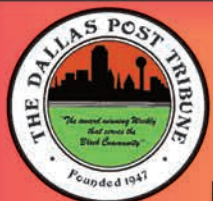


“VOTE NO AGAINST PROPOSITIONS; S, T, & U!”



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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

October 17 - 23, 2024

OP-ED: The Right to Vote is Protective of all Other Rights



Photo Credit by mphilipps007

Written by Colin Allred

Voting is one of our most fundamental rights. It's not just about having a say in the future of our country, it's about honoring the legacy of those who fought and sacrificed so that we could have a voice. As a voting rights lawyer, I've seen the impacts of voter suppression first-

hand, and how deeply un-American it is when folks cannot vote because of arbitrary barriers put in place to make it harder.

I became a voting rights attorney because I believe the right to vote is preservative of all other rights. That's why we cannot afford to sit on the sidelines. In

Congress, I've been working to reinstate and modernize the Voting Rights Act to stop harmful voter suppression laws here in Texas and across the country. To give more Texans a chance to participate in our democracy, we must expand early voting, make Election Day a federal holiday,

and take steps like same-day voter registration that make voting more accessible, not create barriers that are harmful to our democracy. I've introduced legislation that would ensure integrity in our elections and protect our election workers. I stand by the words of my hero, Congressman

John Lewis who said "The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy."

Despite these efforts, laws like S.B. 1 in Texas make it harder for Texans to vote by mail,

Continue **Vote** Page 3

Colin Allred, Ted Cruz blast each other as "extreme," throw jabs on border and abortion in Senate debate

The debate proved combative from start to finish, with Cruz and Allred trading barbs on nearly every issue that came up.

By Jasper Scherer and Renzo Downey



U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, left, and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, take part in a debate for the U.S. Senate hosted by WFAA on Oct. 15, 2024, in Dallas. Photo Credit: **Shelby Tauber** for The Texas Tribune via POOL

DALLAS — U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and his Democratic challenger, U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, sparred Tuesday over immigration, abortion and transgender rights in a feisty debate that is expected to be the only onstage face-off between the two candidates ahead of the Nov. 5 election.

Throughout the one-hour debate, Cruz cast Allred as "radical and extreme," repeatedly urging the audience to consider Allred's voting record over his efforts to portray himself as a moderate. He sought to tie Allred to Vice President Kamala Harris, alleging the two "voted in favor of open borders over and over" and were both responsible for fueling a surge in inflation under the Biden administration.

"We're doing an awful

lot right in the state of Texas," Cruz opened the debate. "Colin Allred wants to change that. I want to keep Texas, Texas."

Allred countered by attacking Cruz as a partisan bomb-thrower with few legislative accomplishments to show for his nearly 12 years in office. He blasted Cruz for helping spike a bipartisan border package earlier this year and said the GOP senator was "only focused on himself," invoking Cruz's trip to Cancun in 2021 as Texas was paralyzed by a historic winter storm.

"He's never there for us when we need him," Allred said. "When the lights went out in the energy capital of the world, he went to Cancun. When a mob was

Continue **Debate** Page 3

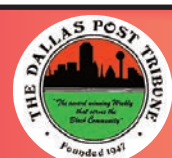
Harris Hits Out at Trump's Racist Agenda Which Threatens Black and Minority Americans as Carville Compares Rally to Nazi-Era Event



By **Stacy M. Brown**

Vice President Kamala Harris raised concerns about Donald Trump's ongoing racist rhetoric during a virtual town hall with radio host Charlamagne tha God, suggesting the former president intends to use fear as a tool to target minority communities. Harris responded to a voter from Georgia who feared Trump would use the Alien

Continue **Rally** Page 7



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Continued Rally Page 1

Enemies Act of 1798 to detain people of color. "Bobby," the voter, expressed worry that Trump would "put anyone that doesn't look white in camps."

"You've hit on a really important point and expressed it, I think, so well," Harris said. "He is running full-time on a campaign that is about instilling fear. Not about hope, not about optimism, not about the future, but about fear."

Harris went on to criticize Trump's claims that immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, were eating their pets. She also accused him of sabotaging a bipartisan border security bill that would have added border agents and targeted fentanyl trafficking. "He would prefer to run on a problem instead of fixing a problem," Harris stated.

Democratic strategist James Carville earlier voiced his concerns, comparing Trump's tactics to those of Nazi Germany. Speaking on MSNBC's Inside with Jen Psaki, Carville warned that Trump's planned rally at Madison Square Garden on October 27 was reminiscent of a pro-Nazi event held there in 1939. During that rally, which drew 20,000 supporters, swastikas were displayed alongside a portrait of George Washington, while speakers promoted anti-Semitic views. Carville cautioned Americans about the dangers of

another Trump presidency: "They're telling you they're doing all of this. This is not something we're making up. They have promised military round-up." He emphasized the Harris campaign's need to clarify the severe threats Trump could pose.

Trump recently stated on Fox News's Sunday Morning Futures that he might deploy the National Guard or military forces to prevent "radical left lunatics" from causing unrest on Election Day. "It should be very easily handled by, if necessary, the National Guard, or if really necessary, the military," he said.

Others have echoed Carville's concerns. In June, MSNBC host Rachel Maddow questioned whether camps under a Trump administration would be limited to migrants, saying, "What convinces you that these massive camps he's planning are only for migrants?"

New York State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal has called on Madison Square Garden to cancel Trump's rally, stating, "Allowing Trump to hold an event at MSG is equivalent to the infamous Nazi rally at Madison Square Garden on February 20, 1939." He urged the venue to "keep our city safe."

With three weeks until Election Day, Carville made his final plea: "Pay attention to them right now, please. They're telling you."

VOTE NO AGAINST PROPOSITIONS; S, T, & U!

We Should All Follow The Georgia Voter Turnout Example

By: **Dr. John E. Warren**, Publisher
San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper



Dr. John E. Warren

On the first day of voting in the state of Georgia, more than 344,000 people waited in lines for as long as it took to cast their votes in this November's General Election. This first day of voting was greater than the number voting on the first day four years ago in Georgia. Former President Jimmy Carter, who turned 100 years old a couple of weeks ago, had a dream realized. He had expressed

a hope that he would live long enough after turning 100 years old, to cast his vote for Kamala Harris to become the first woman President of these united states. Nationwide over 6.6 million people have already cast their ballots in early elections.

We must remember that the state of Georgia gave us democratic control of the U.S. Senate in sending both a Black and a Jewish person to the Senate in spite of Trump's efforts to steal votes. Bringing the issue close to home, each of us must follow the examples of these early voters and not only vote as soon as possible, but also be in touch with friends and family in other cities and states to encourage all to vote. While voting, we must not forget those running for other

positions like the Congress, the

Senate and state and local elections. Every vote counts and your vote is among the "every vote counts".

