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SPEAKERS

Buddy Johnston

 Buddy Johnston 00:01

This is Buddy Johnston for KPFT radio and we're off to a rough start. In the studio with me right now is

 00:12

Steve Shimer.

 Buddy Johnston 00:13

Steve, thanks for coming by the station. Steve is one of the five candidates running for district see a very important seat on the city council. I think it's very important because it represents the Montrose area. And Steve is one of the only candidates. That also happens to be homosexual. And I hate that word, Steve. But when you work in radio, and you do a gay radio show every week, see I just said it and you say gay and you don't say lesbian or you say lesbian and you don't say gay. You seem to upset certain people. And there's so much I have found there's more homophobia in the gay community. Then I've ran into in the in the street community right now. Anyway, Steve came by the station this morning. It's October the 25th. I'm sorry, October the 24th. We can't edit that out anyway. And I have been out on the streets of Houston, asking people about the election and trying to get the gay community's response to Yes, I should vote or No, I shall not vote. And I asked Steve to come by the station this morning. Because I want to we're putting together this program for you to hear and it'll be ran out obviously, after the election. We've got what two weeks now? 10 days, 10 days, 10 days to the true candidate knows the day. Steve, I don't want to try to set you up as being another Harvey Milk. Although Harvey said himself that there have to be a lot of Harvey Milk's and I really don't think he'd be angry at us if if we compared ourselves to Him. But I didn't know you, right? No, not before this election, I just kind of wandered into your campaign office. And the reason I did that a lot of my listeners expressed unhappiness with the fact that the GPC endorsed a straight candidate, as opposed to a gay candidate and a lot of people in the gay community that I've talked with feel that's wrong. And you You sought out the GPC endorsement. Right?



02:37

I did. Do you know



02:39

why you didn't get it?



02:43

I don't really have an answer. I wished I could I could give you a clear cut concise answer as to why they didn't. But I can't. I think even the caucus itself is very, very divided. Just in its own little group. Steve,



B

Buddy Johnston 03:00

did you file before the deciding to run for district seat? Didn't you file once before something and then withdraw your name?



03:09

No, I hadn't. I had started putting a campaign staff together back in July. And I had an extensive poll done. And I think the poll told me that we could get real close but we couldn't get a cigar. And I didn't want to to waste the dollars or the energy fighting an uphill battle against an incumbent. And I did in fact decide no, I'm not going to run. And it was it came out in in this week in Texas, and also in a monstrous voice. No, I was not going to run.



B

Buddy Johnston 03:52

Then in the 11th hour, George graininess decided to pull out and run for controller that's after Lance later pulled out and George was actually running down the hall.



04:04

Literally, it is that



B

Buddy Johnston 04:05

we were down at City Hall and he and his staff, Margie. They were all running and racing down the hall trying to get to the clerk's office to file and that's another story.



04:17

Saturday matters.



04:19

But then after George



Buddy Johnston 04:20

withdrew, then you decided to jump into the race.



04:24

Yes, once George decided to just seek Lance Labor's position at left district see wide open. And I certainly felt that my chances were just as good as anybody else's. I knew or was aware of three other candidates besides myself. That was going to enter the race. The only one I was not aware of was Dorothy cram.



Buddy Johnston 04:49

Well, I've got a question for you when when you decided to run you just said something about the dollars and the energy. I've been down there at your office several times. atoms. And there's a lot of energy from everybody, most of it's coming from you. And why? Why do you want to? Why do you want to be on city council? I mean, you're a successful businessman, you've got to have a nice life, per se, you know, quote, quote, why why run for city council? Why put yourself through all this?



05:25

I have a couple of reasons, I suppose. One, the city has been very, very good to me. I've done well for myself in Houston. And I am just in a position where I would like to give some back to Houston, I see that there's a lot of work within the district that has to be done in the form of some economic shots in the arm, if you will. And I certainly want to be a part of that process. And I suppose if you throw in the fact that I am gay, and I knew it was going to open up Pandora's box, I felt that it may be a catalyst to put the gay community back together to give them adequate representation on council. And kind of do away with the malaise that exists within the community.



