



election news

special edition

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

October 1989

"Concerned Voters" also receive News

By CICELY WYNNE

Before each election, the GLPC Election News is mailed to everyone on GLPC's confidential mailing list.

The current Election News also is being mailed to unidentified "Concerned Voters" in targeted areas, such as Montrose and the Timmins-Cummins area.

Political organizations such as the Republican and Democratic Parties and major candidates normally purchase various lists and mail to individuals in areas where potential supporters have been identified.

This Election News mail-out is a variation on this standard political practice. After canvassing the Montrose and Timmins-Cummins areas, GLPC added only the addresses and unit numbers of apartment complexes with large gay and lesbian populations. The canvass-



Craig Washington

Send Washington to Washington

"Rights are not won by words on paper but by people who make their voices heard!"

— Harvey Milk

By HARRY LIVESAY

By a margin of 5-1 GLPC members voted to endorse State Senator Craig Washington for the 18th Congressional District seat left vacant by the death of Mickey Leland in August.

Speaking to an enthusiastic audience at the candidate screening meeting Sept. 20, Washington reminded listeners of the immortal words of Martin Luther King Jr.: "No one is free until we are all free."

Washington also discussed his constant support of gay and lesbian rights, and challenged other candidates seeking the GLPC endorsement by stating, "You're not going to see just the initials, 'HGLPC' on my literature, but I am going to state that I am endorsed by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus on all endorsement lists from my campaign office."

GLPC Endorsements Nov. 7, 1989

U.S. Congress, 18th	Craig Washington
Constitutional Amendments	
1 and 2	Yes
8, 9 and 10	No
11 and 13	Yes
Port of Houston Bond Election	Yes
Mayor	Fred Hofheinz
Council District B	Ernest McGowen Sr.
Council District C	Vince Ryan
Council District D	Rodney Ellis

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This Election News mail-out is a variation on this standard political practice. After canvassing the Montrose and Timmins-Cummins areas, GLPC added only the addresses and unit numbers of apartment complexes with large gay and lesbian populations. The canvassing did not identify anyone by name and no names were added to the confidential mailing list, which is composed of about 13,000 people who requested

(See Concerned Voters on page 2)

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Constitutional Amendments

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 8, 9 and 10 No
 11 and 13 Yes
Port of Houston Bond Election Yes

Mayor **Fred Hofheinz**
Council District B **Ernest McGowen Sr.**
Council District C **Vince Ryan**
Council District D **Rodney Ellis**
Council District G **Bruce Reeves**
Council At Large 2 **Eleanor Tinsley**
Council At Large 4 **Sheila Jackson Lee**
Controller **George Greanias**

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Washington has been steadfast in his support of gay and lesbian issues since his election to the Texas Legislature in the early 1970's. Washington

(See Washington on page 12)

Schulte, Newsome special guests at annual dinner Oct. 21

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus will celebrate its 14th anniversary as the leading political organization of Houston's gay and lesbian community.

The annual dinner will be Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel at Allen Center, 400 Dallas. A reception will be held at 7 p.m. in the conference room adjacent to the banquet hall.

The theme of this year's banquet will be "Remembering Mickey Leland, Our Friend". The 1989 Humanitarian of the Year Award will be presented to Leland posthumously for his life-long commitment to human rights. Alma Newsome, press secretary for the late congressman and civil rights advocate, will accept the award.

The keynote speaker will be Steve Schulte, the former mayor of West Hollywood, California. Schulte, a former model turned political activist, has been active in the fight for gay and lesbian rights for the past 10 years. Schulte was elected to the West Hollywood City

Council in 1984 and in 1986 was elected mayor of the heavily-gay city in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Schulte has served in leadership roles on local and national levels as a founding member of the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Elected Officials and was former executive director of LA's Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

GLPC's 1989 Bayard Rustin Award winner will speak on the importance of the gay and lesbian bloc vote.

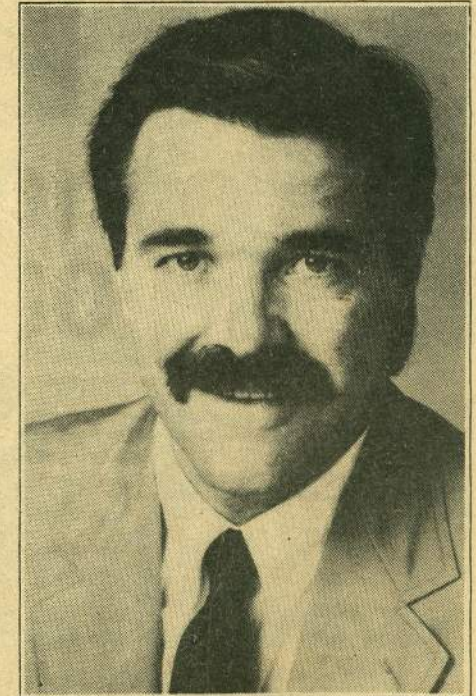
"We are very excited about this year's dinner," stated GLPC Vice-President Dennis Spencer. "Steve Schulte is a very dynamic speaker, and we are happy to welcome him back to Houston to celebrate the 14th anniversary of our organization."

This year marks not only the 14th anniversary of GLPC, but is a decisive year that will result in the election of a new U.S. Congressman for the 18th District.

Tickets for the banquet are \$50



Mickey Leland



Steve Schulte

per person or \$350 for a table of eight, and may be purchased from GLPC Board members, banquet committee

members, or by calling the GLPC office at (713) 521-1000. The deadline for banquet reservations is October 18.

Hofheinz endorsed after intense debate

By CICELY WYNNE and DONN MUMMA

Many of the endorsements were as easy as the spontaneous cheers that greeted Craig Washington on Sept. 20.

