

*Yo no cruzé la frontera, la frontera me cruzó a mí.*

# La Voz

Free/Gratis

Volume 20 Number 6  
A Bi-cultural Publication  
June, 2025

Just because you've earned a seat at the table doesn't mean you get to look down on the kitchen you came from. That kitchen, the place where your values were formed, where resilience was learned, and where your identity was shaped...deserves your respect, not your shame. No matter how much you try to blend in, to speak like them, to move like them, the truth is, you will never truly be one of them. And that's not something to run from, it's something to stand tall in. Your roots, your culture, your beginnings.. they are powerful, and they matter. Don't forget where you came from!



# People in the News



## Monica Peña Graduates from RGK Program at UT Austin

Peña is the **Director of Community Relations** for a business assistance program in **East Austin** recently completed the **Social Entrepreneurship Executive Education Certification** program at the **RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service** at the **The LBJ School of Public Affairs**.

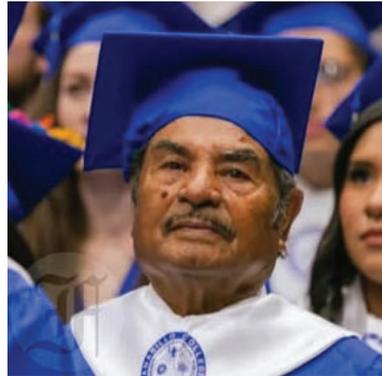
She was part of the inaugural cohort of this groundbreaking program designed to equip changemakers with the tools to develop bold, innovative solutions to some of our



## Patricia Reyes Wins New Mexico Music Award

**Uvalde, Texas** native, **Patricia Luna Reyes** who has resided in **New Mexico** for more than 20 years is the leader of a musical called the **Luna Upfront Band**.

**Patricia** was recently honored by the **New Mexico Musical Association** with its **2025 Achievemnt award** at a banquet in **Albuquerque**.



## Rafael Aguirre Graduates from South Texas College

**NEVER TOO LATE!** At 83, **Rafael Aguirre** just proved it's never too late to chase your dreams. The Mexican immigrant and **Amrillo College** grad is going viral for earning his degree in education, decades after working in the fields and raising a family. His message? "If I can do it, so can you."



## Ernest Servantes Wins Texas Monthly BBQ 2025 Award

**Ernest Servantes** is the chef and co-owner of **Burnt Bean Company**, a barbecue restaurant in **Seguin, Texas**. It was recently picked as the top BBQ place in Texas for 2025. Since **Burnt Bean** opened in late 2020, it has earned wide acclaim, including being ranked the best barbecue joint in the state by **Texas Monthly**. In 2023, it earned the **James Beard Award** finalist nomination in the category of **Best Chef: Texas** for **Servantes** and his business partner **David Kirkland**.



## Larry De La Cruz Named Principal of Del Valle

by Christopher Weddle

The **Del Valle Independent School District** is proud to announce that **Mr. Larry De La Cruz** has been selected as the new **Principal of Del Valle High School**, following approval by the **Board of Trustees** at a special meeting on June 9. With nearly two decades of experience in public education and a strong reputation as a student-centered leader, **Mr. De La Cruz** brings a deep commitment to academic excellence, relationship-building, and community engagement.

**Mr. De La Cruz** began his career teaching U.S. History in **Round Rock ISD**, and over the past decade, he has served in multiple campus leadership roles within **Austin ISD**, including time as an Assistant and **Associate Principal at Navarro High School** for nearly 10 years. Most recently, he has been leading **Burnet Middle School** in **Austin** where his work has resulted in meaningful academic gains in math and ELA, improved attendance, stronger staff retention, and increased parent involvement.

A proud graduate of the **University of Texas at El Paso**, **Mr. De La Cruz** has built his career around the belief that strong relationships are the foundation of school success. He is deeply invested in creating a positive and inclusive campus culture - one where all students, families, and staff feel supported, respected, and empowered to thrive.

