

La Politiquera

El Periódico Que No Se Queda Callado

The Best Source of News
and Views on La Raza en Tejas

\$2.25



Vol # 20 Number 1

An Equal Opportunity Offender

February, 2009

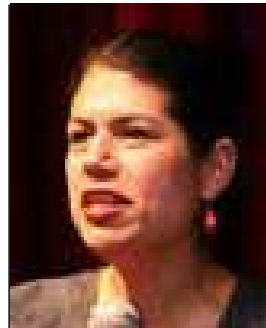
Latina Legislators in Texas



Judith Zafarinni



Leticia Van de Putte



Carol Alvarado



Norma Chavez



Jessica Farrar



Veronica Gonzales



Yvonne Gonzalez - Tourelles



Ana E. Hernandez



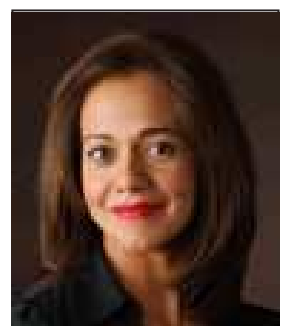
Diana Maldonado



Marisa Marquez



Dora Olivo



Tara Rios Ybarra

People in the News



Sylvia Camarillo New Executive Director of Travis County Democratic Party

Sylvia Camarillo was named the new Executive Director of the **Travis County Democratic Party**. Prior to her appointment, she was the Director of Hispanic Outreach for the Travis County Democratic Party during the 2008 election cycle. Sylvia grew up in Austin and previously worked for Texas State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos for many years. She is also a member of the Austin Tejano Democrats. To contact Sylvia, please call: (512) 477-7500.



Dr. Blandina Cardenas Tenders Resignation as President of UT Pan American

Dr. Blandina Cardenas is hanging it up. The Del Rio, Texas native announced her retirement on January 20 due to health reasons.

Prior to being named the President of **UT Pan American**, she was a dean at the **University of Texas at San Antonio**. She earned her doctorate in 1974 from the **University of Massachusetts at Amherst**. After receiving her doctorate, **Cárdenas** went to Washington to serve as a commissioner in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and later took a position as dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the **University of Texas at San Antonio**.



Houston ISD Chief Preparing to Leave Post Soon

Houston Independent School District Superintendent Abelardo Saavedra también se está preparando su salida. After about four years on the job, this just catch up to you dicen unos por allí. El Abe se vino del Distrito Escolar de Corpus Christi.

Obtuvo su doctorado en el University of Michigan at Ann Arbor y luego regreso a Tejas para empezar su carrera de educador.



Manuel Castillo Passes Away in San Antonio, Texas

Manuel Castillo, Jr., Executive Director of **San Anto Cultural Arts** passed away on January 6, 2009 after a short battle with cancer. He was 40 years old.

A graduate of **Holy Cross High School** in San Antonio, **Castillo** started his cultural arts organization in 1994 as a way help young people realize they had talent. Over the years the organization sponsored a number of programs and projects including a **Community Mural Public Arts Program**, a community based newspaper called **El Placazo**, and a **Video Oral History** program that taught film and video production skills through the production of oral histories and documentary programs focusing on the history, culture and community of San Antonio, specifically the Westside community surrounding **San Anto Cultural Arts**.

To help raise funds for all of the programs and projects, **Manny** helped organize the annual **Huevos Rancheros Breakfast Gala and Art Auction**. Held in mid October, the event proved to be very successful. Another community event that drew wide support in the **Westside of San Antonio** was the **San Anto Cultural Arts (SACA) Dia De Los Muertos Barrio Procession and Community Altar**.

It was a peaceful event intended to bring together people of all walks of life, and is a time and place created to remember and pay homage to friends, family and even enemies who have passed on. Hundreds would turn out for this yearly event.

Manuel Castillo, Jr. ya se fue. Nacido en **San Antonio** en el año 1968, el año del Hemisfero, y pizotó la tierra por 40 años.



Zamora Publishes New Book Tracing Mexican Workers Employment Opportunities During WWII

Professor Emilio Zamora continues his longstanding scholarship on Mexican-origin workers, civil and labor rights during World War II with the publication of a new book entitled *Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas, Mexican Workers and Job Politics during World War II* with Texas AandM University Press (January 2009).

The book covers Mexican workers fight for equal rights in transnational settings, an enterprise that has allowed him to make recognized contributions in various fields, including Mexican American, Texas, labor and Mexico history.

In *Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas*, **Zamora** traces the wartime experiences of Mexican workers as they moved from rural to urban settings in search of improved employment opportunities. Zamora contends that although the expanded wartime economy allowed many of them to improve their occupational standing, discrimination slowed their movement from agricultural to non-agricultural employment and reinforced inequality.

Zamora also points out that the fight against discrimination and inequality—a historic concern community—achieved during the war years in they energized Mexico's Mexicans in the exterior State Department to Neighbor Policy prinderstanding and good arena.

Inserting the cause of Mexicans as a defining environmental relations assumed hemispheric importance. Texas, according to **Zamora**, became a point of contention as Mexico isolated it as a test site for the application of a Good Neighbor Policy and the State Department rendered aid and advice to policy makers in Texas to win the favor of the U.S.'s principal ally in the Americas.

The State Department's response to Mexico's interventions included an inter-agency focus on Mexicans in the United States that Zamora assesses with an examination of the work of the Fair Employment Practice Committee (FEPC) in Texas. Although the FEPC's efforts at enforcing the nation's nondiscrimination policy in wartime industries did not achieve great success, they stood in contrast to the policy of the United States Employment Service to discourage the movement of Mexicans out of agriculture.



PRODUCTION

Editor and Publisher

Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s

Associate Editors Edna Campos

Telephone and FAX (512) 291-9060

Publisher's Statement

La Politiquera is a monthly publication of **Compadre Communications**. The editorial and business address is P.O. Box 19457 Austin, Texas 78760 The telephone number is (512) 291-9060 and the fax number is the same. The views represented here are our own of course. The use, reproduction or distribution of any part of this publication is strongly encouraged, but do call and let us know what it is you are using. If for some reason you do not like what we are printing in this publication, you have two choices; do nothing, in which case we will never know the difference, or, you can sit yourself down and write us a letter. We, of course, prefer the letter. And of course, if you really enjoy this type of information, remember that it is important to support the effort by subscribing porque *una mano no se lava sola*.



¡Regresamos! We are Back!

Editorial



Alfredo R. Santos c/s Editor and Publisher

Pues, primeramente, quiero decirte que . . . we are back! No, I wasn't in jail como mi primo. El se fue solo. Yo andaba en la campaign de Rick Noriega y luego he estado trabajando en un libro que se llama, **The 2009 Austin Hispanic Almanac**. More about this later.

Mucha gente me han preguntado, hey, donde está **La Politiquera**? Y pos yo, con mucha pena, me agacho la cabeza y contesto, al rato sale. Pues ya eso de que al rato sale se puso viejo. En realidad fue cuestion de tiempo. So aquí estamos y no nos vamos!

Dejame empezar con unos reflexiones. Cuando empezamos **La Politiquera** en 1990 en **Houston, Texas**, fue con la intención de no dejar caer la bandera de **Fernando Perez de Rio**. If you might recall, he had a radio talk show in Houston at noon that was the hottest thing in town. Everybody called in and shared a lot of inside information on the school district, city council y que se yo. The bottom line was that for community activists in Houston at the time, the **Fernando Perez del Rio** radio program was a must listen.

But as with all good things, there comes and end. Fernando's program became too good. The station brass began taking a lot of heat from advertisers and at first they moved him from the noon hour to 2:00pm slot to somewhere in the afternoon. Then they cut it from a two hour program to one hour. Then bolsas! He was off the air.

A lot of people went down to the radio station to do picket line and protest. I didn't want to. (No es que tengo miedo del picket line.) I just felt that there was something else that could be done. Desktop publishing was starting to catch on and so I went down to Kinkos and taught myself how to work that new computer called the McIntosh. (Pinche nine inch screen!)

