

THE RIGHT THING

Latino Community News On the Right Side of Things
Volume IV, November 2017

Dia de la Raza Issue

**Meet the Houston
Latino with
\$142 Billion to Invest**

**The Banishment
and Legacy of
Christopher Columbus**

**The November 2017
Latino Candidates
or Lack of...**

**Hurricane Maria:
The Lasting Impact
on Puerto Rico**

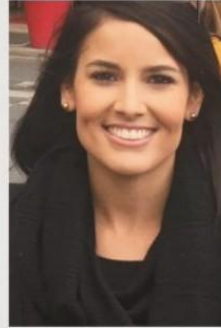


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If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please email the Editorial Board at the email address below with your name, contact information, and the topic of discussion. All entries are welcomed and encouraged.

Email: therightsideofthings@gmail.com

Carta Marcadas via Carmona

By Chris Carmona
@CarmonaForTexas



It was August 3, 1492 that Christopher Columbus embarked on his voyage which would change the world, as seen from the Old World and continue to impact Latinos today. Frequently referred to as *Día de la Raza* it coincided with the brutality and cruelty of the era. Mythological and folkloric beliefs left the "Indians" open to disadvantage, basically pillage and slaughter. The three ships advancing over the horizon brought fear, hate and desolation to some of the greatest empires.

Here at the Right Thing, we too are caught up in

what began more than 525 years ago. The crusade for justice continues. With our fourth issue we are not honoring Columbus but realizing we are still unhealed.

We have a new member of the editorial board, Gina Perez, joining our team. Gina is notable as a beauty expert but her article this month will help us expand our information base and readership. Included in this issue we have also included excerpts from a study done by the Sierra Club, one of our country's oldest protectors of Mother Earth. We will also dive into a short snippet on how more conservatives are joining the fight to protect the climate.

With the City of Houston for the first time not having its elections this November 2017, voting should plunge. Political scandal and corruption devastate us. Latinos continue to exclude themselves from partaking in our only means of fighting back, by voting. As usual our back page includes a list of Latino candidates in the upcoming election. We encourage you to read through this issue and the final page, that you share it, and most of all vote and ask others to do so.

Yes, Columbus is long gone, back to Europe and dead. However, what he implanted and fostered remains. We are still standing. Latino and Proud.

Earn History

#HoustonStrong

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Assessing Our Obligation to Puerto Rico

By Steve Parkhurst

Hurricane Maria first brought physical devastation. Now Maria has brought about a debate as to the obligations that the United States has to Puerto Rico in the aftermath.

The underlying cause for the consternation may be the fact that many Americans do not realize that the people in Puerto Rico are citizens of the United States. *The New York Times* hosted a story about a poll conducted by Morning Consult in which "only 54 percent of Americans know that people born in Puerto Rico...are U.S. citizens."



Photo Credit: CNN.com

As reported in *The New York Times*, this also corresponds with the fact that when Americans know that Puerto Ricans are US citizens, over 80 percent support sending foreign aid, versus 40 percent who oppose foreign aid when they do not know about US citizenship.

Next year will mark 120 years since the United States acquired Puerto Rico after the Spanish-American War. 1898 was a long time ago.

In the here and now though, Puerto Rico is a disaster zone and has been knocked backward in time. It is easy to sum up the needs of the people

on the island: Everything. Electricity is out, cell phone towers were destroyed, there is little food, little water, even less gasoline and complete misery.

Such a disaster is such a logistical nightmare that a "hospital ship" is being sent to the island by the U.S. Navy with over 800 personnel members on board ready to help.

The *San Antonio Express-News* reported that a pilot from San Antonio flew some supplies to Puerto Rico last week. First of all, it might stun many to realize that "only four airports on the island can accommodate large cargo planes." Then it will further surprise many to learn that the pilot from San Antonio, "had to use the plane's navigation system to land," because where he was flying the "radar was down." No electricity means no radar.

So when the *Miami Herald* editorializes that we should "provide an airdrop for isolated areas that are cut off", that all sounds much easier than reality allows to be done. These are extraordinary circumstances, and while many are frustrated and angry, perhaps more understanding is in order.

Americans are the most generous people in the history of the world. This was evidenced in Texas and along the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Two weeks later when Hurricane Irma walloped Florida, Americans once again went about helping in whatever ways they could.

The biggest obvious difference in those cases and what is happening in Puerto Rico is that the former is connected to the mainland and there

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fore by default accessible, while the latter is 1,000 miles away from Florida, an island. Isolated.

Americans have once again been generous in wanting to help Puerto Rico. Donations, both financial and material, are flowing in. Once again, the logistical problems are impeding the materials getting from the donors to those in need.

Logistical problems and damage to the infrastructure aside, even burdensome bureaucracy is slowing things down. James Freeman wrote in a *Wall Street Journal* editorial recently, "if liberated from bureaucracy, there is almost nothing that volunteers, the military, free enterprise and Lester Holt's news team cannot achieve for the people of Puerto Rico." This carries important lessons for reform in the future, but right now is not the time for think tank debates on the island about the proper role of government. People quite literally are fighting for their lives and we must play a part.