"Mr. De La Cruz is a proven instructional leader who focuses on collaboration, academic growth, and student well-being," said Superintendent **Dr. Matthew Gutierrez**, "These qualities make him an ideal fit for **Del Valle High School**, and we're excited to see his leadership in action."



## Gina Ortiz Jones Wins Mayoral Run-Off Election in San Antonio, Texas

**Gina Ortiz Jones** will be the third woman to serve as the mayor of **San Antonio, Texas**. **Jones** won 54% of the vote in the June 7th run-off election. She will replace **Ron Nirenberg** who was term-limited. **Rolando Pablos**, **Jones's** run-off opponent trailed her by more than 12,000 votes.

At her victory watch party at **Dakota East Side Ice House**, **Jones** declared, "We're going to move forward with everyone in mind, and now the hard work begins." This was her first electoral victory after two previous failed campaigns for a Texas congressional seat.

**Jones** commented that "With everything happening around us at the federal level and at the state level — some of the most un-American things we have seen in a very, very long time — it is very heartening to see where we are right now."

On the stage with her mother, **Victorina Ortiz**, she thanked everyone who worked to help make her victory possible. **Jones**, 44, will be the first mayor to serve a four- rather than two-year term, the result of a city charter amendment voters passed last year. She will be sworn in on June 18.

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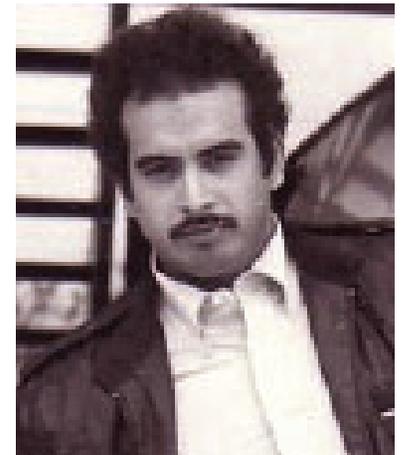
**Pensamientos**

*Bienvenidos a **La Voz Newspaper**.* As you know, there are so many things going on all around us today. The **Trump** administration is moving quickly to remake **America** into a vision that he believes will take us into the future, but the real question is who is "us"? The **Make America Great Again** movement doesn't seem to include everyone. In fact, the slogan really refers to a previous time when things were. . . ?

The deployment of government troops into American cities, discussions about invoking the **Insurrection Act** and the many attempts by **Donal Trump** to bend the **Constitution** are beginning to shake the whole country. If you thought you were immune to his plans, it might be time to start paying attention because you are going to have to decide what you are going to do to save yourself and your family. Times are going to get tough. And I am not talking about the price of tomatoes.

As for this newspaper, we will continue to move forward for as long as we can, but I know there will come a time when will have consider our own future. As I look around, I see there are empty parking lots at the major flea markets. The men who use to hang out at Home Depot looking for work are gone. People are indeed becoming more and more afraid.

For those who eligible to vote, it is time to consider just how important this right has become. Remember, **Donald Trump** won the **White House** for the second time with only 31.5% of the popular vote. **Kamala Harris** received 30.84% of the vote. But 36.32% of the eligible voters did not bother to turn out to vote in November of 2024. Think about that as you watch television coverage of the protestors in the streets.

**EDITORIAL**

**Alfredo Santos c/s  
Editor and Publisher  
of La Voz Newspapers**

**Photo taken in 1982 in  
Houston, Texas.**

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Page 4

**9:00 a.m. English Mass in the Church**  
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**10:30 a.m. English Mass in the Chapel**  
**12:00 p.m. Misa en Español en la Iglesia**

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**Welcome Home!**

## Sabinal Native Johnny Rodriguez Passes Away at 73

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved **Johnny Rodriguez**, who left us peacefully on May 9th, surrounded by family.

Dad was not only a legendary musician whose artistry touched millions around the world, but also a deeply loved husband, father, uncle, and brother whose warmth, humor, and compassion shaped the lives of all who knew him.

