO DE ORDENANZAS PARA PROHIBIR TODOS LOS RECIPIENTES DESECHABLES QUE CONTENGAN COMIDA O BEBIDAS EN CIERTAS VÍAS FLUVIALES PÚBLICAS.)

## VOTE EARLY VOTACIÓN TEMPRANA

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NEW BRAUNFELS, TX**

**NOV 3 • 7 A.M. - 7 P.M.  
NOV 4 • 6 A.M. - 6 P.M.**



# LAST DAY TO VOTE NOVEMBER 8 ULTIMO DIA PARA VOTAR NOVEMBER 8