

# The Republican Club of Sun City

## NEWSLETTER

June 2017

Everett Schmidt, Editor  
(Website: [rcsctx.com](http://rcsctx.com))

Sun City Texas

(Topics in this newsletter. "Identity Politics," "The Sanctity of Human Life and Disposal of Fetal Remains")

### SENATOR SCHWERTNER TO ADDRESS CLUB

Dr. Charles Schwertner, State Senator representing SD 5, will address the club during its dinner meeting scheduled for **Thursday, June 8** in the ballroom of the Social Center in Sun City.

With the conclusion of the regular session of the Texas Legislature coming on May 29, Dr. Schwertner will have timely information to present to the club on a variety of subjects on that session – topics ranging from bills passed, defeated or amended, conflicts among members of the House, the Senate and citizens on various issues, including social and moral values, and other issues. Attendees should find his address of interest, if not also downright fascinating and exciting.

Senator Schwertner is an experienced legislator, having begun his political career in 2010 when he was elected to the House where he served on the Appropriations Committee and other committees. In 2012, he was elected to the Texas Senate representing SD 5. He was appointed to a number of Senate Committees, including the Health and Human Services Committee which he chaired.

Additional information about Dr. Schwertner and the Texas Senate can be obtained at [www.senate.state.tx.us](http://www.senate.state.tx.us)

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING OF JUNE 8

**BEGINNING TIMES: Doors Open – 5:45 pm; Social Period – 6:00 pm; Dinner – 6:30 pm; Program – 7:00 pm**

**MENU:** Salads – Southwestern fajita buffet, Santa Fe house salad bowl; Sides – cilantro lime rice pilaf, refried beans, roasted corn and sauteed vegetable medley; Entree - smoked chicken and sour cream enchiladas

**COST:** Dinner fee is \$18 per person. Checks made out to "The Republican Club of Sun City" should be mailed to: **The Republican Club of Sun City, 530 Sun City Blvd., Suite 120, Box 227; Georgetown, TX 78633**, or left in a special drop box located on the front porch of the home of club treasurer Gene Edwards at 202 Duck Creek Lane. For information, contact Gene at 520-990-1159 or [geneedwards@earthlink.net](mailto:geneedwards@earthlink.net) The deadline for payment or reservations is Friday, June 2.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME! (Non-members may attend a maximum of two meetings per year – as attendees for the dinner or as observers for the program – without having to pay membership dues.)

### SPECIAL REQUEST BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

It is vitally important that payments and reservations for dinners be made by the deadlines stated in club newsletters and other club mailings. When individuals simply show up at a dinner with the intent of paying then – without having made any payment or reservation in advance (as required) – there can be a significant problem. The problem comes about because the caterer provides food according to the number of payments or reservations made in advance. The club must not have to cope with the problem of the caterer running out of food when he has complied with the number of dinners requested.

And there is a related problem: When payments are not made until the meeting (even by those making reservations), the line to pay or pick up tags begins to bog down. Given the short period of time available for the social hour and the significant number of attendees at meetings, the problem can become exasperating.

Consequently, the Executive Committee requests that all attendees respond to payment deadlines, and that, if possible, attendees who have made reservations by the deadline make payments – via mail or Gene's drop box – in advance of the meeting to help avoid lines there from bogging down.

It is also important to know that the payment/reservation requirement pertains to non-members and to dinner guests of club members. Club members, when having guests, should submit payments for guests and hosts together.

### SPEAKERS AT JULY CLUB MEETING ANNOUNCED

Two speaker from the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF), Kevin Roberts and Chip Roy, will address the club during its dinner meeting scheduled for **Thursday, July 27**.

Details of that meeting will be provided in the July newsletter.

## OTHER CLUB NEWS

**Statistics.** Vice president (for membership) Cathy Cody reports that membership for 2017 currently stands at 367 – 6 members shy of the all-time high of 373 reached in 2016. Club treasurer Gene Edwards reports there were 103 individuals attending the May 25 dinner meeting, plus an additional estimated 5 individuals attending as observers.