Bottom line we started **La Politiquera** because there was a need to keep the conversation going about what was going on in the Chicano community in Houston, Texas. So here we are almost 20 years later and more than 20 pounds heavier, (alalva!) producing **La Politiquera**. (Después les digo porque le pusimos **La Politiquera**.)

Today I am living in **Austin, Texas** going to "gradual school" instead of graduate school as Dr. Angela Valenzuela calls. **Edna Campos**, our Associate Editor lives in **North Carolina** but spends a lot of time in **Houston**. We a number of people around the state who act as correspondents and provides tips and leads for stories. But we are still looking for more people who would like to make journalistic contributions. When you hear of something que tal vez será de interes a los demas, don't be shy about shooting us an email. If you want to write a story or have a column about your city or town, también, mandamos un email and we can talk about it.

Ok, ya se acabo los reflections. Vamos a lo que esta pasando. Lets begin with our cover. We decided to feature the 12 Latina Legislators in Texas (Two Senators and 10 State Representatives) because it struck me that more and more, women are cranking it up in terms of participation. Not that they have not been involved. Quite the contrary, as we are learning more and more, Latinas played a very big role in the Chicano Movement, they just didn't get the credit they deserved.

In the 2008 March 4 Primary Elections in Texas, 146 Hispanics ran for a variety of public offices in both the Republican and Democratic Parties. See table in the next column.

Latino Candidates who ran in 2008 Primary Election by party and gender

	Republican	Democrat	
Male	11	95	
Female	4	36	
	15	131	146

Asi que, we put the women on the cover because it is important to realize that they are running for office and in some cases even beating Latino office holders who have been around for a long time. Examples? **Marisa Marquez** from **El Paso** beat **Paul Moreno**, the longest serving Latino in the Texas Legislature, in the March Primary. Otro que bailo fue **Juan Manuel Escobar** who was beaten by **Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra** in a close race for the District 43 seat.

Something else in this issue of **La Politiquera** we wish to call to your attention is the story on pages 6 and 7. There is without a doubt a huge disciplinary problem in the public schools of **Texas**. Over two million disciplinary incidents occurred during the 2007-2008 academic year. The response to this by some school districts is to hire private companies to come in and fix the problem. Is this a good idea? If it is a good idea then, do we need to rethink what use it to have school districts and pay superintendents lots of money to educate our children. Algo esta pasando aqui. Read on and let us what you think.

Another story that deserves your attention is what is taking place in **Hondo, Texas**. This little community en el otro lado de **San Antonio** is in an uproar over the recall of the Chicano city council members. Check out **Zeke MacCormack's** story on page 4



Janie's record shop
 LO MEJOR DE LA MUSICA TEJANA, NORTEÑA.
 INTERNACIONAL Y MUCHO MAS

Hondo recall targets say bring on election

By Zeke MacCormack - Express-News

HONDO — Surrounded by boisterous backers, three Hondo City Council members targeted by petitions seeking their ouster from office beckoned the threatened recall election Wednesday, saying they were proud of their record since being elected last May.

"Bring on the recall, because it's going to fail," said Councilman Chavel Lopez at the public hearing where he and council members Lucio Torrez and Virginia Gonzales rejected petitioners' contention that they had failed to meet their fiduciary duties and placed the city's financial stability at risk.

Precious few of the 690 voters who signed the petitions were in the crowd that yielded speaker after speaker who praised the work of the new council majority — which hasn't shied from flexing its muscles as the new majority — and said "good 'ol boys" must adjust to the new reality of a government controlled by Hispanics.

"We've been waiting a long time and it's about time we have this new change," said resident Isabel Luna, one of 11 speakers who opposed the recall referendum that's expected to go before voters May 9. "I'm very proud of these new council people."

Calling the petition verbiage vague, Hondo attorney Clyde Haak, one of the few non-Hispanic speakers Wednesday, invited anyone present to explain what conduct of the three newest council members threatened the city's financial stability. There were no takers.

Mayor Jim Danner, when asked by Haak if he knew the grounds for the recall effort with which he has disclaimed association, only described the petition language as "fairly generic." Councilman Vance Tomey, whose father, Jim, is active

in the recall effort, said he knew of instances to back the claim, but wouldn't divulge them. "I don't choose to comment," he said, drawing heckles from the crowd of about 50.

The petitioners' designated spokesman, former councilman Bob Heyen, didn't attend the meeting and declined earlier to cite any specific examples of the actions by the recall targets that he objected to.

"I'm not going to go too deep into this," said Heyen Tuesday when asked to delineate actions to which petitioners' objected. "The citizens of Hondo do not think they are doing a good job managing the city. They are not fulfilling their obligations," Heyen said.

The lack of specific allegations in the petition prompted Haak to say, "Before we vote people out of office, we ought to know what we're talking about I don't know what it's about and you can't tell by looking at it."

He also questioned the mathematical aptitude of those behind the recall initiative — the first in the history of the municipality since it became an option in 2007 when a home rule charter was adopted — since those targeted were the top vote-getters in elections last May.

"It's incomprehensible to me how the losing side in the last election is going to recall the majority," said Haak.

Three backers of the recall stepped to the podium Wednesday to urge voters to closely examine the actions of the new council majority.

If anyone doesn't understand what the recall is about, resident Linda Hook told the crowd, they should go to city hall and review the minutes of council meetings since June.

Her husband, David Hook, posed questions — which he asked the council to later answer — to the petition targets about which campaign pledges they had met.

Juana Lopez was among several speakers who described the recall election as a devious effort to roll back the clock and defy evolution in a city long controlled by Anglos.

"Change is uncomfortable for people," conceded Lopez, the councilman's sister. "But the wind of change is here. It's time for change."

She and others urged those with differences to come together, and abide by the democratic principle of "majority rules."

"I don't want to divide the community," said Lopez, "I want a better community for my children. I want unity."

The officials facing a recall defiantly defended their voting record, — which included holding the line on electric rates, boosting the pay of city employees and delaying the expansion of city facilities. Councilwoman Gonzales told the crowd, "I take my responsibilities seriously, and I want nothing more than the best for Hondo and the community that my children will grow up in."

Torrez asserted that the mayor, City Manager Robert Herrera and councilmen Tomey and Jay Gruber are helping push the recall initiative. Danner, Tomey and Gruber, who was absent, are up for reelection in May.

Chavel Lopez who has long alleged the city discriminated against its Hispanic residents, drew cheers from the crowd by declaring, "Their recall based on lies will fail The 'real change' movement in Hondo has nothing to fear and victory will be ours."

Austin Independent School District Taking Heat for Secret Selection Process of Superintendent

AUSTIN - School Board Trustees are being criticized by the **Austin American Statesman** for the way in which they are going about selecting the next superintendent. Leaked memos, rumors and innuendo abound as trustees try to nail down the final candidate for this 80 thousand student plus district. Below is a letter from community activist **Paul Saldaña** regarding the **Austin American Statesman** use of his name in a recent editorial.

Since you singled out my email in your recent editorial, I feel it's important to clarify a few points. First, I am a private citizen with two children in AISD so I have a vested interest and right to express personal opinions. Second, you took my email out of context and failed to recognize my written intent to Mr. Williams that the Hispanic community was aware of an alleged statement attributed to him "that the Hispanic community would simply have to get over the fact that a Latino candidate would not be selected as the next superintendent". I believe that elected officials should be held to a higher standard and use caution regarding verbalizing preconceived notions about any citizens or groups in Austin. We have been characterized as a "Special Interest Group" for simply pointing out that Hispanics are the dominant student population that will influence the success of AISD.



