

THE RIGHT THING

Latino Community News On the Right Side of Things

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Premiere Issue

YOUR VOTE COUNTS



ELECTION 2016



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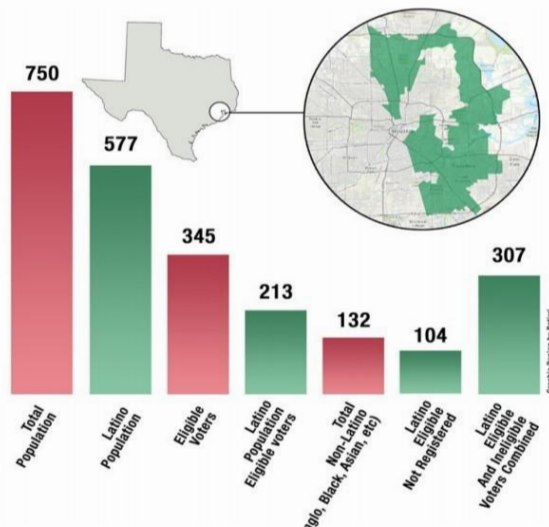
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Email: therightsideofthings@gmail.com

Capturing the Latino Representation of U.S. Congressional District 29

By Bernardo Eureste and Rafa Garcia

The graph illustrated below is the combination of studies of the Pew Research Institute, demographics from the Office of the United States Census Bureau and other data provider consultants. The tabulations are the engineering of Bernardo Eureste, Editor in Chief of the web page *Voice of the Mainland*.



As of current, U.S. Congressional District 29 ranks as the Congressional District with the largest number of eligible Latinos unregistered to vote, in the United States. There are 437 Congressional Districts in the U.S. Gene Green was recently reelected to represent District 29 for the 12th consecutive time. Returns in the 2016 Democrat Primary in Texas concur that Green maintained his seat against Democrat challenger Adrian Garcia. Green championed the election with 17,750 votes or 57% of the 30,906 votes cast in the district.

The total population of the district is 749,000. The total number of eligible voters, that is, 18 years of age and over with United States citizen-

ship status is 345,000. The eligible voting population for Latinos in the district is 213,000, meaning that the remainder of eligible voters, non-Latinos, in the district are 132,000. The 213,000 figure might lead you to conclude that Latino voters are larger than the non-Latino voters in the district by, say, a factor of 81,000 voters. The truth is that there are fewer Latino voters "registered" to vote in the district than non-Latino voters. Latinos register to vote at a rate of 49 to 51 % in the 437 congressional districts in the United States. In District 29, the number of registered Latinos is 108,630 and the number not registered is 104,370.

Latinos turn out to vote at comparable rates as Whites, Blacks and Asians. The problem is that the turn out rate of Latinos could double in numbers if the 49 percent that is not registered to vote were registered to vote.



Photo Credit: LATimes

The common reframe that "Latinos don't vote" is misleading, to all, including some Latinos who follow the body politic. Latinos turn out to vote at comparable rate of voters who are registered to vote.

In the primary race in District 29 in the Spring of 2016, Adrian Garcia lost to Gene Green by 5,815 votes. Doubling the eligible voter in the Latino community would have produced over 10,000 additional votes for Garcia. The overall voter turnout for the District race was low, at about 13%.

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13% is 13,520 additional Latino voters that would have made up Garcia's deficit of 5,815. Voter registration is the number one problem in the Latino electorate. Voting strategies in the Latino community that aim at getting out the vote are missing half the game. If voter registration is not a part of that strategy, 50% of the potential Latino vote is being written off at the gate, that is, at the start.

Nationally, Latinos are counted for between 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 votes. This number could double if Latinos register at their potential. Instead of a 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 vote impact on the national scene, registration at the fuller potential could see a Latino impact of 20,000,000 to 24,000,000 votes.