**Procedure to Become Club Member.** Current non-members who wish to join the club for 2017 should be referred to the club's website, [rcsctx.com](http://rcsctx.com), where they can find an application for membership (which can easily be downloaded), plus other information about how to join the club. (They can also join at club meetings.)

They should understand that membership not only enables them to personally benefit from the information made available to them and from the satisfaction of being with “kindred spirits,” their membership adds to the club roster which, in turn, gives the club more standing, gravitas and influence – important factors during this time when there is (to many) an obvious ongoing death struggle for the soul of America.

## TEXAS GOP CHAIRMAN RESIGNS

Tom Mechler, chairman of the Republican Party of Texas since 2015, announced his resignation on Saturday, May 20, effective immediately, from that post, citing personal reasons. He said, “it is time for me to focus on my family.” Mechler, an oil and gas consultant from Amarillo, also said he has experienced financial struggles over the past two years due to the downturn in oil prices

The State Republican Executive Committee (SREC), the party's governing body, will select Mechler's replacement at its next quarterly meeting scheduled for June 2-3, in Austin.

Two members of the SREC known to the club, Mike McClosky and Nita Davidson, will participate in that decision.

## “IDENTITY POLITICS” AND TODAY'S DEMOCRAT PARTY

**Foreword.** On February 25, former Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, the son of Dominican Immigrants, was elected Chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). He won the position on the second ballot of a contentious election. But when Perez' victory was announced, the supporters of Rep. Keith Ellison, a candidate for that position running in second place, exploded in anger and drowned out the interim chairman Donna Brazile with chants.

To placate the rebellious behavior of the protesters, newly elected chairman Perez, as his first act, called for Ellison to be named “Deputy Chairman,” which he was.

From the election of these individuals will likely emerge at least two identifiable subjects of “identity politics” to be associated with Democrats. Chairman Perez, as will be explained later, alienated pro-life Democrats for his comments. And it should be noted that Keith Ellison, now one of two Muslims now serving in Congress, was sworn into office as a member of the House in November 2006 engaged in an act during that ceremony which may alienate other Democrats: He used an English translation of the Quoran to take the oath of office.

This report will use term “identity politics” in accordance with Oxford Dictionaries which states “identity politics” is “a tendency for people of a particular religion, race, social background, etc. to form exclusive political alliances, moving away from traditional broad-based party policies..” Three topics very much in the news today will be discussed in the context of “identity politics.” Those topics are (1) the abortion/pro-life issue, (2) the acceptance and promotion of Islam, and (3) the abandonment of the white working class by the Democrats. Brief mention will be made of the free, uninhibited use of “potty language” in public by the DNC chairman, behavior which appears to be identified only with Democrats.

After discussion of these three topics, there will be a brief discussion of the beginnings and the evolution of “identity politics” followed by a discussion of its relevance in today's crazy world of politics.

**Perez' Strident Position on Abortion and the Reaction of Pro-Life Democrats.** According to the Huffington Post, Perez, possibly reacting to the strong negative response he received for supporting a pro-life mayoral candidate in Omaha, announced some controversial positions with respect to pro-life Democrat candidates:

He let all of his soldiers in the field know that if you don't support abortion on demand this year you shouldn't expect and backing from the national party.

Every Democrat, like every American, should support a woman's right to make her own choices about her body and her health . . . That is not negotiable and should not change city by city or state by state.

Those comments caused a heated exchange by opposing factions in the Democrat party. Kristen Day, Executive Director of Democrats for Life, said that is not a winning strategy in Middle America. “You know, the rest

of the country is not New York and California,” Ms. Day said. “And I think the Democratic Party is trying to impose those values on the rest of the country.”

But Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL, said the Democratic Party needs to double down on abortion rights if it wants a turnaround.

