

SPECIAL EDITION



HGLPC

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

NOVEMBER 1994 GENERAL ELECTION

From the President

YOUR VOTE: THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST HATRED

BY TERRI RICHARDSON

Over the last several years, we have witnessed the resurgence of the radical right and have learned what that means in terms of our continuing struggle for equality. We have also witnessed an increase in hate-motivated crimes against gays, most notably in Houston the brutal murders of Paul Broussard and Michael Burzinski. It is fair to examine the correlation be-

for "new value" programs in the schools, but underlying their carefully turned phrases is their loud, clear message of intolerance and injustice to those who think or look or behave differently than they do.

possible for this bloodshed is within our grasp: The Vote.

Fifteen minutes out of our life to help protect the men, women, and children who fall victim to the voices of hatred is not asking a lot. Fifteen minutes is the

approximate time required to vote for candidates who have completed questionnaires, screened, and been endorsed by

vote may be all we have — but it may be all we need.

Vote the HGLPC bloc on November 8.

HIGHLIGHTS

3 THIS ELECTION CAN BE WON

4 AWARDS DINNER A SUCCESS

4 TOP FIVE REASON FOR

Our vote is our ammunition against the forces that are trying to destroy us. As individuals, our vote may be

Over the last several years, we have witnessed the resurgence of the radical right and have learned what that means in terms of our continuing struggle for equality. We have also witnessed an increase in hate-motivated crimes against gays, most notably in Houston the brutal murders of Paul Broussard and Michael Burzinski. It is fair to examine the correlation between the increased rhetoric against gays and lesbians by the radical right and the increase in hate crimes against our community. Exposing this connection may be a step toward a solution.

Babies do not emerge from the womb hating. There is no drug one can take or food one can eat to ensure that the bouncing bundle of joy will enter this world as a racist or a sexist or a homophobe. It is learned behavior, whether from interacting with family members, succumbing to the pressure of older children, or being exposed to the new breed of hatemongers who buy radio and television time. Their messages are often couched as cries for lower taxes or demands

for "new value" programs in the schools, but underlying their carefully turned phrases is their loud, clear message of intolerance and injustice to those who think or look or behave differently than they do.

Our vote is our ammunition against the forces that are trying to destroy us. As individuals, our vote may be all we have — but it may be all we need.

School boards, town commissions, and city councils throughout the United States are falling into the hands of those who scoff at the Constitution. Doctors who perform abortions are murdered in front of their clinics. Gay men are abducted, beaten, and slaughtered in their own neighborhoods. People infected with HIV are denied precious research and treatment dollars and are continuing to die in obscene numbers. And most of us just stand by, watching and feeling helpless, unaware that our first line of defense against those whose rhetoric is res-

ponsible for this bloodshed is within our grasp: The Vote.

Fifteen minutes out of our life to help protect the men, women, and children who fall victim to the voices of hatred is not asking a lot. Fifteen minutes is the

approximate time required to vote for candidates who have completed questionnaires, screened, and been endorsed by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. The candidates identified in these pages have demonstrated understanding of the issues

of importance to the gay and lesbian community. The candidates named in this newsletter stand firm on principles of fairness, equality, and non-discrimination regarding gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders. These candidates are men, women, Republicans, Democrats, black, white, and brown. But above race, gender, and party affiliation, these candidates, when elected to office, will serve our community as antitheses to the radical right.

Our vote is our ammunition against the forces that are trying to destroy us. As individuals, our

vote may be all we have — but it may be all we need.

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HGLPC ENDORSED CANDIDATES

Richard Fisher	United States Senate
Sheila Jackson Lee	United States Representative District 18
Ken Bentsen	United States Representative District 25
Gene Green	United States Representative District 29
Ann Richards	Governor
Garry Mauro	Commissioner of the General Land Office
Marvin Gregory	Commissioner of Agriculture
Alice Oliver Parrott	Texas Supreme Court, Place 2
Jimmy Carroll	Texas Supreme Court, Place 3
Rodney Ellis	State Senate District 13
John Whitmire	State Senate District 15
Scott Hochberg	State Representative District 132
Bruce Reeves	State Representative District 134
Debra Danburg	State Representative District 137
Garnet Coleman	State Representative District 147
Jessica Farrar	State Representative District 148
Helen Cassidy	1st Court of Appeals, Place 1
George Ellis	14th Court of Appeals, Place 3
Ed Cogburn	14th Court of Appeals, Place 5
Patrice Barron	14th Court of Appeals, Place 6
Patricia Lasher	Judge, 113th Judicial District
Susan Spruce	Judge, 180th Judicial District
Laura Ingle	Judge, 182nd Judicial District
Carl Walker, Jr.	Judge, 185th Judicial District
David Jennings Willis	Judge, 189th Judicial District
Eileen O'Neill	Judge, 190th Judicial District
Donna Roth	Judge, 234th Judicial District
Beth McGregor	Judge, 245th Judicial District
John Peavy, Jr.	Judge, 246th Judicial District
Woody Densen	Judge, 248th Judicial District
Ruben Guerrero	Judge, 263rd Judicial District
Charles "Ernie" Hill	Judge, 269th Judicial District
Willard Tinsley	Judge, 281st Judicial District
A. Robert Hinojosa	Judge, 308th Judicial District
Sherri Cothrun	Judge, 309th Judicial District
Deborah Wright	Judge, 310th Judicial District

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Deborah Wright	Judge, 310th Judicial District
Dinah Bailey	Judge, 311th Judicial District
Sandra Peebles	Judge, 312th Judicial District
Ramona John	Judge, 313th Judicial District
Berta Mejia	Judge, 315th Judicial District
Vince Ryan	Harris County Judge
Carolyn Day Hobson	Judge, Harris County Civil Court No. 3
Cynthia Crowe	Judge, Harris County Civil Court No. 4
David Mendoza	Judge, Harris County Criminal Court No. 11
Norma Jean Mancha	Judge, Harris County Criminal Court No. 14
Rosemary Garza	Judge, Harris County Criminal Court No. 15
Martha Failing	Judge, Harris County Probate Court No. 2
Paul Smith	Judge, Harris County Probate Court No. 4
Kevin Newsome	District Clerk
Sheryl Roppolo	Harris County Clerk
Katy Caldwell	Harris County Treasurer
David Patronella	Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 2

HGLPC Election News is an official publication of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus which is solely responsible for its content. HGLPC Election News is published at least two times annually in even-numbered years and at least once in odd-numbered years.