We are immensely grateful for the outpouring of love and support from fans, colleagues, and friends during this time of grief. While the world has lost an extraordinary talent, we have lost someone irreplaceable - and we ask for privacy as we navigate this painful moment together.



### Musical Legacy

For those who love 1970s country music, the name **Johnny Rodriguez** is certainly no stranger. His song "I Just Can't Get Her Out Of My Mind", released in late 1974, stands out as one of the most memorable hits of his career. The song quickly touched listeners' hearts with its gentle yet haunting melody, paired with **Rodriguez's** warm, deep voice filled with emotion.

The lyrics tell the story of a man's lingering heartbreak as he struggles to forget a woman he once loved deeply. Despite his efforts to move on, her image continues to haunt his every thought, making it impossible for him to let go. It was this genuine and relatable emotion that helped the song become a major hit, eventually reaching No. 1 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart in early 1975.



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# Trump is Testing the System

by James B. Greenberg

**Trump** is looking for a pretext. He isn't waiting for chaos—he's provoking it. With the Marines and National Guard now deployed in **Los Angeles**, we are watching a page turn—not in the story of public safety, but in the unfolding script of authoritarian consolidation.

This isn't just about **L.A.** It's a test. A move to see who pushes back, who stays quiet, and how far he can go without consequences. The justification, as always, is "law and order." But the real purpose is power—not safety, not justice, not stability. Power.

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**Trump** doesn't need to rewrite the Constitution to get what he wants. He just needs to bend it

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**Trump** doesn't need to rewrite the **Constitution** to get what he wants. He only needs to bend it—slowly, repeatedly—until what used to be illegal becomes normal. He's not trying to fix a crisis. He's trying to manufacture one. One that gives him cover to impose control on his terms.

**Martial law** in the U.S. has no clear definition. It's not even mentioned in the Constitution. But it has been invoked—during wars, rebellions, disasters—as a rare, short-term emergency measure. In **Trump's** hands, it would be something else entirely: not a response to upheaval, but a suspension of democracy.

A way to put the public on hold. To replace rights with orders. And cruelty isn't collateral—it's the point. Every shove, every raid, every humiliating arrest is a message: power no longer needs justification. It only needs spectacle. **Trump** knows that to rule by force, you must make people feel it. What he's staging isn't law—it's punishment.

Anthropologists have long warned that when societies suspend their norms "temporarily," they often end up redefining them permanently.

This is how authoritarianism works: not through sudden rupture, but through the slow erosion of what people believe is normal. The law doesn't disappear. It just stops doing what it was meant to do.

Deploying the **National Guard** isn't about restoring calm. It's a ritualized display of submission. From an anthropological perspective, this is symbolic drama. Uniforms, sirens, curfews—these are signals of who now commands and who must obey. It's not just about control. It's about conditioning the public to see domination as stability.

The legal tool he's likely to invoke is the **Insurrection Act**—a vague and dangerous statute that gives the president power to deploy troops when civil unrest threatens enforcement of federal law. In the wrong hands, it's a blank check. **Trump** could override governors, take over policing, and suppress protest under the guise of "defense." By the time courts or Congress respond, the damage will be done—and he knows it.

What makes this moment so dangerous is not just the actor, but the stagehands. Courts stall. Agencies hesitate.



Political leaders look away. A demagogue doesn't seize power alone—he is enabled by institutions that fail to stop him.

**Trump's** supporters have been fed a steady diet of grievance and fear. Disorder becomes proof of betrayal; **Trump**, the only cure. This is what anthropologists recognize as myth in action—a story that explains suffering, names enemies, and sanctifies the redeemer.

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The myth doesn't need to be true.  
It only needs to be repeated

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The myth doesn't need to be true. It only needs to be repeated. And the more brutal the enforcement, the stronger the myth becomes. Public beatings, racialized policing, illegal detentions—these aren't accidents. They are performances of power. Spectacles of degradation meant to break solidarity, isolate the vulnerable, and teach the rest to look away.