Washington overwhelmingly won caucus support in his race for the 18th Congressional District.

City Controller George Greanias and Councilmembers Eleanor Tinsley, Rodney Ellis, Vince Ryan and Ernest McGowen Sr. were quickly endorsed after they or a representative addressed the caucus. Gay activist Bruce Reeves was endorsed in the City Council District G race against Christin Hartung.

Caucus members also voted to back the Port of Houston bond issue as well as four constitutional amendments.

A slightly tougher choice involved the City Council at-large contest between front-runners Sheila Jackson Lee and Leonel Castillo, both previously endorsed candidates. But after discussion, Lee easily prevailed.

The mayor's race

The most debated choice was, of course, mayor.

The first motion was to endorse Fred Hofheinz. A substitute motion to

endorse Kathy Whitmire followed. An hour of vigorous debate later, the Whitmire motion failed 40-28.

The vote to endorse Hofheinz was 38-37. Because of the close vote, a division of the house was taken. That vote ended 35-35. President Ray Hill, who chaired the meeting, exercised his option, voting for Hofheinz.

Anyone who joined GLPC 30 days before endorsement night was eligible to vote.

Screening Scores

Hofheinz averaged 74 percent from an 8-member screening panel.

Whitmire did not screen this year. In 1987, a different panel gave her approximately 85 percent.

A Whitmire staff member tried to schedule screening several days before the Sept. 20 meeting, but an interview was not finalized. A Whitmire aide asked GLPC members for support on endorsement night.

Caucus leaders had hoped Whitmire would screen so the same panel could discuss the lengthy questionnaire with both candidates and score them, and the full caucus could compare 1989 questionnaires.

Numerous caucus members explained their choice that night, reflecting some opinions that had been expressed for several years. The decision

See Post editorial and Hofheinz platform, page 10

to endorse Hofheinz was based on:

Hofheinz's screening

Hofheinz's 74 percent was averaged from panel scores ranging from 94 to 45.

Panelists comments included:

1. Hofheinz came across as the mayor most likely to deal with you honestly and caringly, said the one panelist who screened both Hofheinz this year and Whitmire in 1987.
2. He screened well. He was honest and open.
3. Hofheinz could have been better informed on some issues important to gay men and women.
4. His scores on AIDS, his criticism of the religious right's treatment of gays and lesbians, and his willingness to appoint openly gay men and women earned high marks.

* Hofheinz's record as mayor, 1974-1977

Hofheinz appointed Nikki Van Hightower, the city's first and only women's advocate. Hightower then openly advocated gay rights on the radio.

One caucus member pointed out that Hofheinz's record must be judged in light of the mid-1970s when a less-progressive City Council and far less-enlightened police department were in control.

* Some members said they he-

awarded early AIDS grants, Houston was not. Local AIDS service organizations and some granting agencies have pointed out that Houston was denied grants because of lack of leadership from city government and a fragmented local effort.

Houston continues to have the nation's 4th-largest AIDS population. Despite this tremendous need, city spending — which includes federal and state funds — ranks 48th in the nation.

Whitmire appointed two city health directors who had difficulty working with the predominantly gay health organizations that began the fight against AIDS in Houston.

One GLPC member also reminded the endorsement night audience that President Reagan said the word AIDS publicly before Mayor Whitmire did.

After weighing the pros and cons of both candidates, GLPC members made a tough choice in 1989. But a majority of members present Sept. 20 believed Fred Hofheinz could best serve the interests of gay men and women.

Mail-out targeted

(From Page 1)

their names be added to the list.

Each year GLPC spends about \$800 on returned, address-corrected mail and loses track of hundreds of other people who move without for-

UNION JACK

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One caucus member pointed out that Hofheinz's record must be judged in light of the mid-1970s when a less-progressive City Council and far less-enlightened police department were in control.

* Some members said they believe gay men and lesbians would have a better working relationship with Mayor Hofheinz.

Numerous GLPC members have praised Whitmire as an excellent mayor in many areas. But her slow response to such a crucial issue as the AIDS crisis in Houston has eroded her once-strong GLPC support.

While other major US cities were

Mail-out targeted

(From Page 1)

their names be added to the list.

Each year GLPC spends about \$800 on returned, address-corrected mail and loses track of hundreds of other people who move without forwarding addresses. "Concerned Voters" targeted mailings will help GLPC keep up with a mobile population, and save time and money maintaining the confidential mailing list, the cornerstone of our bloc vote.

Reaching "Concerned Voters" is one way to increase the bloc vote. GLPC also is spending more money to advertise endorsements.

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Absentee voting begins Oct. 18

Absentee voting is scheduled for Oct. 18-Nov. 3 at Courthouse Annexes throughout the county.

Houston residents will vote on mayor, and City Council, while all county residents will decide the fate of the Port of Houston Authority Bond Election and state constitutional amendments. Some voters will select a new U.S. Congressman, new Houston ISD trustees, City of Bellaire officials and Houston Community College trustees.

All county residents may vote absentee at the downtown Houston absentee voting location, 49 San Jacinto. People also may vote absentee at a branch office in the justice of the peace precinct in which they live.

But since no one has to pretend they're going out of town on election day, Nov. 7, some people have suggested they change absentee voting to "early voting."

Absolutely everyone who registered by Oct. 8 can take advantage of convenient absentee voting.

The schedule:

- Oct. 18-Nov. 3: Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., all locations.
- Oct. 28-29, 1-6 p.m., all locations.
- Nov. 2-3, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., all locations.

Absentee Polling Places:

- Justice Precinct 1: Courthouse Annex 31, 7300 N. Shepherd.
- Justice Precinct 2: Courthouse Annex 4, 109 E. Shaw, Pasadena.
- Justice Precinct 3: Baytown Community Building, 2407 Market, Baytown, or San Jacinto College, North Campus, 5800 Uvalde.