Buddy Johnston 06:36

Forget the candidate, Steve and the businessman, Steve. Let's talk about the man Steve, the homosexual. Steve, do you really think that the gay community in Houston wants to be

together? I mean, you've been out as I have in the past weeks talking to people. And I'll be quite honest with you. It's very discouraging. Because we sat here and we watched the referendum die. And the 2106 with all the sudden anti sodomy law is still on the books in Austin hanging over us. D, what do you what do you see coming from the community now, you've been out there with them, more so than ever?



07:17

Well, since the defeat of the referendum, it seemed as though that that gays have have just not been active. There certainly seems to be a divided community. And I'm not so sure that this election will be. It may not do all the things that I want it to do. But I think it will do some things, I think that we'll see some some positive energies out of that out of the gay community. And I think, with the HD LPC, and the new group that was formed, and I'm lost for their new title, if there's if there's a job for me to do, if I should lose the election, which I certainly hope not to, I suppose the job would be to bridge that gap between the new group and the HDL PC, and put those two groups back together and on track. And the gay movement is what has to win in the end. There's a lot of young people that are looking at leaders within the community, to put them on track, and to make sure that the movement continues and is is successful. And that's that's pretty much where I'm coming from at this point.



08:59

So what's the gay movement all about?



09:02

Funny, you should ask the tough question, not really, not really at all. What is the gay movement about the gay movement is about equality. And its equality takes many different forms. He called in housing, equality and Employment Equality as just being a citizen and getting the same treatment that any other citizen gets. That's how I see the gay movement. It's a long way off. And right now it seems that the gay movement has fallen behind in Houston. And I certainly intend to direct a lot of my energies. As I told you earlier to bridge a gap between the two political organizations make sure that the city does its job. As far as age is concerned, as if we don't have enough burdens, now we have to have another burden with AIDS. But that's not going to stop us. The movement has to go on. And we have to show strength. And I think now is the time that the leadership within the community has to come together as one and speak as one.



Buddy Johnston 10:36

You know, I want to tell our listeners again, this, this interview is completely unplanned, we don't have we didn't have any idea what we were going to talk about. I. Personally, again, I'm just real disappointed as a gay man that the gay and lesbian Political Caucus would not endorse a gay candidate. And a lot of people I've talked to feel the same way. And I think it's

unfortunate. We've listened to Harvey Milk over the last several weeks, especially on my program, say you've got to elect gay people. How did the the gay, Steve feel when you heard that the GPC had chosen not to endorse you?



11:21

Oh, I get asked that question. Probably 15 times a day. You know,



Buddy Johnston 11:26

I'm not trying to get you to say all those rotten people because there are good people over there.



11:30

I can't, I can't say, oh, those bad people. And look at it from a standpoint of sour grapes. You have to learn by mistakes that are made. And you put those mistakes behind you. And we have to go on living our lives, we have to do the best we can to put the gay community back together. We need to be strong. The numbers are out there. And the numbers are certainly out there. And it's our job. And maybe it's a thankless job. Maybe it's maybe it's a job that is even bigger than I think it is. But you can't get the job done. Unless you start somewhere. And I don't think that you start by playing sour grapes. And saying that if this one had have done a better job here, if that one had done a better job here, what if doesn't get you anywhere? Do you have to look forward?



Buddy Johnston 12:27

To candidate Steve, I've heard you speak. You may not know that, but I have. And the fact that you're gay is not hasn't really been an issue. I'm glad Not that I've heard you know what I mean? You're not running as a gay candidate, you're running as a candidate. That just happens to be gay.



12:52

I've been a very successful businessman. Houston, as I said earlier, has been very good to me. And I feel that I'm certainly qualified to sudden on city council. And I think that if more people would get involved in the process, I think we would see the movement really pick up a big head of steam. And it'd be pretty hard to stop it. And if I'm that person that can set those wheels in motion, or assist in any way in setting those wheels in motion. Then what I've done is well worth



Buddy Johnston 13:36

you've been out with the other candidates to speaking in public and on TV and different things.

