

Equality '98

A Voter Guide published by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus PAC

FIGHT the Extreme Right: VOTE Tuesday, November 3!

As more and more Americans come out of the proverbial closet, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee is once again engaged in an ambitious plan to get voters to the polls, train volunteers and provide well-researched recommendations for fair-minded Houston area voters. The Caucus PAC wants you to have the data you need to be an informed voter. Our advocacy and education efforts continue as well.

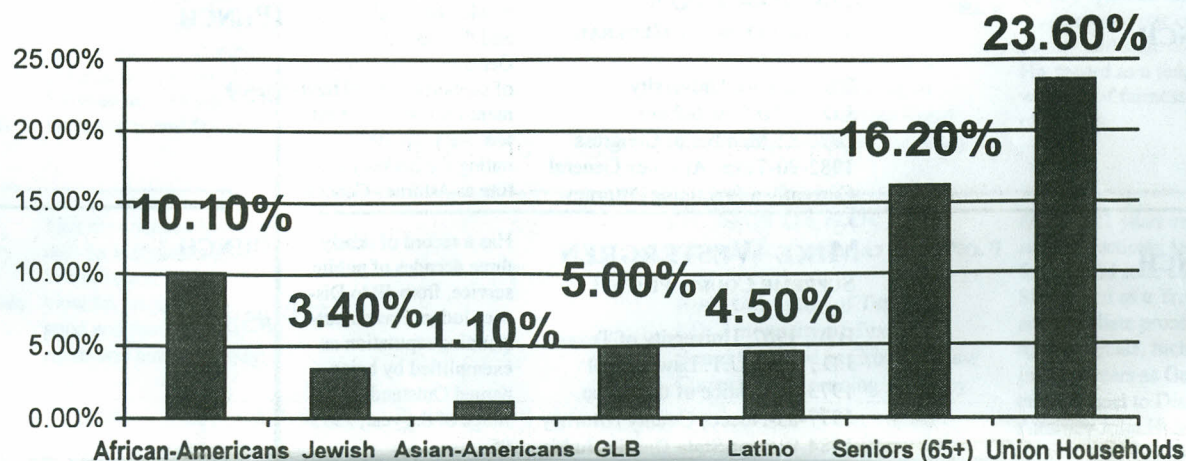
YOUR VOTE, along with the votes of your family and friends will determine whether we move forward or lose ground in our march toward freedom, justice and equality. According to "Out and Voting:

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Vote in Congressional House Elections, 1990-1996," a study recently published by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute, the GLB vote in national elections is large and growing, from 1.3% in 1990 to a high of 5% in 1996. This compares strikingly with the votes of other ethnic, religious and racial minorities (see chart at right). It is larger than the Jewish, Asian and Latino vote. Given the persistence of the closet, it is likely that the GLB vote is even larger. Another study shows that the GLB vote represents 5% of actual voters nationwide and 9% of voters in medium-sized cities (populations from 50,000-500,000).

Caucus volunteers devoted over 200 volunteer hours this summer screening candidates and finalizing recommendations on which candidates deserve your vote based upon their support for equal treatment of

from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute:

Voting Group Percentage of Total Voters in 1996 Congressional Elections



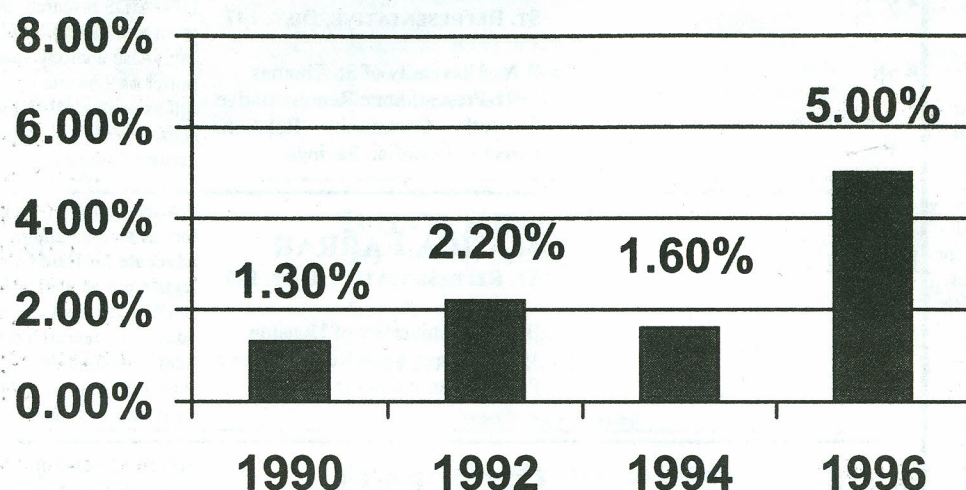
Percentages represent those voters who self-identified as a member of each group.