- Justice Precinct 4: Cypress Creek Branch Library, 6815 Cypresswood, Spring, or Courthouse Annex 3, 121 W. Main, Humble.
- Justice Precinct 5: Bear Creek Park, Community Center, Bear Creek Dr. at Patterson Road, or Bayland Park, Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet.
- Justice Precinct 6: Courthouse Annex 9, 1001 S/Sgt. Macario Garcia Dr.
- Justice Precinct 7: Courthouse Annex 14, 5737 Cullen.
- Justice Precinct 8: Courthouse Annex 10, 16603 Buccaneer, Clear Lake, or Courthouse Annex 25, 7330 Spencer Highway, Pasadena.

Moved recently?

People who moved recently but did not fill out a new card should return to their old precinct to vote.

No card?

If you register by Oct. 8, but do not receive a card, you can still vote. You must inform your precinct officials that you did, in fact, register by Oct. 8. They are required to allow you to sign a brief affidavit and vote. If they refuse to allow you to vote, call the County Voter Registration Office at 224-1919. Also call that number before election day with any voter eligibility questions.

Anyone who loses their card can vote simply by showing a photo ID.

Missed the deadline?

Anyone who did not register by Oct. 8 should fill out a card quickly because of possible run-off elections next month and statewide party primaries in March 1990.



Gene Harrington (left) of the Texas Human Rights Foundation is ready for the first piece of cake being served by Congressional candidate Craig Washington and City Councilmember Eleanor Tinsley. Both Washington and Tinsley were endorsed by GLPC.

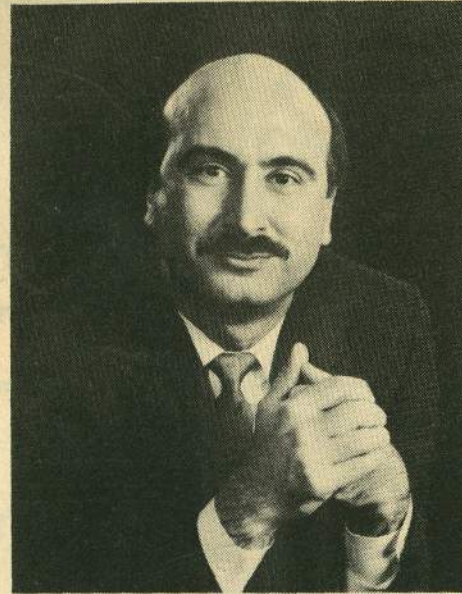
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**ELEANOR
TINSLEY**



CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE

Pol. adv. pd. for by the Eleanor Tinsley Campaign, 15 Greenway Plaza, 19E,
Houston, Texas 77046. Marc Shapiro & Senator Craig Washington, Treasurers.

Every election is accompanied by a big push to get out the vote. In the case of the gay community, like other minorities, a large turnout for favored candidates establishes our influence with those candidates and legitimizes our community's influence politically.

This election the community finds itself divided between two candidates for mayor who, depending on who you talk with, have basically strong claims to the gay vote. Frankly, this is a rare occurrence in Houston.

To say that our community should vote its conscience does not undermine the electoral influence we might have. The loyalties within the community to the two leading candidates for mayor are of such a substantive nature as to preclude bloc voting for the sake of bloc voting.

In this age of sophisticated electronic gadgetry, we can still make our impact felt by a large turnout. The politicians know the demographics of every precinct and when the "gay" precincts register a large turnout the message is clear, and our importance in this and future elections is well established. And the gay vote can and is being demonstrated by the age-old method of the political donor and foot soldier—politicians always remember those who give money and those who labor in the headquarters and the precincts.

Our community is not divided over goals or our hopes and aspirations for all gay men and lesbians in Houston. And differences over personalities should

GLPC volunteers crucial to candidate victories

The lesbian and gay community of Houston is well-known for the thousands of hours volunteered each year to GLPC-endorsed candidates. Our volunteers have been the backbone of numerous successful campaigns.

Volunteers are needed for simple tasks requiring only a few hours, such as one evening of sealing envelopes for a mail-out. Volunteers are also needed to answer phones, run errands, put up yard signs, bloc walking and phone banking to get out the vote.

GLPC also needs dozens of volunteers to get out the bloc vote for endorsed candidates. (Candidates, of course, also need money.)

Campaign volunteers opportunities abound. Here's a sampling:

Campaign headquarters:

- Fred Hofheinz, 3701 S. Main, 524-5900.
- Sheila Jackson Lee, 4414 S. Main at Richmond, 523-3533.
- Craig Washington, 3702 Travis, 526-1818.

GLPC Election Activities:

Distributing endorsement cards at polling places;

Bloc walking for candidates;

Get-out-the vote phone banking to GLPC's list;

Distributing candidate's signs;

To volunteer for any of these activities, call the GLPC office at 521-1000 or attend a caucus meeting. The caucus will meet twice before the Nov. 7 election, at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18, and Nov. 1., at the City Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray.

Election Central at Missouri Street

Watch election returns with friends at GLPC's Election Central after the polls close Tuesday, Nov. 7. This year's celebration will be at Missouri Street Cafe, 1117 Missouri at Yoakum. Refreshments will be served, and a cash bar will be provided. Traditionally, candidates drop by and election returns are phoned in from downtown.

the message is clear, and our importance in this and future elections is well established. And the gay vote can and is being demonstrated by the age-old method of the political donor and foot soldier—politicians always remember those who give money and those who labor in the headquarters and the precincts.

Our community is not divided over goals or our hopes and aspirations for all gay men and lesbians in Houston. And differences over personalities should not be exploited for the sake of division or personal ambition. Those who labor over the past not to enlighten but to divide do not serve our community well. Unanimity on our goals does not necessitate a single approach. As long as we are willing to listen to each other and work together we shall achieve those goals. Those who exploit our differences serve no goals but their own.