Photo Credit: Vox.com

The obligation of the United States to Puerto Rico can and will be debated for a long time to come, and expect the talk of Puerto Rico becoming the fifty-first state in our republic to also result from this entire situation. There will be time for that debate later. For now, it helps to realize our

obligation to our fellow citizens on a rational level, but even more so on a human level.

America magazine, a Catholic "journal of opinion," may have summed up the best way we need to look at the current crisis in Puerto Rico: "it became distressingly apparent that many U.S. voters need to be reminded that the residents of Puerto Rico are full American citizens. That means they are entitled to the same response from the federal government as the citizens of New York or Kansas would be if they were visited by a natural disaster on the scale of Hurricane Maria."

Read more [here](http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/editorials/article175568521.html) from the Miami Herald.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/editorials/article175568521.html>

Featured Spotlight on David Corpus

By Gina Perez

Imagine being born and you're the final birth composing of an American Latino family of eight, fifty-two years ago. The household income was limited to your father's industrial trade skills (Korean War Veteran) combined with your mother's pay as a grocery cashier. Both his parents are native Texans.

Imagine 50 years later, being a Board of Trustee of a \$142 billion Public Pension Fund. The 6th Largest Public Pension Fund in the US and the 20th Largest in the world. Such a scenario seems so improbable, but this is the case with David Corpus.

The segments of Corpus life were not planned nor anticipated. His career and quest underwent

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numerous challenges and obstacles to hurdle. Starting in 9th grade, he took a job as a cashier/stocker at a locally owned grocery store to begin saving for his education. With the cash handling experience earned, allowed him an opportunity to begin in the banking business as a teller. As time went by, Corpus moved up the corporate ladder. He was lured into the more elaborate banking division of financial acquisitions. He would trade himself off through several banks, often the banks seeking him for his talent, fiscal knowledge and abilities to make bank buyouts profitable.



With his profession and family dominating the bulk of his time, he managed to continue educating himself, by earning a Bachelor and an MBA degree. His personal goal of education and becoming financially sound, he shares with his wife Karla and son Luke.

The course Corpus sent for himself is a spectrum of professional and community relationships. The location of most of these are high profiled and intensely Latino associated. The common factor is they are based in Houston's east side. Here he continues connections with the Houston Hispanic Chamber, Houston East End Chamber, South Belt-Ellington Chamber

and the North Channel Chamber of Commerce. His regular job is Senior Vice President for Community Bank of Texas, N.A.

At the community level, Corpus has sat on some of Houston's oldest and largest Latino non-profits boards addressing educational, housing,



health, and community development, usually contributing his financial experience and knowledge, to help these organizations grow and address needs of those with less. Here again, we witness Corpus and his focus and commitment to groups such as the Raul Yzaguirre Charter School, and the Tejano Center for Community Concerns, Inc.

Most anything rostering Corpus' credentials or activities indicate that he set himself on goals where he could get the most out of what he can. Corpus believes in being a Servant Leader,

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not a selfish leader. An appointment to Harris County Housing Finance Corporation by County Judge Ed Emmett, was not just an asset to the organization. Corpus wasn't looking for prestige, but he saw opportunity to target niches in the system to address the needs of those that were neglected or cumbersome, thus omitted from equal housing. Within a couple of months such a project to address the housing needs of young adults placing out of the foster care and homeless state agency is expected to be announced for development in southeast Houston.

Today, Corpus with his appointment to the Texas Retirement System of Texas (\$142 billion Public Pension Fund) brings him to a new level of fiscal capabilities and opportunities. It was in 2013 that Governor Rick Perry appointed Corpus to fill a six-year term as a trustee. 1.5 million educators and beneficiaries rely on Corpus and the other members of the Texas Retirement System of Texas with their lifetime earnings. He spends a good portion of time on global projects, major investments in Texas, courting new opportunities, businesses and developing relationships. All this success and wealth that circles him on a daily basis doesn't seem to have changed him much. Being Latino has never been an obstacle for him. New challenges, good or bad, tend not to fluster him. From his business beginning when he was 16 years old, to today, he credits his parents for instilling in him traditional family characteristics responsible for his success. Where does one with his abilities, knowledge, and experience go from here? Who knows? Who can tell? But with David Corpus things always add up.

Nationwide Study of Latino Voters and the Environment

By Chris Carmona and Rafa Garcia

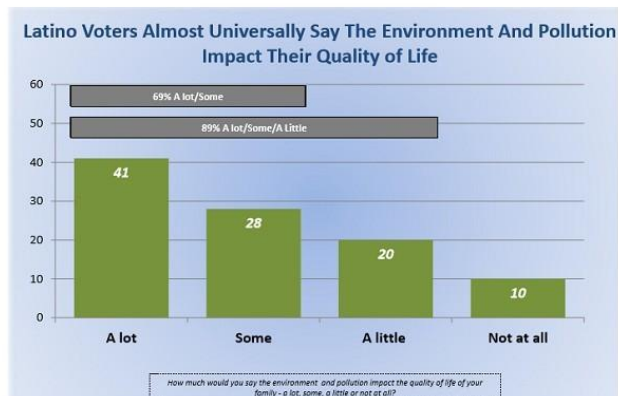
The Sierra Club recently commissioned and released a study by the Washington, D.C. based Myers Research & Strategic Services. This study provides some interesting data on how the environment impacts Latinos and our attitude towards public policy. We have reprinted excerpts from the study. If you want to read the study in its entirety go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/sc.org/polls/2016Latinos>.