HOUSTON AREA LATINO SUMMIT

It's Time To Build a Stronger Latino Network

Champions Pavilion, Minute Maid Park
Saturday, February 14, 2008
10am - 1pm

TEXAS HISPANIC
PEACE OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

Working Agenda

JANIECE LONGORIA
Commissioner, Port of Houston Authority
Board of Regents, University of Texas System

9:30am - 10am Registration (*breakfast will be served*)

10am - 10:15am Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

- James Rodriguez, Houston City Councilmember

10:15am - 10:25am Remarks

- Rick Noriega, Former State Representative

10:25am - 10:55am 2010 Census and Redistricting

- Dr. Stephen Klineberg, Rice University
- Jerry Wood, Consultant

10:55am - 11:25am Education Presentation

- Diana Davila, HISD Trustee

11:25am - 11:55am Public Safety Presentation

- Jes Garza, Major, Harris County Sherriff's Office
- Cesar Espinoza, Youth Coordinator-CRECEN/America Para Todos

11:55am - 12:25pm Immigration Reform Presentation

- Alberto P. Cardenas, Jr., Attorney at Law - Vinson & Elkins LLP
- Roberto D. Caballero, Attorney at Law - Foster Quan LLP

12:25pm - 12:35pm Remarks and Introduction of Presentation

- Mario Gallegos, State Senator

12:35pm - 1:05pm Political and Economic Empowerment Presentation

- Leo Vasquez, Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector
- Dr. Laura Murillo, CEO, Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

- Hector de León, Harris County Clerk's Office

1:05pm - 1:15pm Closing Remarks

- James Rodriguez, Houston City Councilmember



The Secrets Texas School Officials

Most parents believe in education. They believe in its importance and they believe their child deserves the very best the state can provide. However, what most parents don't know, is what goes on everyday in almost every school in Texas. I am talking not about discussions of the civil war in History class or whether adjectives only modify nouns in English class, I am talking about assaults on teachers, drug use on campus, fighting between students, the commission of felonies and gang violence both in the classroom and in the hallways.

... a total of 2,446,471
"disciplinary incidents."

In the State of Texas, during the 2007-2008 academic year, there were a total of 2,446,471 "disciplinary incidents." According to the Texas Education Agency, these two million plus incidents involved 1,344,449 students (Some students committed more than one infraction). The one million plus students we are talking about accounted for 28.9% of the entire student population of Texas.

Question number one, how is teaching and learning supposed to take place in classrooms when disruptions, threats, fights and other behaviors are going on? The answer is simple, the delivery of an education cannot take place in an environment that is filled with disruptions and chaos.

The Houston Independent School District ranks number 7 in the country

Of the 100 largest school districts in the United States in terms of enrollment, Texas has nineteen. The Houston Independent School District ranks number 7 in the country and is the largest in the state. During the 2007-2008 school year there were 215,713 students enrolled in the Houston Independent School

District. During this same year, there were 112,984 recorded disciplinary incidents involving 38,991 students. Let's do the math: $38,991 \div 215,713 = 18\%$. Eighteen percent of the students in the Houston Independent School District were involved in more than 100 thousand disciplinary incidents in the school district. Let's do the math again. Assuming there are 188 days in the regular school year, we divide this number into the 112,984 disciplinary incidents that occurred, and find that the average number of disciplinary incidents per day in the Houston Independent School District comes out to be 600. Over six hundred disciplinary incidents per day in HISD!

Again the question is, how is teaching and learning supposed to take place when disciplinary incidents of this magnitude are taking place?

HISD's Answer

The Houston Independent School District, like all the 1,000 plus school districts in the state is subject to Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. This is the chapter that specifically dictates how, when and where students will be dealt with in terms of discipline. But in recent years, school districts across the state, including the Houston Independent School District, have gradually maneuvered themselves out of part of the disciplinary process.

Today, HISD out-sources part of its disciplinary problems to a private company from Tennessee called Community Education Partners (CEP). Since the mid 1990s, the school district has paid CEP over one hundred million dollars to handle students the school district has removed from the regular classroom. Who are Community Education Partners and what are they doing? Here is what their website states:

CEP is a leading provider of academic and behavior improvement programs for public school students in grades 6 through 12 who are:



- performing two or more years below their expected grade level in reading and math
- failing two or more core subjects
- retained in grade for one or more years
- not achieving required scores on state skills tests
- at-risk of dropping out of high school

We work in partnership with school districts, teachers' unions and community leaders to help these students get back on track toward high school graduation in a safe, respectful and caring learning environment.

CEP programs remove the barriers that prevent students from becoming high school graduates.

Our programs provide academic intervention and help each student achieve his or her academic, behavioral and social goals. Our school district partners use our programs not as a punishment, but rather as a part of their overall approach to provide each student with the greatest opportunity for success.

We have demonstrated that the most challenging students - including those on the verge of dropping out - can get back on track and return to their own public schools - better prepared to succeed and graduate.

So CEP states it can help students who are performing two or more years below their grade level. CEP claims it can help students who are failing two or more core subjects; and CEP also says they can help students who have been retained in a grade for one or more years. Well, hell, if they can do all this, what do the taxpayers need with a school district? If CEP has become the educational locksmith in Houston, why do the taxpayers need a key to get in the front door? Furthermore,

if CEP can help students who are not achieving required scores on state skills tests, well then they must know something the rest of us don't.

The fact of the matter is that the outfit called Community Education Partners is part of an interesting web of individuals who have found a way into the public schools across the country and in the name of "improving education" are sucking millions of taxpayer's dollars literally out of the country. (According to

Don't Want You to Know

the **Tennessee Secretary of State** website, **CEP** is a registered foreign corporation.)

Quick Background

According to the **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**, **Houston** native **John Danielson**, who once worked as a special assistant to the then **Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander**, together with four others (including former **Tennessee GOP** chairman **Randle Richardson**) founded **Community Education Partners**. It was registered as a domestic corporation initially and then was registered in August of 1997 as a foreign corporation.

It was in the middle 1990s that **CEP** started going around the country and getting school districts to hire them to "serve" the under performing students and the students that were getting in trouble. **Community Education Partners** landed contracts with school districts in **Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Florida, and Pennsylvania**. When **George W. Bush** became President in 2001, he named **Dr. Rod Paige**, the former superintendent of **HISD**, to be the **Secretary of Education**. **Dr. Paige**, in turn, named **John Danielson** to be his Chief of Staff.

Locally, CEP has developed its own connections with none other than Mr. Larry Marshall,

Locally, **CEP** has developed its own connections with none other than **Mr. Larry**



Marshall, the current **President of the Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees** who at one point, according to **Margaret Downing**, a

reporter for the **Houston Press**, was making \$72,000 dollars a year from **Community Education Partners** for "a minimal amount of consulting." **Mr. Marshall** stated in his defense that he "did not vote on **CEP** business with the district." But according to other sources, **Mr. Marshall** often found himself in the same room with other trustees when **CEP** business was being discussed. Does something here look strange?

Algo Más

Here is something else very interesting, When **Dr. Robert Kimball**, the former **HISD Sharpstown High School administrator** who blew the whistle on the false dropout numbers that were being reported to the state back in 2001-2002, started questioning what was really going on with **Community Education Partners** in the **Houston Independent School District**, he came under attack.

On May 28, 2008, a lawsuit was filed against **Dr. Kimball** by the law firm of **Franklin Cardwell and Jones** on behalf of **Community Education Partners** charging **Dr. Kimball** with "TORTUOUS INTERFERENCE." I believe this is a legal term that means **Dr. Kimball** was asking too many questions and hurting **CEP's** image. Now here is a question, why would **Community Education Partners** go to all the trouble of hiring a prestigious law firm like **Franklin, Cardwell and Jones**? Why would **CEP** spend all that money to try and silence a man like **Dr. Kimball** who is just trying to ask some questions?

Part of the reason has to do with the fact that **Dr. Kimball** has gone to **Austin** to share with legislators things he has learned about **Community Education Partners' operations** in the **Houston Independent School District**.