Percentages represent those voters who self-identified as a member of each group.

this summer screening candidates and finalizing recommendations on which candidates deserve your vote based upon their support for equal treatment of all people as well as their ability to get elected.

0.00% African-Americans Jewish Asian-Americans GLB Latino Seniors (65+) Union Households
Percentages represent those voters who self-identified as a member of each group.
Source: VNS data NOTE: The voting groups represented here are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute:
Percentage of GLB Self-Identified Voters



Percentages represent those voters who self-identified as Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual (in VNS/VRS Questionnaires)

Source: VRS/VNS

“We must scrupulously guard the civil rights and civil liberties of all citizens, whatever their background. We must remember that any oppression, any injustice, any hatred, is a wedge designed to attack our civilization.”

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Mattox continues to pull ahead in Attorney General race

Former Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox, a longtime fighter for equality for all people, continues to pull ahead in the polls in his bid to regain the job of the state’s top lawyer.

Yarbrough, Laster races critical to maintaining progressive, fair-minded majority in State Legislature

The election of Incumbent State Representative Ken Yarbrough and State Rep. candidate Mike Laster may make the difference between progressive control of the Legislature and extremist Warren Chisum controlling the agenda.

CAUCUS PAC ENDORSED CANDIDATES

Sheila Jackson Lee U.S. Rep., District 18	Mario Gallegos State Senate, District 6	Bill Connolly 245 th Family District Court	Bruce Mosier Civil Court-at-Law No. 2
Hill Kemp U.S. Rep., District 22	State Representatives: Ron Wilson, Dist 131	Jacqueline Smith 246 th Family District Court	Ron Johnson Criminal Ct-at-Law No. 1
Ken Bentsen U.S. Rep., District 25	Scott Hochberg, Dist 132	David Mendoza, Jr. 262 nd Criminal Dist. Court	Leslie Ribnik Criminal Ct-at-Law No. 2
Garry Mauro Governor	Michael Laster, Dist 134	Hugh Butler 263 rd Criminal Dist. Court	Hannah Chow Criminal Ct-at-Law No. 5
Jim Mattox Texas Attorney General	Debra Danburg, Dist 137	Donald Sepolio 270 th Civil District Court	Al Leal Criminal Ct-at-Law No. 6
Mike Westergren Supreme Court Place 1	Ken Yarbrough, Dist 138	Reginald McKamie 281 st Civil District Court	Susan Spruce Criminal Ct-at-Law No. 7
David Van Os Supreme Court Place 3	Senfronia Thompson, 141	Sandra Peake 308 th Family District Court	Dalia Stokes County Probate Ct No. 3
Jerry Scarbrough Supreme Court Place 4	Rick Noreiga, Dist 145	Bruce Kessler 311 th Family District Court	Keith King District Clerk
Charlie Baird Ct of Criminal Appeals #1	Garnet Coleman, Dist 147	Geoffrey "Jeff" Hutson 14 th Court of Appeals	Teresa V. Ramirez 313 th Family District Court
Winston Cochran Ct of Criminal Appeals #2	Jessica Farrar, Dist 148	Phillip R. Livingston 157 th Civil District Court	Carolyn Day Hobson Harris County Clerk
Charlotte Coffelt St Education Board Dist 8	George Ellis 1 st Court of Appeals	Terry O'Rourke Harris County Judge	Ora Frasier Harrison Tax Assessor-Collector
	Geoffrey "Jeff" Hutson 14 th Court of Appeals	Steve Herskowitz Civil Court-at-Law No. 1	Yolanda Navarro Flores County Treasurer
	Phillip R. Livingston 157 th Civil District Court		
	Terrance Windham 183 rd Criminal District Ct		

PUNCH

#5

SHEILA JACKSON LEE *
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 18

B.S., Yale University
J.D., Univ. of Virginia Law School
1989-1994-Houston City Council
1994-Present, Member of Congress

A co-sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, has long been a strong supporter of equal rights. Serves on the Judiciary Committee (deals with Hate Crimes Legislation).