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Channel expansion essential

GLPC urges people to support the \$130 million Port of Houston bond election on the Nov. 7 ballot.

The bond sale is part of a \$319 million project to deepen and widen the Houston Ship Channel.

The channel would be deepened from 40 to 45 feet, and widened from 400 to 530 feet.

The remainder of funds would come from the federal government and local industry.

Five other major Gulf of Mexico ports are already expanding to 45 feet, while New Orleans, Mobile and Texas City are planning to extend to 50 feet or more.

A study by Rice Center estimated that 20,000-27,000 new jobs would be created by the year 2020 because of the expansion.

The *Houston Chronicle* has endorsed the bond election. The *Chron-*

icle points out that unless the channel is improved, it cannot meet the needs of the world's second largest petrochemical complex, including modern ships.

Widening the channel also "would provide a badly needed safety factor, one that will help protect the environment by making collisions less likely," the *Chronicle* notes.

As the editorial points out, numerous steps are being taken to ensure environmental damage is minimal.

Fred Hofheinz

The Mayor we need now.

COMPARE THE RECORDS

Hofheinz's Record:

THE WAR ON DRUGS AND CRIME

Whitmire's Record:

THE WAR ON DRUGS

Pages
5, 6, 11, 12
missing

COMPARE THE RECORDS

Hofheinz's Record:

THE WAR ON DRUGS AND CRIME

Mayor Fred Hofheinz wants to keep Houston Police Chief Lee Brown and give him the money and manpower to rid our neighborhoods of the crooks and crackheads.

Mayor Fred Hofheinz knows that to solve the crack crime problem City Hall has to work with our community to clean up our neighborhoods.

Mayor Fred Hofheinz knows that we can't educate our children unless our schools are safe. He would work for mandatory penalties for anyone caught selling, using, or possessing drugs on or near school grounds.

JOBS/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Fred Hofheinz worked with us to put together a workable Community Development program that allowed citizen participation in the planning and implementation of federally funded programs that brought jobs to Houston.

Mayor Fred Hofheinz wants to work with the Houston Economic Development Corporation to create new jobs in Houston's inner-city neighborhoods.

CITY SERVICES

Mayor Fred Hofheinz led the fight to increase the city's oversight of utility company's rate requests - to make sure citizens do not pay for utilities' mismanagement.

Mayor Fred Hofheinz undertook a \$500 million federally assisted sewage reclamation program that saved Houston from a construction moratorium and saved hundreds of jobs.

HOUSING

Mayor Fred Hofheinz wants to rebuild Allen Parkway Village and preserve our inner-city neighborhoods.

Whitmire's Record:

THE WAR ON DRUGS

Whitmire publicly rebuked Chief Brown over the Police Department's budget.

Whitmire imposed a 3-year Police Department hiring freeze - while police response time to top priority crimes jumped to a record 11 minutes, 20 seconds.

JOBS/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Whitmire sent back \$2.6 million in community development funds to Washington and lost an additional \$20 million while our neighborhoods were crumbling from neglect and our people were without jobs.

CITY SERVICES

Whitmire raised water and sewer rates four (4) times in the last five (5) years. Sewer rates increased 118.5% while water rates increased 88%.

Whitmire was responsible for the largest tax increase in the history of the City.

HOUSING



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Debra Danburg
State Rep. 137
birthday party
Our way to say thank you
Monday, October 23



Pacific at Grant

Reeves seeks Council seat as openly gay candidate

By **BRUCE REEVES**

First, I would like to thank you for your endorsement.

Second, I will try to answer the question most often asked of me: "Why would an openly gay person choose to run against an incumbent of 10 years in an area as conservative as Memorial and River Oaks?"

My answer is, I have to start somewhere, and where better than the Council district I live in? There are many voters in the district who do not live in Memorial and River Oaks. If we can assume that 10 percent of the voting population of the district is made up of gay and lesbian people, that is more than generally vote in the district.

The only way we will ever elect openly gay and lesbian people to office is to run for those offices, and I am a firm believer that my most ardent enemy as a citizen of this country is a closeted politician — they have proven it too many times.

I firmly believe that I have the skills necessary to represent District G as City Councilmember. I have leadership experience that ranges from being a

Scoutmaster in the Westbury area for three years to serving as co-chair of Lesbian/Gay Pride Week 1988. The *Advocate* recognized me as one of the country's "21 Unsung Heroes" for my work in the lesbian and gay community. I hope to have the opportunity to use my skills to help our city.


I feel the city needs a quality program that would allow all employees of the city a better avenue to suggest needed changes in their jobs/departments and to be able to do this safely. The best people to determine where money can be saved without reducing jobs, salaries, or the quality of services are the people who work in those jobs.

It is time our city had new blood with new ideas. Our city can only grow by changing, and change cannot happen without new ideas — and someone who is willing to put their neck on the line (if necessary) to express those ideas. I am that person.

Since serving as a page in the U.S. Congress in 1976, I have been drawn to the political arena. With your support, perhaps I can be the first openly gay elected official in the city of Houston.

MEET ME AT THE STATION

FOR THE GLPC ELECTION RETURN PARTY
NOVEMBER 7, 1989 7:00 PM TIL

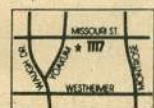


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**Follow the
 important gay vote
 with...**



**WO
 NEWS**

GLPC Committees

Computer/Mailing List: This ongoing effort maintains and expands the crucial confidential mailing list. Data entry and phone banking work sessions are scheduled during election season.

Voter Registration: This important effort is designed to increase the bloc vote. Volunteers are busy several months before each election.