We should not forget the Propositions and local Measures on our ballots. Some of us are already showing signs of not wanting to hear the continuous call for voter registration and voting. But let's remember that our very future hangs on this election in more ways than one.

Many of those voting for and supporting Donald Trump know that he is unfit to hold office as President of the United States. As former Congresswoman Liz Cheney states, "he should never be allowed near the Oval Office again." But the

vote for Trump is not about Trump. It's about the vehicle he represents for moving the radical conservative agenda to gain additional judges on the Supreme Court and in Federal Judgeships as a means to move America towards restoring policies and power to the rich and the few for generations to come. It's about "they the people" and not the "We the people" that includes the diverse and working class people of this country.

Let's not lose our freedoms because of a failure to vote. It's a matter of life and death, no matter where you live or whether or not you think your vote counts. Remember, a no vote is the same as a vote for those running against your interest.

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

A Survey of Titus



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Located on the Mediterranean Island was a place called Crete; its inhabitants had a bad reputation for being immoral and abounding in wicked activities. To be called a “Cretan” was similar to being called “vile” and “wicked.” Paul had visited Crete following his Roman imprisonment but dispatched Titus with the challenging task of appointing elders and giving oversight for the churches in Crete. Thus,

Paul will advise Titus to appoint elders so that the churches will be properly organized and managed; but more importantly, Paul will stress to Titus that each age group mentioned in Chapter 2 (aged men and women, young men and women, and servants) must exhibit the proper character and conduct that is consistent with the profession of their claimed faith in God.

In addition to Titus’ responsibility to properly

organize the churches, there was also a grave need that he refute the false teachers in Crete who were guilty of distorting the truth of the gospel (1:10-16). These false teachers were guilty of subverting sound doctrine; a problem that is still prevalent among us today! We need more trouble-shooters today as a Titus who will stand firm and rebuke false teachers in their aim to go against sound “healthy” doctrine. The

theme of this marvelous epistle is Paul’s exhortation to Titus to appoint elders in the church for organization and that each member would live out the truth of the gospel through godly living.

Some of the key verses of this grand epistle are found in Titus 1:5 and 3:8, and they read – “For this reason (cause) left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had

appointed thee” (1:5); “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.” This epistle has a brief outline.

- I. Select Proven Leaders (Chapter 1)
- II. Proclaim Sound Doctrine (Chapter 2)
- III. Practice Good

Works (Chapter 3)

As I conclude this article, it would be remiss on my part if I didn’t alert you to the marvelous Christian theology references found in the book of Titus, and they are:

1:1-4; 2:11-14; 3:4-7. May God truly prosper your ministry, and as you minister, be on alert that He is coming back again (Titus 2:11-14).

May God Bless

Continued **Vote** Page 1

limit the hours of early voting and have burdensome voter registration, and voter ID provisions. This isn’t who we are as Texans. The Voting Rights Act, championed by the civil rights movement, was signed into law by a great Texan, President Lyndon B. Johnson.

I think about other Texas icons like the late, great Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who fought fearlessly for our

democracy. She never shied away from challenging those who wanted to silence our communities and take away folks’ voices in our democracy. She said it best: “What the people want is very simple, they want an America as good as its promise.”

To live up to that promise, we must do better.

Ted Cruz wants to take our democracy backward, as we all saw on January 6 when he tried to overturn a free and fair election and disregard the will of the

American people. Ted Cruz supports restrictive laws based on fear tactics about widespread voter fraud. He doesn’t understand and doesn’t care that voting is a cornerstone of our democracy, and he is trying to strip away our hard-won rights.

History has shown us that elections can be decided by just a handful of votes.

Yet in Texas, only 42 percent of eligible voters turned out in 2022 and Texas sadly consistently

ranks towards the bottom in the country in turnout numbers.

We have less than a month to turn out our family and friends and ensure every eligible Texan cast their ballot. It’s time to decide to vote, especially at a moment when folks like Ted Cruz want to threaten the principles our country was founded on.

I often say if you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu. Voting is our power and our voice. Let’s use it.

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Continued **Debate** Page 1

storming the Capitol, he was hiding in a supply closet. And when the toughest border security bill in a generation came up in the United States Senate, he took it down.”

The debate, held at WFAA-TV’s studio in downtown Dallas, proved combative from start to finish, with Cruz and Allred trading barbs on nearly every issue that came up. In his opening statement, Allred called Cruz “maybe the most extreme” member of the Senate in the last 30 years. Cruz closed with the message that Allred “wants to destroy what we’ve got in Texas because he shares Nancy Pelosi and Kamala Harris’ values.”

The debate began with a focus on Texas’ abortion ban, which does not exempt cases of rape and incest. Allred has made restoring abortion access a key part of his campaign, while Cruz has largely avoided the issue. Pressed Tuesday on where he stands on the question of rape and incest exceptions, Cruz said the matter should be settled at the state level and declined to stake out a position. He went on to criticize Allred for pinning the issue on him in his TV ads.

“You know, Congressman Allred is running all sorts of ads saying that I made this decision,” Cruz

said. “I don’t serve in the state Legislature. I’m not the governor.”

Allred has leaned into the state abortion ban in the homestretch of the election, running ads that highlight the stories of women who were forced to leave the state after being denied emergency medical care for pregnancy complications. He brought up the issue again Tuesday evening, disputing Cruz’s characterization of himself as “pro-life.”

“You’re not pro-life,” Allred said, turning to address Cruz. “It’s not pro-life to deny women care so long that they can’t have children anymore. It’s not pro-life to force a victim of rape to carry their rapist’s baby. ... Understand that when Ted Cruz says he’s pro-life, he doesn’t mean yours.”

Allred was put on the defensive later when he was asked about a series of ads run by Cruz and his allies accusing the Dallas Democrat of supporting legislation that would allow men to use women’s restrooms and boys to play in girls’ sports.

The ads cite Allred’s vote against the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023, a GOP bill that would cut off federal funds for athletic programs that allow men, “based solely on a person’s reproductive biology and genetics at birth,” to com-

pete in women’s or girls’ sports.

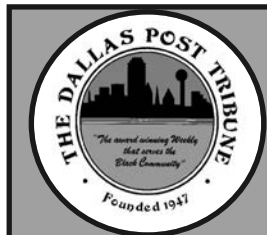
Allred characterized the attacks as a “Hail Mary” and a “desperate” attempt to deflect from Cruz’s stance on abortion, calling it “laughable” for the GOP senator to say he wants to protect women.

“What I think is that folks should not be discriminated against,” Allred said. “What Senator Cruz should try to explain to you is why he thinks they should.”

Cruz dug into Allred for supporting a 2021 bill called the Equality Act, which would have barred gender discrimination in public places, including based on if a person is transgender. He also blasted Allred for recently signing onto a letter, along with dozens of other House Democrats, that urged GOP lawmakers to strike from an annual defense policy bill provisions that include “restricting medically necessary care for transgender service members” and restricting the use of pride flags on bases.

