

Salgan a Votar

La Voz de Austin



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Volume 3 Number 3

March, 2008

Carlos Barrera

An Independent & Courageous Voice for Justice



Rick Noriega



For TEXAS
for US Senate

JUSTICE
Linda YANEZ
FOR TEXAS SUPREME COURT PLACE 8



Judge Jim Coronado

★ For 427th District Court ★



Eddie 51
Rodriguez
for State Rep



Perla Cavazos, a Great Example of a Community Activist

There are many people in **Austin** who work day in and day out to make their voices heard. They work for change and improvement because they believe that the idea of "community" starts with giving of your time and talent. **Perla Cavazos** is an individual who epitomizes what it means to be a community activist.

She is currently running for a second term as Democratic Precinct Chair for precinct 108 in **North East Austin** (Copperfield Elementary). As a precinct chair, **Perla** will mobilize democratic voters in precinct 108 to vote early and encourage their neighbors to vote for Democratic candidates.



Because this is a presidential primary election, **Perla** will also be responsible for explaining the delegate selection process at the precinct convention on March 4. In the past, **Perla** led efforts in her precinct to elect **State Representative Mark Strama** in 2004 and 2006. She is a senior policy analyst for **Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.** She specializes in policy issues related to education, business, and housing. She was recognized as a 2007 Legislative Superstar by **Texas Watch** for her tireless efforts on behalf of **Texas** families.

Perla also serves on the **City of Austin Planning Commission** and is president of the **Austin Women's Political Caucus** and president-elect of the National Women's Political Caucus-Texas. In 2007, **Perla** was awarded a Community Champion Award by the **Capital Area Democratic Women** for outstanding service to elect democrats and mentor young women in the community. She was recently selected as a finalist for the **Austin Under 40** awards in the category of Government/Public Affairs. **Perla** is also active with several Latino arts organizations and is a member of Leadership Austin Class of 2008.

A quien conoces que debe estar en esta pagina? [www.La Voz Newspapers.com](http://www.LaVozNewspapers.com)

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La Voz de Austin is a monthly publication sponsored by the **Mexican American Center for Community and Economic Development**. The editorial and business address is P.O. Box 19457 Austin, Texas 78760. The telephone number is (512) 291-9060. The use, reproduction or distribution of any or part of this publication is strongly encouraged. But do call and let us know what you are using. Letters to the editor are most welcome.

Operational Citizenship

What does it mean to be a citizen in the **United States of America**? Why is it that thousands of people go to "citizenship classes" to learn about the United States? Why is it that many people in foreign countries dream of coming to America and becoming United States citizens?

To be sure, there are many answers to these questions. In this edition of *La Voz de Austin*, I want to share with you the idea of "operational citizenship." It seems appropriate that we discuss this topic in light of the current excitement with the race for the presidency in the United States.

I believe there are three kinds of citizenship. I believe there are **first class** citizens, **second class** citizens and **third class** citizens. Allow me to explain.

First Class Citizenship

A first class citizen is an individual who is eligible to vote and does so when the opportunity presents itself. While this may sound simple, it appears to be an increasing problem for the world's premier democracy.

In Texas, in the last presidential election (2004), only 56% of registered voters bothered to turn out (7,359,621 out of 13,098,329). When people who are citizens, go out and register to vote and then turn out to vote early or on election day, they are what I would call "first class citizens."

Second Class Citizenship

Individuals who practice "second class citizenship" are registered to vote but do not bother to turn out and vote. The voting rolls are filled with individuals who fail to turn out to vote.

Why don't people who are registered to vote not bother going to cast their ballot? This is indeed a mystery in many places. Aside from the standard excuses of, I got out of work late, I couldn't find the correct place to cast my ballot or I forgot, these citizens who fail to vote make the United States look bad, especially when one sees news stories from other countries where people have stood in line for hours to cast their ballot. When people who are registered to vote fail to do so they are "second class citizens" in my book.

Third Class Citizenship

This is the sorryist kind of citizenship. (Is sorryist a word?) "Third class citizens" are those individuals who are eligible to vote but couldn't care less about the right so many people have fought and died for. These individuals also have their set of excuses for not being registered. The most popular being the, "I don't want to be called for jury duty" excuse.

I don't know what to do or say

about this sorry group of citizens.

Some years ago, the Center for Voting and Democracy and the Chicago-based Midwest Democracy Center announced an essay contest for young people to address the question "Why don't we vote?"

Given the all-time low in youth turnout in the 1998 congressional elections and rampant evidence of plummeting political participation by young people, the question was timely. The project also wanted to ask young people what they thought should be done about this decline in participation.

Cash incentives were offered and nearly 9,000 essays from young Americans across the nation were received. It was a challenge to identify the winning essays, but with the help of a notable group of judges, the project was able to identify the winners.

The essays were a revelation. Not all were well-written. Not all were profound in their insights. But the creativity of many proposals, the range of perspectives and the depth of feeling about this critical question to the future of our democracy were important to see. Whatever might be said about young Americans, they deserve to be taken very seriously.



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher

Cambiando de Temas

We would like to make a few announcements in this edition of *La Voz de Austin*. We are currently seeking individuals in the **San Marcos** Hays County area who would be interested in helping us start a *La Voz De Hays County*. We might also add that we are seeking to do the same in **Seguin, Texas**. Si acaso conozen a alguien, give us a call at (512) 944-4123.

También queremos compartir que **Alfredo Santos c/s**, editor de *La Voz de Austin* was notified by **PODER** (People Organized for the Defense of the Earth and her Resources) that he is one of the recipients of the **Annual Cesar Chavez Award**. More details to follow. Gracias a toda la gente que han apoyado los esfuerzos de *La Voz de Austin* a travez de los ultimos tres años/



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La Politica by the Numbers

In the 2008 Primary Election scheduled for **March 4th, 2008**, a total of 407 candidates filed with their respective state parties in **Austin, Texas**. This figure of 407 does not include the judicial candidates or the candidates who are running at the county level throughout Texas' 254 counties.

For the Republi-

cans, there are a total of 211 candidates. For the Democrats, there are 196 candidates. Those candidates who stated they are running as independents were not counted.

As Table # 1 shows, the Republicans fielded the largest slate with 211 candidates or 52% of the total. (211/407)

In Table # 2 the candidates for elective office in the coming primary are shown in terms of gender. Statewide, a total of 76 (18.6%) of the 407 non-judicial candidates in this year's primary election are female. The Democrats managed to field a larger number of female candidates than the Republicans.