What is interesting about this lawsuit is that the law firm of **Franklin Cardwell**

and **Jones** is that this same law firm is that employs **Vidal Martinez**, who is the attorney who represents **HISD Superintendent Abelardo Saavedra**. (**Houston Chronicle**, 2-10-2009) And it also the same law firm which **Vidal Martinez** in his capacity as an attorney, wrote to **Superintendent Saavedra** in 2008 thanking him for renewing the



contract with **CEP** and recommending that he consider another **CEP** proposal. And it is the same **Vidal Martinez** who wrote a letter to **Lupe Salinas** who teaches at the **Texas Southern University Law School** to complain about **Dr. Kimball** and an article he had co-written with **Judge Salinas**.

why would the Superintendent of the Houston Independent School District walk away from his job with

Here is another interesting connection that deserves the concerned public's attention, why would the **Superintendent of the Houston Independent School District** who is getting ready to walk away from his job with almost a million dollars in his pocket be sitting on the board of an organization

called the **Texas Education Reform Foundation** with none other than **Randle Richardson** who heads up **Community Education Partners**? I can understand **Vidal Martinez** sitting on this board (**Mr. Martinez** was the chair of this group from 2002-2007) but I don't understand **Richardson's** presence.

Another board member of the **Texas Education Reform Foundation** that I can't figure out is **Gayle Fallon**, the **President of the Houston Federation of Teachers**. Now I do know that many of the employees of the **Community Education Partners** are members of her group, but I don't understand what everybody is doing sitting down at the table.

With all these people in the same room from time to time, has **Robert Kimball** stumbled across something that should not be public information? When ever someone has to file a lawsuit to quiet someone down, it makes me think there is something to hide.

To be sure, those students who are disrupting classes and making teaching and learning more difficult than it needs to be must be dealt with. But are they being used by others as a reason to take taxpayer money and give it to a private organization in the name of education? Let's turn on the lights and see what is going on in the **Houston Independent School District**. Where are all the community activists who say they are for education? Where are all the parents who say they believe in their children?



Senator Judith Zaffirini - D-21

(D-Laredo) represents the 21st Senatorial District. The second highest-ranking Texas state senator, she also is the highest-ranking woman and Hispanic senator and the highest-ranking senator for **Bexar County** and the border region.



In 2008 she was re-elected in a seventh landslide victory with 79 percent in the primary and 68 percent in the general election. She has carried all 17 counties in the large and diverse district in every re-election, something no one else ever has accomplished.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst appointed her (2009) Chair of the **Senate Higher Education Committee** and member of the Senate Finance, Health and Human Services, Economic Development, and Administration committees. She is the first Hispanic woman senator in **Texas** to serve as **President Pro Tempore** of the **Texas Senate** and as Governor for a Day. She has served three consecutive terms as Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, seven terms on the Appropriations Conference Committee, eight terms on the Senate Finance Committee, ten terms on the Senate Education Committee and on the Legislative Budget Board since 2004.

Senator Zaffirini's legendary work ethic is reflected in her 100 percent perfect attendance record in the **Texas Senate** since 1987, except for breaking quorum deliberately to prevent an untimely re-districting that the U.S. Supreme Court (2006) ruled violated the **Voting Rights Act** and disenfranchised voters in SD 21. Continuing her unique career-long 100 percent voting record, **Senator Zaffirini** cast her 38,530th consecutive vote in 2007. She has sponsored and passed 581 bills and 51 substantive resolutions and co-sponsored and passed another 278 bills. Her legislative priorities include improving public education, higher education, and health and human services.

Dr. Zaffirini is an award-winning communication specialist with 13 years of teaching experience, including at the college and university levels. The **South Texas Press Association** honored her for her distinguished career in journalism and public service. Through her business, **Zaffirini Communications**, she provides professional communication services, including consulting, workshops and seminars, one-on-one coaching, keynote addresses, and writing. A distinguished communicator, educator, and leader, she holds B.S., M.A., and PhD degrees from **The University of Texas at Austin**, each with a 3.9 grade-point average.

A lecturer at **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church** and member of the **Texas Philosophical Society** and of **Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society**, her professional memberships include the **Texas Press Women**, **Texas Public Relations Association**, **International Communication Association**, **Speech Communication Association**, and **Association for Borderlands Studies**. **Judith** and **Carlos Zaffirini** have been married for 44 years. Their son, **Carlos Jr.**, is a graduate of the **UT McCombs School of Business** and the **UT School of Law**.

Occupation: Communications Specialist; 13 years of teaching experience
Education: The University of Texas at Austin, B.S., M.A., Ph.D.; University of Houston; Laredo Junior College
Legislative Experience: Senate Member, 1987 - present
Hometown: Laredo
Party: Democrat

Capitol Address

The Honorable Judith Zaffirini
 P.O. Box 12068
 Capitol Station
 Austin, Texas 78711
 (512) 463-0121

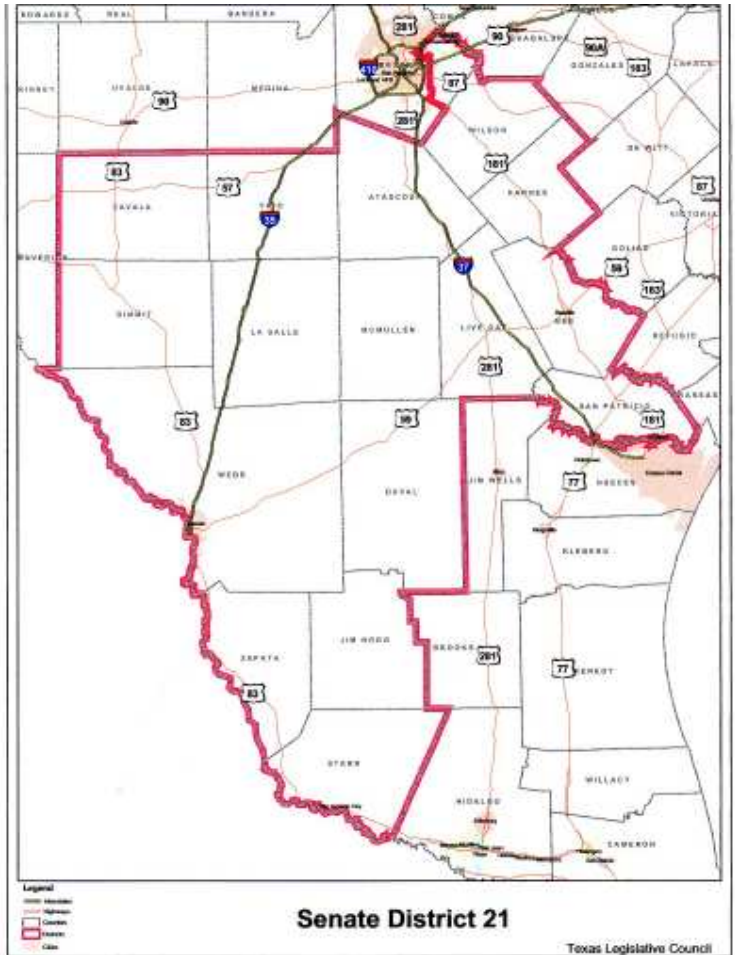
District Address

1407 Washington Street
 Laredo, Texas 78042
 (956) 722-2293
 (956) 722-8586 (fax)

12702 Toepperwein Rd,
 Suite 214
 San Antonio, Texas 78233
 (210) 657-0095

81st Session Committee Membership

- Higher Education - Chair
- Administration
- Economic Development
- Finance
- Health & Human Services



2008 Election Results

State Senator, District 21		Primary Election	
Rene Barrientos	DEM	23,179	21.39%
Judith Zaffirini(I)	DEM	85,168	78.60%
Race Total		108,347	
State Senator, District 21		General Election	
Louis H. Bruni	REP	55,480	29.15%
Judith Zaffirini(I)	DEM	129,802	68.22%
Barry L. Allison	LIB	4,980	2.61%
Race Total		190,262	

Senator Leticia Van de Putte - D-26

Senator Leticia Van de Putte, a pharmacist for more than 29 years, represents a large portion of **San Antonio** and **Bexar County**. A former-five term state representative, she is now serving her fifth term as a **Texas state Senator** for District 26. In 2003 she became Chair of the **Texas Senate Democratic Caucus**. Nationally, **Senator Van de Putte** was nominated as Co-Chair of the 2008 **Democratic National Convention**, joining the ranks of **Texas** women; including **Barbara Jordan** and **Ann Richards**. She has been actively involved in the **National Conference of State Legislatures** (NCSL), serving as President from 2006 to 2007. She is now serving on the **American Legacy Foundation Board** which oversees states' tobacco settlements. **Senator Van de Putte** is also a member of the **National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators**, where she served as President from 2003 to 2005. In October 2008, **Senator Van de Putte** was the subject of a book published by **Texas A & M University Press**, titled *Latina Legislator: Leticia Van de Putte and the Road to Leadership*, by **Dr. Sharon A. Navarro**, a professor of political science at **UTSA**.