“You know what he argued for? Military bases should have drag shows and should be able to fly a transgender flag above it,” Cruz said. “Call me old-fashioned — I think the only flag that should fly above our military base should be the American

Continue **Debate** Page 7



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V O T E

Parkland focuses on prevention this National Latino AIDS Awareness Day

Expands testing, PrEP, and education to combat HIV disparities in the Latino community

DALLAS – In observance of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD), Parkland Health is prioritizing awareness, education and access to essential HIV prevention services while addressing the disproportionate impact of HIV on Latino communities in Dallas County.

NLAAD is observed annually on October 15. The theme for this year is “Get Tested, Get Treated, Get in Control.”

Despite advances in treatment and prevention, the Latino community faces significant disparities as it relates to HIV. While Latinos account for 32% of the population in Dallas County, a large majority of new HIV cases are among Latino and Hispanic individuals, according to Susana M. Lazarte, MD, infectious diseases specialist at Parkland and Associate Professor of Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Nationally, 32% of new HIV diagnoses were among Latinos with the demographic only making up 18% of the general U.S. population.

Many of these diagnoses occur at a late stage, often when individuals have already progressed to AIDS. This increases their risk for complications and mortality.

“Increased awareness and education are crucial to HIV prevention,” said

Dr. Lazarte. “While testing is important, Parkland’s efforts go beyond that. It’s about teaching the community that early diagnosis and access to preventive care like PrEP can change lives.”

PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) is a medication taken daily or via bi-monthly injection that significantly reduces the risk of contracting HIV by preventing the virus from establishing an infection in the body. It’s a crucial tool in HIV prevention, especially for individuals at higher risk, as it offers an effective way to stay protected before potential exposure.

Parkland has intensified its HIV prevention strategies across the health system, including expanding access to PrEP, offering HIV education and prevention at all Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) locations and conducting screenings at Access to Care Pop-Ups, during community outreach activities and in Parkland’s Emergency Department. In line with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, Parkland now offers HIV testing as part of routine care for every adult patient, with a goal of early diagnosis and intervention.

“Latino communities face barriers when it comes to accessing preventive care like PrEP due

to factors like insurance, stigma and access to care,” Dr. Lazarte stated. “We see stigma in the Latino community at levels reminiscent of the 1980s. Many still believe they’re exempt from risk, but HIV can affect anyone.”

Parkland experts recommend every individual be tested at least once in their lifetime in accordance with the U.S. Prevention Task Force recommendations, as well as every time they have a new sexual partner. Patients can also ask their general practitioners for a test during their routine checkups any time they feel they could use one.

Dr. Lazarte and her team recognize that cultural factors and stigma often prevent Latino individuals from seeking care. She says healthcare providers play a critical role in breaking down these barriers by normalizing conversations about sexual health.

Armando Quiroz, HIV test counselor at the ACCESS clinic in Parkland’s Moody Outpatient Center, focuses on bilingual outreach, specifically in the Latino community. Parkland’s outreach initiatives include health fairs, community-based organizations, academic institutions and faith-based communities in Parkland’s priority ZIP Codes.

“We have a great col-

laboration with our community health workers and our community partners that are all involved in our commitment to end the HIV epidemic,” Quiroz said. “We’re aiming to reach the multigenerational Latino community and empower them with education about sexual health, a topic that they have historically viewed as taboo but should be as routine as checking your blood pressure.”

Parkland offers HIV screenings at no cost to Dallas County residents every Thursday at:

- Moody Outpatient Center, 5151 Maple Ave., Dallas, 75235 (First floor main entrance, near the Moody Starbucks Café)
- Ron J. Anderson, MD Clinic Building, 5184 Tex Oak Ave., Dallas, 75235 (First floor, near the snack market by the check-in counter)

“The earlier you know your status, the sooner you can take control of your health. If diagnosed early, HIV can be treated to the point where a person can live a normal life without transmitting the virus to others,” Dr. Lazarte said.

For more information about HIV services available at Parkland visit <https://www.parkland-health.org/parkland-hiv-services-department>.

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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

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Cowboys hope 'battle tests' now can pay off later

By Patrik Walker/DallasCowboys.com Staff Writer



Patrik Walker

FRISCO, Texas — Battered and bruised, both physically and in the realm of pride, the Dallas Cowboys are entering their bye week at the perfect time. They've won three games on the road, the most recent being a gritty win to overcome all

manner of adversity against the Steelers in Pittsburgh, but they've also lost three at home, with the blowout loss to the Detroit Lions technically serving as the fourth consecutive humbling at AT&T Stadium.

They've been outscored to tune of 53-119, very near a historical worst in points allowed at home through the first three games of an NFL season, and have shown both a refusal to die and an unwillingness to live in a span of only seven days.

All of this plays into who the Cowboys are currently, but with 11 regular season games remaining to right the ship, it's at

least possible that the early-season adversity might pay itself forward — as stated by offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer.

"We're getting battle tested, and that's the thing," he said of the six-game body of work. "One of the things that's happening right now is we're being battle tested. We are. We're finding out a lot about ourselves and our grit.

"It's not just the young players that we're talking about — it's all the players. We'd like to get that stuff now, so that when the games get bigger and bigger, and on

a bigger stage, you feel equipped to handle it."

Being ravaged by injury as of late is one reason for the struggles, but not the excuse, considering there were issues (e.g., red zone offense, run defense) that present themselves before the injury bug sunk its fangs into the roster over the past couple of weeks.

It has, however, created opportunities for role players to get a lot of reps they may otherwise not have received, helping to forge them for the winter to come.

There's good to be gleaned from the first six games, but there's far more bad and, sitting at

.500, you are indeed what your record says you are. The next couple of weeks will give the Cowboys an opportunity to gut check themselves to prevent other teams from having to do it for them as the calendar turns its pages.

"I don't think there's ever been a bad time for a bye week," said head coach Mike McCarthy. "I just think the fact that this game is challenging. It's a 17-game season, so I get it. When a schedule comes out, you look at how it lines up. But, just based on where we are, as far as injuries and things like that, I think it's, it's a good time for a bye."

And, on the other side

of that bye, they will say hello to another big test — a familiar one, no less — when they travel to meet the 49ers in Santa Clara.

"We have studies that we do, a big project that we'll do with our players when they get back," McCarthy added. "So that's all about continuing education and really just staying on top of it. I think we need to do better. We got work to do, obviously."

Three tests passed, but none were aced. Three tests failed, and not many showed up, mentally, to take the last one.

And now it's time for midterms.

Here's how to vote in the Texas 2024 Election Cont. 10/10/2024 - (Part 2)

What does it mean if my voter registration is in "suspense"?