"According to the results of our recent survey, Latino voters continue to place a broad emphasis on the environment and environmental impacts and recognize the clear connections between the environment, health, and family life. Importantly, Latino voters view renewable energy through an economic lens and see it as an engine for economic growth and job creation, in addition to noting the positive impacts it can have on the environment in both the short- and long-term.

Critically, as Republicans begin to assemble their next Administration and debate future policies, they should understand that the growing segment of Latino voters is nearly universally concerned about climate change and its impacts, with 88 percent overall citing some level of concern over climate change and 53 percent reporting that they are very concerned. Even more notable is the fact that 71 percent of Latino voters believe it is very important for the U.S. to meet its commitment to the 2015 Paris Agreement to fight climate change (93 percent overall believe it is important). Priorities for the next Administration are firmly rooted in a focus on air and water quality and

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safety, as well as a commitment to expanding renewable energy, all of which clearly impact these voters' quality of life and the overall economy.



As research over the past several years has indicated, Latino voters' level of concern over environmental and conservation issues revolves around the fact that they feel a real connection to the outdoors and view taking care of the earth as a moral responsibility. Fully 94 percent of Latino voters say outdoor activities like picnics, fishing, camping, and visiting public parks and monuments are important to their family and an equal 94 percent agree with the statement that protecting the land and water protects their culture, their family and their community. An even larger bloc (97 percent) agree that they have a moral responsibility to take care of the earth – the wilderness and forests, the oceans, lakes, and rivers. Given the scope of this connection to the land and the outdoors, it comes as little surprise that Latino voters report that the environment and pollution impact their quality of life, with 89 percent indicating that it does so.

Indeed, while the economy and jobs, education, and health care all emerge as top issues for Latino

voters nationwide, concern over the environment has nearly tripled over the last four years in a closed-ended exercise.

Today, 2-in-10 voters cite the environment broadly as a top concern, with another 9 percent mentioning pollution or energy. When probed specifically about the environment and what first comes to mind, pollution (32 percent) and global climate change (27 percent) simply dominate in an open-ended exercise in which voters' responses are recorded verbatim. In fact, no other issue ranks in double-digits and all pale in comparison to pollution and climate change, both of which have nearly doubled in the level of concern expressed toward them in the past four years.

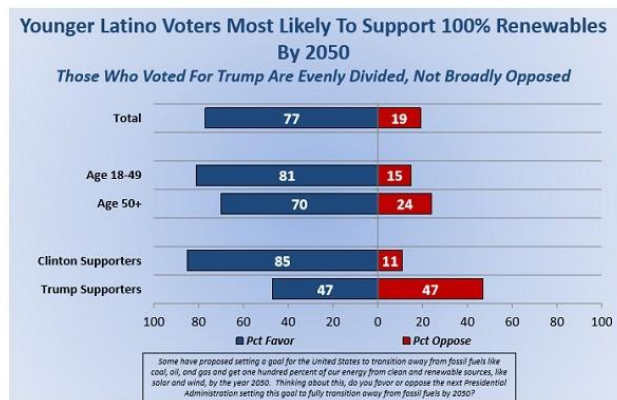
Concern Over Pocketbook Issues, Education, and Immigration Remain, But Concern Over The Environment Has Nearly Tripled In The Last Four Years

	Pct 2012	Pct 2016
The economy and jobs	65	52
Education	41	42
Health Care	36	41
Immigration	17	27
Environment	8	20
Pollution	n/a	5
Energy	4	4
(Other)	1	1

Now, I am going to read you a list of concerns that many people have. Please tell me which TWO of these concerns are most important to you and your family.

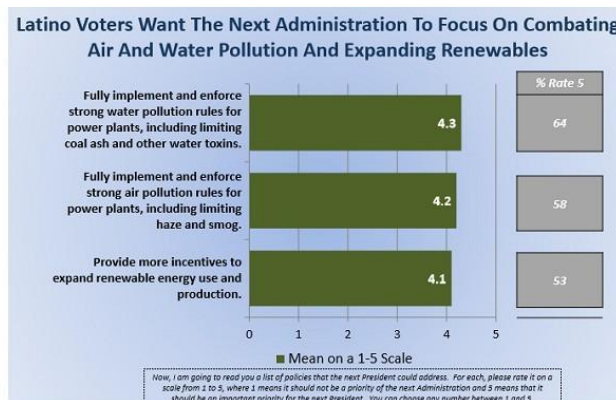
As we saw four years ago, clean, renewable energy continues to be a point of focus among Latino voters. When asked about President Obama's Clean Power Plan, learning that the EPA has proposed the first-ever limits on the amount of carbon pollution that power plants can release, 8-in-10 Latino voters (82 percent) favor the next Administration's implementing the Clean Power Plan, with a broad majority (58 percent) strongly favoring it. Just 14 percent of Latino voters overall oppose implementation of the Clean

Power Plan. In fact, a majority of Latino voters who supported Trump (54 percent) favor implementation of the Clean Power Plan, with support outpacing opposition among them by a double-digit margin (40 percent of Latino voters who backed Trump oppose it).