In addition to the division regarding Perez' comments, there was strident division regarding language in the Democrat platform. The 2016 platform of the Democrat party was called “the most pro-abortion platform in history,” proclaimed the president of NARAL. But at the time of its passage, the Executive Director of Democrats for Life, said, “The platform's language just says (to opponents of abortion), you are no longer welcome!”

**Democrats and Muslims.** Democrats can now be politically identified with Muslims by virtue of the election of Keith Ellison as Deputy Chairman, but also by two incidents which occurred during the recent presidential campaign as reported below.

What triggered much comment in the media, especially by the left, was Dr. Ben Carson's comment made during an interview on NBS's “Meet the Press” describing Islamic faith as inconsistent with the Constitution. “I would not advocate that we put a Muslim in charge of the nation. I absolutely would not agree with that.” He made a distinction between someone having executive authority – like a president – from others not having such authority.

Almost immediately, there was push back from the left; however, that push back was without any noted mention – and probably without understanding – of some of the conflicts of Shariah law (which springs from the Koran) and the U. S. Constitution.

The other incident took place at the Democrat National Convention when a Muslim, Khizr Khan, addressed that convention as the father of a son, a U. S. soldier, who was killed in the Iraq war. During his presentation, he went so far as to wave around his pocket version of the Constitution and challenge Donald Trump: “Have you read the Constitution? I will lend you my copy.” The gesture seemed to imply that Trump was not knowledgeable of it while he was, and also to imply there was no conflict between the Constitution and Shariah law.

There may be little understanding, generally speaking, about the conflict between Islam and the Constitution, so following is a brief discussion of that matter.

**What is Shariah Law?** According to Wikipedia, Shariah “is the religious law governing members of the Islamic faith. It is derived from the religious precepts of Islam, particularly the Quran and the Hadith . . . it is a body of moral and religious law derived from religious prophecy, as opposed to human legislation.”

**The Significance of “Allahu Akbar.”** The phrase “Allahu Akbar” is used by terrorists when they engage in acts of terror by killing people. Think back to the Ft. Hood murders – mischaracterized as “workplace violence” - when the murderer, Major Hasan, was reported to have used that phrase as he killed his victims. The phrase appears to be used without exception when Muslim terrorists kill.

A proper translation of that phrase can be instructive by revealing the very nature of Islam. According to one translation, Islam is but another religion. According to Wikiislam (and other sources) “Allahu Akbar” is usually translated “God is the Greatest” or “God is Great,” translations suggesting Islam is but another religion. Wikiislam, however, contends this is not an adequate translation and contends further that “Allah” is not simply the Arabic word for 'God;' it is the name of Islam's chosen deity. And “Akbar” does not mean 'great' but “greater.” In other words, the phrase means “Allah is greater.” Other religions are to be subordinated.

**Is Shariah Law Compatible With the Constitution?** Shariah law, for many Muslims, is divine – as opposed to human legislation – and therefore cannot be changed, thus possible providing a source of irreconcilable differences with the Constitution.

But to the direct question of whether Shariah law can be “squared” with the Constitution, Kirby Anderson of Point of View Ministries makes the following observations:

*The First Amendment says that there should be no establishment of religion. Shariah law is based on one religion's interpretation of rights. The First Amendment prohibits the establishment of any national religion (including Islam).*

*The Eighth Amendment prohibits “cruel and unusual punishment.” Most Americans would consider the penalties handed down under Shariah law to be cruel and unusual.*

*The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees each citizen equal protection under the Constitution. Shariah law does not treat men and women equally, nor does it treat Muslim and non-Muslims equally. This also violates the Constitution.*

**Democrats Abandon the White Working Class.** There is evidence that Democrats, from the 2012 election through the 2016 election, had abandoned the white working class. With respect to the 2012 election, as was reported in the January 2012 club newsletter, readers of the *New York Times*, the unofficial news organ of the

