



La Voz

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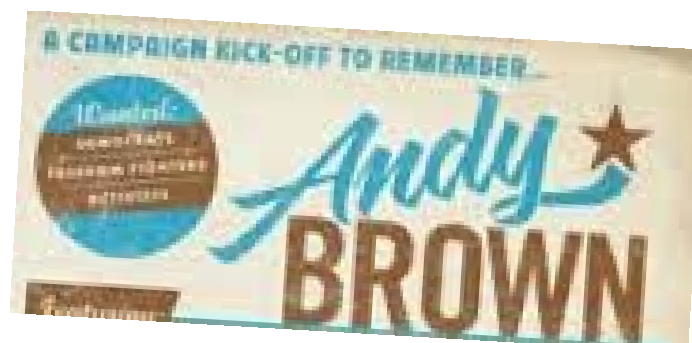

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Make participation and voting a priority

When I was in the 7th grade, I entered a writing contest organized by the school district. The topic was – Why will you vote when you turn 18? I remember my first draft was pretty unoriginal because it included the typical "it's my constitutional right" and "it's our civic duty" statements. I remember showing my mom the essay and she told me that it was good, but maybe I could personalize the essay and talk about my experiences with political campaigns since, unlike most 13-year-olds, I had already volunteered for several campaigns. I liked the idea of personalizing my essay and submitted the following essay:

"I have worked the polls with my father since I was 5 years old. Waking up at 5 o'clock, dressing the polls, and passing out political literature was my job. I remember blockwalking and stuffing envelopes at campaign headquarters. When I'm 18, my proudest moment will be when they hand 'me' the literature. When the curtain closes behind me and I pull the lever down, I will fulfill my long-awaited American right to vote."

My involvement at such an early age had everything to do with my parent's involvement. My father was a firefighter and very active in his union. Because of his participation, my sisters and I attended community and political events starting at a very young age. I also remember hanging around campaign offices while my dad volunteered to give voters a ride to the polls or place signs around the community. Had my parents not introduced me to this world, I'm certain that I would not, now, place any priority on community involvement and voting.

Being an example to the next generation is key to ensuring they carry our torch. We hear time and time again how the changing demographics of **Texas** will be a game changer for **Texas** Hispanics, but we must foster a culture of involvement for our youth. We must teach by example. And you definitely don't need to do it to the extent my parents did. It could be something as simple as taking your child with you when you go vote. Or instead of looking for childcare when you decide to attend a community event, take your children with you. And, by far, one of the easiest things you can do, is talk about voting and involvement. Find one issue you care about, whether it be about the environment or more of a police presence in your neighborhood, and talk to your children about why this is important to you and your family and your community. Or find a candidate that you believe in and go volunteer for a few hours and tell your children why you did it. To this day, my parents continue to participate and place a very high priority on voting. I feel blessed to have had them as role models and I'm happy that they continue to serve as role models to their grandchildren.

About a year ago I was having dinner with my parents at a restaurant and the conversation turned to politics, as conversations often do in my family. I don't remember exactly what we were talking about, but suddenly my dad said "*Oh no! Today is Election Day and I forgot to vote!*" To which my mother replied, "*I didn't, I early voted.*" He looked down at his watch and it was about 6:30 (the polls close at 7). We had just gotten our food so my dad waived down the server and asked for to-go boxes and the check. He paid the bill and we rushed to the car and to his polling place. We got there with 5 minutes to spare and he rushed inside to vote. My mom sat outside in the car and laughed about the entire incident.

There are so many issues that greatly affect our community and it is so important for each and every one of us to step up in some capacity. We grow stronger and more influential through participation and voting. And as we each take that step towards participation, know that our children are watching us and will follow our lead. Or as **Gandhi** eloquently stated "*Be the change you wish to see in the world.*"

Election Day is March 4th. Go vote.

EDITORIAL



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Attorney at Law



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Teacher Profile



Educator Profile: Erika Williams

Registrar and PEIMS Coordinator at
East Austin College Prep, www.eaprep.org

Erika AnJanet Williams is in her second year as the **PEIMS Coordinator and Registrar at East Austin College Prep**. In this crucial role, **Erika** enrolls students, liaises with parents, maintain records, submits reports to **TEA**, and works with other school districts to coordinate students information. A native of **Austin, Texas**, she was primarily raised by her grandfather, a church pastor, and her grandmother, a teacher, principal, and college dean in **East Austin**. She is a graduate of **McCallum High School** and is currently in pursuit of her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. When **Erika** graduated from high school, she volunteered as a teacher at her grandmother's school, served as co-chair of the **Chestnut Neighborhood Association**, and volunteered for political campaigns. She is a proud member of **Theta Phi Sigma Christian Sorority**, choir director for her church, and choreographer for the youth and young adults praise dance team.



Favorite activity: I love spending quality time with my two children **Ter'Rai** (8 years old) and **Trai** (2 years old). Boy, do we have fun together! I love to play spades and go fishing with family.

Personal Hero: My now deceased grandfather **Reverend Ira Lewis**. The values he modeled for our family of spirituality, honesty, fairness, respect, morality and responsibility are his greatest legacy. My grandmother was in cahoots with him.

Favorite Books: Act Like A Lady, Think Like A Man by **Steve Harvey**; Disappearing Acts by **Terry McMillian**

Greatest Strength: I am a people person. My interpersonal and communication skills have been praised by my pastors, school officials, church members, friends, and other community leaders. I see the importance of listening, learning and talking openly with parents and young people to set clear and firm expectations.

My goals for East Austin College Prep: To promote consistent and timely communication among parents, teachers, staff, and our community. To be an example by showing that it is never too late to change unhealthy habits and replace them with high aspirations.