Table # 3 shows the candidates by party affiliation and ethnicity. A total of 67 Latinos are represented in this election cycle's offering. Upon closer examination it can be seen that the largest number of Latino candidates (51) have filed to run as Democrats.

Table # 1
Candidates for Elective Office
by Party Affiliation

POLITICAL PARTY	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES
Republicans	211
Democrats	196
TOTAL	407

Source: Texas Democratic Party and Republican Party of Texas

Table # 4 increases the level of detail by examining party affiliation, ethnicity and gender. Here it can be observed that among Latino candidates there are more males running than females: 46 versus 15. It can also be seen that males from both political parties far outnumber females.

Table # 4
Candidates for Elective Office by
Party Affiliation, Ethnicity and Gender

PARTY	TOTAL CANDIDATES		LATINO CANDIDATES	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Republicans	180	30	14	2
Democrats	150	46	46	15
TOTAL	330	76	60	17

Source: Texas Democratic Party, Republican Party of Texas

Table # 3
Candidates for Elective Office by
Party Affiliation and Ethnicity

PARTY	TOTAL CANDIDATES	LATINO CANDIDATES	PERCENT
Republicans	211	16	7.5%
Democrats	196	51	26.0%
TOTAL	407	67	14.9%

Source: Texas Democratic Party and Republican Party of Texas,

Table # 2
Candidates for Elective Office
by Party Affiliation and Gender

PARTY	MALE	FEMALE	PERCENT
Republicans	181	30	14.2%
Democrats	150	46	23.4%
TOTAL	331	76	18.6%

Source: Texas Democratic Party and Republican Party of Texas

**Top 40 Spanish Surnamed
Registered Voters in Travis County**

Last Name	Number of RV	Last Name	Number of RV
Rodriguez	2654	Herrera	599
Martinez	2555	Gomez	593
Garcia	2502	Gutierrez	580
Hernandez	2097	Trevino	574
Lopez	1527	Ortiz	491
Perez	1437	Castro	483
Gonzales	1410	Salazar	483
Ramirez	1211	Cruz	475
Sanchez	1165	Diaz	456
Garza	1099	Alvarez	446
Flores	1070	Villarreal	440
Villa	912	Vela	437
Alva	873	Ramos	426
Torres	854	Morales	423
Castillo	770	Mendoza	422
Rivera	669	Pena	420
Reyes	665	Salinas	414
Vasquez	661	Alvarado	393
Ruiz	648	Chavez	382
Moreno	603	Rios	378

SOURCE: Travis County Tax Assessor Office



A GLIMMER OF HOPE
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**THE CAMPAIGN TO MAKE
POVERTY HISTORY**

A Glimmer of Hope Foundation is requesting proposals for funding from nonprofit organizations working with disadvantaged youth (25 years and under) in East and South Austin. Other areas (zip codes) that are eligible include: 78751, 78752, 78757, 78758. For more information and grant guidelines, please visit, www.aglimmerofhope.org or call 328-9944. Deadline for submission is March 31, 2008 - 5:00pm

Un solo Candidato

Sólo hay un candidato en esta campaña presidencial que haya apoyado consistentemente licencias de conducir para los indocumentados, incluso cuando no fue popular apoyarlo.

Solo este candidato propone aumentar, y no reducir, el numero de emigrantes legales para solucionar necesidades reales de los empresarios, para mantener las familias latinas unidas, y para asegurar los derechos de los trabajadores indocumentados.

Este candidato ha sido recomendado por prominentes abogados y profesores expertos en inmigración incluyendo a Jerry Kang de UCLA y Bill Ong Hing de UC Davis. Esto es logico, pues este mismo candidato ha ganado el apoyo de los expertos por sus planes anti-pobreza, tecnología y sanidad.

Solo un candidato entiende lo que es ser un americano de la primera generación. Solo uno sabe lo que significa ser pobre en América, solo este candidato sabe lo que es pertenecer a una minoría en América.

Es el mismo candidato que fue alabado por el senador Kennedy por trabajar duro como nadie, y mucho mas duro que ningún otro senador candidato a la presidencia, en la reciente propuesta ley de inmigración del senado.

Este mismo candidato esta ahora co-representando el DREAM ACT para que los estudiantes indocumentados puedan atender la universidad en los Estados Unidos y se ha comprometido a pasar la ley cuando sea presidente.

Este mismo candidato ganó el apoyo de los latinos en su estado porque trabajo incesantemente durante años para proteger los intereses económicos latinos.

El no es sólo el campeón de los negros, no es sólo el campeón de los blancos, y ciertamente aún menos el campeón de las corporaciones (es el único candidato que nunca ha trabajado por una corporación, el único candidato que se niega a recibir dinero de los "lobbyists"). El es campeón de todos por igual.

Los sondeos demuestran repetidamente que él es el candidato que puede vencer a McCain en noviembre. Los hechos han demostrado que es el candidato con la experiencia, el carácter, el curriculum, las habilidades y las soluciones fuertes que dan vida a la verdadera esperanza.

Barack Obama es el unico.

Jason Vieyra-Preston
785-209-4740
Junction City, Kansas

Translator
Viviane Vives
Austin, TX

Henry Cisneros: Clinton supporters don't need to divide to conquer

One of the noteworthy dimensions of this year's Democratic primaries has been the loyalty shown to Hillary Clinton's candidacy by Democrats who supported President Bill Clinton in 1992 and 1996, especially female voters, blue-collar families and Latinos.

As a Clinton supporter who has campaigned for her this year in Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona, I have spoken with many voters about why they are supporting Mrs. Clinton. They always give me solid and persuasive reasons. Despite the tendencies of the media pundits to speculate about divisive reasons to explain the preferences of Hillary Clinton voters over Sen. Barack Obama, Clinton supporters have made the following points:

Mrs. Clinton is ready to take on the difficult problems confronting the country on her first day in office. She will be able to go from the inaugural platform to the Oval Office and begin to tackle the challenges of our economy and the war in Iraq, while starting to work on her stated priorities of universal health care and investments in education. Voters tell me that she is smart and prepared and that they trust that she is primed for action.

Clinton voters seem to feel instinctively what I have observed personally for the many years I have known her: In addition to being smart, she is extremely well-organized and managerially competent to address the problems our country confronts. As a Cabinet officer in Mr. Clinton's administration, I watched her run meetings to produce outcomes. She is a no-nonsense person who breaks problems down into their component parts and systematically solves them.