Monthly Newsletter: The GLPC monthly newsletter, which is mailed to members, needs volunteer editors and writers.

Political Action: The committee, which is coordinated by the political action chair, is involved in such efforts as precinct organizing, coalition building and working as liaisons with elected officials.

Democratic and Republican Committees: Open to anyone in the community, the committees work to elect candidates, convention delegates and are involved in precinct organizing.

To volunteer call the GLPC at 521-1000.

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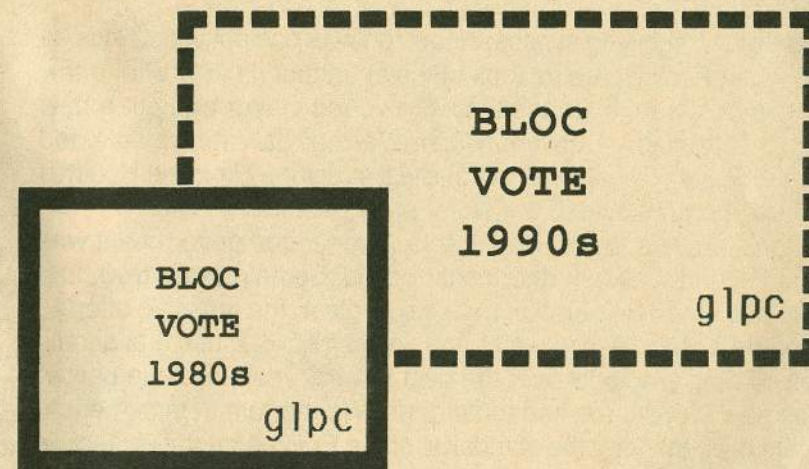
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1420 Westheimer • Houston, TX 77006

THE RÉSUMÉ COMPANY

“Name that tune, Judge!”

“Bloc Vote - my favorite!”



Judge Jones and close friends State Rep. Smith and Senator Brown only pay attention to a few songs. Other favorites are *Public Opinion*, *Contribution*, *Higher Office*, *Litigation*, and, of course, *Justice*.

Bloc votes have changed history. The black civil rights movement, for instance, registered and bloc voted hundreds of public officials into office.

Bloc voting is one reason cities such as Chicago, New York and San Francisco have equal rights protection that includes gay men and women, and cities such as Houston and Dallas do not.

For 14 years, Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus has worked hard to increase the community's bloc vote. This year, GLPC will mail its carefully considered endorsements to thousands more supporters and

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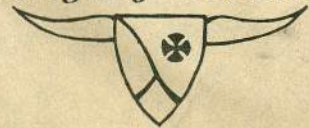


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Contribution, Higher Office, Litigation, and, of course, Justice.
BLOC votes have changed history. The black civil rights movement, for instance, registered and bloc voted hundreds of public officials into office.

Bloc voting is one reason cities such as Chicago, New York and San Francisco have equal rights protection that includes gay men and women, and cities such as Houston and Dallas do not.

For 14 years, Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus has worked hard to increase the community's bloc vote. This year, GLPC will mail its carefully considered endorsements to thousands more supporters and will spend far more on advertising and precinct efforts.

- But each piece of the bloc costs money. For example:
- \$200-\$300 1/2 page endorsement ad in weekly newspaper
- \$68.50 Postage to reach 500 more voters
- \$13.00 Cost of 20 returned, address-corrected newsletters

**Your donations and volunteer efforts can help Double the Bloc Vote.
Strengthen our political power — be a Bloc Builder.**

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- I want to join GLPC.

_____ \$30	One year membership	_____ \$50	Two year membership
_____ \$75	Supporting member	_____ \$100	Sustaining member
_____ \$1,000	Lifetime member	_____ <input type="checkbox"/>	Monthly pledge
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<input type="checkbox"/> Election activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund-raising
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Mail to: GLPC, Box 66664, Houston, TX 77266-6664

GLPC membership is open to everyone. Members receive a monthly newsletter and may vote 30 days after joining.

The Houston Post Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1978

Post/commentary

The Hofheinz Years

Lulled by its continuing success, Houston was content with things as they were when Fred Hofheinz took office in January 1974. With a law degree and a doctorate in economics, the young mayor brought a new viewpoint to City Hall — an analytical eye that saw long neglected problems and major weaknesses in the city's structure. He jolted Houston off the status quo and tackled the worst problems first.

Houston's sewerage was deplorable. The federal government was ready to go to court to stop further construction. Some parts of town had no sewer pipes at all. Because of the long neglect, the massive effort to improve forced a sharp rise in water and sewer bills — a rise that should have been coming gradually over the past several years. But the people of Houston saw that the job had to be done. We made a commitment to repair and to build that met the standards of the Environmental Protection Agency. And recently Houston broke ground for the 69th Street water treatment facility, the keystone of the \$500 million sewer modernization.

In transit, Houston bought the bus company, gaining more than \$13 million in federal aid, and began to buy new buses and expand routes. Hofheinz established an office of transportation. In four years we have gained a long-range plan and made starts with park-and-ride lots, contraflow lanes and, with the state enabling act, a new Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority with an interim board. It will offer voters a plan for a countywide transit system.

To pay for the bus company and finance fire and police improvements, the city increased property taxes 8.6 percent. It also began a regular four-year property valuation cycle. Houston gained a Triple A financial rating, the highest possible, thereby saving the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest paid. The passage of the ethics code and the financial disclosure ordinances were achieved by the mayor and City Council working together.

In the four Hofheinz years, Houston tripled the amount of public funds spent on parks over the preceding four, and established a Houston Parks Board to seek contributions. Houston's library system expanded and gained in quality. As one of his first acts in office, Hofheinz had stopped the plan to strip City Hall of its irreplaceable marbles and ornamental metal work, and now the building has been restored to its original elegance. The mayor and City Council recently adopted a hotel-motel tax to guarantee a steady flow of city funds into the major visual and performing arts organizations. They established the Cullen Arts Council to channel the funds. All these are lasting measures for enhancement of the city.