Over the past two decades, **Senator Van de Putte** has been honored with numerous awards such as the Vietnam Veteran's of America's "Legislator of the Year Award," the **National Alliance for the Mentally Ill** "Texas Legislative Champion Award," the United Way of San Antonio "Children's Championship Award," the **League of United Latin American Citizens**' "Legislative Recognition Award," Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve "Seven Seals Award," the **Texas Classroom Teachers Association** "Legislative Star Award," the **Texas Pharmacy Association** "Pharmacist of the Year," the American Pharmacists Association's "Hubert H. Humphrey" Award named for a noted pharmacist and public servant, and the **Center for Policy Alternatives** honored **Senator Leticia Van de Putte** with the "Arthur S. Fleming Leadership Award." This national award is presented to a leader who exemplifies the ideals of public service through the highest standards of performance.

The Senator received the "Charles M. West Distinguished American Award," which recognizes leaders whose contributions have had a lasting impact on pharmacy and the health and welfare of the American public. She was honored by the **Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce** with the "Distinguished Leadership Award" for her inspiration to the Hispanic Community through advocacy efforts in Texas and across the United States. Most recently, the **National Guard Association of the United States** awarded **Senator Van de Putte** with the prestigious Charles Dick Medal of Merit, for her unyielding support of the **Texas National Guard**. The Charles Dick Medal of Merit was established in 1988 to recognize the contributions to the National Guard by elected representatives to legislative bodies at the state and national levels. It is among the highest awards bestowed by the **National Guard Association** of the United States. The award is presented to an individual who has distinguished him or herself over an extended period of time in their support to the National Guard through service in a state or national elected legislative body.

Senator Van de Putte is a strong advocate for children, veterans, improved access to health care, quality education, and economic development issues and has consistently authored and sponsored bills to assist families in securing opportunities. Multiple civic organizations and community groups have recognized **Senator Van de Putte** as one of the most effective and influential legislators in Texas.

Senator Van de Putte currently serves as Chair of the Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee, and also is a member of the Senate Committees on Education, State Affairs and Business and Commerce.

The Senator was a **Kellogg Fellow** at **Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government** in 1993. She received her Bachelor of Science from the **University of Texas at Austin, College of Pharmacy**, and she is a 1973 graduate of **Thomas Jefferson High School** in **San Antonio, Texas**. **Senator Van de Putte** currently lives in **San Antonio** with her husband of 31 years, **Pete**. She and **Pete** have six great children: **Nichole**, a **San Antonio** physician, **Vanessa**, an events marketing director for **Dixie Flag Co.**, **Henry**, who lives in **New York City** and works for **ESPN**, and **Gregory, Isabella**, and **Paul**, who are all still in college. She is also the proud grandmother of **Julian Claiborne** and **Jove Sebastian Stiles**.



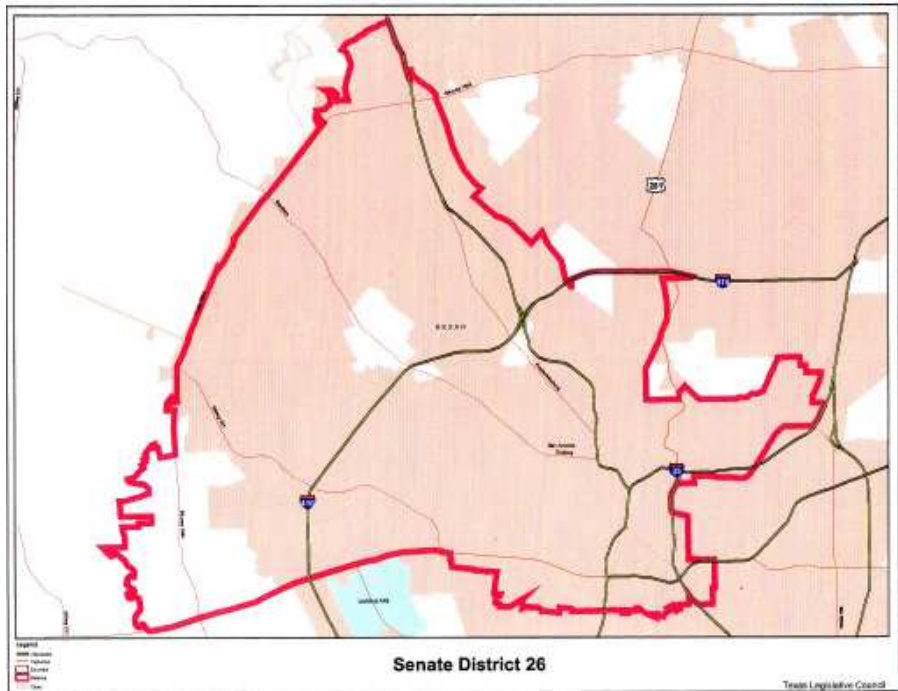
Occupation: Pharmacist
Education: The University of Texas at Austin, B.S. 1979
Legislative Experience: House Member, 1990 - 1999; Senate Member, 1999 - present
Hometown: San Antonio
Party: Democrat

Capitol Address	
Senate District 26 P.O. Box 12068 Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711 (512) 463-0126 (512) 463-2114 Fax 1 (888) 279-0648 Toll Free	
District Address	
700 N. St. Mary's Street, Suite 1725 San Antonio, Texas 78205 (210) 733-6604 (210) 733-6605 Fax	

**81st Session
Committee Membership**

Veteran Affairs and
Military Installations
Business & Commerce
Education

2008 Election Results			
State Senator, District 26		Primary Election	
Leticia Van de Putte(I)	DEM	68,058	100.00%
State Senator, District 26		General Election	
Leticia Van de Putte(I)	DEM	136,913	81.44%
Steve Lopez	LIB	31,194	18.55%
Race Total		168,107	



Texas State Representative Carol Alvarado

Texas House District 145

Carol Alvarado is a longtime resident of Houston's East End, served on the **Houston City Council** from 2002 - 2007. She worked to close down nuisance bars in neighborhoods, helped secure cameras at problem rail crossings throughout the city, was instrumental in the creation of the Parking Commission, and led the effort to establish a deed restriction database. Prior to her election to the city council, **Carol** worked in City Hall as Senior Executive Assistant to **Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown**. Her past work experience includes serving as legislative assistant to **Congressman Gene Green in Washington D.C.** and as a consultant in economic and community development in the neighborhoods of the East End. **Carol** is a graduate of the **University of Houston**, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. She is currently enrolled in the **University of Houston's** MBA program. **Carol** lives in the Idylwood neighborhood of Houston's East End and attends **St. Alphonsus Catholic Church**.



**CAROL
ALVARADO**

DEMOCRAT
FOR
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 145

2008 Election Results

State Representative District 145		Primary Election	
Carol Alvarado	DEM	6,795	69.31%
Elias J. De La Garza	DEM	3,008	30.68%
Race Total		9,803	
State Representative District 145		General Election	
Patricia Rodriguez	REP	5,877	29.64%
Carol Alvarado	DEM	13,946	70.35%
Race Total		19,823	

Texas State Representative Norma Chavez

Texas House District 76

Norma Chavez is currently serving her sixth term as a **Democratic** member in the **Texas House of Representatives** representing **District 76** which includes part of **El Paso County**. An **El Paso** native, **Rep. Chávez** grew up as a young woman in the **Tejas Addition** and then **Zia Village** neighborhood, where she lives today. **Rep. Chávez** is a community activist, businesswoman, and small business advocate. She is currently the Vice Chair of the House Committee on Calendars, and serves on the House Committee on Appropriations and House Committee on Financial Institutions. **Norma Chávez** is the first Latina elected to the Texas Legislature from **El Paso**.