And the result isn't just obedience—it's internalized compliance. When fear governs daily life, submission begins to feel like safety. People stop resisting not because they agree, but because resistance feels futile—or dangerous. The

first to be targeted will be those already at the margins: immigrants, Black communities, the unhoused. Authoritarianism is always rehearsed on the vulnerable before it is scaled up. What we allow to happen to them becomes the template for what happens next.

And we've seen this script before. Japanese internment. COINTELPRO. The surveillance of civil rights leaders. America has used fear to suspend rights before. The difference now is scale—and intent.

If this move succeeds—if troops on American streets are met with resignation—it will mark a turning point. Not just in politics, but in how we understand power, citizenship, and the very idea of public life. Martial law wouldn't just suspend rights. It would redefine who counts, who obeys, and who belongs.

What begins as spectacle becomes the structure of the state. And when brutality becomes routine—when punishment becomes a public ritual—we don't just lose our rights. We lose the ability to recognize their absence. The troops may leave, but the lesson re-

# AUSTIN SALTILLO SISTER CITIES TO HOLD “EL GRITO” POSTER CONTEST

**Who:** Local Artists

**What:** El Grito Poster Contest

**Where:** Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress Ave.

**When:** 4:00 p.m., Monday, June 30

AUSTIN, TEXAS- **Austin Saltillo Sister Cities Association (ASSCA)** invites **Austin** area artists to participate in the **2025 Mexican Independence Day Poster Contest** with the winning image to be used in the event publicity for the 2025 “El Grito” Event.

The reenactment of **Mexican Independence Day** is slated for Sept. 15 at **Republic Park Square**, 422 Guadalupe Street. The poster contest winner will receive \$1,000 and the submission deadline is Monday, June 30.

The Sept. 15 event, sponsored by **ASSCA**, the **Mexican Consulate of Austin** and the **Downtown Austin Alliance Foundation**, celebrates **Mexican Independence Day** with a community festival together with music, dance, vendors and the traditional **Cry of Dolores** given by the **Mexican Consul Humberto Hernández Haddad**. The winning entry should visually document the significance of the **Mexican Independence Day** and its heroes in creating a free and sovereign Mexican nation.

The entry form can be found at <https://forms.gle/C6RfLsAEc3TXM-StRA>. The contest is open to individuals living in the Austin Metropolitan Area who are 18 years and older. Employees, judges, and immediate family members of the sponsors or organizing committee are not eligible to participate. Artwork must be original and created by the participant and each artist may only submit



**2024 El Grito Image**  
By Fidencio Durán

## Mexican Independence Day Poster Contest

### Open Call to Austin Area Artists

- **Publicity Image for the 2025 El Grito Ceremony**
- **Non-digital, 2D Artwork (minimum size of 11" X 14")**
- **\$1000 Prize**

**Deadline: Monday, June 30, 2025**

**Sponsors:**



# Susanna Ledesma Woody Kicks Off Her Campaign for Travis County Commissioner of Precinct 4



**LEFT:** Among those at **Susanna Ledesma Woody's Kick-Off** were: **Paul Saldaña**, **Lisa Vasquez Saldaña**, the candidate. **Susanna Ledesma Woody**, **Daimán Pantoja**, member of the **Board of Trustees of the Del Valle Independent School District** and **Ana Cortez**, **President of the Board of Trustees of the Manor Independent School District**.

**CAMPAIGN  
KICKOFF**

# Zen priest, Peter Coyote, on protest: “I’m watching the Los Angeles reaction to ICE raids with trepidation and regret.

Three years ago I taught a class at Harvard on the “theater of protest”— designed to help people understand why so many protests turn out to be Republican campaign videos working directly against the interests of the original protest.

A protest is an invitation to a better world. It’s a ceremony. No one accepts a ceremonial invitation when they’re being screamed at. More important you have to know who the real audience of the protest is.

The audience is NEVER the police, the politicians, the Board of supervisors, Congress, etc. The audience is always the American people, who are trying to decide who they can trust; who will not embarrass them. If you win them, you win power at the box office and power to make positive change. Everything else is a waste.