As first lady, she represented the United States abroad in dozens of foreign countries, meeting world leaders and



Dr. Henry Cisneros

learning the intricacies of international relations. She doesn't make many mistakes â" and when she does, she learns from them. At a time when the stakes in our world are so high, voters appreciate her battle-tested, sure-handed qualities.

Her supporters feel a sense of loyalty to a person who contributed significantly to some of the best years our country has enjoyed in its modern history. She was part of a team that produced the largest economic expansion in American history with lower unemployment rates, lower poverty rates, higher business formations, a record homeownership rate, higher levels of school performance and even a narrowing in the income gap.

Female voters in particular add to that fond remembrance a sense that the unique experiences of a person who has been a mother, a daughter, a wife and a sister can bring fresh perspectives and

distinctive contributions to the nation's highest office.

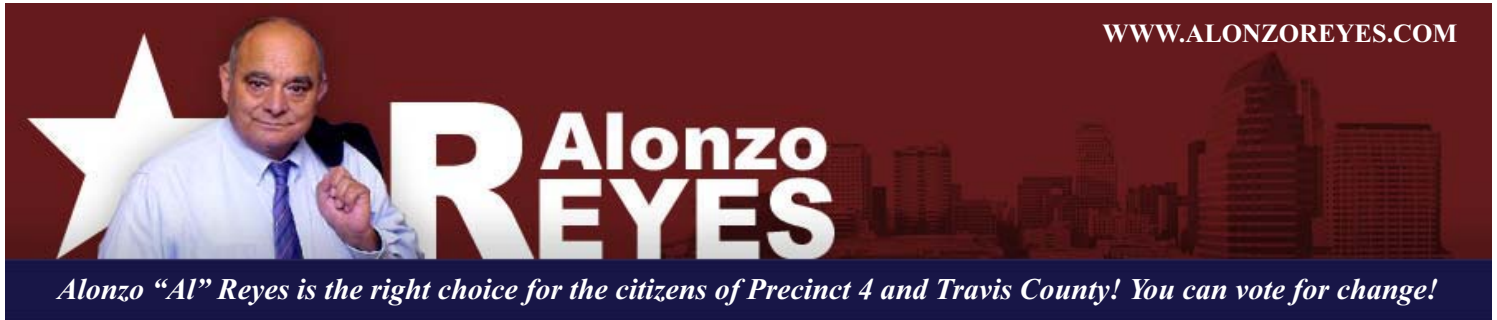
Voters tell me they recognize that Mrs. Clinton has a big heart and a good heart. Yes, her commitment to the public good is driven by her intellect and her experience. But her inner drive comes from a desire to help people, to advance the country and to make a meaningful difference in our world. Since her early years working in the Children's Defense Fund to her years in Arkansas working to expand public health clinics for seniors to her work as a U.S. senator on children's health insurance, she has shown she is determined to reach out to families.

I met Mrs. Clinton when I was mayor of San Antonio, when she invited me to share and brainstorm on public health clinics in Arkansas and Texas. I was impressed with her dedication then; it has become even more focused, firm and effective over the years.

After listening to years of glitzy campaigning, political infighting and self-inflating assertions, I have found that voters generally break through the noise and find core truths. In this election, those voters gravitating to Hillary Clinton have respect in her policies, in her experiences, in her political lineage and her good heart.

Unfortunately, in the heat of a political battle, passions rise, and it seems necessary to draw hateful divisions between candidates or to denigrate one worthy candidate at the expense of another. Hillary Clinton supporters shouldn't be drawn into that game. There is no need. We have solid reasons to support her based on her public service record of a lifetime.

Henry Cisneros is executive chairman of CityView, which focuses on quality housing for working families. He may be reached through cityview.com.



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Grant #165408-02 Operation Safestreeets.

Intense Juvenile Supervision **\$232,826.00**

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PROGRESSIVE

Political Overview of Latino Candidates On the Ballot in Travis County

NAME	AGE	OFFICE SEEKING	PARTY AFFILIATION	INCUMBENT	EDUCATION	YEAR OF GRADUATION	OCCUPATION
1. Adan Ballesteros	51	Constable Precinct # 2	Democrat	No	B.A. University of Texas	1978	Deputy Constable
2. Carlos H. Barrera	50	Judge County Court at Law # 8	Democrat	No	B.S. Georgetown University J.D. University of Texas	1979 1983	Attorney at Law
3. Maria Canchola	62	Constable Precinct # 4	Democrat	Yes	Attended University of Texas		Constable, Precinct # 4
4. Santiago "Jim" Coronado	53	Judge 427th Court	Democrat	No	University of Texas J.D. University of Texas	1975 1978	Travis County Criminal District Court Magistrate
5. Baltasar D. Cruz	42	Justice Supreme Court Place # 7	Democrat	No	A.B. Harvard University J.D. University of Pennsylvania	1987 1990	Attorney at Law
6. David Escamilla	50	County Attorney	Democrat	Yes	B.A. University of Texas J.D. University of Texas	1979 1982	County Attorney Travis County
7. Albert Gonzales	60	Travis County Commissioner Precinct # 3	Democrat	No	San Jacinto High School	1968	Retired Human Resources
8. J. R. Molina	62	Judge Court of Criminal Appeals Place # 4	Democrat	No	B.A. University of Texas at Austin 1969 J.D. University of Texas at Austin 1971		Attorney at Law
9. Rick Noriega	50	United States Senate	Democrat	No	B.A. University of Houston M.P.A. Harvard University	1984 1990	State Representative Manager, Economic Development -Center Point
10. Alonzo Reyes	53	Constable Precinct # 4	Democrat	No	A.A. Austin Community College Undergraduate studies St. Edwards	1992	Peace Officer
11. Eddie Rodriguez	37	State Representative	Democrat	Yes	B.A. University of Texas at Austin 1995		State Representative
12. Brian Ruiz	32	U.S. Congress District 31	Democrat	No	B.A. St. Edwards University	2006	Radio Producer
13. Janie Serna	46	Constable Precinct # 1	Democrat	No	A.A. Corrections and Criminal Justice		Parent Support Specialist Ortega Elementary School
14. Gisela Triana	41	Judge, 200th District Court	Democrat	Yes	B.A. Univ. of Texas - San Antonio 1985 J.D. Univ. of Texas at Austin 1988		Judge
15. Mike Varela	37	Travis County Commissioner Precinct # 3	Republican	No	No information		Peace Officer
16. Linda Reyna Yanez	58	Supreme Court	Democrat	No	B.A. Univ. of Texas at Pan Am J.D. Texas Southern University L.L.M. University of Virginia	1971 1976 1998	Justice Texas 13th Court of Appeals

The Media and the (Limited) Latino Vote

By Federico Subervi, Ph.D.