If a county receives a non-deliverable notice after sending a voter registration certificate or suspects an address change, a voter is placed on the "suspense list" and asked to confirm their address. Voters on the suspense list can still vote (<https://www.votetexas.gov/faq/registration.html>) if they update or confirm their address before the voter registration deadline or fill out a "statement of residence" when voting, but they may have to vote at their previous polling location or vote on a limited ballot. If a suspended voter takes no action, they are removed from the voter rolls after about four years, according to the Texas Secretary of State's office.

Federal law prevents the state from removing registered voters within 90 days of a federal election unless the voter has died, been convicted of a felony or been declared mentally incapacitated.

If you're concerned about your voter registration, you can verify it online (<https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>).

What if I moved after the voter registration deadline?

You must reside in a Texas county by the voter registration deadline to vote in the upcoming election unless you qualify for absentee voting. You can read more about absentee and mail-in voting here (<https://www.texastribune.org/2024/08/21/texas-voter-guide-2024-election/#86c18fcc-3e2d-4af6-947e-ba4b98cefe9d>).

You can vote at your previous polling location if you moved within the same county or political subdivision. Or you can vote at your new polling location on a ballot limited to the elections you would qualify to vote in at both polling locations, such as statewide races. But limited ballots are available only during early voting at a "main early voting polling place," which is usually the office of the election administrator or county clerk who runs elections in your county. The

main early voting polling place should be noted in a county's list of early voting locations.

Eligible people experiencing homelessness can vote as long as they provide on their registration an address and description for where they are residing, such as a shelter or a street intersection. If needed, their mailing address can be different, but a P.O. Box address is usually not considered a residence address.

What do I do if I run into issues with my voter registration?

If you have questions or concerns about your registration, you can find your county's voter registration contact here (<https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml>).

Inside polling locations, there are typically "resolution desks" where poll workers can address registration issues.

You can also find more information on frequently asked questions from the secretary of state's office at votetexas.gov.

What do I need to know about mail-in voting?

How do I know if I'm eligible to vote by mail?

This option is fairly limited in Texas. You're allowed to vote by mail if:

- You will be 65 or older by Election Day.
- You will not be in your county for the entire voting period, including early voting.
- You cite a sickness or disability that prevents you from voting in person without needing personal assistance or without the likelihood of injuring your health.
- You're expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day.
- You are confined in jail but otherwise eligible (i.e., not convicted of a felony).

College students who are registered at

a residence in Texas, such as a parent's home, but are studying out of state can apply for absentee ballots. Students studying in Texas who are from other states can also choose to register to vote with their dorm or Texas address. Learn more in our voter guide for students (<https://www.texastribune.org/2024/08/12/texas-2024-election-college-student-voting/>).

If you are voting absentee, such as from out of the state, and want to see what will appear on your ballot, you can get a sample ballot from your county. Sample ballots can be found on your county's election website in most cases. If you are voting from overseas, what appears on your ballot may depend on how you fill out your application to vote by mail and when you submit it. Read more in our guide to voting by mail (<https://www.texastribune.org/2024/08/14/vote-by-mail-texas-2024-election/>).

What identification do I need to vote by mail?

Texas' rules require voters to provide an ID number on both their application for a ballot and the carrier-envelope used to return a completed ballot. This must be one of the following ID numbers:

- A driver's license number
- A state ID number
- The last four digits of their Social Security number
- A Texas election ID certificate number (this would be found on a photo ID issued by DPS and is different from the number found on your voter registration certificate)

If they don't have any of these, voters can also check a box indicating they have not been issued any identification.

This identification rule was added by the Texas Legislature in 2021, and some voters have had their ballots or applications rejected because they didn't provide an ID number or the number they provided did not match the one the state had for them.

If you don't have a license number on file or are unsure about which ID number you provided, the secretary of state has suggested contacting your local voter registrar to ask about how to add one of the required numbers to your voter registration record.

Other voting advocates have suggested voters include both their driver's license or state ID number and the last four digits of their Social Security number, if they have both, to avoid issues.

Does lack of immunity to COVID-19 qualify as a disability?

While a lack of immunity to COVID-19 alone does not allow a voter to request a ballot based on a disability, the Texas Supreme Court ruled in 2020 that it was up to voters to decide if that lack of immunity, combined with their medical history, meets the state's eligibility criteria.

The Texas election code's definition for disability is broader than other federal definitions. A voter is eligible to vote by mail if they have a "sickness or physical condition" that prevents them from voting in person without the likelihood of "needing personal assistance or of injuring the voter's health." It's up to the voter to decide this, and election officials don't have the authority to question a voter's reasoning.

What kind of postage do I need to return my mail-in ballot?

It depends on where you live. Postage for mail-in ballots will vary by county because the style and size of the ballot could be different from county to county — and some counties may pay postage for you. Local elections offices should have specifics once ballots are finalized. That said, if you don't have enough postage, your ballot should not be returned to you. Instead, the Postal Service is supposed to deliver the ballot and bill the county for the insufficient or missing postage.



City of Dallas

NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dallas, Texas, has called a special election to be held within the City of Dallas, Texas, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

- FOR

PROPOSITION A
 Shall Chapter 40A of the Dallas City Code, known as the employees' retirement fund of the City of Dallas, be amended in accordance with Ordinance No. 32801 to: add, revise, and delete various definitions; provide amended terms and term limits of the board; modify the retirement fund board's powers and duties; specify the date the board shall adopt the actuarially determined contribution rate, the current total adjusted total obligation rate, the current total obligation rate, and the pension obligation bond credit rate for each fiscal year; provide amended contribution amounts for the city and employees; provide a contribution maximum for Tier A and Tier B employees; provide that the city may contribute additional monies to the retirement fund in its sole discretion; amend the modifications of contribution rates; provide guardrails with respect to the calculation of the actuarially determined contribution and incorporating the guardrails into actuarial assumptions; and amend the procedure to amend Chapter 40A?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter 40A of the Dallas City Code, known as the employees' retirement fund of the City of Dallas, be amended in accordance with Ordinance No. 32801 to: add, revise, and delete various definitions; provide amended terms and term limits of the board; modify the retirement fund board's powers and duties; specify the date the board shall adopt the actuarially determined contribution rate, the current total adjusted total obligation rate, the current total obligation rate, and the pension obligation bond credit rate for each fiscal year; provide amended contribution amounts for the city and employees; provide a contribution maximum for Tier A and Tier B employees; provide that the city may contribute additional monies to the retirement fund in its sole discretion; amend the modifications of contribution rates; provide guardrails with respect to the calculation of the actuarially determined contribution and incorporating the guardrails into actuarial assumptions; and amend the procedure to amend Chapter 40A?

FOR

PROPOSITION B
 Shall the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a preamble that declares the city to be an equitable democracy, comprised of representatives that act to make the city fair, equitable, just, and safe for all residents?