Looking forward and advancing a vision for the future that resonates with Latino voters, harnessing their concerns over environmental health factors, particularly air and water pollution, and advancing an economic vision for the future rooted in renewable energy development will be critical for any national leader. Latino voters view clean and renewable energy as an economic booster and a job creator, and 82 percent report that they would prefer that the U.S. invest more in clean, renewable energy sources than in more fossil fuels (just 13 percent prefer fossil fuel investment), comparable to trends observed in 2012. Even more compelling, however, is the fact that 77 percent of Latino voters favor setting a goal that all U.S. energy be produced from clean, renewable sources by 2050, with a majority (51 percent) strongly favoring this goal. While younger Latino voters help to drive this level of support for 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, it is important to note that Donald Trump

supporters are evenly divided over this goal, not strongly opposed, a trend the next Administration would be wise to consider as it begins to develop energy goals and policies.



Finally, with 88 percent of Latino voters expressing concern over global climate change, it is not surprising that the policy proposals that resonate deeply are centered on addressing not only health concerns but climate change and incentives for expanding renewable energy as well. Overall, 93 percent of Latino voters believe it is important for the U.S. to meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions linked to climate change. Enforcing strong air and water pollution rules, as well as expanding renewable energy production and use, are cited by broad majorities of Latino voters as being an important priority for the next President. It is important to note that support for these policies is steady across the board along gender, age, and geographic lines.”

As more young Latinos get politically involved, there will be a bigger push from both Republicans and Democrats to carry the mantle on protecting the environment. From October 2 – 4, 2017, hundreds of young activists converged on

to Washington, D.C to participate in the Conservative Clean Energy Summit hosted by the Young Conservatives for Energy Reform. It was at this event that policy discussions took place where it became even more evident that providing cleaner and more efficient energy does not just provide a benefit for the environment, but it also is the way forward for providing more affordable energy for many minority communities, including the Latino community.

In some states, one of the biggest causes of homelessness is that families aren't able to afford their electricity bill. The thought that Latinos are caring about the environment at a higher rate than in the past is not a coincidence. As this generation ushers in energy reform, making these energy alternatives even more affordable, now and in the future has to be at the forefront of this effort.

FIN

Goodbye Columbus

By Sarah Verret



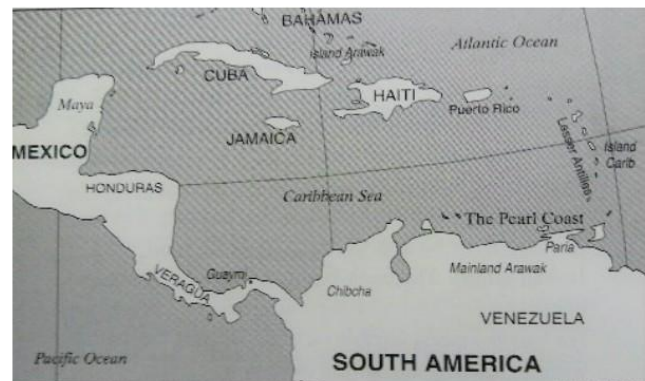
In the year 1451 A.D. Christopher Columbus was born in the northern Italian state of Genoa. By the age of 15, Columbus had already begun many voyages throughout the Mediterranean. As

early as 1484, he began to present plans to sail west across the Sea of Darkness (the Atlantic Ocean) in quest of a shorter path to the Indies. Denied by King John II of Portugal, he then approached King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain where they originally turned him down. In 1492, at an aging 41 years of age, older than the combined ages of Ferdinand and Isabella, they reconsider Columbus' request. The major events during this time were lead pencils first came into use and Jews were being expelled from Spain and Italy.



With three ships, one named for a prostitute, a crew of misfits and others of the criminal element, Columbus cast off on his voyage on August 3, 1492.

In his duty to Ferdinand and Isabella he would pilot four voyages to the New World, where he would benefit in name and wealth. Columbus would die unknowing that he discovered the New World. He is credited with having doubled the



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size of the known world.

The years and lands Columbus would claim are listed below:

1492 Bahamas, Cuba, Haiti

1493-96 Lesser and Greater Antilles and Jamaica

1498 Trinidad, Orinoco Delta and Paria

1502 Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama



Recordings of mistreatment of the Indians vary, but stories as published by slave owner and eventual ordained priest Bartolome de Las Casas in his *Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*, show us a grave reality. Written forty years after he came to the New World, Las Casas writes

"We know for sure our fellow-countrymen have, through their cruelty and wickedness, depopulated and laid waste an area which boasted more than ten kingdoms, each of them larger than the Iberian Peninsula..."