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"A PARACHUTE IS LIKE YOUR MIND — IT WORKS ONLY WHEN IT'S OPEN."

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MAKE THE CAUCUS PUSHCARD AVAILABLE AT EVERY POLLING PLACE

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This Election Can Be Won

GAY CANDIDATE FACES RIGHT-WINGER IN SOUTHWEST HOUSTON RACE

Politics still scare many members of our community. The way we do politics should scare most of us. It has become popular for the liberals and the conservatives in our midst to take potshots at each other while ignoring the important work at hand. Houston is the largest city in the country with no openly gay, lesbian, or transgendered elected public official. Much smaller places have elected people from our community to positions of public responsibility. There may be some bisexuals in public office here, but they are very quiet about it. In the last four general elections we have had openly gay candidates. Last year there were six on the ballot, but none caught the ring.

If you live in West University Place, Southside Place, or Bellaire, or in Houston zip codes 77005, 77025, 77042, 77063, 77072, 77074, 77077, 77081, 77082, 77096, 77099, or 77401, or if you have friends that do,

year. Her Republican opponent from a previous race is now Reeves's opponent. He has ties to the conservative wing of the Harris County Republican Party but walks both sides of the political avenue by trying to appear to be a moderate. His scheme fails when asked publicly about reproductive choice and other gay and lesbian issues. He then takes a hard-line right-wing position.

The district is controlled by the medical professionals and technicians in the Med Center and Rice University faculty and staff. The voters in the district are disproportionately well-educated and economically secure. They are people who are not impressed by anti-choice or ultra-conservative candidates. Many of the voters there have gay or lesbian friends. Several transpersons live in the district. In short, we have a chance. To be successful, we must put forth a major effort.

RELECT REEVES

State Representative District 134
"THE CHOICE FOR CHOICE"

With **YOUR** support,
we can **ELECT**
the first openly **GAY** official
from Harris County!

District 134 includes all of:
West University,
Southside Place,
Bellaire and zip codes
77005, 77025, 77036, 77042, 77063

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If you live in West University Place, Southside Place, or Bellaire, or in Houston zip codes 77005, 77025, 77042, 77063, 77072, 77074, 77077, 77081, 77082, 77096, 77099, or 77401, or if you have friends that do, you can help Bruce Reeves go to Austin on our behalf.

This year there is only one. Bruce Reeves won the Democratic nomination for State Representative District 134. That is the first election that any of us has won! Now he faces a Republican opponent in the November General Election.

The history of that district looks hopeful. Brad Wright, a Republican, was the representative from that district before 1990. He was a major obstructionist to AIDS funding in the 1989 legislative session. Sue Schechter, who was the Democratic nominee that won in 1990 and held the position with the support of the HGLPC since then, has chosen not to run this

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Between now and the November 8 election, find out how many of your friends live in District 134, using the above zip codes and towns. Talk to them about Bruce Reeves and the election. Talk them into voting in an election we can win.

Bruce Reeves has served our community in several capacities, including Pride Week co-chair, volunteer coordinator for the Names Project, and a board member of both Montrose Activity Center and Dignity/Houston. He has been active in the Houston Outdoor Group and the Krewe of Olympus. Bruce will make a fine legislator. He deserves our support and help in this election.

To volunteer for Bruce, call 661-6271.

With **YOUR** support,
we can **ELECT**
the first openly **GAY** official
from Harris County!

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West University,
Southside Place,
Bellaire and zip codes
77005, 77025, 77036, 77042, 77063
77072, 77074, 77077, 77081, 77082
77096, 77099 and 77401.

If you live in the district,
VOTE! for Bruce Reeves!

Call your friends in the district and ask
them to **VOTE! for Bruce Reeves!**

Together **WE CAN WIN!**

Thanks for your support!

Pol. adv. paid by Bruce Reeves Campaign Fund, 4701 Wellford Dr., Bellaire, TX 77401, (713) 661-6271, Judy L. Reeves, Treasurer.



Awards Dinner a Success

MANY CANDIDATES APPEARED AT 19TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The September 24 HGLPC annual Awards Dinner was a rousing success with more than 230 in attendance, and more than \$4,300 was raised. Candidates flocked to the affair, beginning with the traditional smoke-filled corridor of power that preceded the opening of the dining room doors. Among those present were **Congressman GENE GREEN**, candidate for the 18th Congressional District **SHEILA JACKSON LEE**, 25th Congressional candidate **KEN BENTSON**, **County Treasurer KATY CALDWELL**, and District Clerk candidate **KEVIN NEWSOME**.

Texas Supreme Court, Place 2, candidate **Judge ALICE OLIVER PARROTT** was there, as was **HELEN CASSIDY**, 1st Court of Appeals, Place 1, candidate. Candidates for the 14th Court of Appeals, **ED COGBURN** (Place 5), **GEORGE ELLIS** (Place 3), and **PATRICE BARRON** (Place 6) rounded out the higher court candidates attending.

District Court candidates included **PATRICIA LASHER** (113th Civil), **SUSAN SPRUCE** (180th Criminal), **LAURA INGLE** (182nd Criminal), **Judge CARL WALKER** (185th Criminal), **Judge EILEEN**

O'NEILL (190th Civil), **DONNA ROTH** (234th Civil), **BETH MCGREGOR** (245th Family), **Judge JOHN PEAVY, Jr.** (246th Family), **CHARLES "ERNIE" HILL** (269th Civil), **WILLARD TINSLEY** (281st Civil), **Judge A. ROBERT HINIJOA** (308th Family), **DINAH BAILEY** (311th Family), **SANDRA PEEBLES** (312th Family), and **Judge BERTA MEJIA** (315th Family Juvenile). **Judge CAROLYN DAY HOBSON**, the endorsed incumbent in County Civil Court No. 3, was also on hand, celebrating her fourth HGLPC endorsement. **CYNTHIA CROWE**, Republican candidate for County

Civil Court No. 4, attended the event and was very well received.

Honors were bestowed on members who have worked diligently the past year, calling to mind the many hardworking members for whom some of those awards are named. Although the Caucus can take pride in the awards and in the great slate of endorsed candidates that were in attendance, this event was simply one more step toward our future – a future of equal protection that can be realized only with everyone's participation and vote for the endorsed candidates on November 8.