What after listening to them what sets you aside from them, he personally what do you think? I mean, that I've heard most of them seem to be good people.



13:53

I don't think that any of the candidates are bad people at all. I think some of them have some distorted priorities. spending as much time as I had with him over the last five weeks, obviously we get to know each other pretty well. And I think for all intents purposes, that they're they really are pretty good people they've been very good to me. Some of them have been in this game before some of them hadn't. They're all looking to represent the district. And I suppose that all five of us think that we can do a better job than the other one can do. Or wouldn't be spinning all these dollars and and all these late hours and and eaten rolls and coke



14:47

and beef sandwiches with mustard



14:48

beef sandwich with mustard if you're lucky and you're making on top desk.



Buddy Johnston 14:54

Well, speaking of we can edit this out and then again, we may not edit it out more Okay. Okay. The Barbara. I can't think oh, no, not Goldfield, the one that received the endorsement from the Jeep gRPC Oh, Kathy Mintzberg Okay, Kathy Mintzberg, I'll put you on the spot and one of your ads. And one of your ads, you said something about Kathy Mintzberg or someone that was a big supporter of Kathy Mintzberg being a big supporter of the forces that helped to defeat the referendum. Back.



15:36

We did allude to that in in one of our ads, and we're still checking. But it certainly my understanding at this point, that the Greater Houston Association Pac was, in fact, one of the major funders in the success of the defeat of that referendum. And I suppose if there's anything in the campaign that has dumbfounded me, I suppose it would be just that idea that that pack, donated \$25,000 to her campaign, and then to see her turn around and receive the endorsement of the caucus. It sent me for a loop. I really don't quite understand that process.



Buddy Johnston 16:23

Did she? Is she using the endorsement? Now that when Oliver lurcher everywhere



16:30

the precinct judge in district 34, Natalie Marston. And I had a particular conversation. Or he had insisted at one point that he meet with her one on one. And one of the questions that he had asked her during a private meeting was whether or not that she was going to use the HDL PCs endorsement on all of our literature, and she was very emphatic, and said no, she would not she would use it in targeted areas. And obviously, those targeted areas would be gay areas. And I suppose if I were Catholic Mintzberg and I was straight, I would probably do the same thing.



17:19

People come to the gay community when they want something. And it seems that politicians are have really perfected the process of coming to the gay community and asking for their dollars and asking for their support.



17:40

But I just haven't seen the payback as of yet. And I don't think that Cathy Mintzberg would be much different. And I'm certainly not speaking against her. I'm just looking at politicians. And she opted to put that hat on to make her one of those animals.



Buddy Johnston 18:01

I understand what you're saying, because being a voter and a gay voter, it that kind of, I don't want to use the word mentality. But that kind of approach scares me. Because it's popular in the Montrose to wave the GOP banner. But what happens when she's sitting down on city council, and there are so many people opposed to her, as the forces were against Anthony Hall and the others that put the referendum I mean, those people stood their ground. And they held their head up, and they never once seemed to back down. And Anthony Hall said, Look, I don't think this gay rights thing is really, you know, a good idea. We've got some people here that are very upset. So let's drop this. They they stood their ground. And I, I feel like that, more than anything that the gay community killed the referendum, I mean, very, very small, very small. Percentage, a very small percentage of the registered voters in the Montrose precincts bothered to go vote.



19:07

Well, other cities, such as San Antonio, and especially here in Texas, have the referendum and they had to go back again and again and again, until they got it passed. And each time you do something you learn from the mistakes that you did the first time around. And when you try and do something like that, in a city the size of Houston you really have to have your ducks in a row. You have to make sure that you have your support behind you. And I think running up and down the streets and and being helter skelter and discombobulated just because you're gay that you want to Something from the city I think is a very poor way to put it together. And I think we have to learn from places like San Antonio, that did a lot of work and done their

homework very well. And got it passed. But we're at the point now in Houston, where we're not even discussing the referendum at this point. The only thing that you hear about the referendum is the horrible defeat. But no one has said that we have to have that referendum. And I don't see any people that are working right now. To say that has to be reintroduced. Did

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Buddy Johnston 20:37

Do you think the GPC had all their the GOP C had all their ducks in a row and the referendum came?