Democrats, were a bit stunned by a November news article written by Thomas Edsall who stated that, “preparations by Democrat operatives for the 2012 election make it clear for the first time that the party will explicitly abandon the white working class.” The writer then explains:

**All pretense of trying to win a majority of the white working class has been effectively jettisoned in favor of cementing a center-left coalition made up, on the one hand, of voters who have gotten ahead on the basis of educational attainment – [professors, human resource managers, social workers, etc.] - and a second, substantial constituency of lower-income voters who are disproportionately African-American and Hispanic.**

It is easy to see how the Democrats can gain a loyal constituency from what Edsall describes as “lower-income voters who are disproportionately African-American and Hispanic. He notes that 45.8 million people, nearly 15 percent of the population, depend on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to meet their needs – and this does not even include Social Security or Medicare payments.

Illegitimate births are a major factor in the growth of the welfare state and of the Democrat constituency. Phyllis Schlafley noted then that illegitimate births for all Americans had risen from 26 percent in 1990 to 41 percent today. [These figures are from the 2012 presidential campaigns] *The left is content to let this shocking problem persist because 70 percent of unmarried women voted for Obama for president!*

Then there are immigration laws noted by Edsall which tend to increase the lower-income voters. The Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965, an act passed largely through the efforts of Sen. Ted Kennedy, abolished a policy which had been in effect since at least 1890 and which provided that those admitted to American were members of ethnic groups already represented here. That policy was replaced in 1965 by one of “family reunification,” which, contends columnist Georgie Ann Geyer, “in effect, gave control over immigration to new immigrants who then brought their relatives here in high numbers.” By the 1980s, more than 80% came from Asia and Latin America.

But more is at stake than mere partisan advantage. At stake was Obama's philosophy of government which is described by Matthew Spalding of the Heritage Foundation as follows: “What he is actually doing is abandoning the average, middle-class values and cobbling together an alliance of state dependents, government hangers-on, and political elites who claim the capacity to run things.

Hillary Clinton, when a candidate, indicated intention of continuing that philosophy when she made the following often-quoted statement: “You know, to just be grossly generalistic, you could put half of Trump's supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables. Right? The racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic – you name it. And unfortunately there are people like that. And he has lifted them up . . . Now, some of those folks – they are irredeemable, but thankfully they are not America.”

**“Potty Mouth” Language as Democrat Politics.** A phenomenon of recent vintage which appears to be growing and which appears to be unique to Democrats is the public use of “potty language” by their politicians. For example, Perez made the following comment – highly edited here – at a Democrat event in Las Vegas: “It's chaos, it's carnage. He's a [expletive] liar, that's what I say, pal. You're [expletive] right he's a liar. The Republican leadership doesn't give a [expletive] about people who are suffering. Let me [now] be more polite because I just say a young child in the audience!”

**The Beginning and Evolution of “Identity Politics.”** “Identity politics” has been criticized for well over a century. For example, Theodore Roosevelt said more than a century ago, “A ‘hyphenated American’ is not an American at all.” And 30 years ago, a progressive stalwart and historian, Arthur Schlesinger, argued that “identity politics were tearing apart the cohesion of the United States.”

But despite those kinds of warnings, there was a shift toward identity politics. Columnist Victor Hanson Davis explains how Democrats were motivated to change:

*This shift from the ideal melting pot to the triumph of salad-bowl separatism occurred, in part, because the Democratic Party found electoral resonance in big government's generous entitlements and social programs tailored to particular groups. By then, immigration into the United States had radically shifted and become less diverse. Rather than including states in Europe and the former British Commonwealth, most immigrants were poorer and almost exclusively hailed from the nations of Latin America, Asia, and Africa, resulting in poorer immigrants who, upon arrival, needed more government help.*

*A half-century later, affirmative action and identity politics have created a huge diversity industry, in which millions in government, universities and the private sector are entrusted with teaching the values of the Other and administering de facto quotas in hiring and admissions. In 2016, Hillary Clinton ran a campaign on identity politics, banking on the notion that she could reassemble various slices of the American electorate, in the fashion that Barack Obama had in 2008 and 2012, to win a majority of voters. She succeeded, as did Obama, in winning the popular vote by appealing directly to the unique identities of gays, Muslims, feminists, blacks, Latinos, and an array of other groups, but misjudged the electoral College and so learned that a numerical majority of disparate groups*

does not always translate into winning key swing states.