Houston is in line for another Latino congressional district. Texas received four districts as a result of the 2010 census. The 2020 census is projected to give Texas 4 additional congressional districts. Texas, Florida and California are the



states which will gain congressional districts, due to massive population increases in the Latino population. Houston's 2.4 million Latino community should be granted with an additional Latino congressional district. Doubling the registered voter in the Houston Latino community over the course of the next few years has the potential of getting two Latino congress persons elected from the Houston area in the near future.

-Fin-

The Hispanic Vote: Coming Back for the First Time

By Chris Carmona

Winning a presidential campaign is no easy feat, and somehow the Donald Trump campaign was able to do it this year, even while exaggerating the vilest rhetoric any presidential campaign has ever done.

It is more evident now than ever, that emotions are being incensed like never before in Politics, particularly in demographics being targeted by Trump's rhetoric. Yet, many Hispanic Republicans are taking a different approach in responding to Trump's popularity while still advocating for conservative candidates across the country. As Hispanic voters, we are not only frustrated with the process this year, we're galled and struck. But we are not letting one candidate derail everything we have done over the last few years to get more Hispanics involved in conservative causes.

I am acutely confident that most Hispanics remember what inspired them to be a Republican and become active. Whether it was your parents, your educators, professors, or real life struggles. Something along the way showed you that it was critical to your success to embrace free market principles and those of a limited and conservative government. Whatever the case may be, I ask of you, harness that memory and continue to hold on to it. You were bold and brave then to start putting yourself out as an activist, and we need you now more than ever now.



Photo Credit: Federation for Catechesis with Hispanics

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Republican Party inclusive. And, who better to implement that change? Obviously, positioned to assume the role, is the new generation of Hispanic conservatives.

The forecasters suggest that the younger generation may have decided the previous presidential election. Today, it is the Hispanic vote that will change the landscape in presidential elections and all of politics for years to come. While the Democrats have had 8 years to make their case to the Hispanic community, we find ourselves excluded with no sound solutions or progress on the issues fundamental to us, not only as Hispanics, but as Americans. All candidates tend to make the powerful argument that Hispanics have the same values as conservatives, and they express how Hispanics feel about how free market and conservative values and how they empower us to make our own decisions. But it takes true leadership to demonstrate to the Hispanic population that we are more than rhetoric.

Within a mere few months, it appears we will be left with the poor choice of either building a wall or killing our soldiers. Regardless of the choice, moving forward dictates that now is the time we stand up LOUD and PROUD and verify to America that not only do Hispanics matter and Hispanics vote, but Hispanics are active leaders within the conservative movement!



All of your involvement to this point have not been for nothing. All of the phone banking, the block walking, the recruitment efforts, the community engagement events, all of that has build upon our credibility within the party. As a matter of fact, it has made us stronger. With the likes of the groups like the Federation of Hispanic Republicans and the Hispanic Republicans of Texas, Hispanic leaders have a strong voice when talk-

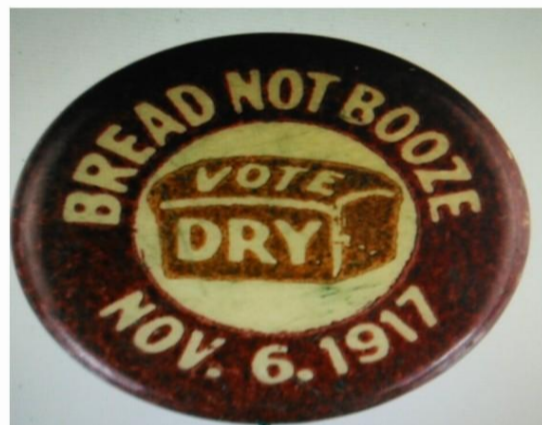
ing with leaders at all levels of government. And they will continue to let elected officials and other leadership know that we need a dramatic change in our outreach to the Hispanic community that goes far beyond the typical approach of sharing identical values. We need more action, but we need more grassroots leaders to join the flanks.



Don't let a loud mouthed vile Presidential candidate ruin your day and don't let it prevent you from supporting your conservative principles. As Hispanics, we have wanted to be given importance for some time now, and that time has now arrived. We are back for the first time, and this time we will make a noticeable impact on elections across the country.

