



The Stonewall Advocate

A monthly publication for members of the SDD

Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus to Celebrate Its 10th Anniversary

The Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus (TSDC) will celebrate its 10th anniversary as the officially recognized LGBT Caucus of the Texas Democratic Party at the Texas Democratic Convention, which will be held at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi on June 24-26. We invite all LGBT Democrats and allies to begin making preparations now to join us in Corpus Christi!

TSDC was founded in December 1999 by Michael Milliken, Al Daniels and other LGBT Democratic leaders in Dallas as the successor organization of the Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas. At the Texas Democratic Convention that took place in Fort Worth in June of 2000, Milliken successfully petitioned the convention delegates to approve adding TSDC as an "add-on" organization of the State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC), thereby giving TSDC two LGBT seats on the SDEC. Since then, both the President and Vice President of the TSDC have served as voting members at SDEC meetings and have helped raise awareness of LGBT issues within our state party.

You can help TSDC celebrate its 10th anniversary in one or more of the following three ways:

(1) Become a delegate to the 2010 Texas Democratic Convention;

(2) Attend the 2010 Convention as a visitor and help staff the TSDC booth at the convention and participate in other TSDC activities;

(3) Contribute by check or through Act Blue at www.texasstonewalldemocrats.org to help TSDC defray costs for our convention activities.

TSDC activities at the convention include the following:

1. Thursday night, June 24, 8-11 pm, TSDC 10th Anniversary reception/awards presentation at Desiree's by the Bay Restaurant at The Art Center, 100 N. Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX. Full buffet, cash bar, anniversary cake and presentation of TSDC Founders Awards!

2. Friday, June 25, 10-11:30 am, TSDC Executive Board meeting, Omni Hotel, Marina Tower, Riviera 1 Room, 707 N. Shoreline Blvd.

3. Friday, June 25, 1:30 pm (tentative) TSDC Biennial Caucus Membership Meeting, American Bank Center. Election of TSDC Officers and other business. Introduction of candidates and elected officials. All Democrats (delegates/alternates/visitors) welcome to participate and vote!

4. Friday and Saturday, June 25-26, 9 am – 6 pm TSDC Convention Booth in Exhibit Hall. Offering Pride merchandise and distributing plastic holders for credentials at credentialing booths for donations. Volunteers needed!

For updated information on state convention schedule and activities as well as housing, visit the Texas Democratic Party website at www.txdemocrats.org.

Come to Corpus Christi on June 24-26 and help TSDC celebrate its 10th anniversary in the sun and surf!

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Census goes after same-sex couples

By Jesse Garcia

For the first time in history, gay and lesbian couples will be identified in the Census — giving us a nationwide snapshot of members of the community who are in partnerships. Officials from the 2010 Census have made a special effort to outreach to the LGBT community by assigning “Partner Specialists” to help promote the Census and encouraging couples to self identify.

Same sex couples who live in the same household can identify as “husband”/“wife” or unmarried partners. Although the Census doesn’t have way to count single gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender individuals, this will be a first step toward a more inclusive Census.

The Census is also encouraging transgendered individuals to mark the gender they identify with, not the one they were assigned to at birth.

The community is anxious to find out the results of the Census. By providing concrete numbers of gay and lesbian households, the Census may help breakdown some myths about the community: gays are mainly urban dwellers, they have high incomes, etc. The Census results may also show politicians how big LGBT constituencies are in their districts.

North Texans should receive their forms in the coming weeks.

What started out in 1790 by Article 1, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution as a way to decide what states get more representation in government by counting the population every 10 years has evolved into a barometer of where federal funding is spent.

“An accurate Census count is important because population determines how more than \$3 trillion will be allocated to local, state, and tribal governments over the next 10 years, such as school lunch programs, senior citizen centers and new construc-

tion like highways and hospitals,” said Dallas Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem Pauline Medrano. “Census data determines the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. After the 2000 Census, Texas gained two seats.”

Medrano is passionate about the Census. Back in 1980, she worked for the Census as a crew leader, where she led a team assigned to specific areas to follow up on, such as hard to count areas and non-responsive households (people who did not mail back Census forms and had to get a personal visit from a Census counter).

“I was responsible for training Census takers and ensuring compliance with Census procedures,” she remembers. “It was a very rewarding position. It enabled me to actually speak with folks and explain the Census process.”



Pauline Medrano

Her community activism and thorough knowledge of the Census propelled Medrano to a very high position during this coming decade’s count. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, whose department oversees the Census, appointed Medrano as vice chair of the U.S. Census Bureau - 2010

Census Advisory Committee.

The 2010 form is the shortest form in the history of the Census and it will only ask 10 questions that include: How many people in your household? Do your rent or own your home? What are the names of the people in your home?