On occasion running through a mother and her baby with a single thrust of their swords."

For the leaders, death was a more horrid act.

"Griddle consisting of sticks resting on pitchforks driven into the ground and then grilled them over a slow fire, with the result that howled in agony and despair as they died a lingering death."

Much of the detestation towards Columbus has increasingly festered, as we now surpassed five

centuries since the Age of Exploration. America, in its rampage to un-recognize founders, leaders, and pioneers with racial characteristics may eventually add Columbus to this list. For now, this movement is limited to statues and names of buildings. Could we end up dissolving the names of cities honoring Columbus in name? Will we banish Columbus like Pharaoh Thutmose II did to Moses? Will we chisel out Columbus' name on buildings as was done to Moses? The Catholic Church created the Forbidden Index, a list of books banned by the Church because they contradicted the Church's beliefs and teachings. Will books be banned or will we celebrate with book burnings? Do we continue to accept currency from countries like Italy, Spain, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic, which displays the image of Columbus? Will the U.S. five dollar bill featuring Columbus be absolved and deemed valueless? The extent of the possibilities could only carry over to any other myth or man.

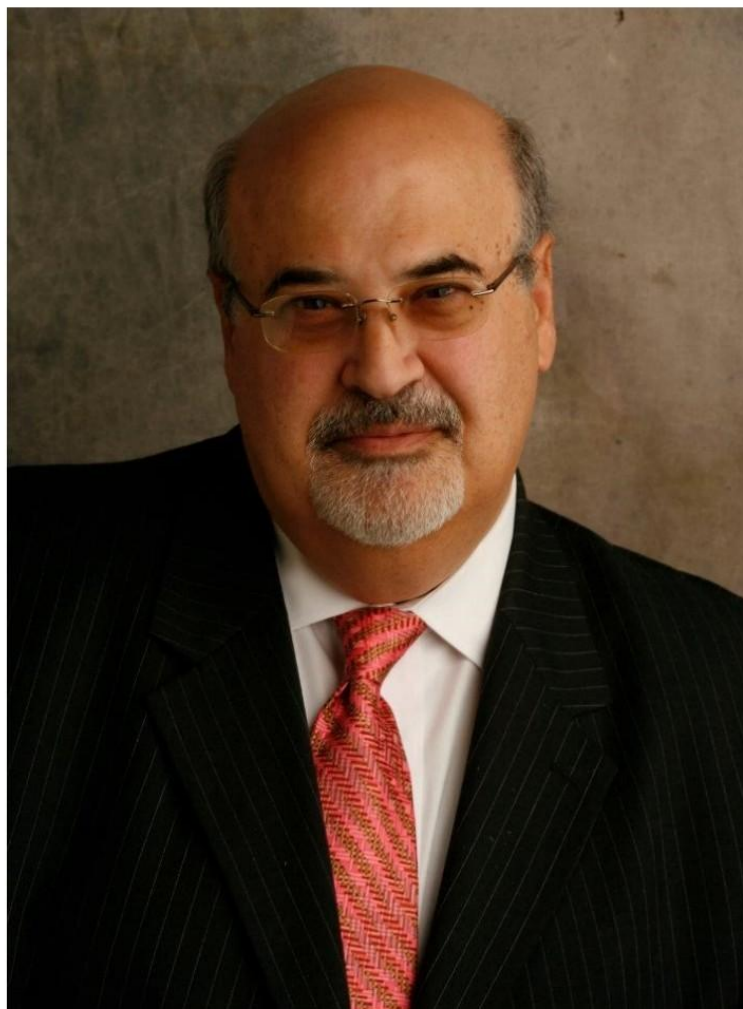


This should be the 5th and final voyage for Columbus. Here across the "pond" the Sea of Darkness, his greatest quest to find himself a place in history, where he can remain undisturbed.

FIN

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In Memory of Hector Carreño



One of Houston's most influential and prominent Latino political consultants has passed. It is impossible to measure what he did for the people and his achievements may never be matched by another. We send his family our thoughts and prayers during this time of mourning.

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Politically: Who has the Latino Voter's ear? **WE DO!**