The potential impact that Latino voters might have on the outcome of the 2008 presidential campaign has become a topic of heightened media attention. In fact, discussions of Latino electoral influence date back many years as multiple studies over the years show increasing numbers of Latinos are becoming U.S. citizens, registering to vote, and voting. The power of Latino voters has been particularly felt in the victories of Latinos vying for the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, and especially the election of Antonio Villaraigosa as mayor of Los Angeles.

Scholars, journalists and pundits have articulated many explanations for that limited participation

Analysts have also focused on the low Latino voter turnout; less than half of those who could register and vote actually do so, consistently passing up that opportunity and civic duty. Scholars, journalists and pundits have articulated many explanations for that limited participation ranging from structural factors that interfere with easy registration and voting, to Latinos' apathy or alienation from political action that may be considered irrelevant to improving their daily lives.

Missing from those discussions has been a detailed focus on the media. Specifically, how have the U.S. Spanish-language and English-language newspapers and television newscasts covered Latinos and Latino aspects of electoral campaigns? Also, how have the Democratic and the Republican Party used the media to reach out to and win Latino votes? And, what influence have the media actually had on informing and mobilizing Latinos?

My recently published book, *The Mass Media and Latino Politics: Studies of U.S. Media Content, Campaign Strategies and Survey Research: 1984-2004* provides the first systematic analysis of all three of those questions. It also helps readers understand the role the media are playing regarding the Latino electorate.

Among its many findings, the book shows that with a couple of exceptions, Spanish-language daily newspapers have historically not

done that great of a job in covering presidential campaigns, at least not in terms of informing their readers about the specific issues most important to Latino voters. The coverage has for the most part mirrored how English-language newspapers cover those elections and politics, i.e., with an emphasis on the routine campaign activities and who is ahead in the electoral

horserace especially among Latino voters. In-depth news analyses and opinion columns specifically related to Latino issues or concerns have also been lacking in most print media.

Spanish-language television news programs have followed a comparable pattern with the emphasis on campaign activities and the electoral

horserace. And while networks and their affiliates can be commended for promoting the importance of registration and voting, as well as trying to bring a Latino angle to some of the stories being covered, they have also failed to provide in-depth analyses and explanations of where the candidates stand and how their party's platforms might impact different segments of the Latino communities.

English-language media have been much worse. Year after year during election campaigns, occasional stories in newspapers and on TV news superficially emphasize how candidates are wooing Latino voters, that the Latino vote could be important, or which candidate Latinos are favoring. A common pattern is the focus on presidential candidates' visits to Latino communities, which provide colorful images of Hispanic dancers and musicians as backdrops to the brief whistle-stops that can be summarized with the cliché "hey amigo, vota por mí."

Meanwhile, the Democratic and Republican Parties have each reached out via the media in . . .

Meanwhile, the Democratic and Republican Parties have each reached out via the media in Spanish and in English. Part of that outreach has been paid political announcements on Spanish-language television, and sporadic radio spots, too. The Democrats' main theme has been that a vote for their party or candidate will help solve [immigration, education, drug, etc.] problems. On the other hand,

the Republicans repeatedly claim that voting for their party is the path to reach the "American Dream." Another form of outreach, especially by the GOP, has been the creation and dissemination (or more accurately planting) of "news" and "opinion columns" that get printed word for word but with different bylines as "objective" or "impartial" information by either unsuspecting or surrogate local Latino media.

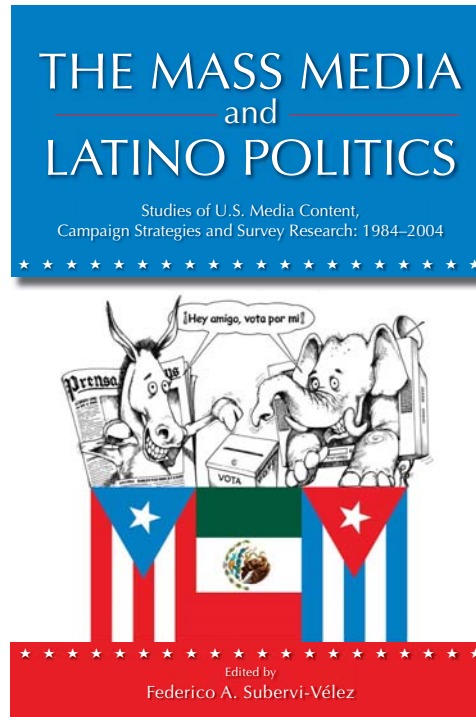
Has exposure to the media in Spanish and/or English influenced Latinos to increase their knowledge about politics and vote? Yes, albeit the data and conclusiveness of the findings are limited. On the other hand, the aforementioned patterns of media coverage may simultaneously be hindering mobilization and turnout among even larger segments of the Latino population who lack news and information that is ethnically relevant and thus serve as an incentive to register and actually vote.


. . . it will be interesting to see if, for a change, the media in Spanish and English offer more than occasional cursory stories

As the 2008 campaign continues, it will be interesting to see if, for a change, the media in Spanish and English offer more than occasional cursory stories about the potential influence of the Latino vote and how the immigration reform (or lack thereof) might mobilize Latinos (and non-Latino) voters.

I believe that if and when the Latino-oriented and general market media provide Latino audiences significantly more expansive and in-depth coverage of issues that are relevant to them as Latinos and also convey messages that are truly "incentivating" for political participation, the Latino vote will increase and turn into a much more powerful force in the electoral processes.

Dr. Subervi is a professor at Texas State University in San Marcos.






Today, Psych 2301. Tomorrow, Prom.