The forms are due April 1.

To learn more about the Census form, visit this website that shows each of the 10 questions with an interactive explanation of why it is asked: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/interactive-form.php>

To learn how the Census benefits Dallas, visit <http://www.dallascityhall.org/census/index.html>

To learn about finding a job with the Census, visit http://www.dallascityhall.org/census/pdf/Census_Recruiting.pdf

News Briefs



Larry Duncan, the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas endorsed candidate for Dallas County Judge

■ Stonewall meets on :

The March General Meeting takes place Tuesday, March 16th at 6:30 p.m., at Ojeda's Restaurant, located at 4617 Maple Avenue in Dallas.

■ The Primary Runoff Election:

Tuesday, April 13, with early voting from April 5-9. To find your polling location visit: www.dalcoelections.org

■ Re-endorsements:

At our Tuesday, March 16 meeting we will choose a candidate in two races in which our endorsee did not make the runoff: Judge, County Criminal Court No. 5: Etta J. Mullin or Hector H. Garza, and Judge, 203rd District Court: Susan Anderson or Teresa Hawthorne. Members in good standing by February 15 will be eligible to vote.

■ Texas State Democratic Convention:

This year’s Texas Democratic State Convention will be held at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, June 25-26th. For information on attending visit: www.txdemocrats.org/2010stateconvention

■ Thank you:

I want to fill this bit of what would have been empty space with a big thank you to Phyllis Guest. Without her help, this newsletter would not have happened. Also a big thank you to Kaye Gooch, Omar Narvaez, Jesse Garcia, and Erin Moore for their help as well. ♦

President's Corner



*Stonewall
President Erin
Moore*

Primaries, elections and run-offs, oh my.

The primary for any political party is the nomination process.

We are asked to make decisions between perceived better and perceived best; between new friends and old; between people who all work for the same ideals.

These discussions and decisions happen as they would in a family. There will be disagreements and differing opinions and yet, at the end of it all, we will unite after the primaries are finally over. And we will come back together as the Democratic Party with a united slate and a united effort.

Borrowing from Jimmy Fallon, I'd like to write my thank you notes now.

Thank you to those that have put their names out there. Who gave up their weekends and nights to make phone calls and shake endless hands to garner support for their campaigns. Win or lose, these people deserve respect and honor for trying to change things to whatever vision they may have. Working on a campaign is hard enough. Being the candidate is excruciatingly difficult.

Thank you to all of you who have allowed us to have a democratic process within the Democratic Party.

Talk to you later,
Erin

82% of Stonewall Endorsed Candidates Are Approved by Voters

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas endorsement committee members spent 21+ hours screening potential candidates for the 2010 Democratic Primary. This was time well spent. Once the primary was over, we learned that 82% of candidates endorsed by Stonewall won their races or made it into the runoffs. Results were tabulated versus all national, statewide and county offices where endorsements were given.

The endorsement screening process is one of the most important functions performed by this organization. This is the chance we have to really ask the tough questions. Each candidate was asked a set or previously determined questions regarding LGBT issues. National, statewide and county office-seekers had to respond to a somewhat different set of questions on how they would handle issues vital to our community. The candidates did not receive the questions ahead of time because the endorsement committee felt it was important that we get spontaneous answers.

Erin Moore President of Stonewall, said, "I'm very pleased with our success rate, which will hopefully be 100% after the general election in November." Many fine Democratic candidates sought our endorsement, and we screened more than 92 individuals. "It was an exhausting but exciting three days. Stonewall has really broken new ground on behalf of the LGBT community in Dallas County, and now even statewide and national candidates and elected officials are listening to us," said Omar Narvaez, Political Affairs Chair.

Stonewall members took to the streets after the endorsement screening process and passed out push cards with our endorsed candidates. We showed up at phone banks for gubernatorial candidate Bill White — 1,000 calls! — and for State Rep. District 105 candidate Loretta Haldewang and County Commissioner Pct. 4 candidate Dr. Elba Garcia. Each won his or her primary race. We also sent postcards to Democratic voters in the top LGBT zip codes in the county. Surprisingly, they were not just in Oak Cliff and Oak Lawn; quite a few were in North Dallas. And we spent a Saturday afternoon driving early voters to the polls from our traditional cookout, held this year in the patio of The Mining Company. (Thanks, TMC!) We raised money for candidates as well. As always, Stonewall didn't just talk the talk. We walked the walk, too!

At the March 16th general meeting, we will re-screen in the two races in which our original endorsee did not make the runoff. That is, we will vote a new endorsement in the

race for District Judge, 203rd District, where Susan Anderson and Teresa Hawthorne are competing, and for Judge, County Criminal Court No. 5, where the competitors are Etta J. Mullin and Hector Garza. Members in good standing Feb 15th or earlier will be eligible to vote.