As Hispanics conservatives, we are not going to abandon the Party and we are not going to desert the movement. We are going to fight as hard as ever to ensure that the voice of our community is heard loud and clear. We will not stop and we will be heard.

- Fin -



Building Bridges: Why the Wall Can Bring People Together

By Sam Rosas
Editorial

When I first heard about "The Wall" I really didn't know what to make of what I was hearing. My first thought was national security, but I kept hearing outcries of racism when referred to it as if it was a symbol of hate and division.

Growing up I got to see parts of the border between the U.S. and Mexico divided by ranch-style barb wire fencing, which was easily cut off and crossed through without a problem. Then a few years ago I saw being built a tall metal wall which intended to deter the aggressive flow of illegal immigration stemming from the over-crowded border-towns in Mexico, where thousands of people from Mexico, Central America and in some cases from Middle Eastern countries would concentrate looking for the opportunity to get across the border at any cost.

Clearly this wall intended to create a more defined dividing line between the two countries, while protecting their territorial sovereignty and rule of law. At the same time, the goal was to control illegal drugs from being smuggled into American territory from South America and Mexico on the agile backs of young trespassers, paid or coerced by powerful cartels.

The vast majority of Americans see *illegal* immigration as an out of control global dilemma that hits straight home and must be addressed with urgency, because it affects different aspects of our lives. Migrants for the most part come looking for any jobs they can get, usually for cash as majority do not have a legal work permit. Also the majority are unfortunately low skilled, unlicensed on trades, and in many cases unable to communicate in basic English, which makes it harder for them to connect with viable and legal opportunities to make a good living. They also come not

even realizing that the job market is already severely scarce with many corporations shutting down operations in the United States and moving overseas or across the border in search of cheaper labor. Trends like this one leave thousands of American workers out of the job practically overnight and in extremely difficult circumstances. One of the most recent examples is Carrier, the air conditioning company which recently announced it will be relocating its operations from its plant in Indianapolis to Monterrey Mexico, leaving thousands of men and women without a job to support their families. Manufacturing has been outsourced, customer service call centers have also been outsourced to India and other markets, yet migrants seem oblivious to that fact.



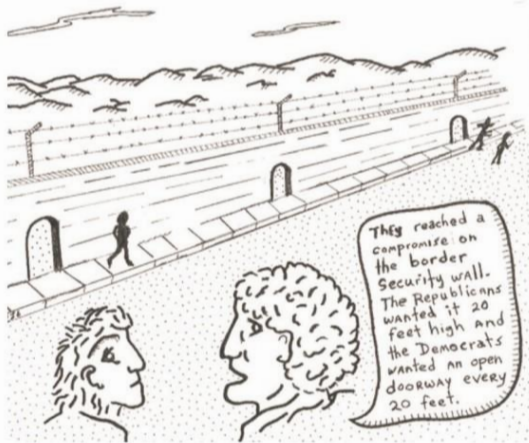
Photo Credit: *chicago.indymedia*

The topic of immigration is as complex and unique as every single individual coming to this wonderful nation in search of the American Dream. However, the ramifications that are part of this issue continue to grow and each take on a life of its own.

Day in and day out we see stories in the media discussing immigration, the consequences, the challenges, the disheartening fruitless efforts of border patrol and their lack of support and resources from the Federal Government. Yet they do the best they can to keep our borders and homeland safe, often-times even at the risk of their own lives.

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During demonstrations liberals picket with signs that "no human is illegal" and I think they are missing the point 'illegal is the act, the crime committed, the act of breaking the law and trespassing illegally into the country or overstaying a dated permit. This is not about the individual in his or her humanity' but about their actions.