Why do you work at East Austin College Prep: I was raised in **East Austin** and I want my students to know that no matter where you are raised, you can be successful. I like **East Austin College Prep's** positive learning environment and the many opportunities it provides for students



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Welcome Home!

Ron Oliviera and Earl Campbell



In the 1970s, they roamed the halls of the UT Communications building. Today they are helping build awareness for the "Walk to Cure Arthritis" to be held Saturday, April 26th at Concordia University. You can join "Earl Campbell's Dream Team". A big thanks to Courtney Prinzo Photography for supporting the Arthritis Foundation. Hook'em!

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FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS SELECT RIVER CITY YOUTH FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

Dove Springs Youth Receive Mentoring and Leadership Development from the Brightest Minds

On Saturday, February 1, a teen club based in southeast Austin's **Dove Springs** hosted around 40 Fulbright scholars from **New York City** who are part of the Institute of International Education's (IIE) **Foreign Fulbright Program**. These youth are part of the Build Your Future (BYF) Club at **River City Youth Foundation** (RCYF). The **Fulbright** scholars, who were in Austin participating in a weeklong seminar, chose RCYF as the site for their community service project while in Austin. They were also working locally with GlobalAustin on the service day.

Representing some 30 countries, the Fulbrights will mentor the **Dove Springs** youth helping them to develop as leaders, build their communication skills, and engage in problem-solving for their community. Some of the activities include helping the youth club to prepare for an upcoming Valentine's Day event.

ABOUT THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

Sponsored by the **United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs**, the **Fulbright Program** provides funding for students, scholars, teachers, and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools. The **Institute of International Education's** (IIE) To learn more about the Fulbright program, visit <http://www.iie.org/fulbright>

ABOUT THE BUILD YOUR FUTURE CLUB

The Build Your Future (BYF) Club is a new teen group at **River City Youth Foundation** aiming to improve their Dove Springs community and become college and career bound. The club is composed mostly of first generation students – those who will be the first in their family to go to college. Since forming in September of 2013, the BYF group has organized a cancer fundraiser in **Dove Springs**, served high-need families at the holidays, and taught technology skills to other young people in their community. **River City Youth Foundation** is **Austin's** longest-running native youth organization celebrating 30 years. To learn more about RCYF, visit www.RiverCityYouth.org


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ARRIBA: Un lugar de mantenerse en una fila de pie, la gente en este foto decidieron dejar sus zapatos para mantener sus propio lugar.

ABOVE: Instead of maintaining their place in line by standing in place, the people in this photo decided to use their shoes to hold their respective place in the line.

 **Saldaña**
Public Relations

Pensamientos de Ernesto Nieto

I know that many times when I post something like officially adopting **Chicano Day**, some people cringe..Even the staff today made statements like the term **Chicano** was outdated..and overly political. One staff person in particular said that she was never taught about the movimiento..and that it happened a long time ago..."You see those fields," I pointed to in the rural areas of **Maxwell**. "At one time all you could see was endless rows of cotton and large numbers of Mexicans picking them from sun up to sun down."

"You see those 18 wheelers coming down the road in a line. Years ago, similar trucks could be seen filled with migrant farm workers being taken to different parts of the nation to pick berries, applies, melons, you name it...traveling for days in the back, covered only by green tarps like military trucks"

"You know why so many Latinos were in Vietnam back then," I asked. "Because a draft law was passed that if you were not in college you were subject to be drafted into the armed forces and guess who wasn't in college?"

"And you know why people like Bill Clinton slipped off to Canada or idiots like our country and western singer Nugent got out of the draft?"



Cause they knew how to play the system while unsuspecting Mexicans were buying the idea of defending their country out of sheer loyalty and dying in unprecedented numbers in the process."

Yeah, it was time to tell the story to 22 and 24 year old Latinos who think and believe that the doors of opportunity suddenly opened wide just for them, that they did it all on their own.

And no, I wasn't angry against anything or anyone. Just jawing with the staff...letting them know that we stand on the shoulders of people who gave much to us without ever demanding much for themselves. And we can never, never, never forget them. Yeah, they were brash and loud talking just like me...But change and advancement sometimes demands loud unyielding voices...progress doesn't come in neatly tied packages with pink ribbons on them...

And if we can spend time studying Black history, supporting the Gay movement, and paying tribute to the religious right and left, we can also spend a little bit of time remembering and honoring young Chicano/as whose voices served to awaken the world to a new, exciting reality for those who today enjoy particular advantages that were only limited to those daring enough to dream back then and decided to change things. Yep, let's have an annual day of the **Chicano** where we proudly remember, celebrate, and salute those who taught us to have a voice..

CHANCELLOR FRANCISCO CIGARROA RESIGNS from UT

Statement of Senator Judith Zaffirini Regarding the Resignation of UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa "It is with deeply mixed emotions that I wish Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa only the best as he departs the UT system and resumes his career as a full-time pediatric liver transplant surgeon. Although I share his joy in his returning to his first professional joy and San Antonio family, I am distressed that he is leaving higher education at a time when his leadership is needed. Given the circumstances, no one can blame him, and everyone can understand his decision and support it—myself included.



"The chancellor's accomplishments surpassed even his own expectations. After starting his tenure on a high note with exemplary goals that included enhancing research and South Texas opportunities, he will end it only after reaching those goals and more, including creating medical schools for UT-Austin and for South Texas. This is as impressive as it is noteworthy and will be part of his legacy at the UT system.

"Dr. Cigarroa is a polished statesperson who always casts issues in a positive light and sees conflicts as opportunities for building consensus. Undeniably, however, he has endured unmitigated stress from the rogue regents who want UT President Bill Powers fired. Those who were unhappy with his recommendation to continue the heavily supported employment of President Powers reportedly turned their powerful weapons on him.