PUNCH

#6

HILL KEMP
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 22

B.S., Louisiana State Univ.
1982-88, State Representative
Small Business Owner

With a good record as a State Representative, Kemp deserves our support because of his public stand for equality. He is a active environmentalist as well.

PUNCH

#6

KEN BENTSEN
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 25

1987-1994-Investment Banker
1990-1993-Chair, Harris County Democratic Party
1994-Present, Member of Congress

Serves on Budget Committee and Banking and Financial Services Committee. His Congressional voting record is one of fairness and equal treatment and he has pledged to vote for ENDA.

PUNCH

#10

GARRY MAURO
GOVERNOR

BBA, Texas A&M University
J.D., Univ. of Texas Law School
1983-Present, Land Commissioner

As Land Commissioner in 1987, enacted a non-discrimination in hiring policy including sexual orientation, making Land Office the first state agency to do so. Is and has been strong supporter of hate crime legislation.

PUNCH

#16

JIM MATTOX
TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL

BBA, Baylor University
J.D., SMU Law School
1976-82-Member of Congress
1982-90-Texas Attorney General
Currently a Practicing Attorney

First as State Rep., then as Member of Congress and then as Attorney General, he has a record of supporting equal treatment for Gays and Lesbians. He supported eliminating the Sodomy Statute as Attorney General.

PUNCH

#31

MIKE WESTERGREN
SUPREME COURT, PLACE 1

B.A., 1967, University of Texas
J.D., 1970, U.T. Law School
1973-76, Justice of the Peace
1977-83-Nueces County Attorney
1984-Present-State District Judge

Has a record of nearly three decades of public service, from JP to District Judge. Has an outstanding reputation as exemplified by being named Outstanding Judge of the year, 1995-96.

PUNCH

#58

RON WILSON
ST. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 131

1972-Present -State Representative
Presently a Practicing Attorney

A senior member of the Legislature, Wilson had pledged to co-sponsor and strongly advocate hate crimes legislation and to fight the anti-gay adoption legislation.

PUNCH

#58

SCOTT HOCHBERG
ST. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 132

M.S., Rice University
1992-Present, State Representative
Software Consultant

The principal sponsor of Hate Crimes legislation in the State House of Representatives, Hochberg is a strong advocate for fair and equal treatment of all people and a capable legislator.

PUNCH

#59

MICHAEL LASTER
ST. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 134

B.A., University of Texas
J.D., Univ. of Houston Law Center
Presently a Practicing Attorney

Strong advocate of patients' right to choose their own doctor, Laster has an outstanding record of community activism. He will support the Hate Crimes bill and the Texas Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

PUNCH

#59

DEBRA DANBURG
ST. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 137

B.A., University of Houston
J.D., University of Houston
1979-Present, St. Representative
Presently a Practicing Attorney

Author of Texas Employment Non-Discrimination Act and co-sponsor of Hate Crimes bill, she has long been strong, outspoken advocate for repealing Sodomy Statute. Strong supporter of the Hate Crimes bill as well as other equal rights legislation.

PUNCH

#59

KEN YARBROUGH
ST. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 138

Attended Purdue University
Executive Director, Plumber's Education Council

Recognized as an outstanding proponent for Hate Crimes legislation. Also a strong supporter of the other equal rights legislation. He has been a friend and supporter of civil rights causes.

PUNCH

#58

SENFRONIA THOMPSON
ST. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 141

1974-Present, State Representative
Presently a Practicing Attorney

Longtime and strong supporter of the Hate Crimes bill as well as other equal rights legislation. She has been a friend and supporter of civil rights causes.

PUNCH

#37

DAVID VAN OS
SUPREME COURT PLACE 3

B.A., University of Texas
J.D., Univ. of Texas Law School
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Twenty-two years representing real people at all levels of the legal system, administrative, trial and appellate. His background as small-firm lawyer representing people, not corporations, will add balance.

PUNCH

#40

JERRY SCARBROUGH
SUPREME COURT PLACE 4

J.D., Baylor Univ. Law School
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Has broad experience as a lawyer, elected judge and small business owner. This unique combination of experiences will bring much needed diversity to Texas' highest civil court.

PUNCH

#44

CHARLIE BAIRD
CT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS NO. 1

BBA, 1976, University of Texas
J.D., 1980-South Texas Law School
1990-Present, Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

Highest-rated statewide judge according to Houston Bar Assn. Known for balance and fairness, he is an outspoken supporter of fairness and equality. He is the senior member of the nine-member Court of Criminal Appeals.