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20:43

I don't think so.

B

Buddy Johnston 20:44

And again, I you know, I'm not I'm not out to get the GPC and the gRPC. And all those people those are, I'm sure they're good people. They're homosexual people. But I don't think that they know what the gave moments all about. And that's a strong statement, but I'll tell you why. I say that. I've been doing after hours. I started on September the sixth. September was voter registration month for the GOP See, they wanted people to get out and registered to vote. I called for several weeks, weeks before my programmer went on the air here at KPFT. And they have yet to call me back. I work for the city of Houston. A lot of people know that a lot of people don't know that. That's no big deal. But it is a big deal. When you're gay and the referendum is defeated. I look to the GPC and all I see is a GPC walking down Westheimer during the parade last year screaming whores the mayor, where's the mayor? Well, where was the the GOP see when the referendum was was dying? And where you know, who are Steve, who do you think that the man Steve the person see? Who do you think the gay leadership in Houston is? Now? Is there any?

i

22:08

If you were if you were to go if we were to leave now and let's say Okay, now

B

Buddy Johnston 22:12

let's go talk to the gay leadership of Houston. Other than self appointed leaders, who would we go see,

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22:20

we do have a lot of self appointed leaders, I suppose. I think you'd have to go back. And you have to put this thing in perspective. And I recall the days before the endorsement by the caucus. And my campaign staff and myself are calling everybody we knew to muster as many

forces as we could to show up at the GPC meeting. And what we ran into everybody used to be a member of the HDL PC. And for various reasons, they all dropped out. There has to be proper leadership within the caucus, and the caucuses. Directors and leaders are charged with the responsibility of getting people excited. And you don't force people into going to meetings. You have to make them feel when they missed a meeting, that they get on the phone and they have to call their friend and they say what happened up there tonight, I was busy and I couldn't make it. And I should have been there and I needed to be there. But I just couldn't. And they can't wait until the next meeting come so they can be there. And you have to inspire those people. And I think that's part of where the GPC has fallen. And I don't think they're dead. I think that they're the Malays might have set in a jeep at the caucus, just like it has in the voter turnout. But it's up to the leadership of that caucus to really inspire and put an agenda together. That makes people want to be a part of that. You have to inspire them somewhere.



24:36

Do you think gay men and lesbians in Houston? Do they want to be inspired? Do



24:40

you think I think everybody wants to be inspired. And I don't think that that gays and lesbians are any different than anybody else. Everybody wants to be fired up about something. They like to be excited. They like to do positive things. And I think good now grumbling because of of defeats, is not a way to look forward. You have to change The attitudes have to change. And the leadership has to do their job of inspiring and putting forth a proper agenda that's going to excite people and to get them wrapped up in the movement. And that's I think, is probably where the caucus has fallen behind.



Buddy Johnston 25:16

You know, Harvey Milk said that if you're satisfied with being the the fact that's beaten up, then you whimper home and say, I'm gay, I just deserve to be beaten. If you're satisfied with the church yelling and screaming at us, and if you're satisfied with the police, harassing our bars and, and arresting our people, and if you're satisfied with our families, burying our lovers and our friends and hiding and trying to just completely ignore us, just the fact that we had three quarters of a million people in Washington on October the 11th. And the press just barely mentioned it. And if you're satisfied with all that, there's no need to register, no need to vote. But as I've been out talking to people in the last couple of weeks, and I'm sure you ran into the same thing, the people here are hungry, they want something. And I don't know if they need to take dynamite and blow the closets just completely to smithereens. I don't know what what the answer is.