"Although I am confident that he will deny any disharmony, I am equally confident that his decision was influenced by the continued negative circumstances at hand. His action personifies the harmful repercussions of the current attack on those who pursue excellence, protect the privacy of students and strive for true transparency for all.

"It is ironic that the very regents who ostensibly demand transparency and accountability from educators whom they disrespectfully perceive as their minions simultaneously are secretive about their own public records and actions.

"Now is the time for the strong majority of the UT Board of Regents to express their strong support for President Powers, to search for a chancellor who is committed to excellence, to demand that the regents practice good governance and to assure the Longhorn Nation that they will do their best to meet expectations and responsibilities."

ABOUT: The National Hispanic Institute

Ernesto Nieto is founder and president of the National Hispanic Institute (NHI) and continues to be a central force in the organization's series of Latino youth initiatives 34 years later. It was his vision that leadership development be made an integral experience in the life of as many Latino youth as possible. He personally witnessed the impact that leadership had on the thinking of young people from tough neighborhoods through the efforts of his parents back in Houston many years ago. A former educator, state, and federal official, Ernesto founded NHI in 1979. He is a graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas and has been awarded numerous awards, honorary doctoral degrees, and is working on publishing his third book this summer.

Enroll America Holds Dove Springs Block Walk to Raise Awareness

On Saturday, February 15th, 2014, over 40 community activists and elected officials in **Travis County** gathered for day of action with **Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell** at the **Dove Springs Recreation Center**.

The group heard a short pep talk from **Travis County Constable Maria Canchola**, **Texas State Representative Eddie Rodriguez**, **Travis County Treasurer, Dolores Ortega Carter** and **Justice of the Peace Raul Gonzalez** before breaking out into teams to knock on doors and visit with residents about the **Affordable Healthcare Act**.

This new healthcare law is allowing millions of Americans to obtain affordable health insurance for the first time in their lives. No longer are people being denied health insurance because of a pre-existing condition. Today people are discovering that it is possible get health insurance and finally get that

medical attention that for so long has been out of reach because of high costs.

Among the community based organizations that participated in the block walk were the **Dove Springs Recreation Center Advisory Board President, George Morales**, who is also the **Chief Deputy for Constable Adan Ballesteros** in Precint 2, the **Latino Healthcare Forum** which was represented by **Mayra Lopez**, **Becky Selbera** who is with **SRA** and a member of the **City Council in Kyle, Texas** and **Sara Linares** from **Foundation Communities**.

Many other **Enroll America** volunteers showed up to also participate in the block walk as well as several media outlets. All in all, it was a good

day with good weather. **Mimi Garcia**, the State Director for **Enroll America**, stated that block walking and talking to neighbors is one of the most effective ways to get the word out about this new healthcare law. She stressed that with the approaching deadline of March 31st, it is extremely important that who plan to obtain health care coverage do so quickly.

For those who want to know more about the **Affordable Care Act**, please visit: www.healthcare.gov or call one of the local organizers in **Austin, Texas** at (512) 470-3700. *Se habla Español.*



ABOVE: George Morales, President of the Dove Springs Recreation Center Advisory Board visits with a Dove Springs resident about the Affordable Care Act.



LEFT: A group photo of some of those who showed up for the Dove Springs block walk on February 15th, 2014 in Austin, Texas

El Grupo “Inscribase America” patrocina una caminata en el barrio de Dove Springs



ABOVE: Another group photo of some of those who came out for the block walk in Dove Springs. This photo includes Mayor Lee Leffingwell.

RIGHT: George Morales, Texas State Representative Eddie Rodriguez and Delia Garza in front of the Enroll America banner at the Dove Springs Recreation Center right before the block walk.



Botas Picudas: New Style Emerges from Mexico

Mexican pointy boots (Spanish: Botas picudas mexicanas) are a style of pointed fashion boots made with elongated toes that are popular footwear for men in parts of **Mexico** as well as in the United States. The boots are said to have originated in **Matchuala** in the Mexican state of **San Luis Potosí** in 2009 and expanded expanded to parts of the United States where large numbers of Matchualan migrants live, particularly in **Dallas, Texas**, but also in **Tennessee, Mississippi** and **Oklahoma**.

The appearance of the pointy boots has coincided with the popularity of "tribal guarachero" music, hyphy tribal or tribal. Tribal music has been described as "a mixture of Pre-Columbian and African sounds mixed with fast cumbia bass and electro-house beats." Boys and men that wear the pointy boots have formed all-male troupes to compete in danceoffs at local nightclubs to tribal music. Participants in the contests spend weeks choreographing their dance moves and fabricating their outfits which commonly include "matching western shirts and skinny jeans to accentuate their footwear." In Matchuala, prize money ranges from \$100 to \$500. The prize often includes a bottle of whiskey.

The dance troupes have reportedly become so popular that they are being "hired to dance at weddings, for quinceañeras, celebrations of the Virgin of Guadalupe, bachelorette parties and even rosary ceremonies for the dead. Here in **Austin, Texas** las botas picudas can be found in stores in the heavily Hispanic neighborhoods of **Rundberg** and the **St. Johns** area.



ABOVE: Man on a bicycle in Austin, Texas going somewhere with his pointy boots.



Edward Reyes Announces for Austin City Council

On February 12th, 2014, **Dove Springs Heigborhood Association President Edward Reyes**, announced his candidacy for **Austin City Council** in District 2. This is the Southern and Eastern part of the city of **Austin**.