## There are a few ways to get there:

1. Let women organize the event. They’re more collaborative. They’re more inclusive, and they don’t generally bring the undertones of violence men do.

2 Appoint monitors, give them yellow, vests and whistles. At the first sign of violence, they blow the whistles and the real protester sit down. Let the police take out their aggression on the anarchists and the provocateurs trying to discredit the movement.

3. Dress like you’re going to church. It’s hard to be painted as a hoodlum when you’re dressed in clean, presentable clothes. They don’t have to be fancy they just signal the respect for the occasion that you want to transmit to the audience.

4. Make your protest silent. Demonstrate your discipline to the American people. Let signs do the talking.

5. Go home at night. In the dark, you can’t tell the cops from the killers. Come back at dawn fresh and rested.

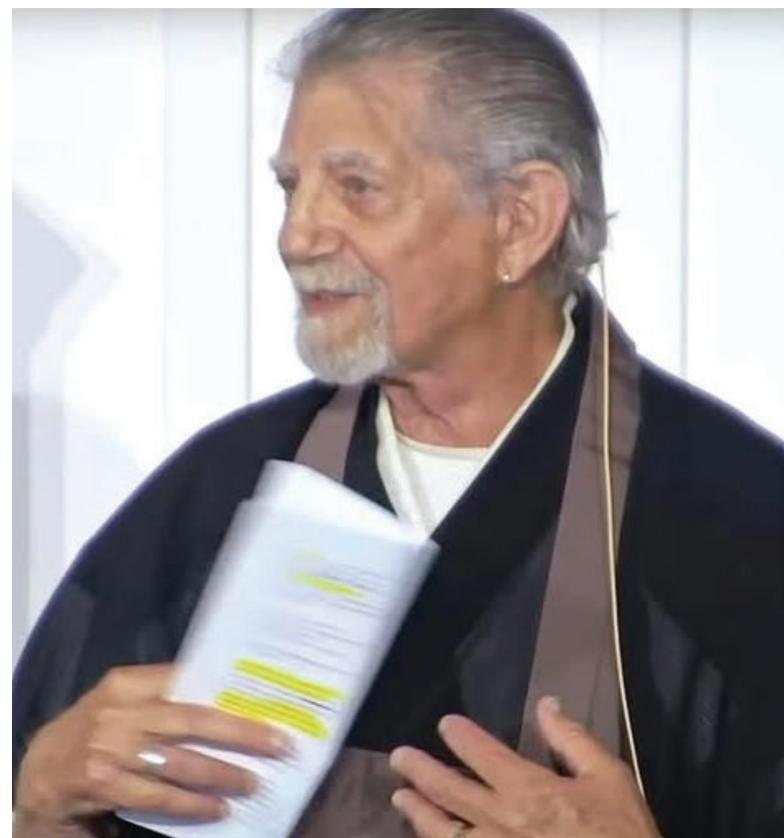
I have great fear that Trump’s staging with the National Guard and maybe the Marines is designed to clash with anarchists who are playing into his hands and offering him the opportunity to declare an insurrection. It’s such a waste and it’s only because we haven’t thought things through strategically.

## Nothing I thought of is particularly original.

It was all learned by watching the early civil rights protests in the 50s and 60s. And it was the discipline and courage of African-Americans that drew such a clear line in the American sand that people were forced to take sides and that produced the civil rights act.

The American people are watching and once again if we behave in ways that can be misinterpreted, we’ll see this explained to the public in Republican campaign videos benefiting the very people who started this.

Wake up. Vent at home. In public practice discipline and self control. It takes much more courage.”



— Peter Coyote

Zen teacher and author/narrator, with Ken Burns

Note: Carry an American flag. As the administration creates a fake emergency to justify a state crackdown, it’s important to honor the values and vision of democracy for which we’re advocating.

When the Enquirer came for pics back in 2017, I smiled a big toothy grin and held a big flag as it felt so empowering and good to stand with my adult daughter, pastors, Franciscans, nuns, kids, parents, grandparents and some women from our women’s groups for the values we tried to pass on.