Voter Rolls Purged

IF YOU'RE NOT LISTED IN YOUR PRECINCT, YOU CAN STILL VOTE

You've made it to your polling place, only to find that your name *isn't* on the list. You can't vote, right? **WRONG!** You can still vote, but there is a special procedure. If you are willing to sign an affidavit, you get to vote. However, it's important

are 18 years or older. (2) You live in the precinct in which you are attempting to vote. (3) You are registered or attempted to register to vote in this precinct at least 30 days before the election.

Second, keep in mind that the

judge may ask questions to verify that you meet the criteria. The judges should have the necessary form for you to sign. If you do have to go through this process, ask the precinct judge for a voter registration card. The affidavit only

If you have moved in the last year or so, your name might have been purged from the voter list. Since on the affidavit you will have to give your current address, you need to be at your new precinct. Don't know your new number?

BENTSON, County Treasurer
KATY CALDWELL, and District
Clerk candidate KEVIN
NEWSOME.

Civil), SUSAN SPRUCE (180th Crimi-
nal), LAURA INGLE (182nd Crimi-
nal), Judge CARL WALKER
(185th Criminal), Judge EILEEN

Court No. 3, was also on hand,
celebrating her fourth HGLPC
endorsement. CYNTHIA CROWE,
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First, you swear that you have met the following criteria: (1) You

are 18 years or older. (2) You live in the precinct in which you are attempting to vote. (3) You are registered or attempted to register to vote in this precinct at least 30 days before the election.

Second, keep in mind that the precinct judge is required by law to let you vote. While a driver's license is not required, it's best to have it available. The precinct

judge may ask questions to verify that you meet the criteria. The judges should have the necessary form for you to sign. If you do have to go through this process, ask the precinct judge for a voter registration card. The affidavit only allows you to vote in the current election; it does not get you back on the rolls of registered voters.

If you have moved in the last year or so, your name might have been purged from the voter list. Since on the affidavit you will have to give your current address, you need to be at your new precinct. Don't know your new number? Call: County Assessor's Office 224-1919 ask for the Voter Registration Department.

14TH COURT OF APPEALS PLACE 5

VOTE ED COGBURN

- ★ TWO TO ONE WINNER,
STATE & HOUSTON BAR POLL.
- ★ ENDORSED BY THE
CHRONICLE.
- ★ HEAVY TRIAL & APPEAL
EXPERIENCE.
- ★ BOARD CERTIFIED IN TWO
SPECIALITIES.
- ★ LAW TEACHER AND WRITER

VOTE COGBURN....OF COURSE !

TOP FIVE REASONS FOR QUEER VOTING

5. **EVERY** queer vote cancels out a Radical Right vote.
4. **LARGE** numbers of queer votes convince politicians that we are to be taken seriously.
3. **WE'LL** never elect queer politicians unless all of us vote.
2. **YOU** don't get to bitch about politicians if you don't vote.
1. **THERE** won't be any polling places in the concentration camps.



Family Courts Hear Key Cases

IF YOU'RE NOT LISTED IN YOUR PRECINCT, YOU CAN STILL VOTE

How many times have you had this experience? It's November 8 and you're at your polling place to fulfill your electoral duty. Ballot in hand, HGLPC endorsement card in your pocket, you make it through the first few pages with relative ease – United States Senator, United States Representative, Governor, State Senator and Representative. Then, almost imperceptibly, your eyes begin to glaze over and indecision interferes with your self-confidence. Yes, you've reached the judicial races: a bewildering cacophony of names you don't recognize running for judicial positions you don't understand. What will you do? Vote the endorsement card or blow it off? I encourage you to vote the card because the judicial races, particularly the family district court races,

are arguably the most important ones on the ballot.

There are nine family district courts in Harris County. By legislative fiat, these courts have exclusive jurisdiction over cases arising under the Texas Family Code: divorce, child custody, child support, adoption, paternity. Only the family courts may hear these matters and the judges of these courts have tremendous discretion, especially when children are involved. In a divorce, for instance, the judge will decide how the parties' property can be fairly and equitably divided, a decision that may substantially impact an individual's financial future. If children are involved, the family court will have the power to decide custody and support matters until the child

is 18 years old. Thus, more so than other judges, family court judges have the authority to make decisions that impact upon us in the most personal way.

In addition to the sheer magnitude of their authority, the family courts are also important from the perspective of the lesbian and gay civil rights movement. In an acrimonious child custody case, "everything comes in," as the lawyers say. Any fact or innuendo is fair game for the grist mill, including the sexual orientation of the parent. We are all familiar with reports of custody, even visitation, being denied to a lesbian or gay parent; we are perhaps less aware of the number of lesbian and gay parents who do not fight for custody because of concerns that sexual

orientation will become an issue. Similarly, as more gay men and lesbians consider adoption, sexual orientation becomes an issue. It is imperative that we elect judges who will make these fundamental decisions without recourse to stereotypes or moralisms about sexual orientation.

The "good-old-boy" system in Harris County's family courts, dominated as it has been by old, white, male heterosexual judges, is crumbling. A spirit of reform is sweeping the Family Law Center, initiated in part by the candidates the Caucus has endorsed. I encourage you to stick it out to the end of the ballot and vote the endorsement card. The judges you elect today may be presiding over your case tomorrow.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE

U.S. Congress - District 18

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SHEILA JACKSON LEE

U.S. Congress - District 18



Sheila is committed to continuing the fight for equal rights for gays and lesbians.

Sheila will work for quality health care for all.

Sheila is committed to working with us on ALL issues.

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

Political ad paid for by the Sheila Jackson Lee for Congress Committee - (713)527-8821 Michael A. Caddell, Esq.-Treasurer
Pauline Edwards Higgins, Esq. Assistant Treasurer



Sheila Jackson Lee

LONGTIME ALLY RUNS FOR 18TH DISTRICT

Councilmember-At-Large Sheila Jackson Lee has supported the gay and lesbian community locally for the past five years, and she is now seeking to extend her influence to Washington with a bid for representing the 18th Congressional District. The HGLPC is endorsing Lee for the sixth time in her career—in her first race for a Federal office.

Under her leadership, the City Council Human Relations Committee has established a positive record on gay and lesbian issues. They worked successfully to remove questions regarding sexual orientation from the Houston Police Department (HPD) employment application, instituted sensitivity training for HPD officers, and drafted the City Council resolution calling on the state legislature to enact the Texas Hate Crimes Law.