Reyes, who is a life long resident of **Austin**, made his announcement before a packed crowd at **Casa Moreno** on **Burleson Road**. In a prepared statement, he thanked everyone for coming out and pledged to do his best as a city councilman if elected. After the announcement, **Reyes** took turns taking photographs with friends and supporters.



ABOVE and BELOW: Edward Reyes with friends and family at Casa Moreno Mexican Restaurant.





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- ★ Voted for the largest bond in Travis County history to preserve natural areas and add park land
- ★ Worked to create more than 26 miles of trails within our community
- ★ Lifelong resident of southeast Austin, graduate of Austin ISD schools
- ★ First Mexican-American woman elected in Travis County history

AVANCEMOS JUNTOS MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER

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South Austin Democrats - Austin Environmental Democrats - Austin Progressive Coalition
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Central Austin Democrats - Dove Springs Proud - University Democrats
Austin Police Association PAC - Travis Co. Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Assn PAC
Travis Co. Sheriffs' Officers Assn PAC - Travis Co. Firefighters Assn, IAFF Local 4583
Real Estate Council of Austin Good Government PAC

**"THERE IS NO CHALLENGE THAT
WE CANNOT TACKLE TOGETHER
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LET'S MAKE OUR VOICES
HEARD ON MARCH 4!"**

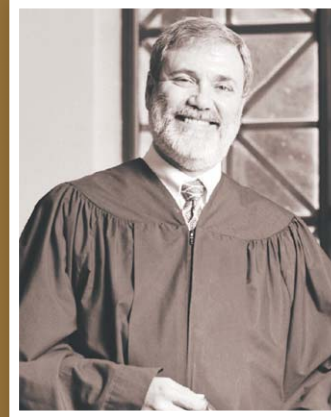


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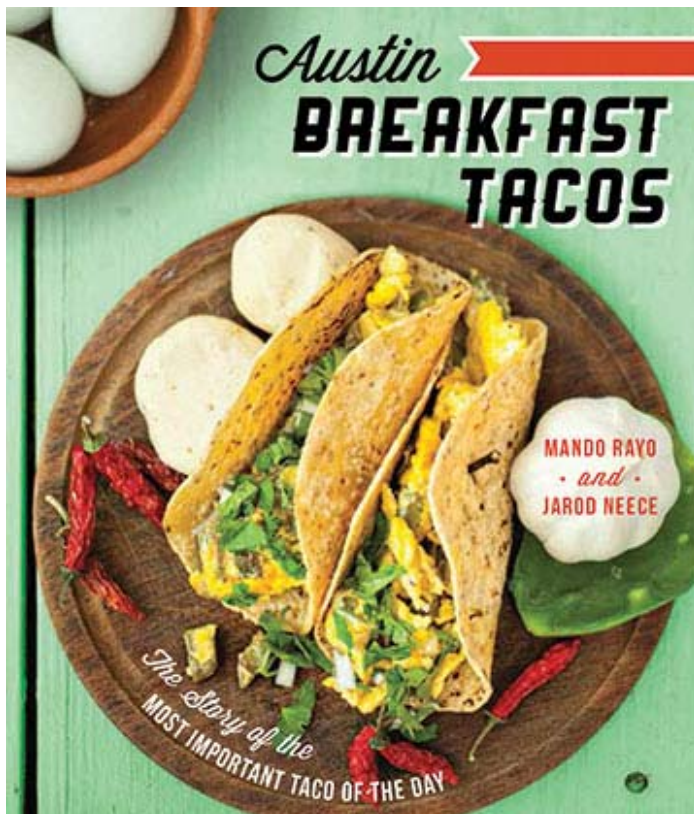
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WHY I'M VOTING FOR ANDY BROWN

Dear Friends:

I rarely take a position in favor of, or against, a candidate for office because of the position I hold with my work.

There are some exceptions, but they are very rare (the last being for a family friend who used to help babysit my kids) – however, this is one of them.

I think one of the most important issues in the current county judge's race, and a paramount one, is the continued excessive and unjustifiable deportation of undocumented people through Sheriff Greg Hamilton's unholy – and unnecessary -- alliance with federal ICE agents -- the Orwellian named "Secure Communities" program.

Travis County has one of the highest deportation rates in the nation. Hamilton's operation breaks apart families because one of the parents happens to commit a minor crime and happens to pass through the county jail. No other sheriff in the state works at deporting people the way Hamilton does. The justifications he offers to the public, such as in the Statesman's recent Q&A on its editorial page, are false and disingenuous at best

Hamilton holds people on ICE detainers for longer than he needs and when he need not do so. If a father of a family is picked up for not having insurance or a driver's license or has outstanding traffic warrants or even for a public intoxication charge – any of those kinds of offenses that people in poverty fall into, that father has a good likelihood of being deported because of Hamilton's cooperation with ICE. The "Secure Communities" program does little to make our community more secure.

This is a classic human rights issue facing our community, and perhaps the starkest human rights issue at the time. It is an issue Hamilton himself has created and on which, for reasons of apparent personal stubbornness, refuses to listen to anyone or recalibrate in the slightest.

Over the last few years, we have tried to work individually with Hamilton and members of the commissioners' court, including Sarah Eckhardt, but to no avail. The county after all holds Hamilton's purse strings.

When I met with Sarah personally three years ago or so, she assured me she had a plan to turn this program around and end it. From what I can tell, she did nothing – certainly, there was no change as a result. Nor did she return subsequent phone calls from me inquiring about what she had done.

I was also unimpressed and concerned with how the meeting went. It was a "top-down" meeting; it was her telling me how she had a plan and would take care of it, not asking or strategizing as to how she and the community and other interested players might work together to stop this unnecessary deportation of people, breaking up families, and scaring undocumented people from reporting crime in the community or against them.