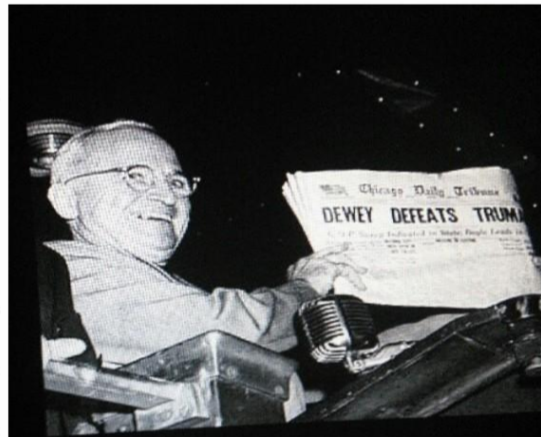


So this is my take about the wall. To me the wall is simply a means to define the territory dividing line between two countries, as every country has the right to protect their borders and keep their citizens safe their laws observed and their way of life protected. The issue of the wall is just a concept. Yes, of course the idea is to have a better patrolled and surveilled border as a lawful point of entry to visitors and trade. But the issue of immigration goes beyond the perimeters near border-towns. Illegal immigration occurs in many other ways as many people travel to our country on student visas or temporary work permits, even tourists and visitors; and they never leave. They overstay their visas and take the risk of becoming one more of the millions of people living in the shadows without proper documentation to go about the daily challenges.

These are simple things such as opening a bank account or getting a driver license to move around and work. Becoming "one of us" turns to be an insurmountable mountain of impossibilities, having as a result that millions of people

getting lost among the crowd without much opportunity of enjoying the blessings and privileges everyday citizens and legal immigrants enjoy

I see the point of the candidate when saying that Mexico has to pay for the wall. That country is the one getting the biggest return on investment by facilitating the passage of illegal immigrants from South and Central America into American soil, which is in itself a tremendous industry that greases many hands along the journey. In the end, why wouldn't they? Their remittances represent a tremendous amount of revenue for their country, it is said that lately even more so than their own oil production. It would be foolish not to help these massive amounts of money be sent to Mexico, money they get free and clear without having to invest in training and educating their people, or providing the right conditions and infrastructure to promote competitive work for their workforce.



Mexico does not make any efforts in retaining its people or its talent, because it is much more profitable to 'let them go' and 'allow them' to send an average of \$25 billion a year in cash remittances going to Mexico alone. Then again "the Wall" will apparently only cost a fraction of all that money. To Mexico's relief, the country will not have to dig deep into their pockets to pay out, at least not literally, so considering it is not so unrealistic after all, I think that having a big beautiful wall with a big beautiful door for

people to come and go legally it is actually a possible good thing for both sides of the border. After all neighbors must live in good terms and be cooperative to one another, beginning with respecting each other's right to protect their homeland and uphold their rule of law. Mexico has a deep and strong sense of patriotic duty towards their homeland, as their own National Anthem recites:

"Let gird, oh Fatherland!, your brow with olive by the divine archangel of peace, for in heaven your eternal destiny was written by the finger of God. But if some enemy outlander should dare to profane your ground with his sole, think, oh beloved Fatherland!, that heaven has given you a soldier in every son."

They should simply allow their closest neighbor the courtesy of doing the same.

- Fin -



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The background of the entire page is a composite image. It features a bald eagle's head in the upper center, looking forward. To the left of the eagle is a portion of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. Below the eagle and flag is a faded, semi-transparent image of a city skyline, with various skyscrapers visible. The word "VOTE" is superimposed in large, bold, red capital letters across the middle of the image.

VOTE

EARLY VOTING: OCT 24 - NOV 4, 2016

ELECTION DAY: NOV 8, 2016

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When Community Comes First, the Rest Falls in Place

By Sarah Verret

With so much focus being targeted on the rift between Law Enforcement and Minority communities, one thing that may be getting overlooked is the relationship between Hispanics and Law Enforcement.



Photo Credit: Smart Growth

I have been a long advocate of community policing and really feel that if communities are to be safe and free from constant dangers, then a neighborhood or community must make its way towards encouraging and adopting the concept of community policing. This has traditionally been viewed as a strategy to proactively address the issues of public safety, such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime, while supporting the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving methods. In other words, this initiative encourages interactive partnerships with relevant stakeholders of the communities to where the public plays a role in prioritizing public safety problems as the police alone cannot tackle the everyday issues that affect the communities' lives.