Lee is an unabashedly outspoken supporter and has led the City Council in voicing concern about lesbian and gay issues. When a confrontation between ACT UP protesters and HPD officers led to

internal investigation. After the Paul Broussard murder, she brought the pertinent issues to the attention of the Houston media and worked with the gay and lesbian community to demand justice—initiating actions which led to hate crimes legislation.

Lee has demonstrated her support by being actively involved with the gay and lesbian community. As a member of the HGLPC, a participant in several Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride Parades, and a guest lecturer at a Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) conference on homophobia, she has repeatedly made herself seen and heard as an avid proponent of equal rights and fair treatment.

A Yale graduate and University of Virginia Law School alumna, Lee has made Houston her home and remained in touch with the issues that confront the diverse members of our community. Her strong record and vocal support make her the outstanding choice to represent our community in the United

Gene Green

INCUMBENT RUNS FOR SECOND TERM

Representative Gene Green seeks a second term representing Houston's 29th Congressional District—continuing the work he has started during his first two years in the House of Representatives.

Green's voting record has consistently remained supportive of the gay and lesbian community. In particular, he advocated entirely lifting the ban on gays in the military, and he has helped ensure funding for non-discriminatory sex education. As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, Green has numerous opportunities to influence the

Congressional position on fair treatment for gays and lesbians in America's classrooms.

Green, a native Houstonian, holds degrees from the University of Houston and the Bates College of Law, and he has served in both the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate. He has been recognized for his efforts in terms of consumer rights, law enforcement, education, and senior citizens' issues. Green's strong record during his first term in Federal office has helped him win the HGLPC's endorsement.

GENE GREEN

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Charles "Ernie"
HILL

269th District Court

ENDORSED BY HGLPC

VOTE NOV. 8

PAID FOR BY ERNIE HILL CAMPAIGN

GENE GREEN

**DEMOCRAT
FOR
CONGRESS
DISTRICT 29**

POLITICAL AD PAID FOR BY THE GENE GREEN CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN
LABOR DONATED



After all the Effort, Let's Vote

CANDIDATES UNDERGO THOROUGH SCREENING PROCESS

Beginning in the Fall of 1993, as prospective candidates began checking out the competition for party primaries and petitions for judicial races were circulated, HGLPC started preparing for another election year. Of all the endorsement processes to which candidates subject themselves, HGLPC remains one of the most inclusive and thorough. All candidates, regardless of party, are contacted and invited to screen with the Caucus. Each candidate begins his or her own screening by completing a questionnaire that solicits information important to HGLPC – awareness of the issues, election financing, etc. – and pledging to give open and equal recognition of the HGLPC endorsement.

Candidates then met with screening panels for interviews and explored issues relevant to the officeholder's performance or the office seeker's plans once elected. Candidates less than comfortable with gay and lesbian issues were generally put at ease with the open format and the opportunity to learn about our community, while well-versed candidates were challenged to explore the issues further. In other words, the panels took their job seriously and the candidates responded in kind.



**Ann
Richards**
GOVERNOR

*Thanks
You*
for

Your Support

John Paul Barnich
Sidney J. Braquet
Rudy Burnette
Jane Cherry
Marion Coleman

Bud Luther
Gary McCoy
Dottie Newton
John Nix
Gene Oliver

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The results of the screening panels were reviewed by the full Screening Committee in late January, and the candidates and Caucus came together for a long night on February 2 for the Primary endorsements. Production of the Election Newsletter, distribution of pushcards, putting out yardsigns, working the polls – all led to a successful Primary Election and the opportunity to start all over again with additional screenings and endorsements for the November 8 General Election. Following the September 7 Endorsement Meeting, every candidate was assigned a liaison from HGLPC to facilitate ad submissions, yardsign distribution, mailings, and overall communication.

So, after countless volunteer hours from the community, here we are on the verge of effectively converting that effort to the reality of winning elections. It all hinges on just one final step – your vote and the votes of everyone you know.



*Thank
You*
for
Your Support

John Paul Barnich
Sidney J. Braquet
Rudy Burnette
Jane Cherry
Marion Coleman
Hon. Debra Danburg
Alice Evergreen
Phyllis Randolph Frye
Pat Gandy
Michael J. Garrett
Sam Gutierres
Gene Harrington
Tracy Harting
Ken Hertz
Kathy Hubbard
Mathew Huston
Mitchell Katine
Tony Knight
Phil Lacy
Larry Lingle
Sue Lovell

Bud Luther
Gary McCoy
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John Nix
Gene Oliver
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Annise Parker
Shelley Porter
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Terri Richardson
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Bill Scott
Donald Skipwith
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Ella Tyler
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Larry West
David Westerkamp
Bill White

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Don't vote the straight Democratic ticket-

TWO GOP CANDIDATES WIN HGLPC ENDORSEMENT

Readers accustomed to voting the straight Democratic ticket each year should strongly consider abandoning that practice in the upcoming election. Included in this year's list of Caucus endorsees are two promising Republican judicial candidates, Cynthia Crowe and David Jennings Willis.

Crowe is running against Democratic incumbent Charles Coussons for Judge of County Civil Court-at-Law No. 4. In her speeches and campaign literature, Crowe emphasizes Harris County's need to "clean up its courthouse," recalling the recent media attention focused on her opponent for the "long-time practice of awarding huge fees to court-appointed commissioners

who, in turn, have rewarded these incumbent judges with hefty campaign contributions." She also stresses the importance of

curtailing frivolous lawsuits through the application of sanctions. Even the often overbroad

plies, "Absolutely not. Just as members of your community do not necessarily share identical views on all issues, I, like many Republicans do not embrace every single statement in the Republican Party Platform. However, the general philosophy of the Republican Party, with its emphasis on the protection of individual rights, is one I agree with entirely."

Willis, a candidate for the 189th Civil District Court, has practiced general civil law in Houston for over 15 years. This is his first run for political office and Willis feels that he is ideally positioned for a win November 8. "My broad background equips me well for the job," he says. "I have had the

with Willis's performance before the Caucus screening panel earlier this year. "I was struck by the fact that, although I might disagree with Willis on other unrelated issues, I could not find fault with his approach to issues that matter the most to the gay and lesbian community. He simply believes that government should stay out of people's lives, and he applies that consistently, even acknowledging that the government has no legitimate interest in prohibiting individuals from marrying whomever they choose."

