

**RAY HILL:** Couldn't marry a contractor with city of Houston because he would have to give up his contract. And Annise Parker said, oh, that's no problem. Cathy can get any job with the city she wants and all the contracts because you don't recognize the legality of it all--

**DEBORAH** [LAUGHS]

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right.

**RAY HILL:** So we are not in the nepotism laws. And so Cathy can do it anywhere. Yeah, if you would recognize our relationships as a matter of city policy, I would be willing to abide.

**DEBORAH** [LAUGHS]

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** I mean, right out of the clear blue sky. Of course, it was-- and she was hinting that Martha Wong actually couldn't catch as city contractor.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ooh.

**DEBORAH** [LAUGHS]

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ouch. Ouch.

**DEBORAH** Ooh, ooh, ooh.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, so after Annise, there's still a lot of people--

**DEBORAH** Oh, gosh, yeah. At large two, position two, we had Gordon Kwan come screen with us.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Yes, been a joy.

**DEBORAH** Oh, I love Gordon. He has been a dynamo.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Yeah, we have really done well with Asian candidates. Hannah Chow, a judge, a wonderful judge, we lost her during the Republican sweeps on County Criminal Court has just been wonderful. And Gordon has exceeded any expectations.

**DEBORAH** He has been a dynamo. And he was one of the council people that was going point on the cleanup of downtown

**ROGERS:** Houston after Allison. And as someone who works downtown myself, I have to say he did a wonderful job with that, absolutely wonderful. But moving on, at large position three. And remember, the at-large positions are voted on by all members of the city of Houston.

**RAY HILL:** That's right.

**DEBORAH** OK, we have a council that's made up of at-large positions and district positions, OK. So at-large position three, our endorsement was Mark Whitehead. Mark is a little bit new to the scene. He is a very astute, eloquent, young man-- family man with very strong ideas about anti-discrimination, about quality of life issues. We then go to at-large position for hotly contested race there. And our endorsee is Claudia Williamson.

**RAY HILL:** Had several motions on that race, but Claudia did very well when her motion got on the floor.

**DEBORAH** Yes, there's a footnote to several of these races that I would like to add. At Large Four's one of them, and you'll see it and a couple of others. We have had the wonderful, blessed luxury this year of having to make hard choices in our endorsements because we've had excellent candidates in a number of races. Multiple candidates for one position.

I mean, if anything, there were times when our screening members would go up to a candidate afterwards and say, but I like you so much too. I mean, why can't we get you just move over to this race over here where we have no choices whatsoever? And this is a good thing. This is a good thing because that means that people are coming up through the system who are progressive individuals wanting to do the right thing for the city of Houston and move us forward.

So just because we have, for example, in an At Large Four, we had a large contingency of people also looking at Barbara Ashley in that race. And these are people who are going to be around for a while but aren't-- and those are names that are going to be out there. Claudia Williamson at the At Large Number Four. OK, let's move to some of the district races. They won't all be represented because we did not have everyone scream.

**RAY HILL:** We didn't make an endorsement in District number five.

**DEBORAH** No, we did not make it endorsement, District number five nor District A. District B, the only person to screen with us was Carol Mims Galloway. And Carol goes back with us for quite a while and was just very supportive during the past season, especially with the anti-discrimination issue that came before city council and so forth. District D, which includes the Montrose area as well as a large part of the Third Ward--

**RAY HILL:** There was some competition to them.

**DEBORAH** Quite a bit of competition there. But our endorsee is hands-down Ed Edwards.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Sister.

**DEBORAH** Oh.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Miss Ada and I were-- we thought we were Siamese twins. We were back to back on excessive use of police power for many years. Remember, Ada Edwards championed the Ida Dee Delaney--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I sure do.

**RAY HILL:** --incident where the lady was killed by the police.

**DEBORAH** This is someone you want on your side. And--

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** She's is a fine activist. And--

**DEBORAH** She is. She is. And she will do right for the city of Houston not just her district, but for the city.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** We deserve somebody like Ada.

**DEBORAH** We really do. We really do we.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** We deserve that good of representation.