On the other side, for a good period of time now, Andy Brown has actually been talking with us, initiating calls with us, listening to us, and suggesting strategies (and rejecting or modifying them, if we point out difficulties with them). His interest and efforts on this matter are obviously keen and sincere. Both Andy and Sarah are at the same position on the progressive Richter Scale; but Andy is a proven organizer, often behind the scene. Sarah certainly is a bright and articulate speaker and has good political views; but whether she can resolve this matter is problematic.

Not only is it problematic, but I daresay unrealistic and improbably. Hamilton has endorsed her campaign. Were she to win, how would she not be beholden to him such that she would not reverse the county's "Secure Communities" program? Perhaps this is why Hamilton has endorsed her.

The letter below outlines our objections in greater detail to the "Secure Communities" program. Although this is the position of the Texas Civil Rights Project with regard to Hamilton's program, I want to make it absolutely clear that my endorsement of Andy is personal and individual and not on the part of TCRP. TCRP takes no position on candidates, which, of course, is the reason I hesitate to make any endorsement, even with a disclaimer.

But the serious human rights issue we face of deporting good and decent family people, and ripping apart their families, compels my personal endorsement. I would be happy to talk with you and anyone about this decision. I personally and unequivocally endorse Andy for county judge.

Best wishes,
Jim Harrington



Sam Z. Coronado Gallery Dedication in Austin, Texas



¡UNIDOS CON BRIGID!

Former Mayor Gus Garcia, Former Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, Former Commissioner Richard Moya, Former Council Member Raul Alvarez, Hon. Eddie Rodriguez, Hon. Lupe Sosa, Hon Vince Torres, Hon. David Escamilla, Nora Linares-Moeller, Rosie Mendoza, Eliza May, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Kristian Caballero, Suzanna Almanza, Jose Beceiro, Mack Martinez, Angela Garza, Kathy Vale, Paul Saldaña, Genoveva Rodriguez, Jose A. Velasquez,

**BRIGID stood with
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**Now it's time for
US to stand with
BRIGID!**

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**EARLY VOTING
FEB. 18TH-28TH!**

**ELECTION DAY IS
MARCH 4TH!**

FOR TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PCT 2

PARA LA GENTE

Political Ad Paid for by Brigid Shea Campaign, 5501 N Lamar Blvd #C-123. Austin, TX 78751 Dawn Lewis, Treasurer

Hispanics Running for Elective Office in the March 2014 Primary in Travis County

Candidate	Age	Office Seeking	Party Affiliation	Incumbent	Education	Year of Graduation	Occupation
Gina Benavides	42	Justice of the Texas Supreme Court Place # 7	Democrat	No	B.B.A. University of Texas at Austin J.D. Univeristy of Houston	1985 1988	Judge on the 13th Court of Appeals
George P. Bush	37	Commissioner of the General Land Office	Republican	No	B.A. Rice Univeristy J.D. University of Texas at Austin	1998 2003	Attorney and Businessman
Karin Carmona Crump	41	District Judge 250 Judicial Dist.	Democrat	No	B.A. University of Texas at Austin J.D. St. Mary's Univ. Law School	1994 1997	Attorney at Law
Bill Flores	60	United States Congress 17th District	Republican	Yes	B.B.A. Texas A&M University M.B,A, Houston Baptist University	1976 1985	Businessman
Margaret Gómez	69	Travis County	Democrat	Yes	B.A. St. Edwards University M.A. St. Edwards University	1991 1994	Travis County Commissioner Commissioner Pct. 4
Raul Arturo González	48	Justice of the Peace Pct. 4	Democrat	Yes	B.A. University of Texas at Austin J.D. University of Texas at Austin	1988 1995	Travis County Justice Peace Pct. 4 J
Celia Israel	49	Texas State Representative	Democrat	Yes	B. A. University of Texas at Austin	1988	Texas Realtor
Dolores Ortega Carter	63	County Treasurer	Democrat	Yes	B.A. Texas A&M University M.A. Texas A&M University	1976 1980	Travis County Treasurer
Reynaldo "Ray" Madrigal	71	Governor	Democrat	No	B.A. Texas A&M Univ Corpus	n/a	Profesional Photographer
Miriam Martinez	41	Governor	Republican	No	Universidad Valle del Bravo	n/a	Businesswoman
Marco Montoya	??	United States Representative District 25	Democrat	No	B.A. California State Univ. Los Angeles M.P.H. Univ. of North Carolina Ph.D South Dakota State Univ.		Retired
Orlinda Naranjo	62	Judge, 419th District Court	Democrat	Yes	B.S. New Mexico Highlands University J.D. University of New Mexico	1977 1985	Judge, 419th District Court
Eddie Rodriguez	43	Texas State Representative	Democrat	Yes	B.A. University of Texas at Austin J.D. University of Texas at Austin	1995 2009	State Representative
Raul Torres	59	Comptroller of Public Accounts	Republican	No	B.B.A. Corpus Christi State Univ.	1991	Certified Public Accountant
Leticia Van de Putte	59	Lt. Governor	Democrat	No	B.S. University of Texas at Austin Kellogg Fellow at Harvard University	1977 1993	Pharmacist
Linda Vega	47	United States Senate	Republican	No	B.A. University of Texas at Austin J.D. George Washington Law School	1987 1990	Attorney at Law

En la comunidad



ABOVE: Geronimo Rodriguez from Seton Hospitals hands Ricardo Zavala from Dove Springs Proud a check as a contribution to the groups First Annual Awards Ceremony which took place February 20th at Widen Elementary School in Austin, Texas.



ABOVE: Parents and students stop by the Latino Healthcare Forum table at the Feria para Aprender event which was held at Highland Mall at 6001 Airport Blvd. in Austin, Texas.