For those of you who could not attend the original Thursday night/Friday night/all-day-Saturday screening, this will be a chance to see exactly how the process works. Each candidate will have three minutes to speak and then we will open the floor for three questions per candidate. We will vote and ratify the newly endorsed candidates then and there.

For any questions, please contact Omar Narvaez, Political Affairs Chair at ActivistOmar@gmail.com.

Coming Right Up: Runoffs

At our March meeting — Tuesday, March 16, Ojeda's, arrive early and get a good seat! — we will choose a candidate in two races in which our endorsee did not make the runoff: Judge, County Criminal Court No. 5: Etta J. Mullin or Hector H. Garza, and Judge, 203rd District Court: Susan Anderson or Teresa Hawthorne. Members in good standing by February 15 will be eligible to vote.

Then we'll work for the two new endorsees, along with the five original endorsees who also face a runoff:
County Judge: Larry Duncan
District Judge, 134th Dist: Dale R. Tillery
Judge, Criminal Court No. 8: Tina Yoo
Judge, Probate Court No. 1:
Brenda Hull Thompson
Constable, Pct. 5: Jaime Cortes

Remember: The Primary Runoff Election is Tuesday, April 13, with early voting from April 5-9; check the Dallas County Elections Website or the Dallas Morning News for all voting locations.

Democrats With No Primary Opponents
On Saturday, April 17, 10 a.m. at the Resource Center Dallas, we will meet, screen, and endorse those Democrats who had no primary opponents, including Rafael Anchia, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Grier Raggio, Allen Vaught, and Robert Miklos. Join us to meet all the Texas Democrats who are interested in receiving our endorsement for the general election.

Then join us in working like..well, Democrats...to TURN TEXAS BLUE!

And the Winners Are:

In the 21+ hours spent screening potential candidates for the 2010 Democratic primary (see article on page —), the Stonewall endorsement committee and many other Stonewall members interviewed well over 100 people and gave the nod to 58.

Here, race by race, are the Stonewall-endorsed winners; congratulations all!

Governor: Bill White
 Agriculture Commissioner: Hank Gilbert
 Cong. Dist. 3: John Lingenfelder
 Cong Dist. 5: Tom Berry
 Cong. Dist. 26: Neil Durrance
 Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals,
 Place 6: Keith Hampton
 State Representatives:

District 102: Carol Kent
 District 105: Loretta Haldenwang
 District 108: Peter Schulte

Justice, 5th Court of Appeals:
 Place 4: Bonnie Goldstein
 Place 5: Larry Praeger

District Judge:
 68th: Martin Hoffman
 116th: Tonya Parker
 191st: Gena Slaughter
 193rd: Carl Ginsberg
 194t: Ernie White
 256th: David Lopez
 265th: Mark Stolz
 291st Susan Hawk
 292nd: Larry Mitchell
 2908th: Emily Tobolowsky
 363rd: Tracy Holmes

Criminal District Judge:
 Court No. 7: Mike Snipes

Family District Judge:
 301st: Lynn Cherry

302nd: Tena Callahan
 304th: William "Bill" Mazur
 330th: Andrea Plumlee

Judge, County Court At Law
 No. 3: Sally Montgomery
 No. 5: Mark Greenberg

County Criminal Court:
 No. 3: Doug Skemp
 No. 4: Teresa Tolle
 No. 9: Peggy Hoffman

Judge, County Criminal
 Court of Appeals:
 No 2: Jeff Rosenfield

District Clerk:
 Gary Fitzsimmons

County Clerk: John Warren
 County Treasurer:

Joe Wells

County Commissioner,

Pct. 4: Elba Garcia

Justice of the Peace
 Pct 2, Pl. 2: Wesley Johnson
 Pct 4, Pl. 1: Mary Abeyta
 Pct 4, Pl. 2: Katy Hubener

Constable,
 Pct. 2: Jerry Pittman

County Chair:
 Darlene Ewing

STONEWALL



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The Stonewall Advocate is a monthly publication of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. To contact the editor, e-mail Kenneth Denson at kenneth.denson@stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org. No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission.

President Erin Moore
Vice President Jay Narey
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SDD Annual Memberships:
 \$35 General Membership
 \$120 Truman Level
 \$300 Jefferson Level
 \$600 Kennedy Level
 \$1,200 Roosevelt Level

To join or renew, visit
www.stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org

* Reminder: August General Meeting
 Tuesday, March 16th, at 6:30 p.m.
 at Ojeda's Restaurant



Happy St. Patrick's Day!