



election news

special edition

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

December 1989

Two Crucial Votes Saturday

Gay men and women may cast the decisive votes Saturday for a new U.S. Congressman and Houston City Council member.

Political analysts predict extremely close races for the December 9 run-off elections in the 18th Congressional District and Houston City Council-at-large.

The Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus has endorsed Craig Washington for U.S. Congress and Sheila Jackson Lee for City Council. Anyone who registered to vote by November 10 may vote in Saturday's important run-off elections. Voting in the November 7 general election is not a prerequisite for voting this Saturday.

State Sen. Craig Washington and Anthony Hall are seeking the Congressional seat left vacant by the death of Mickey Leland in August.

No Texas public official has been a stronger advocate for lesbian and gay rights — and all civil rights — than Washington.

Washington's long list of accomplishments includes:

- Since 1973 fought for repeal of the Texas sodomy statute in every Legislative session;
- Sponsored a dozen AIDS bills and was a member of the Texas Legislative Task Force on AIDS;
- Filed an amicus brief to uphold *Roe v. Wade*.

Washington has been endorsed by more than 35 organizations, including the National Organization for Women, the Harris County Women's Political Caucus, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the Texas State Teachers Association and such elected officials as State Rep. Debra Danburg, City Council Member Eleanor Tinsley and County Attorney Mike Driscoll.

Sheila Jackson Lee, an associate Municipal Court judge, stands an excellent chance of beating November 7 front-runner Leonel Castillo for the City Council seat vacated by Anthony Hall.

Lee has been endorsed three times by GLPC. The community leader has been active in numerous civic organizations and was featured in a series of community service ads by the *Houston Chronicle* for her work as a civic leader.

The Yale graduate currently serves on the City-Wide Crack Down on Drugs Task Force, and the boards of the Houston Area Urban League and the Children's Museum.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, December 9.

Anyone who has lost their voter registration card may vote by showing identification. Anyone who registered by November 10 but never received a card may vote by requesting an affidavit from precinct officials.

For a ride to the polls, call the Craig Washington headquarters at 526-1818. For voter information on election day, call the GLPC office at 521-1000.

First Amendment Lobby

Ray Hill - Executive Director

P.O. Box 3624 * Houston, Texas * 77001 * (713) - 523 - 6969

Dear supporter of the First Amendment:

Some people want to control what you can read, hear, and view. They are the same people who spread misinformation about AIDS, terrorize women trying to enter birth control clinics, and press for discrimination against gay and lesbian people or make them criminals. Right now they are clamoring to get Houston City Council to pass ordinances designed to regulate and force the closure of bookstores, theaters, arcades, motels, and video stores selling or exhibiting adult material.

First Amendment Lobby begs your prompt action. Please write or call your District Council Member, any At-Large Council Member with whom you may have influence and/or the Mayor and ask that each oppose these regulations. The City Hall switchboard number is **247-1000**. The mailing address is 901 Bagby, 77001.

Those pressing for these ordinances have persuaded City Council that you favor censorship and are willing to support the wholesale closing of these businesses. Only your prompt response can convince them that the First Amendment is important to you.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution is not designed to protect inoffensive material. Such material needs no protection. It is designed to protect controversial and offensive material, even material with which we disagree. It offends most of us to hear Nazis and homophobes speak, but if we limit their right to do so, the same limitations can and will be used against us. It is not solely the responsibility of the courts to protect the First Amendment, all elected officials take an oath to do so. But few elected officials consider the Constitution while drafting or voting on legislation. Ultimately it is our responsibility to protect our rights by electing politicians who promise to uphold the principles contained within the Constitution and Bill of Rights and reminding them of their promises between elections.

Please act today. A committee of City Council will start public hearings on the proposed ordinances December 11, 1989. Council Members Christin Hartung, Dale Gorczyński and Vince Ryan are on the committee. They are now expected to vote unanimously in support of the censorship/regulation proposals. Your calls and letters may help persuade them to reconsider. The full council will then consider the product of the committee's work. If you fail to express your views the censors will claim your support.

The above is a paid advertisement by First Amendment Lobby, Ray Hill, Executive Director

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