AGAINST

Shall the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a preamble that declares the city to be an equitable democracy, comprised of representatives that act to make the city fair, equitable, just, and safe for all residents?

FOR

PROPOSITION C
Increasing Salaries for the Mayor and Councilmembers
 Shall Chapter III, Section 4(a) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to increase the annual salary for the mayor to \$110,000 and the annual salaries for councilmembers to \$90,000 with salaries subject to a yearly adjustment equal to the year-over-year percentage increase in the local consumer price index, effective January 1, 2025?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter III, Section 4(a) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to increase the annual salary for the mayor to \$110,000 and the annual salaries for councilmembers to \$90,000 with salaries subject to a yearly adjustment equal to the year-over-year percentage increase in the local consumer price index, effective January 1, 2025?

FOR

PROPOSITION D
Removing Election Date from the Charter
 Shall Chapter IV, Section 3 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by deleting the requirement that elections for members of the city council be held in May and instead be held according to state law and as designated by city resolution or ordinance?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter IV, Section 3 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by deleting the requirement that elections for members of the city council be held in May and instead be held according to state law and as designated by city resolution or ordinance?

FOR

PROPOSITION E
Eliminating the Ability for Councilmembers and Mayor to Run Again After Serving the Limit of Terms
 Shall Chapter III, Section 3A of the Dallas City Charter be amended to eliminate the ability for members of the city council to run for city council again after serving the maximum four two-year terms and to eliminate the ability for the mayor to run for mayor again after serving the maximum two four-year terms?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter III, Section 3A of the Dallas City Charter be amended to eliminate the ability for members of the city council to run for city council again after serving the maximum four two-year terms and to eliminate the ability for the mayor to run for mayor again after serving the maximum two four-year terms?

FOR

PROPOSITION F
Providing the City Secretary and City Auditor with Employees
 Shall Chapter IIIA, Section 2 and Chapter IX, Section 2 of the Dallas City Charter, which requires the city council to provide assistants to the city secretary and city auditor, be amended to also require the city council to provide employees to the city secretary and city auditor?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter IIIA, Section 2 and Chapter IX, Section 2 of the Dallas City Charter, which requires the city council to provide assistants to the city secretary and city auditor, be amended to also require the city council to provide employees to the city secretary and city auditor?

FOR

PROPOSITION G
Adding Eligibility Criteria for Serving on the Redistricting Commission
 Shall Chapter IV, Section 5(b)(2) of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes the redistricting commission, be amended by adding eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter IV, Section 5(b)(2) of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes the redistricting commission, be amended by adding eligibility criteria for serving on the redistricting commission?

FOR

PROPOSITION H
Eliminating the Requirement that Members of Boards and Commissions Created by Charter be Registered to Vote, Qualified Voters, or Qualified Taxpaying Citizens
 Shall Chapter IV, Section 5; Chapter XV, Section 3; Chapter XVI, Section 1; and Chapter XVII, Section 2 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by eliminating the requirement that members of the redistricting commission, city plan commission, civil service board, and park and recreation board be registered to vote, qualified voters, or qualified taxpayers?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter IV, Section 5; Chapter XV, Section 3; Chapter XVI, Section 1; and Chapter XVII, Section 2 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by eliminating the requirement that members of the redistricting commission, city plan commission, civil service board, and park and recreation board be registered to vote, qualified voters, or qualified taxpayers?

FOR

PROPOSITION I
Amending Initiative and Referendum Petition Procedure by Extending Deadline for Petition Signature Collection from 60 Days to 120 Days and Reducing Number of Signatures Required on a Petition to Initiate a Referendum
 Shall Chapter XVIII, Section 11 of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes procedures for initiative and referendum of ordinances, be amended to extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect required signatures from 60 days to 120 days and reduce the number of signatures required on a petition from 10 percent of the qualified voters of the City of Dallas to five percent?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter XVIII, Section 11 of the Dallas City Charter, which establishes procedures for initiative and referendum of ordinances, be amended to extend the deadline petitioners must meet to collect required signatures from 60 days to 120 days and reduce the number of signatures required on a petition from 10 percent of the qualified voters of the City of Dallas to five percent?

FOR

PROPOSITION J
Allowing City Council to Replace City Board and Commission Members Before Completion of Board and Commission Terms
 Shall Chapter XXIV, Section 17(b) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to allow city council's appointments to city boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to completion of a member's two-year term?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter XXIV, Section 17(b) of the Dallas City Charter be amended to allow city council's appointments to city boards and commissions to be replaced by city council prior to completion of a member's two-year term?

FOR

PROPOSITION L
Adding the Office of the Inspector General to the Charter
 Shall Chapter XI, Section 2 be amended and a new chapter be added to the Dallas City Charter that establishes the Office of the Inspector General with the Inspector General being appointed by city council and lists the duties of the Inspector General?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter XI, Section 2 be amended and a new chapter be added to the Dallas City Charter that establishes the Office of the Inspector General with the Inspector General being appointed by city council and lists the duties of the Inspector General?

FOR

PROPOSITION O
Amending the Appointment Procedure and Qualifications of Associate Municipal Judges
 Shall Chapter VIII, Section 6 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to clarify the terms of associate municipal judges and state that associate municipal judges are appointed by city council, receive assignments from the administrative judge or the administrative judge's designee, and must be residents of Dallas within four months of the date of appointment and practicing attorneys in good standing?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter VIII, Section 6 of the Dallas City Charter be amended to clarify the terms of associate municipal judges and state that associate municipal judges are appointed by city council, receive assignments from the administrative judge or the administrative judge's designee, and must be residents of Dallas within four months of the date of appointment and practicing attorneys in good standing?

FOR

PROPOSITION P
Deleting the Requirement to Pay One-Half the Costs of Administrative Law Judge
 Shall Chapter XVI, Section 12.1 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by deleting the requirement that a city employee who appeals his or her discharge or reduction in grade to an administrative law judge pay one-half of the costs attributed to having the administrative law judge conduct the appeal hearing?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter XVI, Section 12.1 of the Dallas City Charter be amended by deleting the requirement that a city employee who appeals his or her discharge or reduction in grade to an administrative law judge pay one-half of the costs attributed to having the administrative law judge conduct the appeal hearing?