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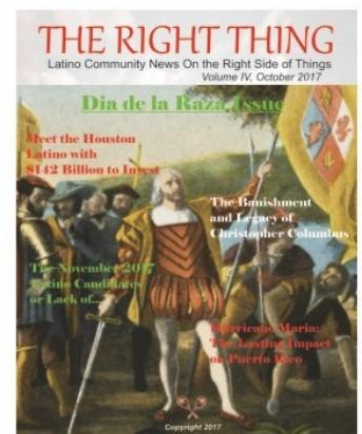
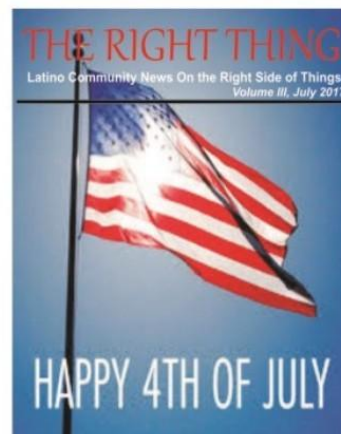
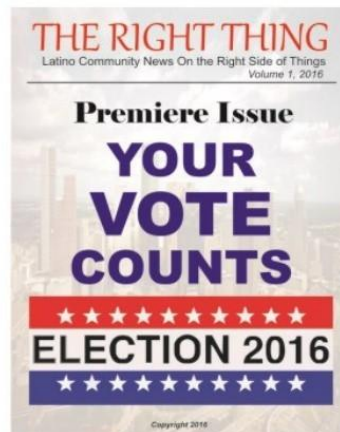
Everyone is asking:

Are Latinos Party loyal?

*What are the Latinos
essentials and basic staples?*

*Why do Latinos resist
assimilation?*

*What are the Latino's
motherland connections?*



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**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
HOUSTON ASTROS ON A HISTORIC SEASON!**



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Motherland Meets Mother Nature

A testimonial by Orlando Felix

On Wednesday, September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria, with an unthinkable force hit Puerto Rico after leaving the US Virgin Islands in total desolation. Puerto Rico was as best prepared one can be to deal with its annual catastrophic winds, rains, floods and mud slides. This misfortune set a new record of natural destruction, when Hurricane Maria completed its path including the Archipelago of Puerto Rico. The government of Puerto Rico first reported that only 16 deaths were results of the hurricane. What they failed to report and take into consideration was the fact that more than 50% of the municipalities in Puerto Rico were isolated from San Juan by the hurricane and did not have communication with the government of the Commonwealth. Days later the number increased to over 20 deaths and continues to increase as communication and the Institute of Forensic Sciences reach the isolated areas.



Photo Credit: Hilary Swift NY Times

Public Works and the Highway Department reported the Hurricane compromised bridges and

roads obliterated all over the island, due to topographic changes, mudslides, sink holes as water undermined paths. Telecommunication companies are working to establish portable/mobile cell towers, and had sent survey teams to immediately set up equipment.

Carlos Rivera told The Right Thing that he saw multiple sites where people gathered to collect water from a spring on the side of the mountains. Residents of Puerto Rico are forced to collect rainwater to drink and for domestic use. Rivera witnessed people bathing and washing clothes in a river. Diseases are spreading out of shelters, like conjunctivitis, human scabies and other unthinkable diseases. As time passes, more people are now getting potable water.

Many banks have reduced their operating hours, as business has diminished. A bank may sometimes only be open for as little as 4 hours. The majority of the ATMs are not working due to lack of electricity. Like the old days, to get money from the bank you need to get in line and transact with a teller.

Juan Perez traveled to Puerto Rico to move his elderly parents from Barranquitas to Texas. He secured lodging in San Juan prior to his journey to Barranquitas. He climbed 19 stories to a condo apartment. As he was walking the hallway to the condo, an elderly lady was calling for help. He approached the ladies condo and noticed distress in her voice. A lady was standing in the middle of the room and claimed an animal underneath the sofa bed. What kind of animal, a dog or a cat? She responded she did not know what it was. She said the animal may have entered through the window and settled in the sofa. The condo has guillotine

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style glass windows. They were on the 19th floor. Juan used a broom and hit the sofa seeking some reaction. He heard a noise like it tried to further barricade itself deeper into the mattress. Nothing was happening. Juan grabbed the frame of the bed and slightly lifted it. There it was, it jumped right at him with two open claws, a nice blue crab. The question still stands, how did it get reach the 19th floor apartment? Mind you a hurricane just happened one week before the finding of the animal. Did the hurricane pick up a crab from the nearby mangrove and flew him at 185 mph into the apartment? Due to the lack of electricity and water, several hospitals are not operating. To help with the treatment of critically ill patients and medical emergencies, the US Navy deployed the USNS Comfort to Puerto Rico.



Photo Credit: Mundo Hispanico

f you want to go to Puerto Rico or any of the other affected islands to help, make sure you are healthy, otherwise don't go. You could easily become a casualty. Puerto Ricans are accustomed to dealings with hurricanes, but this ferocious natural disaster desolated everything, and help is needed.

Be prepared to deal with extreme heat day and night, sleeping deprivation, scarce water and food and the risks of illness and mosquitoes-Zika, dengue, chinkunguya, etc. There are multiple info

websites for people trying to locate people. To date many peoples remain disconnected from their family. There are more Puerto Ricans in the Continental United States than on the island. The residents of Puerto Rico are dependent on those not on the island to reach out and assist in their unique way.