26:19

But, again, we have to, as a group have to go back to the caucus. Number one, we have to bridge, as I said earlier, the gap between the newfound Caucus and the old caucus, and put those people back together as one. And I and it might not be quite as hard as, as I think it is

right now. Obviously, we don't know what the results of the election are sitting here 10 days previous to. But no matter what the outcome of the election, if there was enough concern, out of the new group to start and still yet a second group, then yeah, that that spark just might be there. And then now, I think the job at hand is to keep that spark going. But hopefully to direct those energies together as one so we can get back, put the HD LPC back on track, bring the new folks and set our new agendas, set goals that are that are attainable. And then let's get after we have work to

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Buddy Johnston 27:27

do. Physically, it's impossible, it would be impossible in the next 10 days to talk to every gay and lesbian person in Harris County in Houston that can vote for you on election day. If we had a magical booth like they have in the Star Trek series, we could bring them in here one at a time. What would you say to those people? Right now 10 days before the election.



27:52

This is the fourth largest city in the country. And it's just the size of the town and to see how large this is. And the voting power that the gay community has just within district C. They have the voting power with five candidates in the race to win on first ballot, and there wouldn't even be a runoff would not even be here. As the election is very, very, very important to the gay community, not just a district see a Montrose, but to Houston as a whole. We are entitled to our representation on council. And I suppose if we use some percentages out of the Kinsey report, and there's 10% of the population, a Houston a quarter of a million people can make a big difference. And they can elect a gay mayor if they wanted to. All they have to do is get together and vote and no one can stop it. But first we have to inspire them to do so.

B

Buddy Johnston 29:18

You think the EU said the referendums not dead? Do you think it's asleep? Or is it gonna come back?



29:24

It has to come back. There's you can't you can't kill equality. There's there's no way in hell to kill the colony. It has to come back what form it's going to take who the movers and shakers are. And that's going to start the process to make sure that we have our ducks in a row that we have proper support. We have an educational process that has to be done. And I think that educational process is going to have to be spearheaded through the caucus when we put it together as one and until we can educate people We're always going to have a problem trying to ramrod or stuff something down someone else's throat. And I think just the direction that we take is going to be very, very important and to make sure that, that we lay all the groundwork so now that it's not dead, and it will be back, if I have anything to say about it, and I certainly want to be a part of that movement to bring it back. Make real

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Buddy Johnston 30:26

now you can put on your your candidate shirts. What would you say to those voters that aren't gay? They're looking at Steve, the the district see one to five candidate?



30:38

Well, that's the that is the hat that I've worn 90% of the time, in this past five weeks. This is a to braid. Divert diversified, I suppose, if you will, for lack of a better word, district. There are very poor black. Lots of seniors, a very large Jewish community, the medical center, the Astrodome, lots of affluence, I don't know rice and marshland areas, and it goes all the way into Fort Bend County. Where again, there's poor people that live in those districts in Fort Bend County, until you have to represent all the people. And certainly if you're a real person, and we're talking about on one side of Steve charmer being gay and representing the gay community, and why do you want to do that? Because we we want to be equal like everybody else? Well, if you look, there are a lot of different kinds of people in the district, and all of them are entitled to the same thing. They're entitled to equality, they're entitled to be treated like people. And rest assured that the black communities down in the Fourth Ward, and some areas, out in the Astrodome, and down into Fort Bend County, they've had their problems, and they still have their problems. And so you have to represent all the people, every single one of them in the district and you got a very diverse district.