Manuel, high school student

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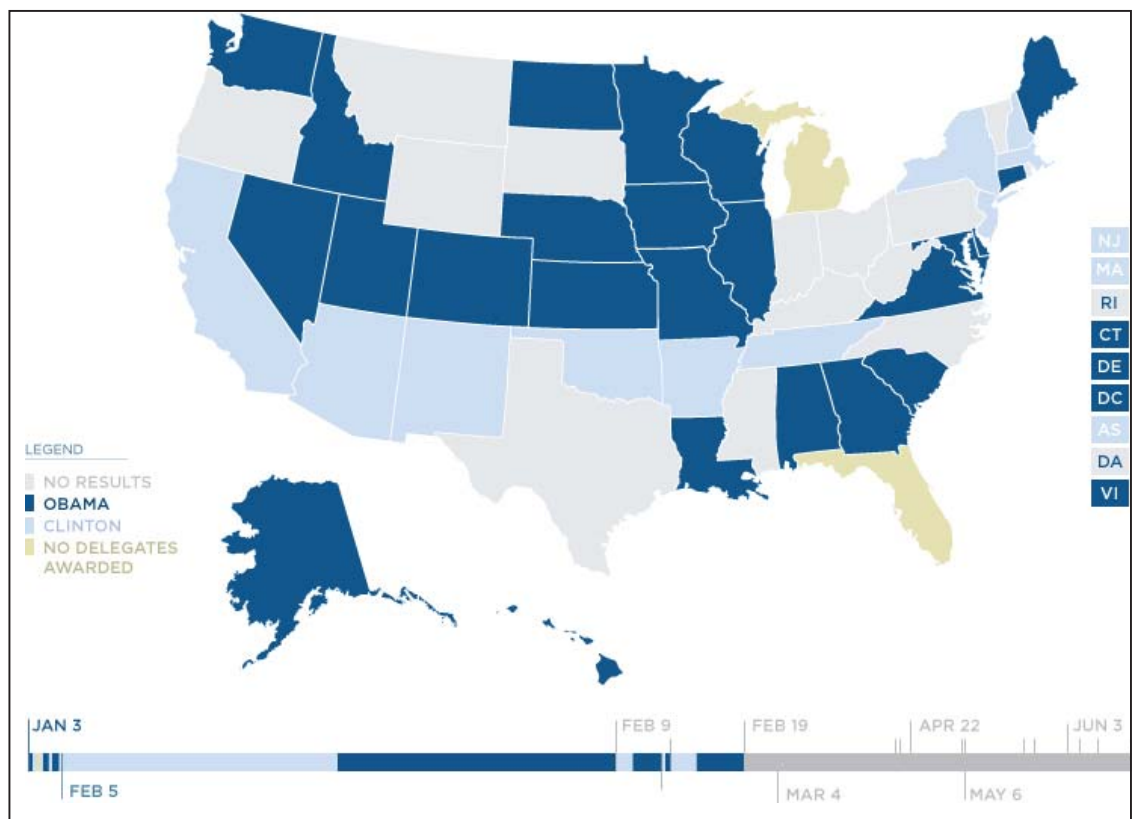


Ahora es cuando

Some of us have worked for more than 40 years as Chicano activists in Texas. We remember the way they treated us in the public schools, we remember the way they treated us when we went to work in the fields. But most of all we remember the way they treated us when we dared to stand up as activists in the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO).

The huge immigration marches and students walkouts across the county in 2006 are part of the frustration people have with living in the shadows of society. People from all walks of life are tired of barely making it. They are tired of living lives of quiet desperation.

The growing grassroots movement that is driving the Obama for President campaign is built on the hope that tomorrow will be different. Those of us who got into the Chicano Movement see Obama as we saw ourselves 40 years ago. Now is the time to stand up and stand with a man who believes in the possibilities of a better tomorrow.



Paid Political Ad Paid for Camarads for Obama P.O. Box 19457 Austin, Texas 78760

New BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mexican American Center for Community and Economic Development is pleased to announce the fourth edition of The Directory of 100 - A Guide to Latino Organizations in Austin, Texas. This directory continues the tradition set by long time Austin community activist Martha Cotera who produced the first directory in 1976.

Each organization has been contacted personally to confirm their existence and the accuracy of their organization's public profile. The directory is updated regularly and contains the name of the organization contact, mailing address, telephone number, fax number, email address, website address, number of members, and the year the organization was founded

Included in this directory are 159 Latino organizations in the following categories:

For more information about the directory please visit: www.mexicanamericancenter.com or call (512) 944-4123.

The Directory of 100

A Guide to
Latino Organizations in
Austin, Texas

2008

Mexican American Center
for Community and Economic Development

Directory Categories

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Arts | 9. Music |
| 2. Business | 10. Political |
| 3. Civic | 11. Professional |
| 4. Cultural | 12. Religious |
| 5. Dance | 13. Social Services |
| 6. Educational | 14. Student |
| 7. Immigrant | 15. Theater. |
| 8. Media | 16. Otras |

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Austin Voices for Education and Youth Presents: *Life can be hard, but you can't give up*

by Brenda

I will tell you about my life. Try to imagine yourself in it. Think about how hard my life has been and see for yourself that people do not give up. They keep trying their best every day, for the rest of their lives.

I never met my father. He died when I was a baby. I hate the man who killed him. He took away half of my childhood and the love of a father that will never have. I never knew how it felt to have a dad. Some of my friends use to tell me, *"My dad is the best dad in the whole wide world."* I wanted my dad to be able to protect me like all dads do and to tell me, *"Don't worry my little princess, I will never let anything bad happen to you, I promise."*

I still had my mother but it was not the same. We were living in **Mexico**. My mother took care of us, made us laugh when we were sad and helped us in what ever we needed help in. She gave us everything that we needed. My mother was beautiful. I loved her so much. At that time I was four years old, my brother was ten and my sister fifteen. I was happy with my life. I spent most of my time with my mother because my brother and sister were in school.

People that saw the accident said that before she died, she sent out her blessing to us from where lay in the road.

Then something horrible happened. My mother had a car accident and died. People that saw the accident said that before she died, she sent out her blessing to us from where lay in the road. I could not believe that my mother had died. She was my world. That night we stayed at my uncle's house. The next day my grandparents made the preparations for the funeral.

They said that my mother's body was soon to arrive. I was so happy because I was not thinking that my mother had died. I thought that she was alive and coming home to us. I heard a man say that the van was a few blocks away. I ran outside and waited. The van was about two houses away from ours, when I started to realize that my mother was never going to be with me again. I started to cry and I wanted to see her for one last time but nobody would let me.

They said they needed to clean her first. I did not care. I wanted to see my mommy. Finally, my mother's best friend said, "Ok

baby, do not be scared." I was happy that I was going to see her, but also scared. I saw my mother but it was not how I would have liked to see her. I will never forget what I saw. We were in so much pain. We had lost our dad and now our mother too. They say things happen for a reason, but I want to know why God took my parents away from me. Why me?

But my sister said that it would be for the best for us, so we ended up going to Colorado.