After the protest, we sang and marched to a church where we heard poignant witness of immigrants trying to build a better life for their families against insurmountable odds.

Many Marines, National Guardsmen and vets are over on Threads and Substack expressing their disagreement over being used by this lawless administration. Peace, santi and shalom to all.

— Leslie Flood Hershberger



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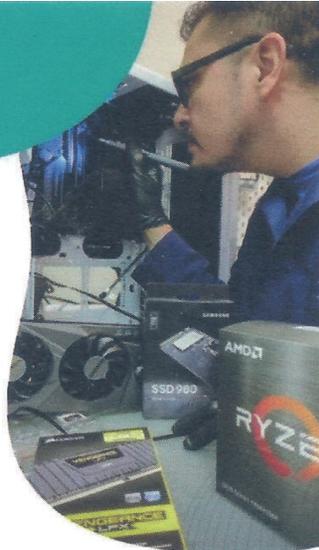
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## COMENTARIO PÚBLICO Y AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA DEL CONDADO DE BRAZORIA SOBRE EL PHA PLAN QUINQUENAL 2025-2029

Se llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el miércoles 4 de junio de 2025 a las 9:30 a.m. y el miércoles 18 de junio de 2025 a las 5:30 p.m. en las oficinas de la Autoridad de Vivienda del Condado de Brazoria ubicada en 1524 E. Mulberry, Angleton, Texas. El propósito de las audiencias serán para recibir comentarios y opiniones de los ciudadanos con respecto al Plan Quinquenal de la PHA del Condado de Brazoria 2025-2029.

El 15 de mayo de 2025, una copia del Plan Quinquenal del PHA 2025-2029 estará disponible para su consulta pública en nuestro sitio web en:

<https://www.brazoriacountytx.gov/departments/housing-and-urban-development/housing>

Las personas que no hablen inglés, utilicen lengua de signos u otras personas que requieran adaptaciones especiales y deseen asistir a esta audiencia pública deben ponerse en contacto con Daphne Lemelle en el (979) 864-1860 antes de la audiencia para que se puedan realizar las adaptaciones necesarias.

Los comentarios por escrito pueden enviarse o entregarse a la Autoridad de Vivienda del Condado de Brazoria, 1524 E. Mulberry, Suite 162, Angleton, Texas 77515,

Por correo electrónico a [BCCD@brazoriacountytx.gov](mailto:BCCD@brazoriacountytx.gov), o por fax al (979) 864-1089. Por favor de enviar sus comentarios antes de las 4:00 p.m. del 30 de junio, 2025. Para información general, por favor llame a Daphne Lemelle al (979) 864-1860.

Written comments can be submitted to the Brazoria County Housing Authority, by mail or hand delivery at 1524 E. Mulberry, Suite 162, Angleton, Texas 77515, by email to [BCCD@brazoriacountytx.gov](mailto:BCCD@brazoriacountytx.gov), or by fax to (979) 864-1089. Please submit any comments by 4:00 pm on June 30, 2025. For general information, please call Daphne Lemelle at (979) 864-1860.

Publicado en junio, 2025



**La Voz Newspapers**

**512-944-4123**

# Calendar of Events

**June 7th, 2025 - Johnston Rams Fundraider at Casa Moreno** 5001 Ben White Blvd. Austin, Texas at 8:00am to 1:00 pm. Event sponsored by the **Johnston High Ex-Students Association 65th Anniversary Committee.**

June 8th, 2025 -

**June 12th, 2025 - Latina Legacy Luncheon** at 710 Cesar Chavez St. in Austin, Texas 78701 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm Event to be held at the **Austin Central Library Special Event Center**