Hofheinz introduced a management and information system, common to big business but new to Houston city government. The computer data banks enable the city to know at any one moment exactly what it has spent on each item of government and service. Hofheinz brought blacks, Mexican Americans and women into city departments they had never before entered. And he attracted to City Hall an outstanding administration of talented, dedicated people.

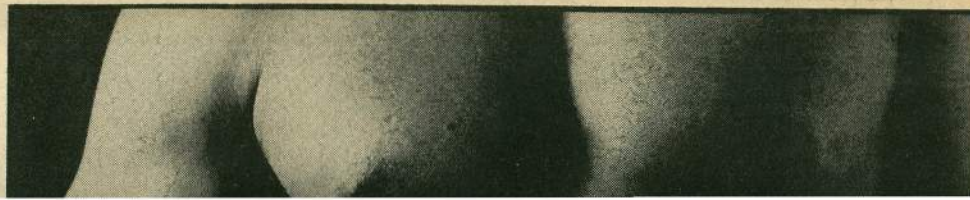
No mayor leaves office content. He can always see more he wants to get done. Houston still has many problems of rapid growth to solve. But Hofheinz made this city see the problems and do something about them. He accomplished much, he gave us a strong start on more. Fred Hofheinz has been a good mayor and Houston owes him warm thanks.

Hofheinz platform excerpts

Fred Hofheinz has written numerous position papers on the crucial issues facing Houstonians. Following

and state funding for AIDS treatment and education.

* Working with community-based



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Hofheinz platform excerpts

Fred Hofheinz has written numerous position papers on the crucial issues facing Houstonians. Following are excerpts from those papers.

AIDS

Ever since the defeat of the gay rights referendum in 1985, Kathy Whitmire has pushed gays and what she sees as gay issues away from her. Unfortunately, that includes the massive problem of AIDS.

Whitmire has only paid lip service to the AIDS problem, creating committees which have done little to stop the spread of this disease.

When the City had its first opportunity to apply as a separate entity for federal funding for AIDS, Whitmire's Health Department director kept much of the money for his department, leaving out the community-based organizations who dealt with AIDS for years before government became involved. And those organizations have suffered through a bureaucratic nightmare trying to obtain from the city what little money they were given.

The Hofheinz Agenda on AIDS

Hofheinz is dedicated to fighting AIDS, helping those who have contracted the disease and trying to prevent it from spreading any further. He believes that community-based organizations should be part of that battle, in partnership city government. Hofheinz's agenda includes:

- * Fighting for all possible federal

and state funding for AIDS treatment and education.

- * Working with community-based organizations to provide funding and assistance.

Waste, Fraud and Abuse in City Government

Hofheinz's agenda includes:

- * Assembling a Citizens' Advisory Board of members of Houston's private sector for policy recommendations on increased efficiency and elimination of mismanagement in city government.

Police, Crime and Drugs

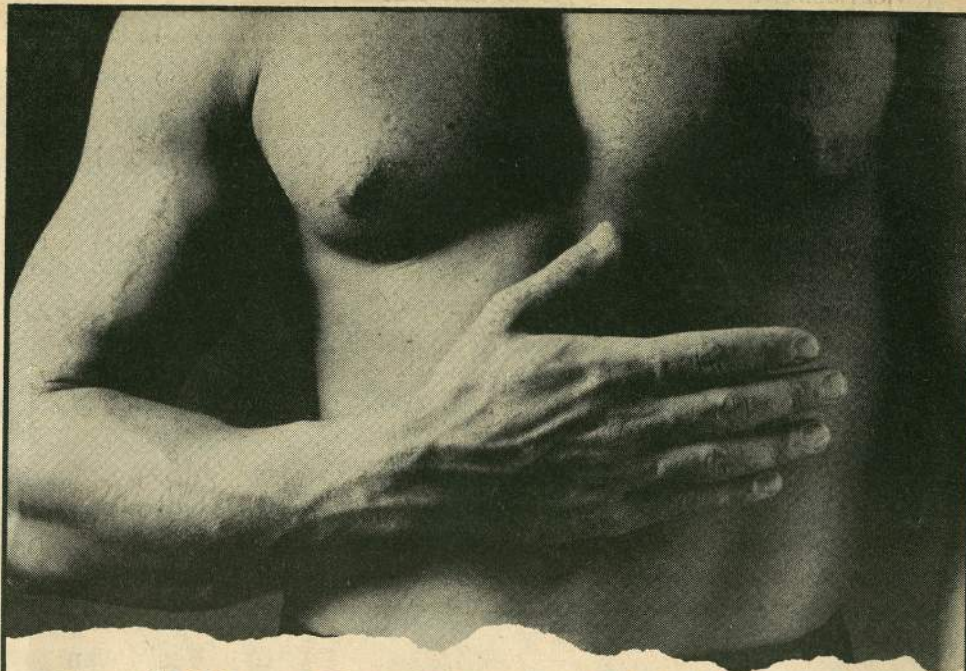
His agenda includes:

- * Establishment of a Narcotics Response Command consisting of legal and law enforcement personnel to take action to confiscate drug dealers' assets, raze crack houses, continually raid drug markets and coordinate action with other government bodies.

Business and Economic Development

The agenda includes:

- * Construction of a downtown hotel in proximity to the George R. Brown Convention Center.
- * Staff liaison with the Houston Economic Development Council to promote creation of new jobs and business, particularly in Houston's inner-city neighborhoods.