We went to go live with my uncle **Jose** and his family. Everything was great. I started to go to school. This helped me a lot. Even some of our uncles came from the United States, from the state of **Colorado**, to pay their respect for our loss. It was my dad's brother **Carmelo** and his family that came. They asked us if we wanted to go live with them. I said, "No, I wanted to stay here." But my sister said that it would be for the best for us, so we ended up going to **Colorado**.

Everything was going so great. We got new clothes and started going to school. I learned English pretty quickly. I felt like we belonged in this family. Years passed and everything seemed so great. We helped them mow lawns and other work that they did. As time passed on, things seemed to be going from good to bad. My sister decided to move to Texas. I did not know why she wanted to move, but she left. My brother started to get in trouble in school.

When they left I was crying and sad because we were going to be separated.

He joined a gang and got in even more trouble. My aunt **Bertha** and uncle **Carmelo** decided to send him back to **Mexico**. When they left I was crying and sad because we were going to be separated. He said that he loved me and to be careful. I did not want to live in that house any more, I wanted to be with my sister and brother.

School for me was great, it was the best of everything because that was my time to be happy and be around people that cared about me. I was doing well in school. I was an honor student, but **Bertha** and **Carmelo** didn't care. They cared more about their kids than me. I never told anybody about my problems because I knew that things would

get worse. I just acted like my life was great. I lied a lot to my friends and to the teachers because I did not want anybody to know. I did not want them to look at me differently. I wanted to be the same friend and student that everybody liked. I did not want school to change, because that was my escape from my house.

At that house my life was bad. On the weekdays I had to get up at five in the morning to get ready for school and walk to the bus stop. After school I had to come home quickly because the house had to be clean before **Bertha** came home. When I was done I would go to my room and do my homework. On weekends, I would get up at seven in the morning and clean the house again. Then I would stay in my room or go outside.

One day when I was thirteen years old, Carmelo tried to assault me. I fought back and

One day when I was thirteen years old, **Carmelo** tried to assault me. I fought back and did not let it happen. I told him that if he ever tried to do that to me again, I was going to tell my teachers in school. I did not care about what was going to happen to me.

I was so scared and cried myself to sleep every night. I could not tell **Bertha** because I knew she would not believe me. I did not want him to touch me ever again. I hated him so much. I was scared to stay home alone with him. I finally told **Bertha** that **Carmelo** tried to assault me. She slapped me across the face and called me a f'ing liar. She said, *"I do not want to see you at all or talk to us. When you come home from school, go to your room and stay there."* I did exactly what she told me to do because I was scared that she would hit me.

In school my friends knew that something was bothering me, but I told them that I was fine,

In school my friends knew that something was bothering me, but I told them that I was fine, I was just tired. At that time I did not believe in God. I always asked myself, why is he not helping me? Has he forgotten about me? I cried so much every day. I wanted my mom and knew that if she were alive, we would have never suffered like this.

One day, I was called to the office because

there was a phone call for me. I was scared, I thought it was **Bertha** calling me because I did something wrong or was in trouble. Luckily, I was wrong. It was my aunt **Susana** that lives in **Texas**. She told me that she had been trying to call me, but that somebody blocked her calls so that no one from **Texas** could talk to me. I told her that I did not have time to talk because I had to go back to class. She gave me her phone number so that I could call her as soon as possible. I tried calling her but we did not have long distance calls.

School ended and summer break started. I called my friend **Monica** to see how she was doing. **Monica** told me that she had called me a lot of times but nobody answered or they told her I was not home. I decided to tell Monica what was happening to me and made her promise that she would not tell her parents. Even though she promised me, she told her mom. The only thing that she wanted to do was help me get away from those people.

Monica's mother called my aunt in **Texas** and told her that she was going to do whatever it took to get me out of that house. I was glad but scared about what would happen if they caught me. My aunt **Susana** got me a plane ticket so that I could leave as soon as possible.

I finally arrived in Texas. My brother was waiting for me at the airport. We both were so happy to see each other.

I finally arrived in **Texas**. My brother was waiting for me at the airport. We both were so happy to see each other. Everyone was so happy to see me. I had not seen the family I cared so much about me in a very long time. I was glad to be with my real family. I knew that I was going to like **Texas**.

My sister wanted me to stay in school so she enrolled me in **Lanier High School**. It was my first year. I was scared because I was new to the school and to **Texas**. I felt lost a lot of times but I started to make new friends. I liked the classes that I was taking. School was going great and for once I felt like I belong in this world.

I made so many friends. All I wanted was to forget about my past. One day I decided

Continued on page 15

Remembering Raul

1934 - 2008

"Words, sounds, speech, men, memory, thought, fears and emotions, - time - all related...all made from one..all made in one" - John Coltrane Elder statesmen, Xicanindio leader, poet of the people, giver of hope to the oppressed and incarcerated, Raul Salinas passed away last night in Austin, Tejaztlan. Raul will be greatly missed. His work, poetry, and philosophy will live on in the good works of poets, artists, musicians and cultural centros throughout America. His spirit we lead us all and help us to survive and thrive in difficult times. His words/poems should serve as maps for us all in our quest to keep culture, heritage and tradition alive in our barrios, cul de sacs, suburbs, ranchos...wherever you/we live. Thank you, Raul. You have blessed us all.

Manuel Diosdado Castillo,
Jr. San Anto Cultural Arts



raulsalinas, you were there when a young chicana feminist activista emerged from east/southside austin,tx neighborhoods in 1992... guiding, supporting and fighting for the development of us youth... I remember you sitting with me in my expulsion hearing from Johnston high school as I was going through a turbulent time in school as a young activist. It is only recently I begin to fully understand and appreciate how blessed I have been to have you in my corner... to be emerging and transforming and have such powerful examples.. to see that in my fight I am not alone...to experience that in my search for our indigenous spirituality that was subtracted from us, that in you, you have kept that spirit alive and you share it with youth like me.. to connect my fire with your fire.. to have your fighting spirit continue to provoke each of us.. to provoke us to be direct, to be articulate, to not be afraid, and to be that which we are supposed to be. raul, I am so grateful for the challenge which you leave us each with.. the challenge to fight hard and smart and with love and faith and determination... I am so grateful for the challenge you leave us with.

With all of my love and respect.. .ancestor... I welcome you forever in my heart and soul..