PUNCH

#47

WINSTON COCHRAN
CT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS NO. 2

B.A., Columbia University
J.D., University of Texas
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Has over 18 years of experience as both a prosecutor and defense counsel. His opponent has no prosecution experience. Has published over 230 criminal appellate cases while his opponent has not published any.

PUNCH

#54

CHARLOTTE COFFELT
ST. EDUCATION BOARD, DIST. 8

B.A., University of Houston
Former Public School Teacher

A former member of the Spring I.S.D. Board of Education, Coffelt is committed to ensuring safe schools for ALL students.

PUNCH

#56

MARIO GALLEGOS
STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 6

1969-91 — Houston Firefighter
1991-94 — State Representative
1995-Present — State Senator

A co-sponsor of the Hate Crimes bill in the last Legislative Session, Gallegos has proven to be an ardent supporter of equal rights for Gays and Lesbians.

PUNCH

#59

RICK NOREIGA
ST. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 145

B.A., University of Houston
M.P.A., Harvard University
Lobbyist, Houston Industries

Has pledged to be a strong supporter of the Hate Crimes bill as well as other equal rights legislation.

PUNCH

#58

GARNET COLEMAN
ST. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 147

B.A., University of St. Thomas
1991-Present, State Representative
Presently Community Relations Director, Guardian Savings

Recognized as an outstanding proponent for HIV/AIDS research, treatment and education funding. Also a strong supporter of the Hate Crimes bill as well as other equal rights legislation. A great consensus-builder.

PUNCH

#58

JESSICA FARRAR
ST. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST. 148

B.Arch., University of Houston
1995-Present, State Representative
Presently an Architect

Praised by fellow legislators as an outstanding advocate for Hate Crimes legislation as well as HIV/AIDS and breast cancer education, research and treatment funding. Strong supporter of civil rights for Gays and Lesbians.

PUNCH

#65

GEORGE ELLIS
1ST COURT OF APPEALS

B.A., Ohio State University
J.D., Univ. of Texas Law School
Certified* Mediator, 1995
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Served 12 years on 14th Court of Appeals. He was the leading opinion writer in Texas each of the last five years of his term and believes judges must protect individual rights of citizens and enforce their contractual agreements.

PUNCH

#68

GEOFFREY "JEFF" HUTSON
14TH COURT OF APPEALS

B.A., University of St. Thomas
J.D., South Texas College of Law
Board Certified Criminal Law Specialist
Currently a Practicing Attorney

The former briefing attorney for the First Court of Appeals, prepared proposed appellate opinions, which, coupled with a practice in civil, criminal and family trial courts, makes him uniquely qualified to serve.

PUNCH

#80

PHILLIP R. LIVINGSTON
157TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

B.A., Colorado College
J.D., Univ. of Houston Law Center
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Has more than 12 years of experience as a business trial lawyer and 5 years as a member of the State Bar Grievance Committee.

PUNCH

#89

TERRANCE WINDHAM
183RD CRIMINAL DISTRICT CT.

B.A., Bishop College
J.D., St. Mary's University
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Rates "Well-Qualified" in Houston Bar Assn. poll. His diverse legal experience, both in prosecution and defense, has provided him with the wisdom to balance the rights of the accused with the right of society to exact justice.

PUNCH

#124

BILL CONNOLLY
245TH FAMILY DISTRICT COURT

B.A., University of Windsor
J.D., South Texas College of Law
Adjunct Law Professor
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Has over 18 years of experience in Family, Juvenile, Civil Trial and Civil Appellate law. He stands for sensible and impartial decisions for families in crisis and will streamline the docket for efficiency.

PUNCH

#127

JACQUELINE SMITH
246TH FAMILY DISTRICT COURT

B.A., University of Wisconsin
J.D., Univ. of Houston Law Center
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Her thirteen years of representing family law clients makes her better qualified than her opponent, a tax lawyer.

PUNCH

#141

DAVID MENDOZA, JR.
262ND CRIMINAL DISTRICT CT.

B.A., University of Houston
J.D., South Texas College of Law
Former Presiding Judge of 14 Harris County Criminal Courts
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Rates "Best-Qualified" as a judge and attorney. Has handled over 35,000 criminal cases and over 450 jury trials. He brings experience, integrity and fairness to the bench.

PUNCH

#144

HUGH BUTLER
263RD CRIMINAL DISTRICT CT.

