



La Voz de Esperanza

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La Voz Mail Collective

The Collective is sheltering at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic but will be returning when their health and safety can be assured. Extra funds are being raised to pay for folding La Voz each month during this time.

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- We advocate for a wide variety of social, economic & environmental justice issues.
- Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza Center.

La Voz de Esperanza is a publication of

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Articles due by the 8th of each month

Policy Statements

* We ask that articles be visionary, progressive, instructive & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive & may be edited for length.

* All letters in response to Esperanza activities or articles in La Voz will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center staff, board and Buena Gente join in mourning the passing of a revolutionary giant in the diminutive presence of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She lived a life that truly exemplified the adage, “Be the change you want to see”. A leader in seeking social justice for all communities and in all struggles; she was the epitome of working in intersectionality. She was no stranger to dissent and resistance on the Supreme Court and set the bar high for all of us who seek social justice and equality for all. Her brilliant, fearless voice will be sorely missed but will echo in our minds for generations to come.

As we finalized the October issue of La Voz we received the news of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s passing. She had battled for equal rights and social justice on many fronts: Women’s Rights, Immigrant Rights, LGBTQ Rights, Civil Rights, Voting Rights and more. As we approach the 2020 Presidential elections, we must honor her memory by exercising our right to vote—a right she so brilliantly defended and protected in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

In 2013 the Supreme Court struck down Section 4 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA) in the Shelby decision that released certain states from getting approval before changing their voting laws. The justices ruled that Section 4 was unconstitutional, and that the formula used for decades — revised and extended several times by Congress — could no longer be used to establish those “preclearance” requirements. The 5-4 ruling noted: “The conditions that originally justified these measures no longer characterize voting in the covered jurisdictions.” In other words, after 50 years, voting rights no longer needed to be protected.

Justice Ginsburg, however, noted: “For a half century, a concerted effort has been made to end racial discrimination in voting. Thanks to the Voting Rights Act, progress once the subject of a dream has been achieved and continues to be made.”

After the ruling she concluded, “The court errs egregiously, by overriding Congress’s decision.” Indeed, the Court erred! Since then, a plethora of maneuvers to block or limit voting rights in the U.S.,

particularly of people of color and youth, has occurred. From requiring voter IDs to providing fewer voting venues and even the “reorganization” of the U.S. Post Office and more. That ruling has become Voting Rights worst nightmare! In 2020 honor the memory of RBG and take your vote seriously. Prepare now, don’t wait!

THE ELECTION DATE: Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Early Voting: Oct 13, 2020 - Oct 30, 2020

Voter Registration Deadline: Mon Oct 5, 2020

Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot (by mail): Posted-Fri Oct 23, 2020

Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot (by mail): Posted-Wed Nov 4, 2020

For info on voting in TX: <https://www.rockthevote.org> or [vote.org](https://www.vote.org)

For local information call: Bexar County Elections: 210.335.8683

ATTENTION VOZ READERS: If you have a mailing address correction please send it to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org. If you want to be removed from the La Voz mailing list, for whatever reason, please let us know. La Voz is provided as a courtesy to people on the mailing list of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. **The subscription rate is \$35 per year (\$100 for institutions).** The cost of producing and mailing La Voz has substantially increased and we need your help to keep it afloat. To help, send in your subscriptions, sign up as a monthly donor, or send in a donation to the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. Thank you. -GAR

VOZ VISION STATEMENT: La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. La Voz is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. La Voz provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.