



La Voz de Esperanza

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Editor: Gloria A. Ramirez

Design: Elizandro Carrington

Contributors

Rachel Jennings, Jere Locke, Kayla Miranda,
Rogelio Saenz, Sabrina Sojourner, Alexa Ura
[The Texas Tribune]

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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Graciela I. Sánchez

Esperanza Staff

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Paul Plouf, Kristel Orta-Puente,
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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

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center

922 San Pedro, San Antonio,

TX 78212

210.228.0201

www.esperanzacenter.org

Inquiries/Articles can be sent to:

lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers this May of 2021. I wish you a day of flowers, food, fun and family presence. In the spirit of Mother's Day, I got to thinking how voting affects mothers and thought about my own mother, now 94. In the last few years, voting has been more of a challenge, but with the strict voting laws now being enacted as outlined in this issue of La Voz it may become even harder. I asked the Voz design person, Elizandro, about his mother and her voting practices and her story was 180 degrees from my mother's story, but both are worthy of sharing...



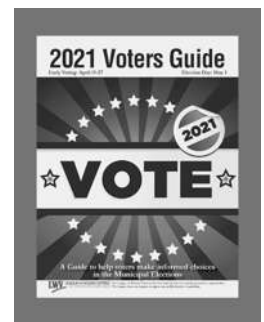
Tiburcia Ramirez, mother of Gloria A. Ramirez, Editor of La Voz: Mom is now 94 and has seriously impaired vision. She moves slowly with effort due to a knee that bothers her, at times. She worries about having a bathroom close by. Mom has a 3rd grade education and gets her information about life and politics through pláticas with her comadres, Las Guadalupanas, her primas and through the Church. When voting, in recent years, both mom and dad would need assistance. I would read mom the ballot, while Dad went through it on his own with me nearby to answer questions. I felt fairly secure in helping them. Dad passed away 2 years ago and Mom continued voting using a mail-in ballot. As I read it aloud, I mark the ballot for her as she indicates. She signs her name even though she can't see the signature line. I worry now that her ballot will be thrown out! My best memory of mom voting is when after voting in the presidential primary for la Sra. Clinton in 2008, she voted in the presidential election. When I asked her who she was voting for she did not say, the Democrat nor did she identify her candidate by race, she simply said, *Voy a votar por el joven—I'm voting for the young one (Obama)!*



Margaret González, mother of Elizandro Carrington, Designer of La Voz: My mother took voting seriously. She felt people should be held accountable for their actions and she saw voting as change. As a serious voter, she was impressive. . . and possibly scary if you were a candidate. She kept track of all her elected officials. From Presidents, to Senators, to school board representatives, none were safe from her and her files. She read the paper, watched the news, listened to speeches and knew exactly what they said, promised and voted. Her files were notes and clippings of things she liked and didn't like. Her file guaranteed she'd make informed choices. If someone wrote about a judge's ruling. . . into the file. If a newsletter mentioned what a local school board rep said. . . into the file. If a member of the House of Representatives voted yea or nay...into the file. Before voting she would cross check the ballot against her files. Democrat, Republican or 3rd party didn't matter. If she liked what you did, you got her vote; if she didn't, you didn't. If you weren't in her file, she'd follow the *League of Women's Voters Guide*. The one thing she never did was make an uninformed choice. If she didn't know who you were, you were skipped. To her, voting was sacred. She transcended politics with her belief and turned it into a spiritual journey. It was a part of who she was.

If you have a story about the role voting has had in your family, please, write it down and send to: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

Resist and Vote! —Gloria A. Ramirez



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.