**DEBORAH** And this is just a unique opportunity for us to vote in these kind of people. Moving onward, we went to District H.

**ROGERS:** The only person to screen with us at that race was Gabriel Vasquez who at the time was unopposed, gave us a returning incumbent and has done very well. District I is very hotly contested. This is the one that John Castillo is giving up. And we had--

**RAY HILL:** Downtown in east.

**DEBORAH** That's right. We had both Al Flores and Carol Alvarado screen with us. Carol came through flying colors. And the

**ROGERS:** vote of the membership was to endorse Carol Alvarado. And then in school board, we had the fortune of interviewing Ted Weisgal.

**RAY HILL:** [LAUGHS] Well, actually, would you believe that I met Ted Weisgal many, many years ago in a school board race. He was backing another. Ted Weisgal out there. Hello. Ted is the guy that does leisure learning.

**DEBORAH** Yes, he does.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** And he grew out of the University of Houston Sundry School where I used to teach gay studies. And that went private and separate. And he has done that all these years. Wonderful fellow-- serious about education-- serious about alternative means of education and serious about protecting the principles of your constitutional belief.

Now, you can't vote for Ted all over the city. There's only some parts of the city. So you have to go into your polling booth and see who's name. But you can't miss Ted Weisgal. It's Ted, Fred, and you can't miss it.

**DEBORAH** That's right. His major opponent is Lawrence Marshall.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Lawrence Marshall Ford? Or a different Lawrence Marshall?

**DEBORAH** I'm not sure of the connection--

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Well, Lawrence says that if you bought a Ford and didn't like it, I ain't him.

[LAUGHTER]

**DEBORAH** Well, that pretty much answers that question.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Or none.

**DEBORAH** And that might give you an indication of what he's like on the school board--

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I--

**DEBORAH** --too

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --see.

**DEBORAH** Now, our endorsement meeting was in September. And as of that time, the actual language and format of some

**ROGERS:** of these other issues-- city proposition issues and bond elections was not available for the membership to look at. So the board of the Houston Gay Lesbian Political Caucus and its related political action committee, the board decided to look at some key issues that were city-related. And we are recommending that people vote no on City Proposition One, vote--

**RAY HILL:** Wait a minute.

**DEBORAH** I'm sorry.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** No on one city proposition--

**DEBORAH** I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. OK, and here, we'll have an example of what we're going to deal with the ballot. So

**ROGERS:** that's a perfect example. Vote yes or for city proposition one which is one of the light rail amendments. Vote against city proposition two which is the--

**RAY HILL:** The resolution is in favor of discrimination against members of our community and others.

**DEBORAH** Exactly.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** So vote no--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Vote against.

**DEBORAH** Right.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** We want to vote against, not against because it says for or against.

**DEBORAH** Correct, correct. So you vote against on that which is trying to affect a charter change.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**DEBORAH** And charter changes can only be changed-- what? You can only have a charter change every two years.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** 10 years.

**DEBORAH** 10 years?

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** I given subject, you can't change charter every 10 years.

**DEBORAH** OK.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Remember the zoning thing.

**DEBORAH** That's right, oh. OK, then on city proposition three, we are recommending that you vote against. Again, it's the

**ROGERS:** light rail issue. This one would actually halt the work that's being done on Main Street. And they have them put it back together in some form or fashion. Then Lord knows what the contractors would do to the city of Houston.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No kidding.

**DEBORAH** I don't even want to think about that. And also, we are recommending that you vote for these city bonds, which

**ROGERS:** we feel represent investments into our infrastructure. But those are board recommendations.

**SPEAKER:** Now, Ray, I want to find out-- I look for you to speak to our audience, especially to the straight listeners that are listening out there. Why should they vote in favor of our vote against City Prop Two?

**RAY HILL:** Well, I started this whole process because one thing about being Ray Hill and having a lot of seniority is that Bill [? Bioethicals. ?]

**SPEAKER:** Oh, damn.

**RAY HILL:** And so right after they formulated the language, Bill called from Channel Two, and I got to do the initial debate. And my opponent in that debate was an old acquaintance friend of mine for many years who's also in radio, Jim [? Bowie ?] I was hoping maybe for Dave Wilson, but Dave probably knows better.