Houston, Texas is setting the standard high when it comes to having our law enforcement officers being also some of the most recognizable community philanthropists. It has been this model

that has allowed there to be such harmony between policing the neighborhoods and enforcing the laws within the Hispanic community. We are far from where we need to be in terms of providing safe and secure neighborhoods, but we are making strides and at least in the Hispanic community, we are seeing improvement in crime and also the number of Hispanic officers wearing the uniform. With great organizations such as a National Latino Peace Officers Associate, Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers, and Mexican-American Sheriff's Organization, the Hispanic community will continue to lead the way on building bridges in communities to provide solutions to everyday strife.

As we enter a new cycle where so much focus will still be on the tension between minority criminal suspects and those policing the streets, we can take some solace that within our own community we are setting the standard on how to mend fences and work together to build success. Thank an officer today.

- Fin -

Losing Faith: Did Attacking Muslims Become a Christian Value?

By Sam Rosas

There has been overwhelming discussion lately as it relates to Muslims living in and among the United States. More specifically, there seems to be a growing perception that Muslims are unable to live among Christians or other faiths because Muslims are taught that non-Muslims are traitors and are to be killed. At least that is the scare tactics that we are being asked to believe these days.

One thing for sure is that there are no purity tests when it comes to religion and we cannot continue to allow scare tactics to divide us and rip apart the

America we know and the America that we all came to love and live within.



Photo Credit: Latino Brief Digest

One of the biggest arguments that we hear from the anti-Muslim groups is that all Muslims are evil and that they are all radical Islamic terrorists. And this is not a right wing v left wing argument or a conservative v liberal argument, this is an argument being made by those radical people who truly believe that all Muslims are terrorists. No one is denying that radical extremist, but to say that all Muslims believe their mission is to kill non-Muslims is just false. To examine this point further, one must not look any further than the same Christians that denounce the Muslims and their accompanied divorce rates.

It is well settled that one of the tenants of Christianity is that you put God and Family above all else. What we have seen among Christians in modern times, is that the family unit is no longer an absolute and the faith that assembled the family unit is no longer without pause and contradiction. Professor Bradley Wright, a sociologist at the University of Connecticut, explains from his analysis of people who identify as Christians but rarely attend church, that 60 percent of these have been divorced. [Bradley R.E. Wright, *Christians Are Hate-Filled Hypocrites ...and Other Lies You've Been Told*, (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2010), p. 133.] I think this really drives home the point that not all followers of faith ad-

here to that faith 100% of the time, irrespective of what religion it is you follow.

There may be some passages in Koran that suggest to bring violence against non-Muslims, but I will suggest you research that for yourself. But I request that you look to your own faith and see if you follow that faith 100 percent of the time. I think you will find that you do not, and that very few people do. That point is important, because it shows you are human and that humanity has its faults. But those faults are what shows the world that not every Muslim interprets the Koran to direct them to bring violence towards others. To me it has become increasingly simple to understand. Until the divorce rate of all Christians drops to close to 0 percent, then it should be impossible for those same Christians to think that all Muslims follow the believe that they are put on this earth to kill and imaginary enemy.



Photo Credit: Pew Forum

As we approach this November, don't allow political viewpoints encourage you to hate, but rather allow them to encourage you to open your hearts to those who need saving and salvation. We as a country can withstand whatever evil forces that exist, but only when we as a country believe in ourselves as humanity demands. We must maintain faith in our faith.

- Fin -

The Reality Show: What We Get When Pop Culture Chooses Our President

By Chris Carmona

This election cycle has been one for the ages. Since the time both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump secured their party's nomination, the media along with the rest of the world has been on pins and needles just waiting to see what will happen next. Take your favorite novella, reality show, or movie, and you have the exact thing that we as Americans are watching live. The only difference is, this time, the stakes are high, and what happens next actually matters.