**June 12th, 2025 - Join HABLA** Thursday, June 12th, 6-8pm for a night of fun, networking, appetizers, drinks, music and cool door prizes at **Polvos Mexican Restaurant Barton Creek!** This event is perfect for anyone interested in learning more about **HABLA**, connecting with other Latino Community Leaders and Business Professionals in a relaxed setting. Come enjoy delicious Mexican cuisine while mingling with fellow attendees. Don't miss out on this opportunity to expand your network and make new friends. See you there! RSVP here! #HABLA <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../habla-summer-2025-mixer...>

**June 14th, 2025 - Raza Round Table**

This Saturday, June 14, 2025, we will have our monthly meeting from 10:00 am until noon. The location will be **Beto's Restaurant**, 3306 Oak Springs, 78721. We have a guest joining us; **Rep. Lulu Flores**, who just wants to join the conversation. We hope to see you Saturday!



**June 14th, 2025 - Music Bingo!** from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM CDT Wanderlust Wine Co. East-side: 702 Shady Lane, Austin TX 78702 Fees/Admission Free Event! Bottomless Meads special, with 6 different flavors to choose from and currently from 12-4 PM for \$30! Website <https://wanderlustwine.com/>

**June 25th, 2025 - Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Small Biz U - Business Legacy and Succession Planning.** Small businesses are the backbone of the economy with over 34 million in the United States. However, almost half of entrepreneurs expecting to retire in the next five years do not have a successor for their business.

On Wednesday, June 25th, for an important conversation about business legacy and succession planning, where we will explore options for a successful retirement.

## Word Power

### En Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of La Voz.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores de La Voz una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

Ungrateful

Ingrato

Selfish

Egoísta

Reliable

Confiable

Prejudice

Prejuicio

Open minded

Mente abierta

Narrow minded

Mientras tanto

Resentful

Resentido

Gullible

Crédulo

Trustworthy

Confiable

Appreciated

Apreciado

In confidence

Confidencial

Blame

Culpa

Suspect

Sospechoso

Heartfelt

Corazón

I believe you

Te creo

I believe in you

Creo en ti

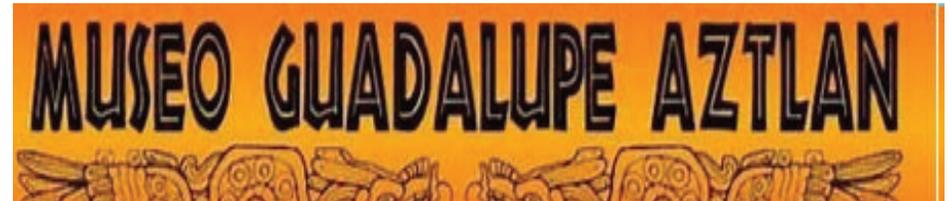
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“

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**30.84% VOTED FOR HARRIS**  
**1.06% VOTED THIRD PARTY**  
**36.32% DID NOT VOTE**  
**100.00%**

**MORE AMERICANS  
VOTED FOR SOMEONE  
OTHER THAN TRUMP...**

**THIS IS NOT A LANDSLIDE...**

**THIS IS NOT A MANDATE  
FOR TRUMP FASCISM...**

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- Sepa cómo mantenerse a salvo e informado durante un apagón.
- Conozca más sobre los apagones y cómo los maneja Austin Energy.

**AustinEnergy.com/StayReady**

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### Overview

The Latino Texas Policy Center (LTPC) is an independent nonprofit organization established to ensure policymaking equitably impacts the Latino community.

Our vision is to strengthen Latino families' bienestar (well-being) through research, communications, and organized action. We will combine policy research and collaboration with electoral and community advocates and establish communication strategies that frame, translate, and disseminate Latino policy priorities important to our communities.

### Website

[www.latinotexaspolicycenter.com](http://www.latinotexaspolicycenter.com)

### Phone

(361) 510-1365

### Industry

Non-profit Organizations

### Company size

0-1 employees

3 associated members LinkedIn members who've listed Latino Texas Policy Center as their current workplace on their profile.

### Headquarters

San Antonio, Texas

### Founded

2023

### Specialties

Public Policy, Policy Analysis, Research, Community Engagement, Capacity Building, Leadership Development, and Equity