**DEBORAH** [LAUGHS]

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** And so he passed the buck to Jim [? Bowie, ?] thought maybe a Black fellow could to straighten me out. This is about Houston being a 21st century city. A world-class city deserving of the Olympics.

**DEBORAH** Exactly.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** --about. It is not about. Actually the damn resolution that Wilson got enough signatures to pass on it, he spent all of his money getting cigarettes. No money left to campaign, all right. And he borrowed a lot of that money against his personal thing. So he's going to have to pay it back. So the money thing works out to our advantage. There's simply more support for nondiscrimination than there is for discrimination.

Now, what happens in these kind of things is people go to the polls, and they need your vote impressions. Don't be confused by the impressions. If you want city of Houston to remain in the early half of the 20th century and not be considered a world-class city, go ahead and vote for the sucker.

But if you look forward to Houston joining the rest of the world with that dynamic, the chance of the Olympics, I mean, give us a break. We went a long way on Houston, the eagle has landed. That moved us up a notch or two ahead of even larger and more sophisticated cities.

**DEBORAH** Yes, it did.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** I mean, Houston, the eagle has landed is all that. Well, that's getting its wonderful thing, but we need to shine that image. And the way we shine that image is we become competitive with other world-class cities to bring in something as significant as the Olympic.

We've got a long way to go to tidying up and cleaning up all this construction. I mean, you look downtown, it's really a mess. I hate to drive downtown myself. I was afraid that was going to affect the mayor's electability. Apparently it has not at this point because he's through with some of the streets, and they work real well good.

But if you want Houston to be the kind of city that you can be proud you raised your children in, the kind of city that is going to prepare its citizens to compete economically and intellectually in the coming century, then vote against discrimination.

**DEBORAH** Exactly. It's an economic issue. It's a civil rights issue. It's the right thing to be dealing with on this ballot when

**ROGERS:** you vote against it. From an economic standpoint, I look at what the major corporations not just in this city but all across the country are doing. And they are offering these benefits to all of their employees regardless of their marital status or whatever.

One of the things that disturbed me at first was I think initially when this proposition was going to be on the ballot, I heard a newscast lead in the story about it as saying the city moves one step closer to gay marriage. First of all, this has nothing to do with gay marriage.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**DEBORAH** Not at all. That's a whole another show, Oprah. [LAUGHS] And I don't want to go there.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** I'm not entirely sure I'm in favor of gay marriage because along that will come gay and lesbian--

**DEBORAH** Divorce. Thank you.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** --makes the jury's--

**DEBORAH** Oh. Oh, man--

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --thing even--

**DEBORAH** Yeah.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And GiGi is still here. And we were talking in the first half of the show, we're talking about polyamory and how we create our own relationships.

**DEBORAH** Exactly.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And sometimes we have more than one person in our life. And what happens then?

**DEBORAH** It's not a gay marriage issue. That is such a red herring that it's an economic issue.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It certainly is.

**DEBORAH** And the economics of it are such that-- and this is really fresh on my mind. I work for a Fortune 500 company

**ROGERS:** here in town. And the CEO of our company asked me to do research on the top 100 CEOs across the country to see what some of their little quirks and issues and policies were and so forth and so on.

And I'm looking down the list of these Fortune 100 CEOs. And their companies across the board are making these steps to take care of their workers. Think about how many times we have all complained about how go in or working for the man. And he doesn't care about me. I could be laid off tomorrow. That's the reality of today's economy. And when employers are trying to actually value their employees, reduce recidivism, improve morale and everything else, then we should be supportive of this. This good economics for everyone.

The city of Houston is a fixture of our community. It is something that Chambers of Commerce look at. It is something that or the other corporations look at to see what kind of progress the city itself is making. I guarantee you even though they're stocks in the toilet right now, Ken Lay doesn't offer domestic partner benefits at Enron because it makes him feel good. He does it because it's the right thing for his company.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right.

**DEBORAH** OK?

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** He does it so he can keep good people.