If you listen to the talking heads on radio and television, they will have you believing that this presidential race is between a political veteran with a mountain of experience and a reality star. But please don't be fooled by the media. Both of these candidates are a by-product of Reality TV and pop culture. As a matter of fact, or maybe just my opinion, some could say that it was Bill Clinton that first pushed politicians into the pop culture era, and that Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have just been the extension of that long playing reality series.



Photo Credit: Business Insider

During the 90's, while Clinton was President, the MTV's Real World was taking off and the viewing

audience of America would never be the same again, both in television entertainment and the way viewers interacted with the characters they see on their home screen.

Since that time, more and more, television networks have produced more reality shows including NBS's the Apprentice, starring Donald Trump. It has been this culture that has subliminally encouraged more and more people to vote or eliminate something they see on their screen. People became more accustomed to voting, even it was just dialing in from their phone for American Idol, and they have now translated that into politics, especially during the Republican primary. The same rating that shows like American Idol were receiving were now being transitioned into voting strength for Donald Trump, because he knew how to captivate the American audience that has become anxious to vote to eliminate a character on their screen.

Photo Credit: Washington Post



It is easy to see how politics has become more about fame than it has about substance. Most of the American people will never pay attention to their results of their vote, but we are now at the tipping point where, maybe having the most famous faces is not such a great idea. Presidential candidates are supposed to be above the fray, and above the common occurrences in a normal person's everyday life. People are supposed to live morally and sound lives so that they too can dream about being the President of the greatest country in the Free World. The two stars we have to choose from this year may not be everyone's

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ideal candidate, but they are who we are as a country. They represent what we have become and what controls our lives. We are now watching a reflection of ourselves every time we look at these two people argue and debate. We are waiting for that next "ah hah" or "gotcha" moment, so that way we can then decide to vote someone off of the island. The only problem is, we are bringing down our own political parties and country at the same time.

There is a way forward, but we have to overhaul and reprogram ourselves to expect and demand more from those who serve us. We must take back the position that a President shall act Presidential. That political correctness is not encouraged to hide the truth, but encouraged to deliver the truth in a manner that people can accept and respect because it comes from authority with dignity and without hesitation.

The rumors are already swirling about each candidate's true intentions with this campaign, but the one thing that I am hoping for the most is that there will be no sequel. My hope, and maybe yours as well, is that this season of "The Election" will be its last. America cannot survive more conflict caused by a dramatic production intent on gaining ratings. America deserves more, and America will get more.

- Fin -

Need A Reason To Not Vote Straight Ticket: The Party Is Over

By Linda Ybarra

We have seen and heard a lot about the election this November. Some of it good, some bad, and some just plain ugly. With all of the negativity that has been spread throughout the presidential campaigns, it is more important than ever that this No-

vember, we look past political party lines and we look at the character and integrity of the candidates. Some of the most important races voters in Harris county will decide this year will be that of the judicial races, which are the elections to choose our judges.

The Harris County judges are responsible for making important decisions on most aspects of our day to day lives. Whether it be determining the guilt or innocence of one of our youth, determining which parent is better able to care for a child during a divorce, or determining which person is entitled to relief in a civil lawsuit, these are the judges that will make those decisions. You may have already heard, or you may soon hear, from both Democrats and Republicans telling you to vote straight ticket this November. Although that may sound convenient, the only easy thing that results from that is electing bad judges from both sides of the political aisle.



Judicial Candidate Kevin Fulton is being supported by many community groups

Judges are responsible for one thing, and that is to follow the laws of the State of Texas. These are the laws that our State Representatives and State Senators have put into place to protect families, individuals, and companies throughout the State. It does not matter if you are a Republican or a Democrat, every judge has the same responsibility to follow that same law and make a determination on every case based off of that law. We don't have a Republican set of laws or a Democrat set of laws, we only have the Laws of the State of Texas, and it is these judges that you elect that must follow them.