FOR

PROPOSITION Q
Technical Amendments to Conform to State Law, City Code, and Actual Practices; to Correct Terms; and to Clarify Language
 Shall Chapter III, Section 3; Chapter III, Section 4; Chapter III, Chapter 8(b); Chapter III, Section 13(a); Chapter III, Section 19; Chapter IV, Section 6(a); Chapter IV, Section 6(c)(2); Chapter IV, Section 13; Chapter XI, Section 1; Chapter XI, Section 3; Chapter XII, Section 4; Chapter XIII, Section 2(2); Chapter XIII, Section 9; Chapter XIV, Section 8; Chapter XV, Section 3; Chapter XV, Section 4; Chapter XVI, Section 3(b)(1); Chapter XVI, Section 7; Chapter XVI, Section 10(a); Chapter XVI, Section 11(b); Chapter XVIII, Section 7; Chapter XVIII, Section 11(1); Chapter XVIII, Section 15; Chapter XIX, Section 7; Chapter XXII, Section 2; Chapter XXII, Section 3; Chapter XXII, Section 4(1); Chapter XXII, Section 10; and Chapter XXIV of the Dallas City Charter be amended to conform to state law, conform to the city code, match actual practices, correct terms, clarify language, and other technical amendments?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter III, Section 3; Chapter III, Section 4; Chapter III, Chapter 8(b); Chapter III, Section 13(a); Chapter III, Section 19; Chapter IV, Section 6(a); Chapter IV, Section 6(c)(2); Chapter IV, Section 13; Chapter XI, Section 1; Chapter XI, Section 3; Chapter XII, Section 4; Chapter XIII, Section 2(2); Chapter XIII, Section 9; Chapter XIV, Section 8; Chapter XV, Section 3; Chapter XV, Section 4; Chapter XVI, Section 3(b)(1); Chapter XVI, Section 7; Chapter XVI, Section 10(a); Chapter XVI, Section 11(b); Chapter XVIII, Section 7; Chapter XVIII, Section 11(1); Chapter XVIII, Section 15; Chapter XIX, Section 7; Chapter XXII, Section 2; Chapter XXII, Section 3; Chapter XXII, Section 4(1); Chapter XXII, Section 10; and Chapter XXIV of the Dallas City Charter be amended to conform to state law, conform to the city code, match actual practices, correct terms, clarify language, and other technical amendments?

FOR

PROPOSITION R
Reform Marijuana Enforcement
 Shall the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a new section in Chapter XXIV that reforms marijuana possession enforcement by prohibiting the Dallas Police Department from making arrests or issuing citations for marijuana possession or considering the odor of marijuana as probable cause for search or seizure, except as part of a violent felony or high priority narcotics felony investigation; making enforcement of Class A (currently, two to four ounces) and Class B (currently, up to two ounces) misdemeanor marijuana possession the Dallas Police Department's lowest enforcement priority; and prohibiting city funds or personnel from being used to test cannabis-related substances to determine whether a substance meets the legal definition of marijuana, except in limited circumstances?

AGAINST

Shall the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a new section in Chapter XXIV that reforms marijuana possession enforcement by prohibiting the Dallas Police Department from making arrests or issuing citations for marijuana possession or considering the odor of marijuana as probable cause for search or seizure, except as part of a violent felony or high priority narcotics felony investigation; making enforcement of Class A (currently, two to four ounces) and Class B (currently, up to two ounces) misdemeanor marijuana possession the Dallas Police Department's lowest enforcement priority; and prohibiting city funds or personnel from being used to test cannabis-related substances to determine whether a substance meets the legal definition of marijuana, except in limited circumstances?

FOR

PROPOSITION S
Granting Standing to Residents and Waiving Governmental Immunity
 Shall the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a new chapter that grants standing to any resident of Dallas to bring a lawsuit against the city to require the city to comply with provisions of the city charter, city ordinances, and state law; entitles claimants to seek declaratory and injunctive relief against the city and recover costs and reasonable attorney's fees; and waives the city's governmental immunity from suit and liability in claims brought under this amendment?

AGAINST

Shall the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a new chapter that grants standing to any resident of Dallas to bring a lawsuit against the city to require the city to comply with provisions of the city charter, city ordinances, and state law; entitles claimants to seek declaratory and injunctive relief against the city and recover costs and reasonable attorney's fees; and waives the city's governmental immunity from suit and liability in claims brought under this amendment?

FOR

PROPOSITION T
Annual Community Survey
 Shall Chapter VI of the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a new section compelling the city to conduct the city-commissioned Community Survey on an annual basis, to be completed by a minimum of 1,400 Dallas residents on their satisfaction on quality of life issues, the results of which will result in the city manager earning additional performance compensation (between 0 percent and 100 percent of the city manager's annual base salary) or the termination of the city manager?

AGAINST

Shall Chapter VI of the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a new section compelling the city to conduct the city-commissioned Community Survey on an annual basis, to be completed by a minimum of 1,400 Dallas residents on their satisfaction on quality of life issues, the results of which will result in the city manager earning additional performance compensation (between 0 percent and 100 percent of the city manager's annual base salary) or the termination of the city manager?

PROPOSITION U

Police and Fire Funding Appropriation

Shall Chapter XI of the Dallas City Charter be amended by adding a new section compelling city council to appropriate no less than 50 percent of annual revenue that exceeds the total annual revenue of the previous year to fund the Dallas Police and Fire Pension, with any monies remaining of that 50% to be appropriated to increasing the starting compensation of officers of the Dallas Police Department and to increase the number of police officers to a minimum of 4,000, and to maintain that ratio of officers to the City of Dallas population as of the date of passage of this amendment?

- FOR
- AGAINST

Note: Propositions K, M, and N were removed per Ordinance Number 32849, approved on September 11, 2024, by the Dallas City Council.

Dates	Day of the Week	Hours
October 21-25, 2024	Monday-Friday	8 AM - 5 PM
October 26, 2024	Saturday	7 AM - 7 PM
October 27, 2024	Sunday	12 PM - 6 PM
October 28 - November 1, 2024	Monday-Friday	7 AM - 7 PM

Dallas County Early voting and Election Day locations:
<https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/voters/election/11052024-2/>

Collin County Early voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:
<https://www.collincountytx.gov/Elections/polling-locations>

Denton County Early voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:
https://www.votedenton.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/1124_EV_Locations.pdf
<https://www.votedenton.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/1124-Unconsolidated-ED-Locations.pdf>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE:
 Bilierae Johnson (214) 670-5654 or Miroslava Martinez (214) 670-3809**

Houston ISD superintendent didn't illegally funnel state money to out-of-state schools, TEA says

The Texas Education Agency found that checks mailed to Miles' charter school network in Colorado were eventually deposited into the network's Texas account.

By Jaden Edison/Texas Tribune

The Texas Education Agency has cleared Houston school district Superintendent Mike Miles of wrongdoing after he was accused of improperly diverting millions of dollars in state funds to his Colorado charter school system.

After reporting from Spectrum News and The Texas Observer prompted calls for an investigation earlier this year, the education agency concluded on Tuesday that neither Miles — who the agency picked to lead the state's largest school district last year — nor his charter school network, Third Future Schools, "violated any applicable Texas laws," according to the 29-page investigation report.