Rep. Chávez has served on the Executive Committees of the **Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce** and the Business Opportunities Council and is currently a member of both the **El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** and the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce. Since 1990, **Rep. Chávez** has fought for clean air and fair public policy. Her efforts ensured that the **Federal Clean Air Act** and subsequent **Texas** laws protect citizens and the environment while providing common sense air strategies.

In order to protect residents from any potential health and environmental hazards, **Rep. Chávez** organized efforts to prevent nuclear waste from being disposed at **Sierra Blanca**, A former public-action organizer for the **United Farm Workers**, **Rep. Chávez** has organized public support for a fair and just food supply and for issues affecting migrant farm workers. **Chávez** is an effective grassroots organizer and strategist and has received training by the **Industrial Areas Foundation**. A strong advocate for programs targeting at-risk youth, **Rep. Chávez** was a board member of **Community Alliance Promoting Education Alternatives** (CAPEA), an organization which seeks positive intervention and prevention in the lives of at-risk youth. **Rep. Chávez**, an avid arts aficionado, is a former board member of the **Friends of the El Paso Museum of Art**.

2008 Election Results

State Representative District 76		Primary Election	
Norma Chavez(I)	DEM	16,668	100.00%
Race Total		16,668	
State Representative District 76		General Election	
Norma Chavez(I)	DEM	26,632	100.00%
Race Total		26,632	

Capitol Address

Capitol Office
Room EXT E2.820
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0732
(512) 463-4781 Fax

District Address

District Address
8145 Park Place
Suite 100
Houston, TX 77017
(713) 649-6563

Capitol Address

Capitol Office
Room CAP GN.8
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0622
(512) 478-6755 (Fax)

District Address

District Office
6070 Gateway East
Suite 300
El Paso, TX 79905
(915) 778-9960
(915) 778-4065 Fax

Texas State Representative Jessica Farrar Texas House District 148

State Representative Veronica Gonzales was elected in November, 2004 to represent **District 41** in the **Texas House of Representatives**. **District 41** is contained entirely in **Hidalgo County** and includes portions of **McAllen, Edinburg, and Mission**.

Representative Gonzales sits on the Judiciary, and Public Health Committees. Gonzales serves as **Secretary of the State Democratic Caucus**, to which she was re-elected to her second term.

Representative Gonzales distinguished herself during her first session among her colleagues by passing the highest percentage of bills by any Democrat legislator in the House and was subsequently recognized as Freshman of the Year by the **Mexican-American Legislative Caucus** and named a legislator to watch by the **Texas Observer**.

Representative Gonzales was raised in **San Marcos, Texas**. She is the eldest daughter and has two younger brothers. As the first in her family to go to college, **Gonzales** understands the importance of a quality education. To remain close to her family, she attended **Southwest Texas State University**. She earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Spanish while working full-time and graduated cum laude 1986. After completing her undergraduate studies, she enrolled in the **University of Texas School of Law** and earned her Doctorate of Jurisprudence in 1991.

Following graduation and being admitted to the Bar, **Representative Gonzales** moved to **McAllen** and began practicing law at **Jarvis and Kittleman, P.C.** where she became a partner after only four years. She joined her partners to create a successful firm where she continues to practice law at **Kittleman, Thomas & Gonzales, LLP**.



Texas State Representative Veronica Gonzales Texas House District 41

Jessica Farrar is currently in her 13th year as State Representative for District 148. She was first elected to the **Texas House of Representatives** in 1994 at the age of 27, and she is the longest serving Hispanic female from **Houston** in the lower chamber of the Texas Legislature.

Rep. Farrar grew up in **Houston** and received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of **Houston** in 1995. She is a partner at **Farrar Architects**, a firm she shares with her father. She is married to **Major Marco Sanchez**, and the two live in Lindale with their dog **Vecina**.

She currently serves on the powerful House Committee on State Affairs and the House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues. Past assignments have included the House Committees on Corrections, County Affairs, Agriculture and Livestock, and Appropriations, of which she was a member from 1995-2003.

In addition, **Rep. Farrar** serves as Vice-Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, she is the founder and Vice-Chair of the Women's Health Caucus, and she is also the founder of the House Environmental Caucus. She previously served as Secretary of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus (MALC) and Vice-Chair of the Legislative Study Group (LSG).

Rep. Farrar founded a non-profit mentorship and educational program for Latina college students known as **Latinas on the Rise** in 1998, and she currently serves on the board of the organization. She also co-founded the **Texas Women's Health Foundation** in 2007, a non-partisan non-profit aimed at de-politicizing women's health issues, and she serves as an ex-officio member of its board.



2008 Election Results

State Representative District 41		Primary Election	
Veronica Gonzales(I)	DEM	13,933	100.00%
Race Total		13,933	

State Representative District 41		General Election	
Javier Villalobos	REP	12,025	33.27%
Veronica Gonzales(I)	DEM	23,438	64.86%
Charles W. Snelling	LIB	671	1.85%
Race Total		36,134	

2008 Election Results

State Representative District 148		Primary Election	
Jessica Christina Farrar(I)	DEM	9,703	72.71%
Jose Medrano	DEM	3,641	27.28%
Race Total		13,344	

State Representative District 148		General Election	
Howard H. Gano, Jr.	REP	10,975	33.75%
Jessica Christina Farrar(I)	DEM	21,535	66.24%
Race Total		32,510	

Capitol Address

Capitol Address
Room E1.324, Capitol Extension
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 463-0578
(512) 463-1482 Fax

District Address

District Address 4900 N.
10th Street McAllen, TX
78504 (956) 686-5501
(956) 686-7131 Fax

Capitol Address

Capitol Address
Room 4N.7, Capitol Building
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 463-0620
(512) 463-0894 Fax

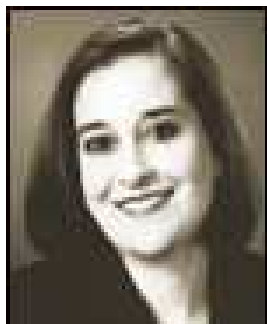
District Address

District Address
P.O. Box 30099
Houston, TX 77249
(713) 691-6912
(713) 691-3363 Fax

Texas State Representative Yvonne Goanzalez Toureilles

Texas House District 35

State Representative Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles was first elected in November of 2004 to represent District 35 in the **Texas House of Representatives**. **District 35** is comprised of **Atascosa, Bee, Goliad, Jim Wells, Karnes, Live Oak and McMullen** counties. **Representative Gonzalez Toureilles** currently serves on the House Committees for Energy Resources and Juvenile Justice and Family Issues. In order to best serve the unique needs of **District 35**, **Representative Gonzalez Toureilles** is also a member of the House Democratic Caucus, Rural Caucus, the Women's Health Caucus and the Mexican American Legislative Caucus.



Representative Gonzalez Toureilles graduated with honors from the **University of Texas at Austin** with a Bachelor of Arts degree in French. Later, she enrolled in the **University of Texas School of Law** and received her Doctorate of Jurisprudence in 1996. After earning her law degree, she began working for the **State of Texas** as a researcher at the **Texas House of Representatives**. Her passion for public service then led to her employment as an Assistant Attorney General.

Representative Gonzalez Toureilles is active in several organizations throughout District 35 including the **Alice Counseling Center, the Brush Country Cattlewomen's Association, Community Action, Inc., Texas Democratic Women Association, the Coastal Bend Women Lawyers Association** and is currently the President of the Coastal Bend Bar Association. Her commitment to helping families and children has also led to her fundraising efforts on behalf of the **American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the Boys and Girls Club** and the **March of Dimes Walk for Life**. **Representative Toureilles** has assisted these organizations with raising thousands of dollars to enhance the lives individuals throughout the District.