B.S., Western Illinois University
M.B.A., Old Dominion University
J.D., Texas College of Law
Board Certified, Bankruptcy Law
Currently a Practicing Attorney

His has extensive experience in Criminal Law, Commercial Law, Bankruptcy and Employment Discrimination Law. This Vietnam veteran stands for integrity and fairness.

PUNCH

#150

DONALD SEPOLIO
270TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

B.A., University of Central Florida
J.D., South Texas College of Law
Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law
Currently a Practicing Attorney

This experienced lawyer says he will stand up everyday and strike a blow for justice, equality, good and fairness, civil rights and human dignity.

REGINALD MCKAMIE

As a Certified Public

PUNCH

#195

BRUCE MOSIER
CIVIL COURT-AT-LAW No. 2

B.B.A., University of Houston
J.D., University of Houston
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Has an outstanding 33 year record practicing law in Harris County and Texas Civil Courts. He has a track record of being hard-working and fair.

PUNCH

#204

RON JOHNSON
CRIMINAL COURT-AT-LAW No. 1

B.A., Sam Houston State Univ.
J.D., University of Houston
Former Assistant District Attorney
Former Chief Prosecutor, Crim. Ct.
Currently a Practicing Attorney

This native Houstonian has 9 years experience as criminal law practitioner and has prosecuted over 1,000 criminal cases. Has the knowledge and experience to serve as a outstanding trial judge.

PUNCH

#207

LESLIE RIBNIK
CRIMINAL COURT-AT-LAW No. 2

B.A., Rice University
J.D., South Texas College of Law
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Practicing criminal and civil trial law here since 1989, responsible for hundreds of misdemeanor, felony and appeals cases, including capital murder cases.

PUNCH

#216

HANNAH CHOW
CRIMINAL COURT-AT-LAW No. 5

B.A., University of Houston
J.D., South Texas College of Law
Currently a Practicing Attorney
1987-Present, Judge, Criminal Court-at-Law No. 5

Judge Chow has a proven track record in this court trying misdemeanor and minor felony cases. She has been fair and just and the Houston Bar Association voted her "Well-Qualified."

PUNCH

#219

AL LEAL
CRIMINAL COURT-AT-LAW No. 6

B.S., University of Houston
J.D., University of Houston
Former Judge, Criminal Court
Currently a Practicing Attorney

He has tried over 50,000 criminal and civil cases in our city, county and state courts. His record as a judge was one of fairness and efficiency.

PUNCH

#222

SUSAN SPRUCE
CRIMINAL COURT-AT-LAW No. 7

B.A., University of Texas
J.D., University of Texas
Board Certified in Criminal Law
Currently a Practicing Attorney

She has 22 years experience practicing law in federal and state courts. She served as a Trial and appellate prosecutor for 8 years, including two years as General Counsel to District Attorney John Holmes.

DALIA STOKES

The only Board-

Board Certified in Personal Injury
Trial Law
Currently a Practicing Attorney

PUNCH

#158

REGINALD MCKAMIE
281ST CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

BS, US Merchant Marine Academy
MBA, Univ. of S. California
J.D., Univ. of Houston Law School
Currently a Practicing Attorney

As a Certified Public Accountant and experienced trial lawyer, he will be able to handle the most complex trials with efficiency.

PUNCH

#164

SANDRA PEAKE
308TH FAMILY DISTRICT COURT

B.A., University of Houston
J.D., University of Houston
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Having practiced before District Courts for over 16 years, she is sensitive to the unique issues in the family courts. She is committed to being fair and impartial without prejudice.

PUNCH

#173

BRUCE KESSLER
311TH FAMILY DISTRICT COURT

B.A., Rice University
J.D., University of Houston
Board Certified Family Law Specialist
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Former Family Court Associate Judge, he has the experience in Family Courts that is required of this position. He is committed to following the law with integrity and common sense.

PUNCH

#179

TERESA V. RAMIREZ
313TH FAMILY DISTRICT COURT

B.A., Univ. of Texas at El Paso
M.S.W., University of Houston
J.D., University of Houston
Currently a Practicing Attorney

Her 26 years of experience in the in the juvenile justice field make her exceptionally well-qualified for this position. She seeks justice for our families and our community.

PUNCH

#190

TERRY O'ROURKE
HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE

B.A., Rice University
J.D., University of Texas
M.A., Rice University

Has over 20 years of legal experience at the state, county and federal levels. A former prosecutor in the County Attorney's office and as a Texas Assistant Attorney General. Has fought to put people first.