B

Buddy Johnston 32:20

When you get that seat on city council, what, what's one of the most in important what's the most pressing issue, you think that you need to deal with



32:30

AIDS, just flat, simple, plain aids, the city has not done its work. And I think that we have to work very hard to make sure some of those federal dollars come to Houston, it's very important that we do then if for any reason that we run into any kind of brick walls. And we just have to get hundreds if not 1000s of people every Wednesday morning down to count on say we're not leaving it. We don't want to talk about anything but aids, and you're going to move on this issue. You've skirted at sangat. You're not in the hospital district. And that's not going to be enough anymore. And that is a very big problem. If that doesn't work or flood, the mayor's office will do whatever has to be done. Until those dollars are here for education in indigent health care. There's a lot of things that have to be done. That is one of my large priorities, and to make sure that the city appoints a health director that is very, very sensitive to the needs of the gay community. And not just the gay community, but the black and brown communities. And those are where the rates of increases are the highest. And because of the cultural differences, those people will not come to the only testing facility that exists within the city. And we have to get more public publicly funded, easy, accessible, testing facilities in those other minority communities.

B

Buddy Johnston 34:06

I forgot what I was gonna ask you. God like that. got off to a rough start, and we're getting off to a rough ending. Steve. There's so many questions. We're gonna follow you on through the campaign. I've already made arrangements with Garland Gant, our news director, to be there the night that you win the seat on city council. And I think it's very important. I know what I was gonna ask you now on our program we play on our program we play a lot of different Hello, how are you? This is Joe Joe from such and such and you're listening to after hours on KPFT Houston, I went to one of the borough runners, and asked him about coming in and recording something like that. And he said, Well, I don't really want to do that, because I don't want to advertise as being a gay club. And I don't want my customers being beaten up in the parking lot. And I told him that if his customers were being beaten up in the parking lot, that we should have 100,000 gay and lesbian people down in front of City Hall The next day, asking where the police are, where the police, where's the police protection? And you just said something about filling the chamber council with people and making a statement, a physical statement. Do you? Do you see that getting ready to happen?



35:45

I certainly I certainly hope so. That's pretty much what the what this whole election is about, in terms of my campaign is saying that we are equal, and we're going to demand and receive fair treatment, nothing more than anybody else. We're not looking for anything additional. But I think that we are entitled to police protection, and not police brutality. And the relationship relationship that the gay community maintains, with the police department has gotten a little better, not even close enough. But it has gotten a little better. And we always have to look at it positively. And the police department has to be educated about our culture, we are a different kind of culture. And they're afraid of us. And I think the rubber glove story, pretty much speaks towards the attitudes of the police department. And again, the caucus has a job to do. And a lot of this reverts right back to the caucus and the leaders that we have to do our job to educate the police department. And we have not taken a leadership role in those areas, we have a long way to go. And I think he always have to talk in terms of a very upbeat programs, and not what ifs, and what could have been, but where are we going? And what do we intend to do? And what is our job? And are we setting goals that are attainable? And that's the area that we have to come from?



Buddy Johnston 37:34

You know, I think you hit the nail on the head. I asked someone we've been screaming on this show for about four weeks, about the numbers 250,000 half million gay and lesbian people in Harris County, and I asked a straight friend that I work with the other day, how many gay and lesbian people are there in Harris County, and her response was too damn many. And I asked her why she felt that way. And she said she was afraid of us. And I think we need to not only educate our own people, but we do need to educate the heterosexual community as a whole and destroy those myths. And those lies that have been put forth about us for



38:28

years and years just see that 10% of the population in Houston is gay. I certainly feel that then that the city also has been derelict. And not educating the rest of the of the citizens of Houston about the numbers that exist within their own backyard. There are lots of numbers.



38:55

Well, that's,



Buddy Johnston 38:56

that's obvious to me. If you look at it on a federal level, the March on Washington, three quarters of may and people the largest march in history, on our nation's capital, there's very little said about it. I think the government wishes we would all really go back into the closet and hide but that's not gonna happen.



39:15

It's hard to hide 30 million people, it is pretty difficult to hide 30 million people.



39:20

And if if you all come out all at once, all at once.



39:26

It wouldn't be such a shock.



39:30

It would put the world into a I don't know they'd have to



39:35

30 million people don't even vote in the presidential election.