Representative Gonzalez Toureilles made history during the 79th Regular Session of the **Texas Legislature** when she gave birth to her second child, **Christopher John Marc**, becoming the first State Representative to give birth during a regular session. She is married to her high school sweetheart, **Marc Toureilles**, has a daughter named **Genevieve** and resides in **Alice** with her family where she practices family law.

2008 Election Results

State Representative District 35		Primary Election	
Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles(I)	DEM	19,777	100.00%
Race Total		19,777	
State Representative District 35		General Election	
Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles(I)	DEM	29,458	100.00%
Race Total		29,458	

Texas State Representative Ana E. Hernandez

Texas House District 143

Texas State Representative Ana E. Hernandez was elected in December, 2005 to represent **District 143** in the **Texas House of Representatives**. **District 143** covers part of Houston including areas of **Magnolia, Manchester, Port Houston, Cimarron and Denver Harbor**, the cities of **Galena Park and Jacinto City**, and portions of **Pasadena and Channelview**.

Ana began her career in politics by participating in the **Texas Legislative Internship Program** sponsored by **State Senator Rodney Ellis**. Through this program, she worked for **Representative Jessica Farrar** and later became her Chief of Staff. She then went on to work for the late **Representative Joe E. Moreno**.

Born in Reynosa, Mexico and raised in **Pasadena, Texas**, **Ana** comes from a very close-knit and hard working family, and is the younger of two daughters. Her father works at a refinery where he has been a shift worker for over 20 years, and her mother worked as a school cafeteria worker while raising her children.

Ana graduated from **Sam Rayburn High School** in **Pasadena**, and enrolled at the **University of Houston**, where she received her Bachelors of Art in Political Science and Psychology. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, she participated in a study abroad program to China and a **Peace Corps** summer internship in **South Africa**. Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, **Ana** attended the **University of Texas School of Law**. She received her Doctor of Jurisprudence in May of 2004.

In addition to representing **District 143** in the **Texas House of Representatives**, she also practices law at the **Mostyn Law Firm**. Previously, she was an attorney at **ConocoPhillips Company** where she worked on issues of property tax, real estate and right of way. She is a member of various professional, civic and charitable organizations including the **State Bar of Texas**, a member of the Board of Directors for the **Hispanic Bar Association of Houston**.



2008 Election Results

State Representative District 143		Primary Election	
Ana E. Hernandez(I)	DEM	6,859	100.00%
Race Total		6,859	
State Representative District 143		General Election	
Dorothy Olmos	REP	4,647	27.65%
Ana E. Hernandez(I)	DEM	11,881	70.69%
Joe O. Marcom	LIB	278	1.65%
Race Total		16,806	

Capitol Address

Room EXT E2.720
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0645
(800) 240-2294 Toll Free

District Address

721 E. 2nd Street
Alice, TX 78332
(361) 661-1145
111 South St. Mary's Ste.
202
Beeville, TX 78102
(361) 354-5373

Capitol Address

Room E1.220, Capitol
Extension
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 463-0614

District Address

1233 Mercury Drive
Houston, TX 77029
(713) 675-8596
(713) 675-8599 Fax

Texas State Representative Diana Maldonado Texas House District 52

Diana Maldonado moved to **Round Rock, Texas** in the mid-nineties to find more affordable homes, good public schools and safer neighborhoods for her two children – **Alex and Denise**. Even though she was a single mom working full-time at the **Texas Comptroller's Office**, she has always been hands-on when it comes to her kids' education. With a long history of supporting teachers and students in the classroom, to experience in the Forest Creek Elementary PTA and serving as President of the **Round Rock ISD Board of Trustees Maldonado** felt the time to increase her participation in the community had come.



In making the decision to run for the Democratic nomination in **House District 52** (just North of Austin, Texas.)

Maldonado quit her job with the **Texas Comptroller's Office** and worked on her campaign full time with a growing cadre of supporters and volunteers who saw that she was serious about winning this **Texas House of Representative** seat.

Maldonado stated during her campaign, *"I am running for State Representative in District 52 because we need leadership that represents people, not special interests or a particular political ideology. After twenty-two years as an award winning government efficiency expert in the Texas Comptroller's Office, as a single mom with two kids in college and a track record of success in building diverse coalitions and achieving common goals – I stand ready to join you in the effort to bring balance and common sense back to our Legislature."*

Diana Maldonado earned her Bachelor's in Business Management in 2000, graduated magna cum laude from **St. Edward's University New College**. **Diana** is a member of **St. William's Catholic Church** and is mother of two children; **Alex**, 26, graduate of **Round Rock High** who is attending **St. Edward's University** and **Denise Michelle**, 22, a graduate of **Stony Point High** who attends **Austin Community College**.

Texas State Representative Marisa Marquez Texas House District 77

Current Office: State House
Current District: 77
Party: Democratic



Background Information
Gender: Female
Family:
Birth Date: 09/27/1978
Birthplace: Houston, TX
Home City:
Religion:
Education:

Attended, Masters of Theology, University of Notre Dame, 2004
BBA, Finance/Business Economics, University of Notre Dame, 2000.

Professional Experience:

Community Relations Manager, Texas Community Care, present
Grants Administrator, El Paso Empowerment Zone Corporation, 2001-2002
Americorps Volunteer, ACCION-Texas, 2000-2001
Theology Teacher, Tepeyac Institute
International Hispanic Cultural Institute.

Political Experience:

Representative, Texas State House of Representatives, 2008-present

Organizations:

Member, City/County of El Paso Revolving Loan Fund Board
Board Member, Los Paisanos del Chamizal
Volunteer, Nolan Richardson Charity Golf Tournament.

2008 Election Results

State Representative District 52 Primary Election

Diana Maldonado	DEM	16,870	100.00%
Race Total		16,870	

State Representative District 52 General Election

Bryan Daniel	REP	34,047	47.41%
Diana Maldonado	DEM	34,898	48.60%
Lillian Simmons	LIB	2,854	3.97%
Race Total		71,799	

2008 Election Results

State Representative District 77 Primary Election

Marisa Marquez	DEM	8,389	51.60%
Paul C. Moreno(I)	DEM	7,868	48.39%
Race Total		16,257	

State Representative District 77 General Election

Marisa Marquez	DEM	21,444	100.00%
Race Total		21,444	

Capitol Address

Room E2.802 Capitol Extension
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0670
(512) 463-1469 Fax

District Address

P.O. Box 6446
Round Rock, TX
78683
(512) 463-0670

Capitol Address

Room E2. 704, Capitol Extension
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0638
(512) 463-8908 Fax

District Address

1444 Montana
Suite A
El Paso, TX 79901
(915) 544-0789

Texas State Representative Dora Olivo Texas House District 27

Representative Dora Olivo has been a member of the **Texas House of Representatives** since 1997 and represents one of the State's most diverse districts. **District 27** encompasses about half of the fast-growing **Fort Bend County**. Education, childcare, economic development, mental health, senior citizen issues and workforce and job-training are areas of special interest to her.

Representative Olivo serves under a pledge to make government work by bringing it closer to the people. She has devoted her time and efforts as a legislator to breaking down the barriers that too often deter, from the decision-making process, the citizens who pay for the system.

A grass-roots activist and advocate for her community, **Representative Olivo** takes pride in more than 34 years of service to her community and the state of **Texas**. She possesses a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education. **Representative Olivo** received her Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1981 from the **University of Houston** and has a private law practice in **Richmond, Texas**. She is a former schoolteacher who worked in both the **Corpus Christi Independent School District** and the **Lamar Consolidated Independent School District** for a total of 10 years. In 1977, she founded the radio talk show **Lo Nuestro** on **KFRD** in Rosenberg and hosted the program for 15 years.

Past affiliations include: director of the **Fort Bend Voter Registration Education Project**; board member for the **Fort Bend Family Health Clinic**; Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the **Fort Bend Interfaith Council**, an IAF organization; member of the **National Democratic Committee**; and board member of the Fort Bend Housing Finance Corporation. **Representative Olivo** is a member on the Public Education and Public Health Committees.