**The Future of Diversity Politics in the Wake of the 2016 Elections.** Davis contends the 2016 elections undermined, if not destroyed, one of the basic tenets of the political class: diversity. The future of identity politics is “uncertain at best.” He explains what happened: “The 2016 election marked an earthquake in the diversity industry. Davis provides six reasons for his conclusion, four of which follow:

*One. Intermarriage and integration are still common. Overall, about 15 percent of all marriages each year are interracial, and the rates are highest for Asians and Latinos. Forty percent of Asian women marry men of another race – one quarter of African-American males do, as well – and over a quarter of all Latinos marry someone non-Latino.*

*Identity politics hinges on perceptible racial or ethnic solidarity, but citizens are increasingly a mixture of various races and do not always categorize themselves as “non-white.” Without DNA badges, it will be increasingly problematic to keep racial pedigrees straight. . . . One reason why diversity activists sound shrill is their fear that homogenization is unrelenting.*

*Second. The notion of even an identifiable and politically monolithic group of non-white minorities is also increasingly suspect. Cubans do not have enough in common with Mexicans to advance a united Latino front. African-Americans are suspicious of open borders that undercut entry-level job wages. Asians resent university quotas that often discount superb grades and test scores to ensure racial diversity.*

*Third. Ethnic solidarity can cut both ways. In the 2016 elections, Trump won an overwhelming and nearly unprecedented number of working class whites in critical swing states. Many either had not voted in prior elections or had voted Democratic. The culture's obsession with tribalism and special ethnic interests – often couched in terms of opposing “white privilege” - had alienated millions of less well-off white voters.*

*Fourth. It is not certain that immigration, both legal and illegal, will continue at its current near record rate, which has resulted in over 40 million immigrants now residing in America – constituting some 13 percent of the present population.*

## **THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE AND DISPOSAL OF FETAL REMAINS**

The recent passage by the Legislature of SB 8 (sponsored by Sen. Schwertner) concerning the disposal of fetal remains in a dignified manner – in contrast to disposing of them as waste – brings to mind an incident dating back to 2001. It is presented here on grounds that it has parallels with the issues of HB 8 and may be instructive in several respects.

The incident involves an aborted Down syndrome baby who survived a late-term induced abortion and had been abandoned in the Soiled Utility Room in an Illinois hospital where the child was discovered by nurse Jill Stanek.

Author Jerome Corsi makes this observation about such treatment of babies who survived an abortion: “Sometimes they would live for just a few minutes. Sometimes they would live for several hours. No one tried to save or treat them. That would defeat the purpose of the [abortion] procedure.”

Nurse Stanek said of her discovery, “I couldn't let him die alone, and so I held him for the 45 minutes that he had lived.” She was horrified by what she had seen and provided testimony in the Illinois legislature which crafted legislation dealing with babies who survived late term abortions.

Barack Obama was then a state Senator and was the only Senator to speak against such legislation. Author David Fredosso describes Obama's resistance: “Obama rose to object to the passage of the bill. He contended that the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment does not allow somebody to kill a child, so if the law deemed a child who survived a late-term labor-induced abortion had a right to live, “then this would be an anti-abortion statute.” He claimed the proposed legislation would therefore be declared unconstitutional.

The reader should be aware of the following principled statement concerning the sanctity of life as found in National Republican Platform of 2016:

*The Constitution's guarantee that no one can “be deprived of life, liberty or property” deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence's proclamation that “all” are “endowed by their Creator” with the inalienable right to life. Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to children before birth.*

## **NOTES ON THE PASSING SCENE**

**(Some random observations on this crazy world in which we live.)**

**Precinct 381 to be Split.** According to a recent article in *The Sun*, the Commissioners Court, on April 25, voted to split several precincts in Williamson County, effective this coming January, because they have reached or about to reach voter limits.

Among the three precincts in Sun City is Precinct 394 which will be divided to create Precinct 393.

**Texas Southern University Cancels Appearance of Sen. Cornyn.** Texas Southern University canceled a scheduled appearance by Sen. John Cornyn amid a student backlash which, as stated in a student petition, was based on "the Senator's support of 'discriminatory policies and politicians' such as voting in favor of voter ID laws, constitutional ban of same-sex marriage and approving the appointment of U. S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and U. S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos."

Two Democratic members of Congress from Houston, U. S. Reps. Al Green and Sheila Jackson Lee, remained a part of the program and were set to speak as scheduled.

**Trump Appoints Commission on Election Integrity.** President Trump recently made good on a promise to create a Presidential Commission on Election Integrity. Vice President Mike Pence was named to chair the commission which, it should be noted, includes two Democrats – the Secretaries of State of Maine and New Hampshire.

Until now, the debate on election fraud has been based mostly on anecdotal evidence and conjecture. "To make broad statements like, "It's not a problem is factually impossible to prove says commission member Kris Kobach, so what the commission is going to do is provide facts."

Surveyors of possible vote fraud didn't have access to the federal data the new panel will have. Homeland Security data that lists every legal immigrant and visa holder in the country will be compared against state voter rolls to detect noncitizens who illegally registered to vote. The panel may inspect the Social Security death master files to ensure that the dead aren't casting ballots.

**Gay, Bisexual Men Constitute 55% of Individuals Living With HIV.** Information on CNSNews.com reveals a report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing (1) that gay and bisexual men comprised about 2 percent of the U. S. population in 2013, but they accounted for more than half of all Americans living with HIV; (2) A 2016 analysis estimated that there are nearly 4.5 million gay bisexual men in the United States and that 15% are living with HIV infection; (3) If current diagnosis rates continue, 1 in 6 gay and bisexual men will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetimes, including 1 in 2 black/African American gay and bisexual men; and (4) Gay and bisexual men accounted for 83% (29,418) of the estimated new HIV diagnoses among all males aged 13 and older and 67% of the total estimated new diagnoses in the United States.

**County Officials Nix Future Pot Parties in Denver.** Colorado is generally regarded as the leader in allowing the smoking and consumption of pot. But in response to the behavior of participants to a pot party in downtown Denver, county authorities shut down such parties for at least three years. Following is a description of some of what officials noted:

Eight food vendors operated without licenses. A mob broke down a fence and laughed about it. Activists parked cars on sidewalks. Grown men urinated on trees. Noise forced nearby offices to close. A cloud of marijuana smoke wafted through downtown for all to inhale.

We have courtrooms that can't even work because you can't hear the parties.

That was Thursday, April 20. When the sun rose Friday, Civic Center Park looked like a landfill. Bottles, cans, food, paper and other debris were strewn for acres.

**Concern Expressed About Addiction to Smart Phones.** Aaron Wolf, writing in *Chronicles*, says;

*We now have an entire generation that has been reared on smartphones, Kindles, iPads and the like, and is habituated, body and soul, away from the written text, the sermon, the lecture, the essay, human conversation, and human interaction, and toward the instant gratification of buzzing, chirping electronic devices and ethereal networks and "communities" that are not real – a virtual reality in which cruelty is itself a virtue. It is a generation*

*that fears silence, that is constantly stimulated in indifference and anxiety, that has no experience of true leisure, which is the basis of culture. With brains constantly doped up, and minds ever occupied with messages, bounced off of towers and satellites and back into their hands, how will their souls hear the still, small voice of God?*