LEFT: Dr. Victor Saenz from The University of Texas at Austin manned a table along with two students at the Feria para Aprender event in Austin, Texas.



ABOVE: Members of the Raza Round Table share the good news and insight.

Social Security Announces New Expedited Disability Process for Veterans

Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, along with Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD) today unveiled a new initiative to expedite disability claims by veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation rating of 100% Permanent & Total (P&T). Under the new process, Social Security will treat these veterans' applications as high priority and issue expedited decisions, similar to the way the agency currently handles disability claims from Wounded Warriors.

"Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country and it is only right that we ensure they have timely access to the disability benefits they may be eligible for and deserve," said Acting Commissioner Colvin. "Social Security worked with Veterans Affairs to identify those veterans with disabilities who have a high probability of also meeting our definition of disability. I am proud of our collaboration and happy to announce this new service for America's vets."

In order to receive the expedited service, veterans must tell Social Security they have a VA disability compensation rating of 100% P&T and show proof of their disability rating with their VA Notification Letter. The VA rating only expedites Social Security disability claims processing and does not guarantee an approval for Social Security disability benefits. These veterans must still meet the strict eligibility requirements for a disability allowance. Social Security plans to launch the expedited process in mid-March.

For information about this service, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm. For more about Social Security's handling of Wounded Warrior's disability claims, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors

The Constable's Corner

by Maria Canchola
Travis County Constable Precinct 4

THE GREAT TEXAS WARRANT ROUNDUP

On Friday, February 14th my deputies and I attended a press conference on the steps of the Austin Police Department to inform the public about the upcoming Great Texas Warrant Round-Up. Around this time each year, law enforcement agencies and courts all across Texas join forces to find people who have active warrants as a result of not appearing at court to make arraignments for resolution of their offenses. The goal of this statewide enforcement effort is to resolve thousands of outstanding warrant cases. This month, more than 300 agencies will fan out across the state looking for individuals who have outstanding misdemeanor warrants. Local communities participating in the Round-Up include: Austin, Bastrop, Buda, Cedar Park, Georgetown, Hays County, Leander, Lockhart, Pflugerville, Round Rock, Travis County, West Lake Hills, and Williamson County.



When peace officers observe a misdemeanor criminal act, such as public intoxication, petty theft, disorderly conduct, or a traffic violation, they sometimes issue a written citation rather than making an arrest. The citation requires the violator to appear before the Justice of the Peace or Municipal Court that has jurisdiction over the area where the offense occurred. Unfortunately many people don't come to Court and answer the charges filed against them. This is a costly mistake because when a person does not come to the Court within the allotted time, they commit another violation of the law and an additional charge of Failure to Appear is filed against them. In addition, the judge will issue an arrest warrant for each of the charges and each warrant carries a \$50 Warrant Fee. A person, who fails to go to the court, has increased the cost of his or her violation by hundreds of dollars in fines and fees.

As Constable of Precinct Four, my department will work with people within the limits established by law to resolve cases. Before The Great Texas Warrant Roundup begins, my office mails out postcards to people with active warrants issued by the Justice of the Peace for Precinct Four. The card warns that local law enforcement agencies are participating in the warrant roundup and provides information about how to contact our office to pay outstanding fines and fees. We offer a two-week "grace period" so people can come down and make arrangements to take care of their warrants without fear of being arrested.

If someone who has a warrant contacts our office, our deputies and clerks can explain the various options available to resolve the case; however, when people refuse to take care of their case... our deputies are required track them down at their home or work. Our deputies have received a written order issued by the court commanding them to arrest an individual and take them to jail. Once the deputies are knocking at the door with an arrest warrant, there are only two options: pay their fines and fees immediately... or go to jail.

Starting March 1st, the Great Texas Warrant Roundup officially begins. People who have outstanding warrants are subject to immediate arrest anywhere in the State of Texas. All our outstanding warrants have been entered into a shared computerized database. Officers, deputies, troopers, agents, or marshals may come to their home, school, or office and will arrest people on the spot if they have an outstanding warrant. When arrested, they will be brought to jail, fingerprinted, photographed, and then appear before a judge to answer for their warrants. A criminal arrest record will be created that may be assessable during pre-employment or housing background screenings.

It is very sad to see so many hard working individuals increase their burdens by not taking care of their cases. Not dealing with a ticket is costly and can result in incarceration if it goes all the way to warrant status. Please drive safely and obey all laws. If you do receive a citation, come to the court quickly and work out terms to take care of your case. If you procrastinate and a warrant is issued, please contact us before we have to come looking for you.

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for Governor of Texas 2014

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"I'm running for Travis County Judge because we need a strong leader with proven leadership skills to bring folks together, stand up for Travis County values, and protect our quality of life."

– Andy Brown

"Soy candidato para Juez del Condado de Travis porque necesitamos un líder fuerte con capacidad de liderazgo probada para unir a la gente, pelear por nuestros valores del Condado de Travis, y para proteger nuestra calidad de vida."