The investigation found, in part, that checks directed from a partnering Texas school district to Third Future Schools' Colorado address went there because the Colorado location handles accounting services for the network's Texas branch, which is run independently. But, the checks were eventually deposited in the Texas branch's bank account.

"Based on the evidence obtained and analyzed during the investigation, there is no merit to the allega-

tions contained in the media reports that state funds were being inappropriately diverted from public school students in Texas," the report notes.

The agency is closing the investigation, and "no further action will be taken" at this time, the report says.

In an email sent to the Houston school district community on Tuesday, Miles called the earlier reporting "a baseless distraction and an attempt to undermine and discredit the good work happening" in the schools.

"Now we can do what we always do and move forward on behalf of our students," Miles said.

Earlier this year, Spectrum News reported that the Texas branch of Third Future Schools — which receives funding from multiple Texas school districts to run campuses in the state — was potentially using public funds from its school in Odessa to offset financial losses at a sister school in Colorado.

Miles denied wrongdoing and accused the previous reporting of mischaracterizing "common place financial arrangements between charter schools and the charter management organ-

izations that support them" and welcomed an investigation into the network's activities.

The state's investigators agreed with Miles, saying they found no evidence that Texas school districts deposited funds into the bank account of Third Future Schools in Colorado. Third Future Schools-Texas reimburses the Colorado location for administrative services it provides to all of the charter network, the report says.

The report also states that there is generally no state or local policy requiring Third Future Schools-Texas to disclose any agreements with the Colorado office regarding the purchasing of services, though it adds that there was no effort to hide the partnership from Texas school districts.

The allegations "cannot be substantiated, or have been proven to be false," the report says.

Miles has been a polarizing figure since the Texas Education Agency charged him and an unelected school board with taking the helm of the Houston school district last year. Rationalizing the takeover, the state pointed to misconduct by the previous board

and the unsatisfactory academic performance rating of Wheatley High School located in Houston's Fifth Ward, where an overwhelming majority of students are Black and Hispanic and reside in low-income households.

Under Miles' leadership, the district has experienced extraordinary staff turnover and plummeting student enrollment. Miles has faced accusations of shepherding a military-style schooling environment where teachers have limited freedom to teach in ways they see fit and children are exhausted and disengaged from learning.

Miles, on the other hand, has touted student improvement on the state's standardized tests as proof that his model is effective, an achievement that Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath has also publicly acknowledged and commended. In November, Houston voters will decide on whether to approve \$4.4 billion in academic and infrastructure improvements for the school district — the largest proposal of its kind in state history — which some see as a litmus test for Miles' support among the public.

Continued Rally Page 1

Enemies Act of 1798 to detain people of color. "Bobby," the voter, expressed worry that Trump would "put anyone that doesn't look white in camps."

"You've hit on a really important point and expressed it, I think, so well," Harris said. "He is running full-time on a campaign that is about instilling fear. Not about hope, not about optimism, not about the future, but about fear."

Harris went on to criticize Trump's claims that immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, were eating their pets. She also accused him of sabotaging a bipartisan border security bill that would have added border agents and targeted fentanyl trafficking. "He would prefer to run on a problem instead of fixing a problem," Harris stated.

Democratic strategist James Carville earlier voiced his concerns, comparing Trump's tactics to those of Nazi Germany. Speaking on MSNBC's Inside with Jen Psaki, Carville warned that Trump's planned rally at Madison Square Garden on October 27 was reminiscent of a pro-Nazi event held there in 1939. During that rally, which drew 20,000 supporters, swastikas were displayed alongside a portrait of George Washington, while speakers promoted anti-Semitic views.

Carville cautioned Americans about the

dangers of another Trump presidency: "They're telling you they're doing all of this. This is not something we're making up. They have promised military round-up." He emphasized the Harris campaign's need to clarify the severe threats Trump could pose.

Trump recently stated on Fox News's Sunday Morning Futures that he might deploy the National Guard or military forces to prevent "radical left lunatics" from causing unrest on Election Day. "It should be very easily handled by, if necessary, the National Guard, or if really necessary, the military," he said.

Others have echoed Carville's concerns. In June, MSNBC host Rachel Maddow questioned whether camps under a Trump administration would be limited to migrants, saying, "What convinces you that these massive camps he's planning are only for migrants?"

New York State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal has called on Madison Square Garden to cancel Trump's rally, stating, "Allowing Trump to hold an event at MSG is equivalent to the infamous Nazi rally at Madison Square Garden on February 20, 1939." He urged the venue to "keep our city safe."

With three weeks until Election Day, Carville made his final plea: "Pay attention to them right now, please. They're telling you.

Continued Debate Page 3
 flag."

Cruz also faced questions at the debate over his comments regarding the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Cruz at first called the events a "violent terrorist attack," before walking back the comment, calling it "sloppy" and "frankly dumb." Cruz, asked about his changing stance, turned the issue around on Allred.

"Congressman Allred is happy to talk about those who committed acts of violence on Jan. 6, but you don't hear him talking about the Antifa and Black Lives Matter riots that burned cities across this

country," Cruz said, referring to protests in the wake of George Floyd's death at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. "If you commit an act of violence, you should go to jail, and there should be no political favoritism in that regard."

Allred sought to refocus the discussion on Cruz's role surrounding certification of the 2020 election, in which he urged colleagues to object to the certification of results in some states and called for a 10-day audit to probe unsubstantiated voter fraud claims in the disputed states. Allred said Cruz was "a threat to democracy" and recalled the harrowing events of the day, when members of

Congress were told to "look under our feet for gas masks."

Both candidates have portrayed themselves as moderates willing to work across the aisle, each touting crossover support from politicians in the opposing party. Allred's GOP supporters include former U.S. Reps. Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger, both of whom are among their party's leading critics of former President Donald Trump. Cruz, meanwhile, has garnered the endorsement of Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg, who was defeated in the Democratic primary earlier this year. Ogg is the most prominent member of the

"Democrats for Cruz" coalition assembled by the GOP senator to soften his reputation as a partisan bomb-thrower.

Cruz likened Allred's answers to Harris and his voting record to that of former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In response, Allred accused Cruz of making a "recent transition to trying to be someone who wants to actually get things done."

Allred noted that he is a past recipient of the Jefferson-Hamilton Award for bipartisanship from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which Cruz noted has endorsed him in the Senate race.

After the debate, Glen

Whitley, a Republican and former Tarrant County judge who recently announced his support for Allred, said Cruz's approach to the 2020 election was part of why he is supporting the Democratic nominee. He argued that Allred performed especially well on the topic of Jan. 6, and on immigration. "It's a heck of a thing when you see the Democrat winning the discussion on the border over a Republican," Whitley said.

Cruz strategist Sam Cooper said his candidate "pushed forward a positive vision for the state of Texas," citing Cruz's arguments in favor of a limited regulatory environment

for oil and gas and other industries, and his "record of bringing jobs" to the state.