This is not the first time the HGLPC has

endorsed Republican candidates, but such endorsements are admittedly rare. Terri

Richardson, president of the Caucus, would ardently welcome

the battleground for our civil rights movement. "We are fighting for basic rights, and against hatred. Many Republicans are beginning to realize that hatred is inconsistent with true 'family values,' and that is a trend we need to encourage."

"Many Republicans are beginning to realize that hatred is inconsistent with true 'family values,' and that is a trend we need to encourage."

opportunity to represent clients from all walks of life – plaintiffs and defendants, business and

People's Home Health, Inc.



campaign literature, Crowe emphasizes Harris County's need to "clean up its courthouse," recalling the recent media attention focused on her opponent for the "long-time practice of awarding huge fees to court-appointed commissioners who, in turn, have rewarded these incumbent judges with hefty campaign contributions." She also stresses the importance of

curtailing frivolous lawsuits through the application of sanctions. Even the often exorbitant cost of legitimate litigation may be lowered, she says, by greater use of mediation and proper management of motion dockets.

Crowe wants gays and lesbians, and all citizens, to be confident that she will treat everyone who appears in her court with impartiality, rule decisively and in a timely manner, follow the law, and work hard. Her Republican affiliation is based on her fiscal conservatism and her belief that government should remain confined to its limited, albeit important, role. "Individual freedom, hard work and personal responsibility – basic to free society – are also basic to effective government," she explains.

Asked whether Republicanism is antithetical to the cause of gay and lesbian civil rights, Crowe re-

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opportunity to represent clients from all walks of life – plaintiffs and defendants, business and consumers, small as well as large companies." His opponent is Carolyn Marks Johnson, the Democratic incumbent, who has not sought the endorsement of the HGLPC.

Willis chose to run as a Republican primarily because he believes that "more often than not, the least government is the best government." He is an unshakable supporter of individual civil liberties. "The law must guarantee all citizens equal protection and due process," he asserts, "irrespective of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or any other irrelevant factor. Judges must insure that our laws are administered with fairness and compassion," he adds.

Ralph Sikes, a Democratic HGLPC member, was impressed

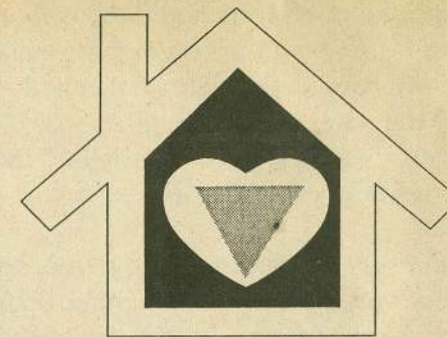
interest in prohibiting individuals from marrying whomever they choose."

This is not the first time the HGLPC has endorsed Republican candidates, but such endorsements are admittedly rare. Terri

Richardson, president of the Caucus, would ardently welcome more Republican candidates to the screening process. "If anything, a Republican candidate may actually have an advantage over a Democrat in the screening process – I mean, considering the current power structure of the Republican party, we can't help being impressed with someone who is willing to buck the system and screen with us despite the potential repercussions."

More important, Richardson adds, is the chance to expand

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Dear Community Member,

As City Council Member for District "C", Vince Ryan did more to help persons with HIV than any other politician in Harris County. Vince was directly responsible for securing funding for the A. F. H. Stone Soup Food Pantry, the Beecher-Wilson Aids Apartment Complex, and a number of other programs and projects which have benefited persons living with HIV. When neighbors opposed the placement of the apartment complex in their neighborhood, Vince stood firm.

For years the HIV affected and infected community has been at war with the present county administration which "controls" a ten million dollar plus Ryan White Budget. The mismanagement of that funding by the present administration has gained national attention. There is no indication that things would change under a Bob Eckels administration. In short, the upcoming election for Harris County Judge is the most important election in the history of our community!

Vince is running against a candidate who is well funded by the Jon Lindsay / Steven Hotze branch of the Republican party. Vince needs your help.

It is crucial that we win this election.



**It takes more than
wearing a red ribbon
to help people with
HIV/AIDS ...**

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- Former Assistant District Attorney
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- Practiced in State and Federal courts
- Experienced in civil and criminal trial and appellate law

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- Assistant District Attorney, Harris County D. A.'s Office
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Helen Cassidy

JUDGED SUPERIOR FOR APPEALS COURT

Helen Cassidy is a Democratic candidate for Judge, 1st Court of Appeals, Place 1. The nine-member court hear appeals from a 14-county area. Cassidy, 53, is a native Texan and a 30-year resident of Houston. She is the best candidate in this race for two basic reasons. First, her education and experience make her eminently qualified as a judicial candidate. Second, her outstanding record as

a longtime human rights activist is a measure of her character.

Cassidy, who is board certified in civil appellate law, has spent the past 10 years with the 14th Court of Appeals, where she is chief staff attorney. Prior to that, she was an administrative judge with the EEOC. She is the past chair of the Appellate Section of the Houston Bar Association. Cassidy has won

the Texas Bar poll and both Houston Bar polls. She has the endorsements of major law enforcement, community, and bar association groups. Her human rights record spans 23 years, beginning in 1971 with her election as the first president of the Houston Area chapter of the National Organization for Women (the first national civil rights organization to publicly endorse

lesbian and gay rights) and continuing throughout the years across the political spectrum from protest marches against Anita Bryant in the '70s to Q-Patrol in the '90s.

A vote for Helen Cassidy is a vote for experience, honesty, and fairness. She will be a judge of which you can be proud.

Susan Spruce

HIGHLY QUALIFIED FOR CRIMINAL COURT

With 18 years of diverse experience in Texas courtrooms and board certification in criminal law, Susan Spruce is clearly qualified to be judge of Harris County's 180th Criminal District Court. Susan is a former prosecutor in the Harris County District Attorney's office

who has served as a trial and appellate attorney. For the last 10 years she has been in private practice handling criminal, juvenile, and civil law cases, and is immediate past president of the Juvenile Law Section of the Houston Bar Association. Susan's broad legal exper-

ience will make her a tough, fair, and knowledgeable judge.