– Andy Brown

Andy has been endorsed by these community activists and officeholders:

Congressman Lloyd Doggett
State Sen. Kirk Watson
State Sen. Judith Zaffirini
Former Mayor Gus Garcia
State Rep. Eddie Rodriguez

State Rep. Mary González
State Rep. Jessica Farrar
AISD Vice Chair Gina Hinojosa
County Attorney David Escamilla
Commissioner Margaret Gómez

Constable Maria Canchola
Constable Carlos Lopez
Council Member Omar Peña
Former Mayor Pro Tem Sandra Tenorio
AISD Board Member Rev. Dr. Jayme Mathias

Andy
BROWN

DEMOCRAT FOR TRAVIS COUNTY JUDGE

- Grew up in Austin, attended public schools
- Practicing attorney, representing Spanish-speaking clients
- Travis County Democratic Party Chair, 2008-2013
- Fluent in Spanish
- Has worked across Central and South America for better living, working, and environmental conditions.

www.voteandy.com • 512-472-VOTE (8683)

Pol. Adv. Pd. Andy Brown Campaign, Janis Pinnelli, Treasurer



Andy Brown and Sen. Judith Zaffirini

Andy has been endorsed by these organizations:

- ✓ Circle C Area Democrats
- ✓ Northeast Travis County Democrats
- ✓ North by Northwest Democrats
- ✓ Austin Stonewall Democrats
- ✓ Austin/Travis County EMS Employees Association
- ✓ Travis County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Association
- ✓ Austin Central Labor Council
- ✓ AFSCME Local 1624
- ✓ Education Austin

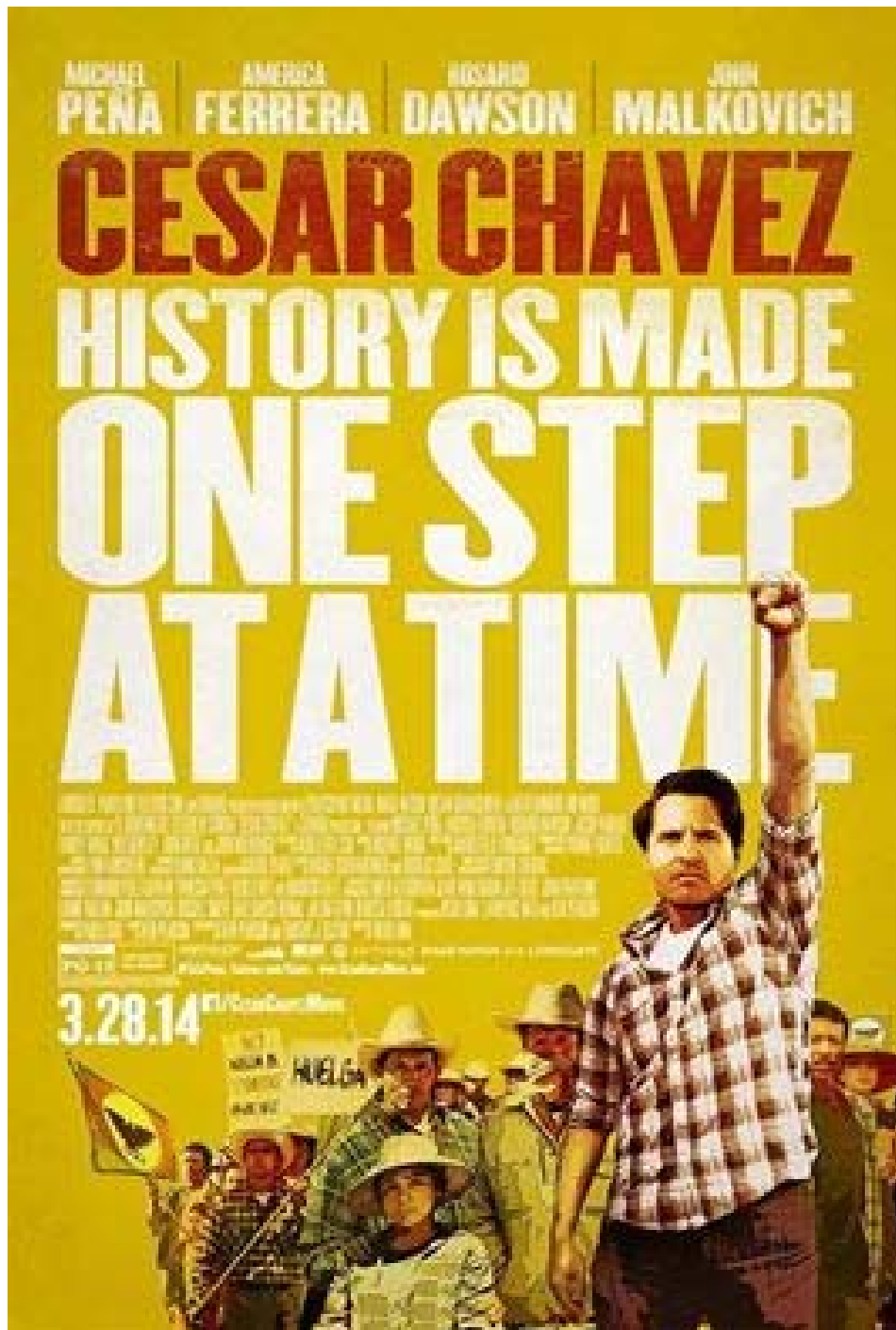
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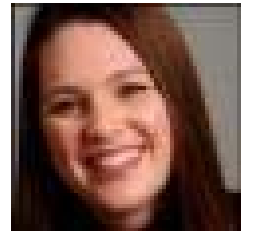




Respect teachers, reinstate three-year contracts

BY CAROLINE SWEET

As I sat next to **President Barack Obama** at a table at **Stubb's** last spring, he asked me about my salary after eight years of teaching. I told him I made a little more than \$40,000 a year. He pursed his lips and shook his head. He said he didn't think it was enough. It's not. But the the truth is that no matter what the salary, I'd still be a teacher.



A few years ago as I was completing my master's degree in education at the **University of Texas**, I took a Ph.D. class that was made up of people who wore suits in the summer (something I couldn't quite understand).

On the first day of class, we had to take turns introducing ourselves, stating our current positions, and then telling class our aspirations. My classmates said that they hoped to be superintendents, directors of some program or some type of specialist.