Logistics and government bureaucracy at all levels has only delayed the efforts of many wanting to help. Understandably, we want our donations to get to those in need. Private enterprise and non-profit organizations wanting to help Puerto Rico, teamed up with the City of Houston and United Airlines to deliver the donations to Puerto Rico. A delegation from Houston City Council coordinated by the Festival Puertorriqueño Cubano de Houston and Texas United for Puerto Rico traveled to Puerto Rico with 5 tons of humanitarian aid. Dozens of pallets of water filtration systems, medical supplies and nonperishable goods were delivered to Puerto Rico from Houston. The Puerto Rican community in Harris County, along with other Houstonians organized fundraises and collected nonperishables to send to Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. During the post season, the Houston Astros sent some of the player including Carlos Correa, Carlos Beltran, Juan Centeno and George Springer in an airplane full of supplies to Puerto Rico.



Photo Credit: Mundo Hispanico

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A common site at the post offices in the Houston area during the Christmas season, lines of customer mailing packages has become an every day sight, these days you see Houstonians sending boxes with supplies to Puerto Rico. The post office in Puerto Rico at this time is not delivering mail, however, postal officials are allowing citizens to take delivery of their mail at the post office. To make sure your mail do not go to storage to be deliver when they begin delivering again, it is recommended to put a mail stop to the address in Puerto Rico.



Photo Credit: U.S. Government

The U.S. Army assigned a three star general to coordinate all logistic, communication and rescue issues. According to sources, the appointment of an experienced general to this task was not done because of government bureaucracy and inefficiency, it was done because military training focuses on the mission and not on how to win the next election.

The priorities today are to improve sanitary conditions, repair the electric grid to provide electricity, potable water and to establish communication with all municipalities in Puerto Rico and in the US Virgin Islands.

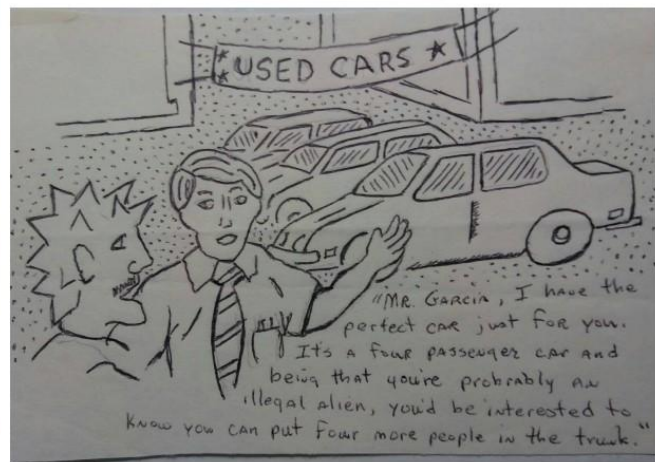
Private enterprise like Tesla, are taking this opportunity not to repair but to renovate. Yes, renovate, the water and electric systems. This is an opportunity to upgrade health services and the communications system. We will see what comes of all this, time gives us the opportunity to observe and learn. We should gain considerable knowledge of what to do after a catastrophe of this volume.

FIN

Political Reflections

By Rafa Garcia

The Used Car



The Millennial

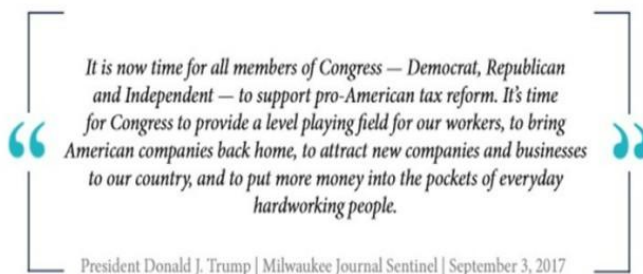


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Taxed Enough Already: The Tea Party is About to Begin

By Steve Parkhurst

There is a lot of news and talk recently about taxes and tax reform, even more so than usual. Last month, Republican Leadership in concert with the Trump Administration revealed a blueprint for tax reform and this is important for our families and communities.



We will hear a lot about "tax cuts for the rich" if you have not already. That is the typical tactic used by the opposition every time there is the talk of reforming the tax code. Those that buy into that rhetoric, do so at their own peril.

How many workers are employed by a poor person? Not many, if any at all. The so-called rich are the ones putting people to work. When those people have more money, they solve more problems and employ more people. If you use Google or if like Apple products or if you order items via Amazon or if you checked in on Facebook today, you quickly realize that people get rich when they create things that please the public and make our lives easier. They should be rewarded and encouraged to do more, not penalized for their success. John Tamny recently noted in a column for RealClearMarkets.com that we need to ask people "how, absent entre-

preneurs being matched with risk-oriented capital, companies and jobs can be created." It is the right question to ask. Workers need these entrepreneurs to have resources in order to create jobs and increase real wages.

The reality is that the tax code has not been reformed since 1986. That was a long time ago. What did your cell phone (or more likely, your pager) look like back in 1986? A revamping of the tax code is good, it clears out the outdated clutter and brings us current with the world we live in today, we no longer live in 1986. The average life expectancy has increased by about five years since 1986, which is a good thing. That does create economic factors that need altering though, such as people who choose to work later in life. This is the time to clean up the tax code and make it leaner and more reasonable.