"Congressman Allred is Kamala Harris. Their record is no different," Cooper said. "When the congressman was pressed on his record, time and time again he refused to answer."

Most recent polling has shown Cruz leading Allred by around 3 to 5 percentage points, though a few surveys have found the race to be even tighter. Allred is hoping to close the gap in the final weeks after campaign finance reports showed he had outpaced Cruz in fundraising over the last few months.



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Relief Efforts Are Happening In Florida And Other States Despite What The Former President Says

By James B Ewers Jr. Ed.D



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D

Negative people manage to show up during the worst of times. They tear down and do not build up. They create bad impressions and perceptions. Their goal is always to create doubt and deception. Ego and self-interests take the place of understanding and compassion for others. There are some qualities and traits that you can't teach. You either have them or you don't. You keep thinking they will change but they never do.

Donald Trump, the former president lacks empathy and compassion. Even when he tries, it comes across as disingenuous. These are my opinions.

Within the past three weeks, two major storms have hit the Sunshine

State. One of them, Hurricane Helene also ripped through the states of North Carolina and Tennessee. At the last count more than 120 lives were lost, injured and unaccounted for in this hurricane. According to the National Weather Service, Hurricane Helene packed winds of more than 110 mph.

Both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton along with the tornadoes that followed caused life-changing events for these residents. For many residents affected by these storms, they were first time occurrences. They were simply not prepared for the winds and for the storm surges.

Many of us who live on the Gulf Coast have experienced these events and know first-hand the power and punch that these storms have. Unfortunately, some residents did not heed the warning to evacuate the area. They were left stranded and became victims.

With these hurricanes having now dissipated, what are the next steps? What do residents do who have lost every-

thing? Relief efforts in the form of food, clothing and shelter have already begun. Local, state and national efforts have given these citizens help and hope.

National organizations like the American Red Cross are doing their part. One of their initiatives is to establish blood centers for those who have been injured in these hurricanes. They are also helping with places to stay and with food.

According to confirmed reports and a direct quote, "The Administration has already helped thousands of Hurricane Helene survivors jumpstart their recoveries with more than \$137 million in Federal assistance with more to come. The Administration has contacted nearly 450 state, city and county officials in impacted states to ensure they have the support and resources they need." Similar statements have been made about those affected by Hurricane Milton.

While these documented efforts are happening in real time, there are some in the GOP who are spreading untruths

about what is not happening. Of course, this nonsense is being led by Trump and his running mate.

Others have joined them in promulgating these lies. Republican lawmaker, Marjorie Taylor Greene has created controversy because of her mean and mindless remarks. She has suggested that the Democrats in some way can control the weather.

President Joe Biden said, "Her comments are beyond ridiculous, and it's got to stop." Hugh Willoughby, a Florida International professor who worked at NOAA's Hurricane Research Division for over 20 years said, "We're all trying to prevent human suffering and if somebody were deliberately doing the sort of things they imagine, we'd blow the whistle on it."

Another Republican with ill will is Scott Jennings. He served in the George W. Bush administration as a special assistant to the president. By his baseless and tasteless remarks on CNN, he must have been promised a position if Trump becomes president.

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Our Rights Are Under Attack: Vote AGAINST Propositions S, T, and U

By Diane Ragsdale, Former Mayor Pro Tem
 City of Dallas, Texas Metro News



Diane Ragsdale

In my years of service to our community, both on the Dallas City Council and as a lifelong social justice activist, I have never witnessed a threat to our rights as alarming as the one we face today.

Propositions S, T, and U are being pushed by Monty Bennett – a January 6th rioter and Republican extremist. These propositions represent the most significant rollback of African American rights

I've seen in my lifetime. I implore you with utmost urgency: **Vote AGAINST Propositions S, T, and U.**

The mastermind behind these propositions, Monty Bennett, doesn't even live in Dallas. Ask yourself: Why is an outsider trying to rewrite our city's rules?

It's simple: to take away our tax dollars, override our votes, and police us.

Proposition S is designed to let the rich sue our city left and right. Who has the means to take the city to court? Not our families in Oak Cliff or South Dallas. It's the wealthy elites and corporations who'll exploit this.

And guess who'll foot the bill for defending these lawsuits? Us - the everyday Black and Brown folks of Dallas.

That's millions in tax-

payer dollars that could go towards bettering our community and improving our quality of life. **Proposition T** silences our vote and voice. As a former council member, I've seen firsthand the importance of single-member districts.

Our people, Black people fought tirelessly to establish single-member districts—to ensure our communities have the opportunity to elect representatives who genuinely reflect our needs and aspirations.

Proposition T threatens to erase that legacy. It aims to hand over control of our city to an undemocratic survey of just 1,400 people which would allow for the termination of the City Manager.

Proposition U compromises our safety. This proposition wants to flood

our streets with untrained officers, against the advice of our own Police Chief Eddie Garcia, who says this rapid expansion isn't "responsible."

In all my years of public service, I've not seen a moment more urgent than this. Our hard-won rights are under direct attack. Let's make sure our children grow up in a city that stands for justice, equity, and the value of every person. **Vote AGAINST Propositions S, T, and U**—our future depends on it.

Diane Ragsdale hails from Dallas, specifically Sunny South Dallas, and served as Deputy Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Dallas. She is the founder and Director Emerita of Innercity Community Development Corporation (ICDC).

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BARK IN THE PARK

Domestic Violence Awareness
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VOTE NO!

As near life-long residents of Dallas and leaders of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, we have committed our professional careers to making a difference and impact at Dallas City Hall. In addition to our constant fight on behalf of Black contractors, vendors, and the overall M/WBE program, Harrison currently serves on the Parks & Recreation Board and Randall currently serves on our Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board.

Regardless of who is appointed as the City Manager and who is elected as the Mayor and Council, we will remain in this fight on behalf of our 900 plus

chamber members. That's why we are sounding the alarm to tell you that we are in the fight of our lives against the City of Dallas Charter Amendments S, T, & U.

These 3 propositions would result in a major step backwards for our community, hamper the city's ability to keep basic services, and place hundreds of unqualified police officers on our streets.

Democracy will truly be on the ballot this election from the top all the way to the bottom ending with these last 3 proposed amendments. When you get there,

VOTE NO!


BREAST CANCER AWARENESS Seminar
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 8:30 AM-NOON

OUR SPEAKERS
Andrew Kovoov, MD – Texas Oncology
Breast Cancer Update
Darienne Hall, MCN, RD – UTSW Simmons Cancer Center
Oncology Nutrition
Lawanda Crawford, MSN FNP-C – Sisters Network
Patient/Caregiver Support
Sylvia Newsome, PT - MISD SPED
My Story – “Don't Fight Alone”

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