When it was my turn, I stated that I was a teacher, that I had no aspirations, and that I intended to be a teacher forever. My suited classmates feigned smiles and told me that was a noble goal. But it's not a goal. It's a destiny. It is who I am. This is my life and will always be, just as it was for my mother who dedicated 35 years of her life to students and families in the **Austin** school district. Although she's three years into retirement, she now spends time helping me in my classroom.

I'm not going anywhere. These are my families, my kids and my community in **Austin**.

Once in a conversation with **Trustee Cheryl Bradley**, I explained to her how my classroom works, how my students are supported and loved, how relationships are built and sustained. And she said, *"But you're not like everyone else."* I thought about this long and hard after that conversation. I thought about my colleagues. I thought about my mother. I thought about her colleagues. And I realized that **Bradley** is wrong in this case.

I am a lot like everyone else. I know the time and passion teachers put into bettering the lives of the young people we educate. I am not unique, for this is who we are. As teachers, we build each other up. We work collaboratively to improve the lives of the children who pass through our classrooms. We problem-solve together. We laugh. We cry. All the while knowing that we are in the same boat of equipping our youth to do wonderful things.

The messages and interactions we get from those above us, those in charge, often pull us down and put pressure on us until we might crack if it weren't for one another and the sweet faces in our classrooms.

Now is the time to change the message from the top. To the school board, I say this: Let me know that you value me. That you value us. That you value the way we love and teach our students. That your investment in me is an investment in them. Some might say a move back to three-year contracts is unnecessary or financially irresponsible in a time of budget shortfalls, though extending contracts comes at no cost to the district. This need not become another divisive issue to cross the dais because the reality is that not much will change.

Except this. I will know that the school district cares about me and what I do. We, who devote our lives to our students, will know that we are appreciated and respected. Do we not deserve to hear that message?

Sweet is a fourth grade bilingual teacher at Metz Elementary in Austin.



Hispanic Scholarship Consortium
1107 S. 8th Street
Austin, TX 78704

Chicano Studies

Chicano studies (also written as Chicano/a studies, Chicana/Chicano studies, "Chican@" studies, or Xicana/o Studies) originated in the **Chicano Movement** of the late 1960s and 1970s. Chicano Studies concerns itself with the study of Chicana/os, Latina/os, and Mexican Americans, drawing upon a variety of fields, including, but not limited to, history, sociology, the arts, and critical theory.

Chicana/o studies were borne of the efforts of the **Third World Liberation Front (TWLF) Student Strike** at **Berkeley** in January-March, 1969, which resulted in the establishment of the first Ethnic Studies departments in the United States on March 7, 1969. The **Berkeley TWLF** was composed of the **Mexican American Student Confederation**, **Asian American Student Organization**, **Native Americans**, and the **African American Students Union**.

There was an earlier **TWLF** strike at **San Francisco State University** in 1968 as part of the joint effort of the **Black Student Union**, **Latin American Students Organization**, **Asian American Political Alliance**, **Filipino American Collegiate Endeavor**, and **Native American Students Union** at that university. This 1968 **San Francisco State University Student Strike** ended on March 20, 1969, and established the second College of Ethnic Studies in the country.

The **Plan de Santa Barbara** is generally considered to be the manifesto of **Chicano Studies**. Drafted in 1969 at the **University of California, Santa Barbara**, the Plan emphasizes the need for education, and especially higher education, in Chicano community empowerment. For this reason, many **Chicano Studies** programs place great value on community involvement in addition to traditional forms of education and research.

In many universities across the United States, **Chicano Studies** is linked with comparative ethnic studies and other Ethnic Studies fields: Black Studies, Asian American Studies, Native American Studies, etc. The emphasis of the aforementioned academic disciplines on community involvement and social justice generally distinguish them from area studies.

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www.grad.ucla.edu

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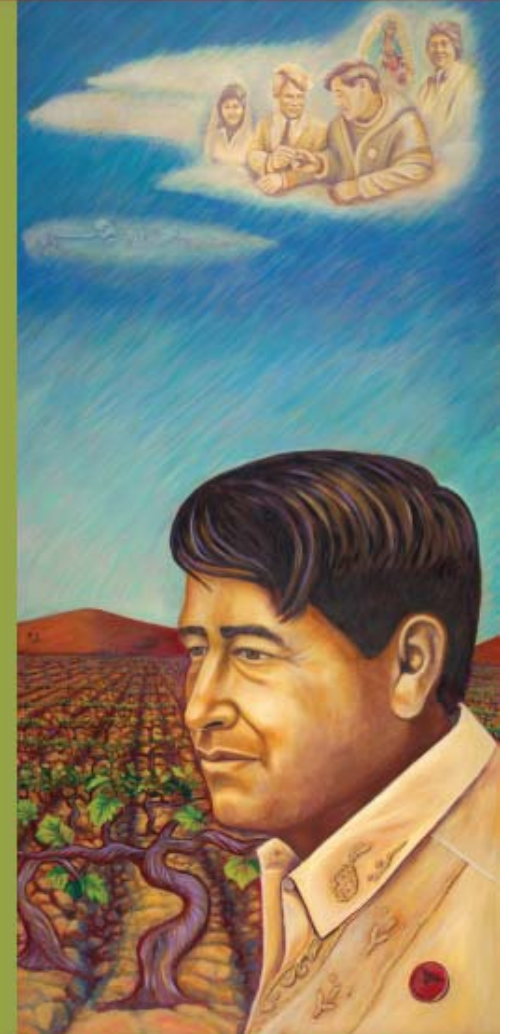
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"CÉSAR CHÁVEZ" BY JUDITH BACA ©2013

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