In addition to her many endorsements, Spruce won the Houston Bar Association Poll by a margin of almost 2 to 1.

While Susan has earned the respect of the Houston Bar Association, it is her commitment to respect for everyone – and her familiarity with the gay and lesbian community and the unique situations it faces – that make her election to the bench so important.

ENDORSED BY:

The Association of Women Attorneys
The Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus



A vote for Helen Cassidy



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ENDORSED BY:

The Association of Women Attorneys
The Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus
Women's Political Caucus of Houston



ELECT _____

**Susan
SPRUCE**



180th Criminal District Court JUDGE

Vote March 8th Democratic Primary

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**A vote for Helen Cassidy
is a vote for excellent
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honesty, and hard work.**



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Cassidy
for Judge**

1st Court of Appeals, Pl. 1

- Board Certified, Civil Appellate Law
- Winner, State Bar Poll and *both* Houston Bar Polls
- Former Administrative Judge, EEOC
- Endorsed by *The Houston Chronicle*, *Houston Post*, and major law enforcement and community groups
- Native Texan, 53 years old, one son

Paid for by the Helen Cassidy Campaign, 2624 Wesleyan, Suite #577, Houston, Texas 77027, Daryl L. Moore, Treasurer.



Double the vote

TALK IT UP TO STRETCH THE GAY VOTE

Most of the early organizers in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender movements came from other minority struggles, the women's movement and the antiwar organizations that preceded our own efforts. Many were non-black workers in local NAACP organizations, volunteers in women's voter registration drives, wheatpasters for antiwar demonstrations. The first lesson was to be sensitive to political candidates from the other struggles. The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus would not support the candidacy of a racist or a sexist person. The second lesson is how to stretch our vote to be more effective support for our endorsed candidates.

Vote stretch is easily accomplished. Simply understand that your family members, friends, work companions, and the other students where you go to school do not belong to organizations that screen and endorse candidates. When they go to vote, they are faced by a long and scary ballot with names that they may only have seen on an illegal sign at the intersection where they turn right on the way to work. By offering to share the wisdom gleaned in our screening process, you are doing them a favor. Few endorsement processes are as thorough as the HGLPC's. To get the HGLPC endorsement, candidates must be qualified for the position they

seek. If there is any question about qualifications, there are hot debates on the floor of the Caucus on endorsement night. Candidates are frequently rejected by the Caucus for racist or other prejudicial remarks and actions.

There is a new round of surveys out that places our numbers at three percent or less. If that is true, all of us were in New York for the Gay Games and Stonewall 25. It does not matter where they place our headcount. We do not have enough votes to elect anyone by ourselves. We need the help of all those people we have educated by coming out. The best way to get that help is to ask for it and

give them an endorsement card. They may not need or even want our advice about candidates for governor or president or mayor, but the judges and other candidates lower on the ballot are usually a mystery to them. Talk to some people at work or school, or members of your family, or your hairstylist, or other people where you spend money, and bingo, our vote is easily doubled or tripled.

On election day, the most important thing is to vote in the best interest of our community. The other most important thing is to encourage others to do the same thing.



Laura Ingle

FOR JUDGE

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I would like to thank the members of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and the community for their endorsement and support.

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Now, a Word about Parachutes . . .

"A PARACHUTE IS LIKE YOUR MIND — IT WORKS ONLY WHEN IT'S OPEN."

On November 8, this gem of a bumper sticker philosophy will be most relevant in the judicial races. While candidates for some offices can run on sound bites reflecting the latest polls or their latest deepest thoughts on issues, judicial candidates must avoid spewing hard and fast views or impromptu interpretations of law.

A future judge generally understands that to express an absolute position on a particular issue is to call their objectivity into question for future cases or can destroy the possibility of appointment to a higher bench. Thus, campaigns

for judges often revolve around past experience practicing law, their community activities, straw polls of attorney groups, board certifications, and those wonderful qualifications that always come into play - a "good" name, personal appearance, their law school pedigree, the weather on election day, and so on.

With the HGLPC judicial endorsement, however, you get assurance of a particularly important qualification - an open mind. With many office seekers cowering before the spectre of the far right, an impressive array of current and

future judges came forward this year to seek your support. Candidates gave their perceptions of current civil rights protections, and the lack thereof, for lesbians and gays. Responses from candidates varied in intensity, but they uniformly asserted that policing the bedroom should not be the concern of a free and just society. Depending on the jurisdiction for his or her future court, candidates were invited to discuss adoptions, victimless crimes and entrapment, the evolution of hate crime legislation, definitions of family, child custody issues, the urgency of cases involving persons with AIDS - all

of which introduced still other topics relevant to the issues of lesbian and gay Houstonians.

The Republican and Democratic judicial candidates endorsed for November 8, almost without exception, have expressed appreciation for the HGLPC screening process - for its thoroughness as well as its educational value for them. As you vote on November 8, vote with confidence that these endorsed candidates will be open-minded to community issues that will bear on cases over which they will preside.

10 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL ELECTION

1. **Vote.** It's pretty basic, but it is the most important thing you can do.
2. **Vote early.** Avoid any possible interference in your vote being counted on election day. Early voting is going on right now and will continue through November 4, the Friday preceding the election.
3. **Share** your **HGLPC** endorsement card. Pick up extras to send to friends; make copies and send them to family. Pass your card on after you vote early.
6. Volunteer to **block walk** with candidates the two weekends before the election (Oct. 29 & 30; Nov. 5 & 6). Call **HGLPC** for information, **521-1000**.
7. Work the **phone bank**, reminding people to vote for the endorsed candidates and to vote early. Help identify those who will need assistance getting to the polls. Phone banks will run from October 27 through November 7, evenings.
8. Pass out candidate literature at any poll. Pick a candidate and contact the campaign directly or through **HGLPC, 521-1000**.

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4. Put up **yardsigns** for endorsed candidates at your home.
5. Place candidate yardsigns at your friends' homes. Check on them to be sure they remain in good condition through election day.
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8. Pass out candidate literature at any poll. Pick a candidate and contact the campaign directly or through **HGLPC, 521-1000**.
9. Transport voters to and from the polls for early voting.
10. Volunteer to work election day, transporting voters to the polls or delivering push card supplies to poll workers.

CALL HGLPC AT 521-1000 TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES.