PUNCH

#192

STEVE HERSKOWITZ
CIVIL COURT-AT-LAW NO. 1

B.B.A., University of Texas
J.D. Univ. of Texas Law School
Currently a Practicing Attorney

With an outstanding record of nine years of legal experience in civil litigation, mediation and real estate law, he's committed to applying the law in a tough, fair, and consistent manner.

Board Certified in Criminal Law
Currently a Practicing Attorney

for 8 years, including two years as General Counsel to District Attorney John Holmes.

PUNCH

#257

DALIA STOKES
COUNTY PROBATE COURT NO. 3

B.B.A., University of Texas
J.D., South Texas College of Law
Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law
Currently a Practicing Attorney

The only Board-Certified candidate in the race, her outstanding qualifications will ensure a successful operation. She has a 17 years experience in a probate practice.

PUNCH

#265

KEITH KING
DISTRICT CLERK

Ph.D., University of Illinois
M.A., Abilene Christian University
B.A., Abilene Christian University
Educator

25 years with San Jacinto College, member Harris County Historical Commission, Harris County Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association. For-mer chair of Senatorial District 15.

PUNCH

#267

CAROLYN DAY HOBSON
HARRIS COUNTY CLERK

J.D., Thurgood Marshall Law School
B.A., Texas Southern University,
Presently a Practicing Attorney

An acclaimed lawyer and community leader, has received numerous leadership awards including the South Central YMCA Services to Youth Award and the City of Houston Proclamation Award.

PUNCH

#269

ORA FRASIER HARRISON
TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

CPA, 1957
B.S., University of Tulsa, 1955
Presently a Practicing CPA

A CPA and one of the first woman partners of a major CPA firm in Texas, she is on the Board of Directors for the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants

PUNCH

#276

YOLANDA NAVARRO FLORES
HARRIS COUNTY TREASURER

J.D., University of Houston
B.A., Texas Southern University
1993-95, State Representative
Currently a Practicing Attorney

A native Houstonian and 11th of 13 children, she worked her way through college and law school appreciating the importance and value of an education.

It is now legal to take this Voter Guide into the polling booth with you. Please consider using it as a guide in making these important decisions.

If you found it helpful, please consider supporting the work of the Caucus Political Action Committee. Call 713-521-1000 for information.

Would You Vote For A Candidate Who...

... is being investigated by the Ethics Commission?

The Judge of the 245th Civil District Court (family court), rated poorly by 60% of lawyers in the 1998 Houston Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Poll, has had complaints filed with both the Harris County District Attorney and the Texas Ethics Commission alleging over 100 Class A and Class C Misdemeanors. The evidences of these crimes came from her own sworn affidavits.

... was found guilty by a jury of bankruptcy fraud?

The Judge of the 311th Civil District Court (family court) was found guilty of Bankruptcy Fraud by a federal court jury. A Federal Judge overturned the jury's verdict.

... ruled against the Log Cabin Republicans' right to fully participate in the 1998 Texas State Republican Convention?

The Texas Supreme Court Place 3 Justice wrote the opinion denying the Log Cabin Republicans' right to have a table at the 1998 Texas State Republican Convention and in so doing set back civil rights progress under the Texas Constitution at least 30 years. This Judge also makes big contributions to the Texas Christian Coalition out of his campaign account, according to public records in the political contribution and expenditure filings.

... has been sued three times for questionable conduct?

The Republican candidate for Probate Court (County Court at Law No. 3) was sued by the Houston Junior Chamber of Commerce for diverting \$90,000 and threatening to spend it. He persuaded a client to leave him her money forcing the disowned children to contest the will. He is currently being sued for malpractice.

... never practiced law before being elected?

The Judge of the County Criminal Court at Law #1 had never practiced criminal law or read the Texas Penal Code before being elected.

... has been repeatedly charged with ethical misconduct?

The Judge of the 245th Civil District Court was charged with 30 counts of ethical misconduct by the State Judicial Conduct Commission and charged with 2 counts of aggravated perjury by the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

No?

Then vote for these *fair-minded* people.

The candidates listed inside are committed to fairness for all people and share a basic belief that all Texans deserve equal opportunity, because

a basic belief that all Texans deserve equal opportunity, because
it's all about freedom, justice and equality.

VOTE

**for Freedom
for Justice
for Equality**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED