

INSIDE & OUT

THE CAPITOL ON THE TRAIL

Annise Parker to Lead Nation's 4th Largest City Annie's List supporters stood by her every step of the way!

Annise Parker won her seventh consecutive election victory in the City of Houston, this time claiming the Mayor's Office for the nation's fourth largest city that oversees a \$4 billion city budget.



Annise celebrating her victory at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

First, Annise came out as the top "vote-getter" in a four-way race, beating out a self-funded billionaire who outspent her 5 to 1, to position herself as the front runner in the December 12th runoff. Then, Annise overcame a last minute smear campaign that attacked her sexual orientation, appealing to the baser instincts in voters.

The bottom line, as the Houston Chronicle explained, was that the experienced City Controller successfully communicated to voters, "her financial bona fides and restrained promises would be best suited in trying financial times."

Annise acknowledged the historical precedent her victory established. She actually accomplished three firsts, as the first openly gay person to lead a major US city, the first candidate in a generation to defeat the Houston business establishment's hand-picked candidate, and, as she joked, the first Rice University graduate to serve as Mayor of Houston. But Annise was quick to remind her

supporters that she ran to represent all the residents of Houston, telling her well-wishers who packed the George R. Brown Convention Center, "from this moment, let us join as one community. We are united in one goal in making this city the city that it could be, should be, can be and will be."

For Annie's List, victory on election night was the product of years of hard work. Annise was actually our first endorsed candidate when she ran for Houston City Controller eight years ago. Annie's List supporters were amazing — you all stood

by her every step of the campaign. The financial generosity of the Annie's List network raised over \$60,000, ensuring Annise had what it took to overcome last minute attacks and get her vote out.

And the recent graduates of Annie's List Campaign School were on the ground in the final days, running targeted GOTV programs that added to her margin of victory.

In many ways, Annise's victory could be a lesson to all Annie's List candidates. As

(continued on back page)

A MESSAGE FROM POLITICAL DIRECTOR ROBERT E. JONES

TOP PRIORITY: Win Contested Primaries on March 2nd

Though it is very rare for us to be involved in a Democratic primary, there are circumstances where it does occur. In occupied seats it has been because we are challenging a male Democratic incumbent with a bad voting record on issues we care about, such as Kino Flores in HD-36 in 2008. Or it is because, despite our best efforts in a Republican held seat to avoid a primary, we are unable to clear the field without a fight. Or, last but not least, a Democratic

seat becomes vacant from a retirement or resignation and it is fair game for all.

The two primaries we have in 2010 are a result of a combination of all three scenarios. In 2008 we supported Sandra Rodriguez in the Valley against bad actor incumbent Kino Flores. She narrowly lost but his luck didn't last long. Just a few months later he had six felony indictments leveled against

him and was forced to resign as he waits for a trial. Now an open seat, Sandra Rodriguez is running again with our help to take back this seat for the people of the Valley.

However, Kino isn't going to let her have it without a real fight. By colluding with another former legislator (Sergio Munoz) with a colorful history, Flores has recruited a hand picked candidate against her — Sergio Munoz Jr. — that will be well funded and with a fresh copy of Kino's dirty tricks playbook ready to go. This one will get ugly but Sandra is no neophyte and is the representative that the

residents of HD-36 deserve on the floor of the Texas House.

The other primary this year is in Irving's House District 105. Despite best efforts to find common ground and negotiate a clear field, Loretta Haldenwang will face another Democratic woman on March 2nd. We interviewed both of them on several occasions and there is no question that Loretta is 100% aligned with the issues that Annie's List cares about AND no doubt

(continued on back page)

The 2010 Playing Field Finally Set

By ROBERT E. JONES

After months (years really) of speculation about who would run in 2010, we finally know who the candidates are up and down the ballot for this year's battle royale. And with the census and redistricting just around the corner, the stakes simply could not be any higher.

Though some thought I was crazy for it, I have been saying for over a year now that Kay Bailey Hutchison would not ultimately vacate her U.S. Senate seat nor would she win the Republican gubernatorial primary against Rick Perry. The first has come true, thereby enticing Bill White to instead pursue the race for governor. But first he will face off with hair care magnate Farouk Shami (inventor of BioSilk and the Chi hair iron) in the Democratic primary.

And I still believe that KBH will lose to Perry in the primary and set up our first real opportunity to win the Governor's mansion in over a decade. Either way, having a competitive election at the top of the ticket is great for Annie's List incumbents and challengers. That alone will help break up the straight ticket Republican vote and benefit our candidates all the way down the ballot.

We are also watching the two Democratic women on the statewide ballot closely. Linda Chavez Thompson, a former national executive vice-president of the AFL-CIO is running for Lt. Governor and Barbara Radnofsky, a former partner with Vinson & Elkins law firm (and 2006 US Senate candidate against KBH) is running for Attorney General. We will be conducting professional public opinion polling in these races after the primary and watching their fundraising to make a determination about a possible endorsement.

As for the battle for the Texas House, we have both challenges and opportunities in meeting our goal. Unfortunately we took a step backward this fall with the retirement of Rep. David Farabee in Wichita Falls, a heavily Republican seat that will almost definitely be lost in his absence. And another rural House member, this one in East Texas, decided to switch parties, which put us down one more.

However, we still only need four seats to take back the House and in each of the last two election cycles Democrats have won six seats. Going into November our task is to hold all of our incumbents (Annie's List has a 100% incumbent protection record thus far) and pick up at least four seats, an attainable goal with the kind of hard work to which we have grown accustomed.

And in the effort to make all of that math work as planned, Democrats are competing in at least seven competitive races against Republican incumbents, with a few others on the watch list. And of those seven Republican pick-up opportunities, four of them are women candidates that we are working with closely. Two of them you have already heard about (Loretta Haldenwang in Irving's HD-105 and Kendra Yarbrough Camarena in Houston's HD-138). The other two candidates

are being vetted in the endorsement process now and will be announced this spring if all goes well.

We also have a primary in an open seat that is heavily Democratic (*Sandra Rodriguez in Pharr's HD-36*) and one non-legislative race in Diane Trautman's bid for Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector. This is a second attempt at both of these seats and both are important to the big picture of our strategic plan for different reasons in 2011.

That leaves the thirteen Democratic women incumbents in the Texas House that we have helped elect and re-elect since 2004 (*Sen. Wendy Davis is not up this year*). And as you know, we have been working with them since late 2008 to run aggressive protection programs and communicate their legislative successes to constituents throughout the off-year.

The good news is that none of our women incumbents in safe Democratic seats have drawn serious challenges within the Democratic primary and are all but guaranteed re-election in the fall. Those incumbents include: Alma Allen, Carol Alvarado, Jessica Farrar, and Ana Hernandez — all from Houston.

In the districts that range from swing to Republican leaning, Valinda Bolton (*Austin*), Ellen Cohen (*Houston*), Veronica Gonzales (*McAllen*), Yvonne Gonzalez Tourelles (*Alice*), Donna Howard (*Austin*), Carol Kent (*Dallas*), Diana Maldonado (*Round Rock*), Paula Pierson (*Arlington*), and Kristi Thibaut (*Houston*) all have one or more potentially serious opponents in the general election.

In the coming months we will be watching these races very closely to evaluate which incumbents are in the most danger and to prioritize resources accordingly. We have a 100% incumbent protection record and it would be nice to keep it that way. Make sure to watch our updates as this is our most important election yet and these women, incumbents and challengers, are going to need your help!

9 ANNIE'S LIST INCUMBENTS TO FACE REPUBLICAN CHALLENGERS IN NOVEMBER

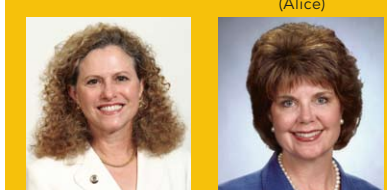
Nine Annie's List incumbents who won swing — and even Republican leaning districts — will have well-funded Republican opposition this fall.



Valinda Bolton (Austin) Ellen Cohen (Houston)



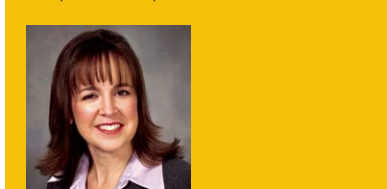
Veronica Gonzales (McAllen) Yvonne Gonzalez Tourelles (Alice)



Donna Howard (Austin) Carol Kent (Dallas)



Diana Maldonado (Round Rock) Paula Pierson (Arlington)



Kristi Thibaut (Houston)

Parker

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the Houston Chronicle reported from their extensive interviews with voters:

♦ "At the polls, voter after voter cited Parker's experience watching over the city's \$4 billion budget as a primary consideration in their choice."

♦ "Instead of being turned off by a politician reluctant to promise the

world, voters responded to Parker's straight talk about all that might be possible in the coming years."

♦ "Dozens of Houstonians interviewed by the Houston Chronicle said they appreciated her often blunt answers that made Locke's proposals seem vague."

Annie's List once again extends a warm congratulations to Annise, her partner of 19 years, Kathy Hubbard, and their three children. Thanks to them, Houston's future is looking brighter.

Top Priority

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that she will be the most viable candidate in the fall against Rep. Linda Harper- Brown, the Republican incumbent.

Thus far, Loretta has raised 1,200% more money than her opponent, built a real campaign team, knocked on 1,000+

doors and is earning the endorsements of Democratic organizations and community leaders alike. That being said, this is a MUST WIN seat if we are to take back the Texas House so nothing can be left to chance. So this spring we will be splitting our time between the Valley and Irving to make sure that both of these great women candidates are victorious. Please join us in making them your financial priority before March 2nd.

Campaign School

At Annie's List we understand

that to win tough elections,

candidates need the professional

support of trained campaign staff.



2009 Campaign School— Annie's List Austin Office

This year, Annie's List conducted a Campaign School in our Austin office for 7 recent college graduates. The Class of 2009 learned the fundamentals of running and winning elections from some of the top campaign professionals in the country. The group participated in a congressional campaign simulation and were tasked with creating a campaign plan from the bottom up. After tough days and several very long nights, these hard working young people wrapped up the simulation and were immediately placed on some of the most targeted races in the state.

Serving as trained staffers, Campaign School graduates were placed with Mayor Annise Parker, Rep. Diana Maldonado, Rep. Kristi Thibaut, and challengers Loretta Haldenwang and Kendra Yarbrough Camarena.

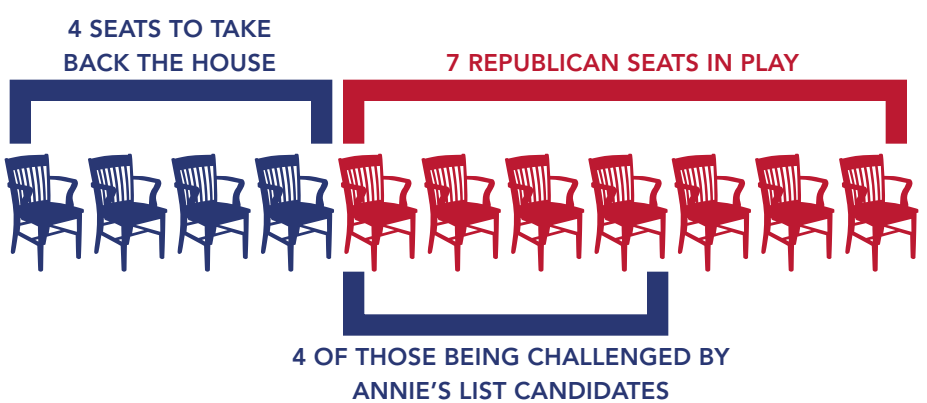
Annie's List believes in training! We know that today's school board member or Campaign School graduate is tomorrow's legislative candidate or chief of staff.

ANNIE'S LIST

506 W. 7th Street • Austin, TX 78701

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THE MATH FOR VICTORY:



A-LEVEL TRAINING

ANNIE'S LIST IS COMMITTED TO FILLING THE LEADERSHIP PIPELINE WITH QUALIFIED WOMEN CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL STAFF.



2009 Austin Training



2009 Irving Training

Recruiting and training the next generation of leaders and political professionals is an investment that we believe will benefit women and their families for years to come.

Our mission extends beyond direct contributions to legislative candidates. While we limit direct assistance to legislative candidates, we offer free "Campaign 101" trainings to those interested in running for office at any

level. Last year Annie's List hosted 5 "Campaign 101" trainings and over 150 women attended. Each woman received a crash course in skills necessary to run a competitive campaign and begin the journey to higher elected office.

LEADING by EXAMPLE



Bren Gorman graduated from UT with B.A. in psychology and a Masters in Nonprofit and Philanthropic Studies from the LBJ School of Public Affairs. She's worked at many of our allied groups including the Texas Freedom Network, Equality Texas and Texans Care for Children. She worked as a Legislative Intern in Senator Shapleigh's office this past legislative session. She was one of seven Campaign School staffers in 2009 and went to work on Annise Parker's race from August through the December election doing finance. She's now overseeing the city-wide grants for Mayor Parker.

AL: You were a member of the 2009 Annie's List Campaign School. Tell us a little about your experience. Is the training really as intense as they say?

BG: Am I allowed to say it's like childbirth even if I'm not a mother? In retrospect, the intensity of campaign school—which could be renamed 'boot camp' without exaggeration—is really the only way to adequately prepare for life on the campaign trail. I needed to know that I could handle the long, demanding hours, emotional ups-and-downs, and potential interpersonal conflicts that can occur under stressful conditions. Campaign school was the best preparation imaginable—and only campaign experts could have put such a training together. Of course, it was also nice to know that I can still pull an all-nighter when the need arises.

AL: After the Campaign School training, you were placed on the Annise Parker for Mayor Campaign. Were you able to see how the training helped prepare you for the "real deal?"

BG: The training proved invaluable preparation for the real deal. Not only were we put through our paces with rigorous homework assignments each evening after long days in the classroom, we also met a

lot of the consultants and major political players that I ended up working with closely on the campaign. Each evening when the guest lectures concluded, a new homework challenge was assigned based on a well-crafted campaign simulation that required us to work together (which isn't always easy at 2am!) and think strategically under pressure—just like on the campaign!

AL: What's the one piece of advice you remember from Campaign School that you'd pass along to the new generation?

BG: Keep your mouth closed and your ears open.

AL: What made you decide to get involved with campaigns and progressive politics?

BG: As a member of the LGBT community, for me the personal is political. For the past decade I have been involved in progressive politics in one form or another because I feel very strongly that is my responsibility to speak for those unable to speak for themselves, and to engage the public in the political process.

For these reasons I have been so lucky to be involved on the historic Parker

campaign! As a woman, an activist and a lesbian, my personal stake in the outcome of this race couldn't have been higher. Further, Annise recognizes the role of government in improving people's everyday lives and has repeatedly publicly advocated for Houstonians to hold her accountable as their public servant and to engage in government and politics to achieve the best city government possible. I couldn't have asked for a better boss or better coworkers on the campaign, and I owe it all to Annie's List!

AL: What's next for Bren Gorman?

BG: City Hall, here I come! I'm moving from the finance team of the campaign over to the City of Houston Government Relations Office. As Administrative Coordinator, I will oversee city grants and track federal stimulus dollars. The new administration determined that my background in public policy and networking experience from the campaign trail make me a good fit for the position. And I agree! Ultimately, I look forward to serving the City, but also helping Annise Parker get re-elected until her term limits set in, and then work on her campaign—or another Annie's List endorsed candidate—for an even higher office!

SCENE ON THE A-LIST



Annie's List endorsed candidates celebrating at the Dallas Luncheon.



Annie's List endorsed challengers, Kendra Yarbrough Camarena and Loretta Haldenwang pose with honoree, Senator Leticia Van de Putte at the Austin Fall Reception.



Shanny Loti, Nancy Scanlan and Bettye Nowlin, an Austin Steering Committee member, at the Austin Fall Reception.



Dallas Luncheon Co-Chairs Amy Klion and Karla Barber with keynote speaker Donna Brazile.



Annie's List Board Chair Naomi Aberly at the Dallas Luncheon with Julie Harrison, 2010 Luncheon Chair Gail Griswold and Annie's List Board Member Patsy Fagadau.

"They [Annie's List] didn't send me a small army, they sent the Navy Seals."
— ANNISE PARKER



Dallas Steering Committee Chair Tricia Miller (fourth from the left) with Steering Committee Member Pat Rosenthal (second from left) and attendees of the 2009 Dallas Luncheon.

"In just a few short years, Annie's List has become a multi-million dollar operation and one of the most powerful players in Texas politics."
— CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS' POLITICS MAGAZINE

ANNIE'S LIST VISION CIRCLE

"NO MOVEMENT, NO ORGANIZATION ACHIEVES THE TYPE OF IMPACT WE HAVE SET OUT TO CREATE IN TEXAS WITHOUT A CORE GROUP OF LEADERS WHO CAN SEE BEYOND THE DAY-TO-DAY CHALLENGES AND ENVISION WHAT IS POSSIBLE."

— Naomi Aberly,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR

Fresh off Annise Parker's victory as Mayor for the nation's fourth largest city, Annie's List will soon be re-launching the Vision Circle. The new Vision Circle will ensure we have the financial stewardship to meet our ambitious goals and put in place progressive policies to move Texas forward. More importantly, it will tap the breadth of experience

that our leadership donors bring to tackle the strategic challenge we face. Vision Circle members will take part in the debate and planning of what it takes to reshape Texas' political landscape — and open it up for all to participate — with invitation-only access to planning retreats with top policy makers and leading political strategists.

Stay tuned for your invitation to be part of this exciting new leadership opportunity.

THANKS TO OUR MANY FRIENDS WHO HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES...

— IN HONOR OF —

Naomi Aberly
by Carole B. Jordan, Staci Mankoff, Susan Matuszewicz & Linda Owen

Kelly Ausley-Flores
by your paralegals & staff

Karla Barber
by Gillian Baron, Lottye Brodsky & Tricia Miller

Carol Barger
by Roger D. Sanders

Victoria Benedict
by Jackie McElhane

Cecilia Boone
by Linda Owen

Anne Bradley
by Leslie MacLean

Debbie Branson
by Jennifer Branson Johnston & Krisi Kastl

Kate Campbell
by Shirley Watkins

Dick Cheney
by Windy Warner

Carolyn Clark
by Melissa McNeil

Virginia Creech
by Liza Farrow-Gillespie

Susan Cuellar
by Linda Harris

Jean Davies
by Lou Michaels

Anneliese Davis
by Susan Barzelay, Patricia Davis, Dana Feldman & Anita Robeson

Jeanne Fagadau
by Joan Kramer

Amy Fikes
by Katie Lavie

Jessica Goldman
by Chynthia Schneidler, MD

William S. James
by Sally Giddens Stephenson

JoAnn Jenkins
by Clay Jenkins

Robert E. Jones
by Leslie MacLean

Chris Jonsson
by Charlene Howell

Amy Klion
by Tricia Miller

Lisa Kraus
by Joanne Teichman and Emily Snooks

Candace Krause
by Susan Aberg & Anne Goyer

Katie Lavie
by Risa Gross

Julie Lowenberg
by Barbara Materka

Elena Marks
by Nancy McGregor Manne & Sally Russ

Mary McAtee
by Vivian Jones

Alfred Meader
by Gloria M. Gray

Tricia Miller
by Anne Goyer & Carole B. Jordan

Virginia Richards
by Lucy Richards

Jane Saginaw
by Robin Sachs

Shanon Schwimmer
by Kathryn Allen

Gladys Sokol
by Silvia Davis

Judith Stewart
by Carole B. Jordan

Sally Warren
by Laurie H. Cox

— IN MEMORY OF —

Sammie Ausmus
By Janette Skrasek

Tom Cullivan
By Dolores Cullivan

Betty Parsons Dooley
By Marilyn Halpin

Sudy Samadari's father
by Jennifer & David Roth & Jane Brann

OPPORTUNITIES: network, share, & learn



DEE DEE MYERS

HOUSTON LUNCHEON
Featuring: Dee Dee Myers

March 10, 2010
Intercontinental Hotel
2222 West Loop South, 77027
REGISTRATION AT 11 AM, LUNCHEON AT NOON



KATHLEEN KENNEDY TOWNSEND

CENTRAL TEXAS LUNCHEON
Featuring: Kathleen Kennedy Townsend

April 1, 2010
Hilton Austin
500 East 4th Street, 78701
REGISTRATION AT 11 AM, LUNCHEON AT NOON



SAN ANTONIO CELEBRATING OUR CHAMPIONS

September 8, 2010
The Bright Shawl
819 Augusta Street, 78215
RECEPTION FROM 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM



DALLAS LUNCHEON

September 27, 2010
Westin Galleria
13340 Dallas Parkway, 75240
REGISTRATION AT 11 AM, LUNCHEON AT NOON