~andrea "gaia" melendez

The early years



Recordando a Raul

From Arte Público Press

Raúl Roy "Tapon" Salinas was born in **San Antonio, Texas** on March 17, 1934. He was raised in **Austin, Texas** from 1936 to 1956, when he moved to **Los Angeles**. In 1957 he was sentenced to prison in **Soledad State Prison** in **California**. Over the span of the next 15 years, **Salinas** spent 11 years behind the walls of state and federal penitentiaries. It was during his incarceration in some of the nation's most brutal prison systems, that **Salinas'** social and political consciousness were intensified, and so it is with keen insight into the subhuman conditions of prisons and an inhuman world that the *pinto* aesthetics that inform his poetry were formulated.

His prison years were prolific ones, including creative, political, and legal writings, as well as an abundance of correspondence. In 1963, while in **Huntsville**, he began writing a jazz column entitled "The Quarter Note" which ran consistently for 1-1/2 years. In **Leavenworth** he played a key role in founding and producing two important prison journals, *Aztlán de Leavenworth* and *New Era Prison Magazine*, through which his poetry first circulated and gained recognition within and outside of the walls. As a spokesperson, ideologue, educator, and jailhouse lawyer of the Prisoner Rights Movement, **Salinas** also became an internationalist who saw the necessity of making alliances with others. This vision continues to inform his political and poetic practice. Initially published in the inaugural issue of *Aztlán de Leavenworth*, "Trip through a Mind Jail" (1970) became the title piece for a book of poetry published by Editorial Pocho-Che in 1980.

With the assistance of several professors and students at the **University of Washington - Seattle**, **Salinas** gained early release from **Marion Federal Penitentiary** in 1972. As a student at the **University of Washington**, **Salinas** was involved with community empowerment projects and began making alliances with Native American groups in the Northwest, a relationship that was to intensify over the next 15 years. Although **Salinas** writes of his experiences as a participant in the Native American Movement, it is a dimension of his life that has received scant attention. In the 22 years since his release from **Marion**, **Salinas'** involvement with various political movements has earned him an international reputation as an eloquent spokesperson for justice. Along the way he has continued to refine and produce his unique blend of poetry and politics.

Salinas' literary reputation in **Austin** has earned him recognition as the poet laureate of the East Side and the title of "maestro" from emerging poets who seek his advice and a mentor. While his literary work is probably most widely known for his street aesthetics and sensibility, which document the interactions, hardships, and intra- and intercultural strife of barrio life and prison in vernacular, bilingual language, few people have examined the influence of Jazz in his obra that make him part of the Beat Generation of poets, musicians, and songwriters.



Raul sharing his work with others.



About your Presence and Survival

for raúlsalinas
by Erika González
inspired by raúlsalinas' poem "About Invasion and Conquest"

Who will be left to tell of what happened to us,
Grandfather?
Who will be left to tell of what happened to us,
Grandmother?
Among those who survive, there will be poets to
recount that which happened to us.

Among those survivors, a cockroach poet was
born – en el Pinto – del maíz that grew
along cemented walls – that died each day only to
be reborn – turtle coming out of shell –
tough outer skin protecting revolutionary insides
– surviving to tell the stories of a man who broke
penitentiary walls with words shone sunlight
through keyholes and opened doors for la pura
verdad to heal barrio cries and broken spirits.

Died and reborn out of mother earth's womb as a
Native to these Americas
with trenzas indígenas, y brown listón, red
bandana y tatuajes con coded
messages for the world to decipher.

And in a dream of word offerings, a young
Xicanita asks,
"Who will be left to tell of what happened to us?
When our trees are being cut, our homes
destroyed, our families displaced,
our people locked up or dead, our earth in
retaliation to the contamination.
Who will be left?

And in total Resistance y Pure Dignidad, "Es la
palabra que no nos pueden quitar" me dice La
historia – the story cannot be locked up, the story
cannot be shackled, the story cannot be stolen

When a survivor emerges and reaches out his
hand to little Xicanitas like me –
to La Resistencia y la Poesía de las Calles y la
comunidad –
Eso es sobrevivir – that is real survival and a gift
of life –
to tell – to change – to heal – to recount what
happened in our struggles
y siempre pasar la palabra
y siempre pasar la palabra
today – today – today

Tell your story to survive and know that you have
the power to change the way the story ends con
Resistencia y Plena Dignidad.

Calendar of Events

- March 4, 2008** **Texas Primaries - Salgan a Votar!**
- March 6, 2008** **Power Breakfast sponsored by the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** Event to take place at Casa Chapala 3010 W. Anderson Lane Suite D in Austin, Texas. Program starts at 7:30am
- March 10-14, 2008** **Latinitas Hosts Spring Break Camp at the MACC in Austin** Latinitas is hosting an all day camp during spring break with a focus on empowering young Latinitas through the use of media and technology. Girls between the ages of 7 and 14 and invited to participate. They will get to learn about digital photography, radio and video production, writing and graphic design. For more information please call 478-6222
- March 14, 2008** **2008 LULAC NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE** in San Antonio, Texas at the Hyatt Regency Hill County Resort and Spa. For More Information: For conference information and registration, contact the LULAC Women's Commission at 210 422-2812
- March 22, 2008** **DREAM Summit** in Austin, Texas The University Leadership Initiative (ULI), in collaboration with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) council 4859, proudly invites you and your organization to attend the **Texas DREAM Summit at the McCombs School of Business on the UT Campus**. For more information please call (512) 297-9417
- March 27, 2008** **Keynote Speaker Luncheon** - Greater Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. For more information please call (512) 476-7502
- March 31, 2008** **Cesar Chavez March in Austin, Texas** For more information please call PODER at (512) 472-9921 También habrá una marcha en San Antonio, Texas. Call Jaime Martinez for more information (210) 842-9339

To get your events listed in *La Voz de Austin* please call: (512) 944-4123

Word Power

En 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 Austin*.

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 a nuestros lectores de *La Voz de Austin* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

La gente	The people
en los Estados Unidos	of the United States
estand animados por lo	are very enthusiastic
que estan viendo con la	by what they are seeing
candidatura de Clinton y Obama.	with the campaigns.
El 4 de marzo vamos a ver los	On March 4 we will see
resultados en Texas y Ohio.	the results from Tx & Ohio
Tal vez vamos a saber quien va	Perhaps then we will know
hacer el nominado del partido	who will be the Democratic
Democrata	nominee.

Changes in College Tuition at Stanford

Amid calls by some U.S. lawmakers for wealthy universities to lower tuition costs, officials at Stanford University said on Wednesday they would no longer charge tuition to students from families earning less than \$100,000 a year.

For students whose families earn less than \$60,000 a year, Stanford University will not charge for either tuition or room and board, officials at the prestigious university near San Francisco said. Harvard University, Yale University and Stanford have the three largest endowments among U.S. universities. Some lawmakers want universities to use investment gains in endowments to make college more affordable.