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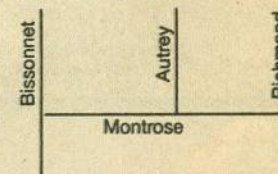
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Sponsor a Precinct

MAKE THE CAUCUS PUSHCARD AVAILABLE AT EVERY POLLING PLACE

During the past three elections, the HGLPC has hired persons with AIDS to distribute endorsement cards at several polling places. The Caucus is expanding this program for this election through its "Sponsor a Precinct" Project. The Project's goal is to place "card-pushers" in an additional six precincts this year. These precincts have a sizable lesbian and gay voter turnout.

For sixty dollars, you can sponsor one person to hand out HGLPC endorsement cards in one of the sixteen targeted precincts. The card-pushers will be paid for their time and provided with lunch and

a commemorative t-shirt.

The Project is an excellent way to get the endorsement card into the hands of gay and lesbian voters. Additionally, it is an opportunity for persons living with AIDS to make some extra money and to constructively participate in the community.

Please fill out the coupon and send it with a check for \$60.00 to the Caucus. Make your check payable to "HGLPC" and designate on the check "Sponsor a Precinct" Project. You can get more information about the Project by calling the Caucus office at 521-1000.

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HELP FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS ! MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

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FAMILY OR 2-YEAR MEMBERSHIP	\$50.00 ☐

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ADDRESS _____

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SIGNATURE _____

Please return to HGLPC, P.O. Box 66664, Houston, TX 77266-6664, or call (713) 521-1000 for more information. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 2700 Albany, Suite 304

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SANDRA
PEEBLES

for one person to hand out HGLPC endorsement cards in one of the sixteen targeted precincts. The card-pushers will be paid for their time and provided with lunch and

able to "HGLPC" and designate on the check "Sponsor a Precinct" Project. You can get more information about the Project by calling the Caucus office at 521-1000.

Please return to HGLPC, P.O. Box 66664, Houston, TX 77266-6664, or call (713) 521-1000 for more information. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 2700 Albany, Suite 304

SHERYL ★★★★★★ ROPPOLO FOR COUNTY CLERK



QUALIFICATIONS

- Harris County District Court Coordinator Since 1987
- Over 10 Years Management Experience in Business Community
- Over 10 Years Experience With Election Process
- Over 10,000 Volunteer Hours of Service to Community
- Former Legislative Aide
- Successfully Lobbied Texas State Legislature for Improved Early Voting Laws

"I believe the Harris County Clerk's Office can and should provide better, faster and less expensive service to the public."

When Elected SHERYL ROPPOLO Will Provide These Improved Services:

- Accurate Election Results
- Telephone Information Lines
- Faster Processing of Certified Copy Request
- Expanded Use of Annex Offices
- Improved Computer Access to Public Records

Political advertising paid by Roppolo Campaign • Sue Carter, Treasurer
2919 Allen Parkway #202 • Houston, Texas 77019 • (713) 523-0995



ELECT SANDRA PEEBLES JUDGE

312TH FAMILY DISTRICT COURT

- ✓ FAIR
- ✓ PRACTICAL
- ✓ EXPERIENCED
- ✓ KNOWLEDGEABLE



Political ad paid for by Sandra R. Peebles for Judge Campaign • Jackanel McFarland, Treas. • 530 Wells Fargo, Hou. TX 77090
Ad design by Locklin Agency Advertising • 942-7600

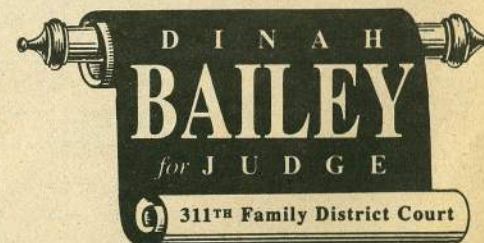


Ken U.S. Congress Bentsen

A New Generation of Leadership

Pol. ad. pd. for by the Ken Bentsen for Congress Committee
3256 South Loop West (South Main at 610), Houston, TX 77025

Reform - For Our Families



Political advertisement paid for by the Dinah Bailey Campaign Fund
Diana R. Musslewhite, Treasurer • P. O. Box 2405 • Houston, TX 77252-2405



VOTE DEBORAH

S H E R R I
COTHRUN
-for- **JUDGE**
308th Family District Court

Pol. ad. pd. for by the Ken Bentsen for Congress Committee
3256 South Loop West (South Main at 610), Houston, TX 77025

for JUDGE
311TH Family District Court

Political advertisement paid for by the Dinah Bailey Campaign Fund
Diana R. Musslewhite, Treasurer • P. O. Box 2405 • Houston, TX 77252-2405



★ VOTE DEBORAH WRIGHT

JUDGE, 310TH DISTRICT COURT

QUALIFIED AND COMMITTED TO SERVICE

THE BEST-QUALIFIED CANDIDATE:

- Appointed as Associate Judge of the 310th District Court in 1992
- 14 years experience in Family Law
- Board Certified in Family Law since 1987

THE WRIGHT CHOICE

Political Advertising paid for by the Deborah Wright for Judge Campaign, Joan Jenkins, Treasurer,
3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 3150, Houston, Texas 77027

**ENDORSED BY HOUSTON
GAY AND LESBIAN POLITICAL
CAUCUS and by COURTWATCH,**
a citizen's group dedicated to reform
of the Family Courts in Harris County

S H E R R I
COTHRUN
- for - **JUDGE**
309th Family District Court



Your One-Stop Condom Shop

Gifts • Novelties • T-Shirts

Bonnita L. Warren

Owner/Manager

Condoms Galore
3207-B Montrose Blvd.
Houston, Tx 77006
(713) 528-7620

DECEMBER
1994

HGLPC News

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS



Monthly Calendar

- Dec 27 Screening committee.
Dec 28 Screening sessions for
Dec 29 City Council seat.
2700 Albany. Time TBA.
- Jan 1 Happy New Year!
- Jan 3 Screening committee
recommendation
meeting.
2700 Albany. Time TBA.
- Jan 4 HGLPC General Meeting.
Election of officers;
City Council race en-
dorsement.
2700 Albany. 7:30 PM
- Jan 25 Lincoln Project meet-
ing. Place TBA.



Transitions

Sam Cannon passed away on November 20, 1994, after a battle with AIDS. Mr. Cannon was a Caucus board member in the mid '80s and worked with the GPC's Republican Caucus and on gay pride week preparations. He spent several years with the civic light opera in Dallas, as well as with Houston Grand Opera and Cincinnati Summer Opera. Mr. Cannon was preceded in death by his partner of seven years, Tom Tate.