Four Priorities for Tax Reform

- ✓ **Middle-Class Tax Relief**
 - Permanently Reduce Tax Rates
- ✓ **Compete & Win Again**
 - Give American Businesses the Competitive Edge
- ✓ **Simple, Fair, & Easy**
 - Eliminate Loopholes
 - Reduce Paperwork to One-Page
- ✓ **Invest in America**
 - Bring Back Trillions in Wealth Parked Overseas

Photo Credit: Republican National Committee

Along with the needed tax rate cuts, which will allow workers to take home more of each and every paycheck, the filing of your taxes will be simpler under the proposed blueprint. How much simpler? Instead of the difficult and complex booklets and forms and software and instruction guides, this new plan would allow nearly nine out

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of every ten people to file their taxes on a postcard roughly half the size of a sheet of paper. Such a postcard will allow people time to do things other than filing taxes when the time comes.

For you and your family, does that sound like a plan that simply cuts taxes for the rich?



Photo Credit: Republican National Committee

At the root of the tax system is the fact that taxes are paid to fund the government. Every dollar paid in taxes, that is a dollar confiscated by the government, put into an inefficient, uncompetitive system where it actually works against the interests of workers and families. Every dollar taken in taxes by the government, is a dollar taken out of our private economy. Any person that laments "lost revenue for the government" when taxes are reduced is someone who is using your money to build favor with another constituency.

This tax reform proposal offers many tactics for bringing money back to our shores and creating jobs right here at home. This includes reducing the corporate tax rate which has risen to a point of making America less competitive in the world market, and it includes reforming the way taxes are paid on dollars earned by Americans over-

seas, so that instead of money being left overseas, rather than having the same dollar taxed two and three times, that dollar gets back to America and goes into new investment, new jobs and increased economic growth along with an increase in real wages for workers.

Over the next few weeks the actual bill with all of the complete details of the legislation will be proposed in Washington, as of right now this is only in a blueprint format. Interestingly, it only took the opposition minutes from the time the blueprint was revealed to start the "tax cuts for the rich" mantra. Expect to hear this cry amplified once the actual legislation appears. Do not buy the rhetoric, it is dangerous, and it is as outdated as the tax code.

**As early as 2018,
file your TAXES simply
on a POSTCARD.**

Tax reform is not only needed, it is necessary. As Lawrence Lindsey noted in a recent *Wall Street Journal* editorial, "A rise in real wages would dramatically improve America's society as well as its economy. It would lead to the first sustained decline in income inequality in more than 40 years." When our communities do well, we all do well. Those who have lived in a storm-damaged area this year know what that looks like. Tax reform will benefit our families and our communities for the good.

FIN

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A Note of Gratitude

Over a month ago, Houston and Southeast Texas was hit with heart break and devastation when Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Port Aransas and worked its way up the Gulf Coast leaving thousands without power, transportation, food, and some without a home. Many lives were lost, including Houston Police Sgt. Steve Perez, and other heroes who went out to help those in need, but never made it back home.

As crippling as this natural disaster was, it was also a time for redemption. Many people suspect God chose Texas for this disaster, because he wanted the World to see that humans are a naturally good people and they show love and compassion when it matters, not hate and vitriol. One of the biggest pillars of conservatives has always been that the government cannot and should not be a community's means of salvation, but rather it should be neighbors and the community itself that will always care for those who are in need and those that need assistance in times of catastrophe. We have seen that on full display these past few weeks and will continue to see that as we move forward in continuing to build our families, neighborhoods, and communities back up post Harvey. We will persevere and we will continue to show the world, why there is no place better to create, grow, and raise a family than that of Houston, Texas.

To all of those that helped others in time of need and especially to the First Responders across the great State of Texas and across the country who came to Texas to help where you could, we at *The Right Thing* want to say...

**THANK
YOU!**

We are #TexasStrong

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The Right Thing© 2017 November Election

VOTE

Early Voting October 23 - November 3, 2017

ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 7, 2017

Follow Us at [www.Facebook.com/RightSideOfThings](https://www.facebook.com/RightSideOfThings)

The Right Thing© 2017 November Election

The Right Thing does not endorse candidates were only promote those on the ballot and encourage voters to consider voting.

The absence of elections for the City of Houston this November 2017 leaves a slim ballot to vote from.

Houston I.S.D.

Dist 1

Monica Richart
Elizabeth Santos

Dist. 3

Carlos Perrett
Rudolfo Reyes
Sergio Lira
Jess Rodriguez

Dist. 5

Kara De Rocha

Dist. 6

Holly Maria Flynn Vilaseca

Houston Community College

Dist. 4 Manny Barrera

Aldine I.S.D.

Dist.3

Rose Avalos

Dist. 4

Conception Esparza

Alief I.S.D.

Dist 4

Jesus Zamora

Channelview I.S.D.

No Latino Candidates

Klein I.S.D.

No Latino Candidates

Baytown I.S.D.

No Latino Candidates

Missouri City

No Latino Candidates

Spring I.S.D

No Latino Candidates