Tuition costs at leading U.S. universities have soared in recent years to levels that can leave students and their families tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt at graduation. In December, Harvard overhauled its financial aid system so that families earning up to \$180,000 a year would pay only as much as 10 percent of their income on annual tuition and fees.

Yale announced last month it would spend roughly 37 percent more of its own money from its \$22.5 billion endowment on financial aid for students and scientific research in 2008-2009. Stanford has an endowment of about \$17 billion, which it plans to tap to pay for its new financial aid program. The university also plans a \$200 million fund-raising effort to bolster the program. Stanford University projects its undergraduate tuition for its 2008-2009 year at \$36,030, with room and board an additional \$11,182.

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Brenda's Story From Page 11

to skip class with some friends which I do not do very often. Skipping was really boring but I met this boy named **Javier**. He made me laugh and feel happy. He asked me out that same day. I said no because I did not know anything about him. I wanted to still talk to him so I gave him my phone number. We talked almost every day on the phone. We asked each other questions that we did not know about each other. We got to know each other very well. We became good friends. A couple of weeks passed and we decided to go out together.

In May of freshman year I got pregnant. I was scared and happy at the same time. I was scared because my sister was going to be so mad.

In May of freshman year I got pregnant. I was scared and happy at the same time. I was scared because my sister was going to be so mad. I was happy because I had the support from my boyfriend, **Javier**. We told **Javier's** parents. They were mad but they decided to help us. I finally told my sister. She was so angry with me. She said that I could have done a lot with my life to accomplish my dreams and goals. I told her that I still could and now I have a bigger reason to do everything I can.

I moved in with **Javier** and his family. His parents accepted me with their home and love. After summer was over, we went back to school. I started my sophomore year pregnant. Everyone in school was surprised to see me, but they were happy that **Javier** was still with me. I had my baby in my sophomore year. School is hard and even more so when you have a baby but I did my best to keep my grades up and not to be absent. I did great in my junior year too. Having the help from **Javier** and my family is great because I did not have too much weight on my shoulders.

I also want to learn how to forgive the people that have hurt me the most. I do not know how to forgive the people that assault their own family members.

At present, I am a senior at **Lanier High School**. My baby, **Crystal**, is two years old. I am still living with my boyfriend and having the support of my family. I plan to graduate and go to college. I want to give my baby a great future. I want her to have everything she needs and sometimes wants. I have been through a lot in my life, but that has not kept me from what I want to achieve in life. I also want to learn how to forgive the people that have hurt me the most. I do not know how to forgive the people that assault their own family members.

I would love to go to college and become a social worker. I want to help kids or teens that have been through what I have. I want to be that person that can tell them, "You do not have to be scared. There are so many people that are willing to help you to be safe." I want to change so many lives that have been hurt." I want to be successful in my life and prove to everybody that I did it. I graduated and am going to college. I am a mother that did not give up and wants the best for her family.

Brenda is a Senior at Lanier High School in Austin, Texas.

Daniel Gonzales
Attorney at Law
Call me, I can help.

13284 Pond Springs Road, Suite 403 Office (512) 219-9300
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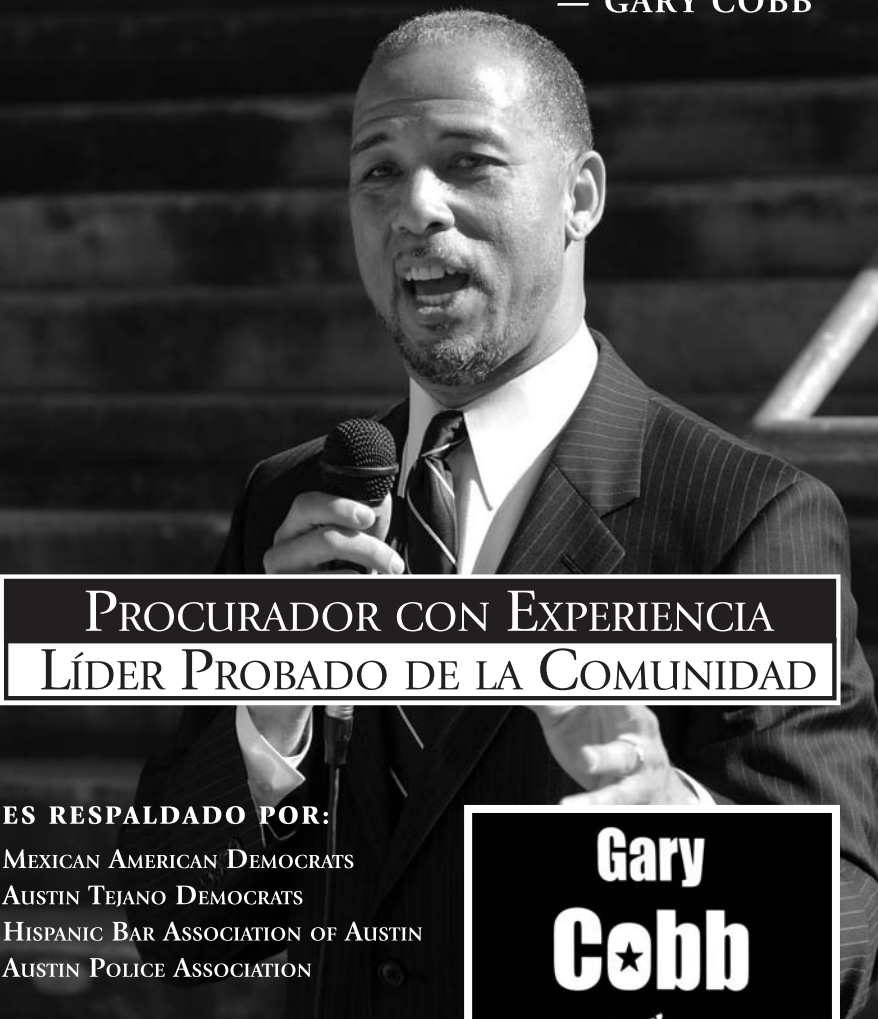


Pew Hispanic Center

Chronicleing Latinos' diverse experiences in a changing America

“Esta elección nos ofrece la oportunidad de un nuevo comienzo. La oportunidad de reparar vínculos con la comunidad diversa de Austin y de construir puentes donde antes no existían”

— GARY COBB



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La Voz de Austin - March, 2008



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