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Pay raises, victims' rights supported

PROPOSITION 1 — House Joint Resolution 102 proposes an amendment to increase the salary of state Legislators and the lieutenant governor from the current annual salary of \$7,200 to \$46,716 for the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House, and to \$23,358 for state Legislators.

GLPC recommends a FOR vote. At the current salary level of \$7,200 a year, access to public office is limited to wealthier citizens with very flexible schedules. Texas ranks as one of the lowest-paying states for legislative salaries. Increasing salaries to more realistic levels would open the election process to more qualified candidates (for example, gay men and women, and other minorities).

PROPOSITION 2 — Senate Joint Resolution 5 proposes an amendment to authorize the Texas Water Development Board to issue an additional \$500 million of Texas water development bonds to be used for water supply loans, water quality enhancement projects, and flood control.

GLPC recommends voting For this amendment because it would allow economically depressed counties and Texas communities to obtain much-needed water projects, and would support flood control projects needed in Houston.

PROPOSITION 8 — Senate Joint Resolution 8 proposes an amendment to allow the Legislature to authorize issuing up to \$400 million in general obligation bonds to construct new correctional facilities, mental health retardation institutes, youth correctional facilities, and to repair or renovate existing facilities.

GLPC recommends AGAINST. The majority of funds would go solely to create or expand correctional facilities to house more youth and first-time offenders in need of vocational or educational rehabilitation programs, which are not addressed in this amendment.

PROPOSITION 9 — House Joint Resolution 101 would allow the Legislature to pass laws to organize and combine state agencies that perform criminal justice functions, such as the Texas Dept. of Corrections, the Board of Pardons and Paroles, and the Texas Adult Probation Commission.

A vote AGAINST is recommended. Combination of these agencies would result in a disturbing concentration of power in the Texas Department of Corrections. Passage of this amendment would mean a loss of autonomy for agencies such as the Pardons and Parole Board that have opposed past TDC policies regarding the treatment of prisoners.

PROPOSITION 10 — Senate Joint Resolution 4 would authorize the Legislature to enact laws requiring or permitting judges to advise juries that convicted defendants can receive credit for good conduct which can result in a shorter prison term, or that eligibility for parole or mandatory supervision also can affect the length of time served.

GLPC recommends a vote AGAINST. Release of this information to juries prior to sentencing could result in excessive prison terms.

PROPOSITION 11 — House Joint Resolution 102 would increase the per diem of Texas Legislators to an amount equal to the deduction allowed for federal income tax purposes. The per diem

would increase from \$30 to \$81.

GLPC suggests voting For this amendment. The increase would give Texas Legislators the same per diem as other state and federal employees.

PROPOSITION 13 — Houston Joint Resolution 19 proposes the creation of a bill of rights for crime victims allowing them to receive notification of court proceedings and the right to be present at all public court proceedings, the right to restitution, and the right to information about conviction and sentencing.

The Caucus recommends voting FOR for this amendment. It would give more rights to the victims, including the victims of hate crimes motivated by prejudice and homophobia.

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The monthly GLPC Newsletter is mailed to paid members.

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Calendar

OCT. 18: GLPC regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray.

OCT. 18-NOV. 3: Absentee voting at numerous locations.

NOV. 1: GLPC regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray.

NOV. 3: Last day for absentee voting.

NOV. 5-6: GLPC Get-Out-The-Vote phone banking to the 13,000-person confidential mailing list. Call 521-1000 to volunteer.

NOV. 7: City election. Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. See newspapers for polling places. GLPC volunteers needed to distribute endorsement cards at polling places, especially 7-9 a.m., and 4-7 p.m. Call 521-1000.

NOV. 15: GLPC meeting, 7:30 p.m. at City Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray.

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KPFT 90.1 FM

Friday 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM **Breakthrough:** Womyn's music
Sunday 2:00 AM to 4:00 AM **After Hours:** music and discussion about the Gay and Lesbian community
Tuesday 10:00 PM to 11:00 PM **Wilde 'n' Stein:** discussion and comment about the Gay and Lesbian community

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Bloc vote key to political power

By RAY HILL

Only a few years ago, the Gay and Lesbian community was politically invisible: Few of us were registered to vote, and when we did, we each voted for different candidates. If the community needed something from politicians, a few of us took the back stairs, hats in hands, and begged for mercy, all the while looking at the floor with our heads bowed.

I literally remember doing that in Larry McKaskle's office when he was Louie Welch's administrative aide. I did not ask for much, got less, but had to cope with some of my closeted friends campaigning for Welch in the popular gay bars of the era.

In 1975, some of us were bold enough to think we could make things better by organizing politically. The Caucus was born that year. Many said it would not work. The reasons they gave were: gays are too flighty; men and women in our community can't get along; we can never agree which candidate to support; we just will not vote; politicians will not listen to us; and it will not make any difference anyway.

All of that has been proven untrue. Our strength grew slowly at first, but by 1978 we were growing rapidly. Our influence was significant until the 1985 city employment referendum and the public perception of AIDS knocked the

President's Report

tion that does business in the name of gay and lesbian voters, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

I agree that it is easier to keep the bloc vote together in those election years when there are several pages of judges on the ballot whose names are not household words as are those of mayors and Council members. It is still important to vote as a bloc in city and special elections. In previous elections we have asked you to vote for candidates we are opposing in this election. We do not ask you to do so lightly.

The process by which the endorsements were made has been an open one. Much has been written in the community media. I even did an informal poll and reported the results months before the endorsement meeting so those who were behind would have time to work toward their endorsements.

TWT and the *Montrose Voice*, as well as the gay and lesbian programs on KPFT, reported each step of the process. Wherever I went, many of you stopped me to discuss the process and the direction it was taking. We



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it would not work. The reasons they gave were: gays are too flighty; men and women in our community can't get along; we can never agree which candidate to support; we just will not vote; politicians will not listen to us; and it will not make any difference anyway.