She is married to **Victor Olivo, Jr.**, owner of **Olivo Insurance Agency** in **Richmond, Texas**. They have two sons, **Victor III** and **Geraldo**; two grandsons, **Victor IV** and **Roman** and two granddaughters, **Analise Trinity** and **Sophia Grace**. Both **Victor III** and **Geraldo** graduated from **Texas A&M University**. **Victor III** is married to the former **Dawn Bingaman**.

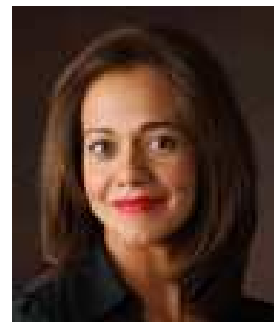


Texas State Representative Tara Rios Ybarra Texas House District 43

Serving for the first term as **State Representative for House District 43**, **Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra** proudly represents **Cameron, Kenedy, Brooks, Jim Hogg, Kleberg** and **Willacy Counties** in the **Texas Legislature**.

Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra is a born and raised south Texan. She attended high school in her hometown, **Corpus Christi**, and then went on to continue her education at the **University of Texas in Austin**. She graduated from **Dental School at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio** with a Doctorate of Dental Surgery. In addition to her educational experience, **Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra** completed a **Forensic Odontology Fellowship at The University of Texas Health Science Center** in 2002, which presented her with the opportunity to valiantly serve on the 9-11 World Trade Center Odontology Team which included Mass Disaster training. She has practiced dentistry since 1997 and has owned her own practice for the last nine years.

Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra has served as City Council member for the Town of **South Padre Island**. When it comes to community involvement **Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra** is no stranger. Her community efforts included working on improving indigent health care through the free indigent dental care mobile unit and sitting on the board of the Family Crisis Center which works to end domestic violence. **Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra** also serves as a Dental Consultant for the U.S. Department of Home Land Security Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Lastly and most importantly, she is the mother of two wonderful girls **Isabella Skye**, 7, and **Anastacia**, 3. **Dr. Tara Rios Ybarra** and her family reside in the town of **South Padre Island** and her thriving dental practice is located in **Brownsville, Texas**.



2008 Election Results

State Representative District 27 Primary Election

Dora Olivo(I)	DEM	14,821	50.31%
Ron Reynolds	DEM	14,634	49.68%

Race Total	29,455
------------	--------

State Representative District 27 General Election

Steve Host	REP	25,434	34.44%
Dora Olivo(I)	DEM	48,415	65.55%

Race Total	73,849
------------	--------

2008 Election Results

State Representative District 43 Primary Election

Juan Manuel Escobar(I)	DEM	11,226	46.25%
Tara Rios Ybarra	DEM	13,046	53.74%

Race Total	24,272
------------	--------

State Representative District 43 General Election

Tara Rios Ybarra	DEM	25,771	87.20%
Richard W. Shuey	LIB	3,782	12.79%

Race Total	29,553
------------	--------

Capitol Address

Room GN.7, Capitol Building
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 463-0494
(512) 463-1403 Fax

District Address

P.O. Box 2130
Missouri City, TX 77459
(281) 208-8806
(281) 208-8826 Fax

Capitol Address

Room EXT E2.302
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0463


District Address

635 E. King Street
Kingsville, TX 78363
(361) 592-6120
(361) 592-6371 Fax

Book Announcement

The 2009 Austin Hispanic Almanac

A Statistical Portrait
of the Community



Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s

- Demographics
- History
- Immigration
- Education
- Employment
- Economics
- Business
- Language
- Politics
- Governance
- Health
- Religion
- Judicial System
- Arts/Cultura
- Entertainment
- Sports
- Media
- Community Organizations

When people speak of the Hispanic community in **Austin, Texas**, what are they actually talking about? Is the "Hispanic community" a particular place in the city? Is it a set of census tracts where the majority of the residents are Mexican American? Is it a location where Spanish is spoken by those walking down the street? Where is the Hispanic community in **Austin, Texas**?

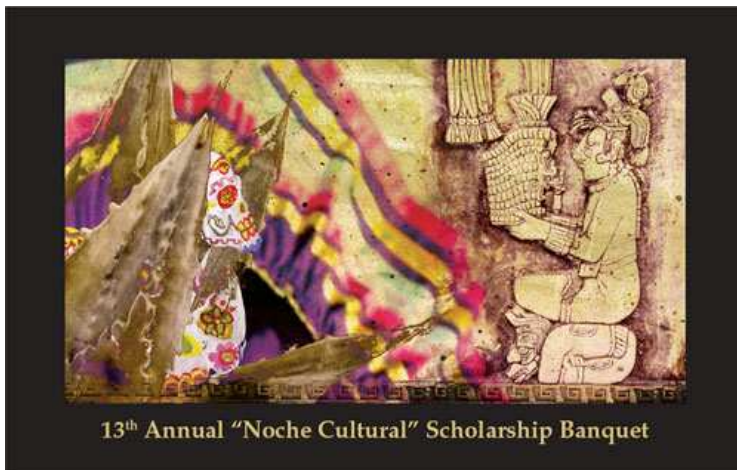
Some people would say the Hispanic community is not necessarily a physical place as much as it is a "state of mind" where relationships are formed by a system of beliefs, customs, traditions and values. Some would say this state of mind is sustained by the history of those who have made their way to **Austin, Texas** from **Mexico** and other countries further South, and by those who were raised here by parents with last names such as, **Garcia, Guzman, Gonzales, Martinez, Perez** and **Velasquez**. To be sure, when one speaks of "community" they are by definition referring to something that has to do with the idea of commonality, the idea of association and the idea of belonging. Whether one subscribes to the notion that community is physical or something that is a "state of mind," there is indeed a dynamic at work that is facilitating the reproduction of a culture and people who go by the labels of, Mexican American, Chicano, La Raza, Hispanic and Latino.

This new book, **The 2009 Austin Hispanic Almanac** is an attempt to highlight the presence of the Latino community in **Austin, Texas** through the use of statistical tables, graphs, charts, photographs, interviews and short narratives in English and Spanish. Where appropriate, Latinos are compared to other racial groups so as to provide a perspective or context in which to view their participation and presence in the city.

The organization of this book consists of 20 sections, an historical chronology and an index. The book comes in at over 250 pages and contains numerous photos, illustrations and commentary sprinkled throughout to provide additional insight into the topic being discussed. Some of the sections include commentary in Spanish. The release date is scheduled for March, 2009.

Visit the website: www.austinhispanicalmanac.com for more information

The Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Houston



Keynote Address

- Dr. Renu Khator
President/Chancellor
University of Houston

Distinguished Alumnus Award

- Mr. Felix Fraga
Neighborhood Centers, Inc.

Time and Place

- Wednesday, March 11, 2009
6:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m

• UH Hilton Hotel
Waldorf Astoria (Room 210)

For more information please call: (713) 743-3136

GUADALUPE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
 27th ANNUAL
**TEJANO CONJUNTO FESTIVAL
 EN SAN ANTONIO 2008**

May 6-10
 Guadalupe Theater
 Rosedale Park



Looking For A Band
 That Plays It All?

We've Got One...

THE FRANK GOMEZ BAND
 WWW.FRANKGOMEZ.COM
 512-845-6458



Uvalde, Texas 1956 en la tienda del Señor Lopez por la calle Main. En el violin, Alex Barragan, en el acordeon, un señor que le decian El Indio. Los demas, quien sabe.

HOUSTON AREA LATINO SUMMIT

It's Time To Build a Stronger Latino Network

29TH TEJANO MUSIC AWARDS

Fan Fair

MARCH 20TH, 21ST & 22ND
 Market Square - Downtown
 San Antonio

- Dancin' in the Street • Tejano Music
- Autographs • Merchandise • Tex-Mex Food
- 3 Days • 6 Stages • 100 Acts/Groups