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But how do you know if the candidate you vote for will follow the law? That is a great question and that is why I encourage you and pray that you don't just vote straight ticket, but you actually research the candidates. If a current judge is running for re-election, then you can usually look up what their peers and people who have appeared before them feel about that particular judge.



Judicial Candidate Clyde Leuchtag is being supported by many community groups

If the candidate is not a current judge, then you can usually visit their websites or social media accounts to get to know them a little better. There are also other resources to look at such as the endorsements from other community leaders, elected officials, neighborhood publications, community groups, and church / ministerial recom-

mendations, or even *The Right Thing's* Election Highlights. In the past COGIC PAC and the Houston Area Baptist Ministers have been a reliable source for recommending a lot of great judicial candidates.

When you see a candidate with a lot of support from a diverse group of people and groups, then you can usually count on that individual to be an outstanding person of character and you should be able to trust your vote with that candidate. We have a lot of issues facing us a community in Harris County, and it is very important that this year we make the right choices based off of the right candidate, not political party. These courts belong to the people of Harris County, choose wisely.

- Fin -



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The Right Thing© 2016 General Election

This is not a list of endorsements, but here are some highlighted races that showcase exceptional candidates that represent and advocate for not only the Latino Community, but for all of us.

Office Sought	Name
President	Vote At Your Discretion
U.S. Representative District 2	Ted Poe
U.S. Representative District 29	Gene Green
Railroad Commissioner	Wayne Christian
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 3	Debra Lehrmann
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 5	Dori Garza
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 9	Eva Guzman
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2	Mary Lou Keel
Member, State Board of Education, District 6	Dr. Dakota Carter
State Representative, District 134	Gilberto Velasquez Jr.
State Representative, District 137	Kendall Baker
State Representative, District 144	Gilbert Pena
State Representative, District 150	Valoree Swanson
Chief Justice, 1st Court of Appeals	Sherry Radack
Justice, 1st Court of Appeals District, Place 4	Evelyn Keyes
Justice, 14th Court of Appeals District, Place 2	Kevin Jewell
Justice, 14th Court of Appeals District, Place 9	Tracy Elizabeth Christopher
District Judge, 11th Judicial District	Kevin Fulton
District Judge, 61st Judicial District	Erin Elizabeth Lunceford
District Judge, 125th Judicial District	Kyle Carter
District Judge, 127th Judicial District	R.K. Sandhill* (Current) / Sarahjane Swanson
District Judge, 129th Judicial District	Michael Gomez* (Current) / Sofia Mafriage
District Judge, 133rd Judicial District	Cindy Bennett Smith
District Judge, 151st Judicial District	Mike Engelhart
District Judge, 152nd Judicial District	Don Self
District Judge, 164th Judicial District	Bruce Bain
District Judge, 165th Judicial District	Debra Ibarra Mayfield
District Judge, 174th Judicial District	Katherine McDaniel
District Judge, 177th Judicial District	Ryan Patrick
District Judge, 179th Judicial District	Kristin M. Guiney
District Judge, 215th Judicial District	Fred Shuchart
District Judge, 333rd Judicial District	Joseph "Tad" Halbach

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The Right Thing© 2016 General Election

Office Sought	Name
District Judge, 337th Judicial District	Renee Magee
District Judge, 507th Judicial Court	Alyssa Lemkuil
Harris County District Attorney	Abstain
County Civil Court at Law No. 1	Clyde Raymond Leuchtag
County Criminal Court at Law No. 16	Linda Garcia
County Attorney	Vince Ryan
Sheriff	Ed Gonzalez
Tax Assessor-Collector	Mike Sullivan
County School Trustee, Position 1, Precinct 2	George Moore
County School Trustee, Position 2, Precinct 4	Eric Dick
County Commissioner, Precinct 3	Steve Radack
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Place 1	Jo Ann Delgado
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 1	Tom Zakes
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 6, Place 1	Richard C. Vara
Constable, Precinct 1	Joe Danna
Constable, Precinct 2	Christopher Diaz
Constable, Precinct 6	Richard "Rick" Gonzalez

VOTE

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