All of that has been proven untrue. Our strength grew slowly at first, but by 1978 we were growing rapidly. Our influence was significant until the 1985 city employment referendum and the public perception of AIDS knocked the wind from our sails and handicapped our optimism.

After 1985 we suffered a decline, but this year the Caucus has experienced more growth than in any year since 1984.

Perhaps the growth has been a product of our realizing the reasons for our organizing in the first place have not gone away. Perhaps growth came about because we have been more visible or more controversial this year than in years previous. Or maybe the shame of the 1985 defeat has decreased while our anger over the city's cold inaction as our friends have died from AIDS has increased.

Whatever the reason, the hope of political influence is back. Our community is talking politics, and politicians are talking to and about our community. We must take full advantage of this opportunity to capitalize on and continue our present growth.

In this ELECTION NEWS, you will find the Caucus endorsements of candidates and positions on the referenda at the bottom of the ballot. If you choose not to follow these endorsements you are helping return us to the days of invisibility.

The only way we can have any political power on behalf of our community and for the benefit of our community is to vote as a block for the candidates endorsed by the only organiza-

tion. Much has been written in the community media. I even did an informal poll and reported the results months before the endorsement meeting so those who were behind would have time to work toward their endorsements.

TWT and the Montrose Voice, as well as the gay and lesbian programs on KPFT, reported each step of the process. Wherever I went, many of you stopped me to discuss the process and the direction it was taking. We have never had a more open process.

As always, anyone was invited to join GLPC and vote. People who join 30 days before an election are eligible to vote on any GLPC endorsement. This will be one of the dirtiest campaigns in recent memory. The Caucus and I will be attacked from several quarters in an attempt to tarnish the endorsements.

Do not be deceived; the Caucus made the only decision possible in defense of our community.

We did not take a position in all races. Please carefully consider the options in the races where no endorsement was made. On referenda where the Caucus took no position, remember you are voting on proposed changes to the Texas Constitution and will have to live with those changes for a long time.

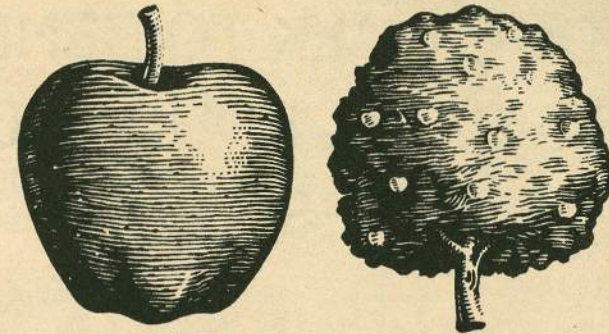
If you have not carefully considered each issue, cast no vote. The wording of issues on the ballot is often deliberately confusing.

All of the candidates endorsed by the Caucus came forward and asked for their endorsements. Each is proud to have your support, and all deserve your vote.

The Caucus has spent the last 14 years earning your confidence and support. Your confidence in yourself is reflected in your support of your community.

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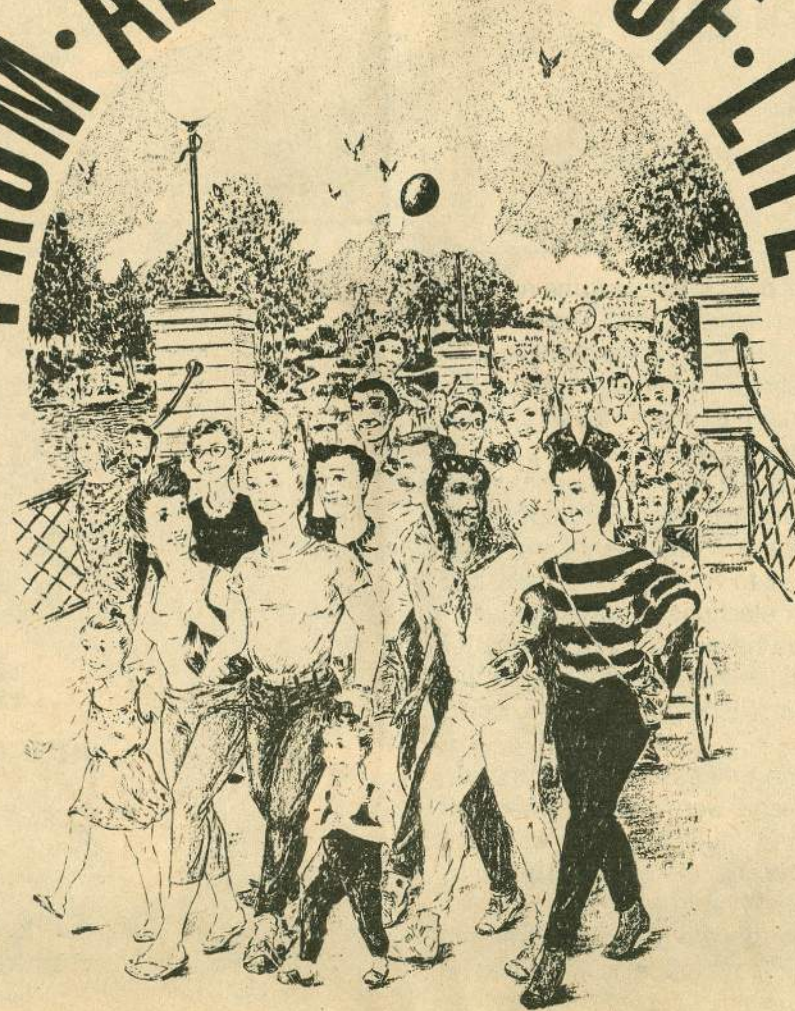
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