First call for board seat and officer nominations was held at the Decem-



City Council race

Caucus member a candidate

Annisie Parker on December 21 officially filed as a candidate in the upcoming special City Council election.

The election will be held January 21 to choose a replacement for outgoing Councilmember Sheila Jackson Lee. Ms. Jackson Lee was elected to Congress in November.

Ms. Parker is a longtime member and former president of HGLPC. This is not her first run for City Council. In 1991 she ran against Vince Ryan for the District C seat — a race in which she got 30% of the vote.

Ms. Parker is one of at least 17 contenders in the city wide race, many of whom will screen for the Caucus endorsement. Screening committee chair Mitch Froehlich has scheduled screening for December 27-29, with an endorsement to be made at the January 4 general meeting.▼

ber general meeting. The following people self-nominated:

Board Seat #1: Bryan Vezey, to replace Kevin Davidson.

Board Seat #2: Ray Ramirez, who currently holds this seat.

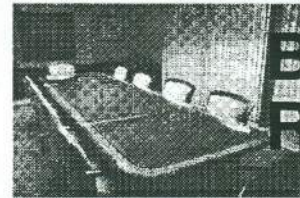
Board Seat #3: Lujack Tyler, to replace Ray Hill.

Treasurer: Patrick McKee.

Secretary: Rod Knebluk, to replace Matthew Huston.

Vice President: No nominations.

President: Terri Richardson, the incumbent.▼



Board Report

Corporate status on agenda

The Board of Trustees has had two meetings since the last edition of HGLPC News came out.

At a special meeting on December 7, Kathy Hubbard presented her findings and recommendations regarding the Caucus's corporate status. The Board is considering applying for an IRS exemption and a tax ID number for all educational business the HGLPC undertakes. Separate bank accounts and separate boards of directors are being considered for educational and political activities. The Board is looking into having Debra Danburg assist in updating the articles of incorporation.

The Board has placed an ad in the *Houston Voice* to encourage the community to register to vote and to get onto the Caucus mailing list.

As the HGLPC will be accepting ads beginning next month in the newsletter, the Board discussed criteria which advertisers must meet. Acceptance of ads will be at the discretion of the president and newsletter editor. A disclaimer on the advertising page is being considered.

The Board also had discussions of the impact of Annisie Parker's bid for a City Council seat.

The Board voted to recognize outgoing board chair Kevin Davidson's longtime, behind-the-scenes contributions to the gay and lesbian community.▼

Year in review



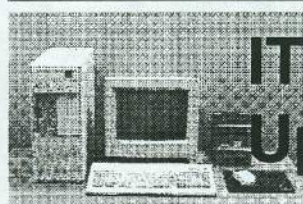
In a year which started off with internal controversy, HGLPC had one success after another, with profitable fundraisers and highly energized election activities.

In the spring, the screening committee interviewed nearly 100 candidates before the March primary. Newsletters in both the primary and the runoff brought out the lesbian and gay vote to lead many endorsed candidates to victory. The general election brought even more concentrated get-out-the-vote efforts including blockwalking, phonebanking, and staffing more polling places than ever before. Newsletters to thousands of homes informed voters about the 52 endorsed candidates.

Between elections the Caucus moved into beautiful new office space, offered at a bargain-basement rate by the Hollyfield Foundation. The Foundation also made possible one of the most successful fundraisers HGLPC has ever held: the Hollyfield Estate Sale. Soon after came the fabulous Awards Dinner with guest speaker Michelangelo Signorile.

The efforts of ITC (*see more below!*) revitalized the ailing mailing list and boosted membership. The Lincoln Project was founded to reach out to and involve in politics moderate and conservative community members.

A City Council election leads off 1995, with an openly lesbian candidate in the race. With advancing technology, HGLPC will leap forward in voter identification and education, certain to ensure progress toward gay and lesbian equality.▼



ITC Update

Information and Technology Committee has productive year

It has been just over one year since Jack Valinski and Mike Stubblefield proposed that HGLPC invest in computer equipment and commit a substantial effort to rehabilitate the mailing list. ITC formed last January and over the succeeding months, the proposal was refined into a comprehensive plan.

One scant year later, we have completed much of the rehabilitation and have added many new records to the list. A joint project is underway with LGRL, to correct bad phone numbers and add new names.

HGLPC now owns a Power Mac, a back-up tape system, and a laser printer. We own FoxPro for developing the new databases, as well as office productivity software. Most Caucus business is now conducted from the new computer: archiving records and correspondence, documenting policies and bylaws, and creating the monthly newsletter.

The new Mailing List Database will soon be complete. A key feature is the

interactive look-up table that indexes precincts by city, county, state, and federal districts. Each record will be tagged with a voter district eligibility profile.

Early in 1995, financial reporting will be moved to the computer. This in-

cludes automation of PAC record keeping and reporting in compliance with election regulations. Also, the Caucus will be identifying same-sex households to understand voting patterns and to target mailings aimed at expanding the list.

The next step will be to create a "Candidate Resource Database." Used to facilitate the candidate screening process, this will include candidate profiles, screening panel scores and notes, endorsements, election support delivered, and post election analysis. Reports and graphs will strengthen screening and endorsement and tell us how well turn-out-the-vote methods work.

By any measure the ITC has had a productive and successful first year. Not only do we have extensive new capabilities, but we will save money by becoming self-sufficient while drawing from members' broad experience. HGLPC is poised to go toe-to-toe with our adversaries through the power of technology.▼

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS

Terri Richardson, *President*
Keith Stewart, *Vice President*
Matthew Huston, *Secretary*
Patrick McKee, *Treasurer*



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kevin Davidson, *chair*
Ray Ramirez
Ray Hill
Rob Cavanaugh
David Westerkamp
Jim Ewing
Clair Koepsel, *vice chair*
Dale Carpenter
Lane Lewis



HGLPC News is a monthly publication of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, which is solely responsible for its contents.

HGLPC meets the first Wednesday of every month at its offices, 2700 Albany Street, Suite 304, at 7:30 PM.

Houston Gay and Lesbian
Political Caucus
P. O. Box 66664
Houston, Texas 77266-6664
(713) 521-1000