39:40

It would be pretty we'd have to have a new syndrome because it'd be like toxic shock syndrome they would be



39:48

someday if aren't I just hope that I live long enough to see it. But yeah, that certainly would be sweet. That would be sweet. It will happen. It's sure. You get offered. Duffles are going to make

sweet. That would be sweet. It will happen. I'm sure. You get offered Durr's we have to get we have to care. about each other, we just have to, to stop crying and not allow ourselves to be turned away. We have to come out numbers, we have to show the city that we do care. And we want to be a part of the city process. We don't want any special treatment from the city or, or from the county or the state or the federal government or anybody else. We just want to be a part of the process. That's all we want to be. And I don't think that's asking a whole bunch.

B

Buddy Johnston 40:32

And how do we get there pride in ourselves?



40:37

First, we need to elect Steve Shimer to city council, that would be a great step in the right direction.

B

Buddy Johnston 40:43

Okay, after that election, I promise you, we'll be back and we'll be doing some more recording and so on and so forth. Well, thank you for coming by the station i We could sit here and discuss the future of the world, I guess all day. And I think you've said just about everything I certainly would want to hear is there anything you can think of that you want to say 10 days before the election. Because obviously, we're going to edit this tape and chop this and put something together after we win, or if we should lose,



41:20

after we won. I would hope that the discussions that we've that we've had here this afternoon will, will come to be reality. And that we will see the caucus and other groups, other gay groups get together and and set these proper agenda. I'm very hopeful that that's going to happen. And when loser draw, it doesn't make a lot of difference. I certainly want to be a part of that process. And I suppose when one group endorsed one candidate in the race, and the other group endorse another candidate in the race, I've got a real big job to do.

B

Buddy Johnston 42:10

Before we run out of tape, can you promise me something? What's that? When you're when you're when you are elected? And you sit on that first council meeting? Can you get me a front row seat so I can see this is Steve Shimer in this Ray Hill, these two guys



42:33

probably have to fight all the press to get down in there. Do you

B**Buddy Johnston** 42:36

know the power that the gay community could have anything they are like these two openly gay candidates to city council?



42:48

I think when when Ray Hill and I take our chairs on council, that tremendous responsibility to show the city that we can be a product of the governmental process. And that just because we're gay, we're no different than anybody else that we're knowledgeable. We have feelings. We have Phil philosophical, oh, I'm Tongue Tied today here, differences. But I really want to be a part of that process. I'm very hopeful that that both of us will win and we're going to win decisively. And I think that you'll see two men on council that are qualified and devoted to city government. And I don't think you'll see two men that are just working for the gay community. But they certainly have the gay community as part of their constituents. And they're entitled just like the rest of the constituents.

B**Buddy Johnston** 43:49

Do you think the homosexuals of Houston realize the power they have in their, at their fingertips right now?



43:56

I don't think they know nod, I don't think they really understand it. They don't seem to think collectively, they know individually that the numbers are here. They're good that the gay community is very much aware of the numbers that are out there. But trying to put a group together is a very difficult job. And I've got 10 more days to work and and talk to as many people as I can talk to and try and get them to network and call their friends and tell them how important this election really is. That's my job for the next 10 days.

B**Buddy Johnston** 44:30

What's your biggest fear about being elected? Anything



44:37

it's it's a buzzy feeling that you haven't it's just a real buzzy feeling the hoping that that you'll be able to then to live up there to the expectations that that the group has for us. It's a it's a very important job. It's very difficult job. But I like challenges. Being a self educated fellow was very, very difficult to get up into the business world where he could talk with the who's who of the business world. It was frightening and it was scary when I when I took that road. And this is just another road. Little frightening little scary. But I like things like that. I like challenges. It's fun.

B

Buddy Johnston 45:22

You know, when Councilman granitas when we first started the after hours program, he used to do a weekly report about five or six minutes every week on the show, and we've taken them off since he's running for office. We can't really let him air his feelings right now. But once you get your seat, you're gonna have to fill in the void left by George, we want to make sure that people want to hear from me every week. And I'd be more than Steve thanks for coming by. October the 24th 10 days before the election, and we have a chance to put two openly gay candidates into City Council this year and the story continues to get some good stuff on there