**DEBORAH** Right, that's the bottom line. And that's the kind of issue we're looking at when you look at the competitive

**ROGERS:** nature of today's business world--

**RANDY:** I think--

**DEBORAH** --we have to have that edge.

**ROGERS:**

**RANDY:** [LAUGHS] Yes, I think another angle on Prop Two is that-- that came as a surprise in a way but not such a big surprise is religious backing--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**RANDY:** --among many congregations saying no to hate.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. The big lead front page article about 100 clergy who signed on to say they were against Proposition Two. They were against discrimination.

**SPEAKER:** A hundred clergy is a very significant number.

**RAY HILL:** As a matter of fact, I think it's so cute that I got a call from a Channel 2 reporter and said, a bunch of preachers are coming out against your resolution. Do you want to give the other side? And I said that bunch of preachers are on the same side I am. The against vote is the position that I'm taking.

**DEBORAH** Exactly.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Yeah, that's the side they're coming up.

**DEBORAH** And look, look.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** I say why don't you call Dave Wilson?

**DEBORAH** [LAUGHS]

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Or Steve [INAUDIBLE].

**DEBORAH** But this is something that--

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Or Ed Young.

**DEBORAH** We can't forget this. I mean, just look at the error that I made at the beginning when I was going over the props right there. I mean, I mean, it's-- and I look at the stuff 24/7 for the last month or so. I mean, I think initial polls-- I'd heard that initial pre-voting polls were showing that proponents and opponents of Proposition Two were actually voting opposite to the way they meant.

**SPEAKER:** It was confused.

**DEBORAH** --because they were confused about the ballot and the way it was written. And that's 30% right there.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Sure.

**DEBORAH** Well, [SIGHS]

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** So get it tonight.

**DEBORAH** It's enough to make a girl spit.

**ROGERS:**

[LAUGHTER]

**RAY HILL:** Oh, boy. That was a cover.

**DEBORAH** [LAUGHS]

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** I want you to know-- I want you to know that I've been around the block a few times. I'm very honored and flattered to be on the radio with Roy and Deborah Rogers, the president of Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. An organization that is very, very dear to my very courtesan. I love that organization. I was around at the inception and have been pestering those folks.

**SPEAKER:** Oh, Ray, you was around when Noah built his ark. What are you talking about? [LAUGHS]

**RAY HILL:** I was around to get the rain gauge going.

**DEBORAH** [LAUGHS]

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** But I want you to know that I love this community, and I love this community's politics. Before you go to bed thinking that you don't have responsibility here, your freedom at some point is going to depend on your ability to communicate to your friends, coworkers, fellow students, anyone out there with a voter registration card-- it's too late to get one-- that you need their help and their support of this issue that is important to you.

**SPEAKER:** Now, Ray, I'd like to ask you, what would happen? Can you give me a scenario-- Prop Two pass. What about these domestic partner zones? How do they go about--

**RAY HILL:** Well, actually--

**SPEAKER:** How they go about getting insurance if they need it?

**RAY HILL:** Well, actually, that the fact of the matter is, is that it is a statement about not-- the mayor has this right. This is not about benefits for the city. This is not about insurance. This is about what kind of city Houston is in. The reality that they have learned in the corporate world is that these kind of benefit provisions for domestic partnerships do not cost them any money because in the executive wing-- the guys with a really good insurance and the gals with a high-rolling salaries and things of that nature-- they can name anybody they want to be beneficiary of their life insurance. Company don't have a damn thing to do with that.

**SPEAKER:** Right.

**RAY HILL:** And so they named their domestic partners to be that. And there's nothing set up. And it goes on anyway. When it comes to insurance for the most part, people that work in the executive wing of Emron are married to people that work in the executive wing of HL&P.

**DEBORAH** There you go.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** They can fight over what kind of electoral service we have in this house for the rest of their lives. And that's just another thing to fight over. But the fact of matter is down at the bottom-- I'm down in far as city's concerned by other people with the shovels and putting up the saw horses with the little lights on them in public works-- those people need domestic partner benefits for their companions and their dependent children. All right, don't tell me gay people don't have children. I raised two myself. They're fine, thank you. They both turned out to be heterosexual. And my feelings are not--

**SPEAKER:** Where did you go wrong?

[LAUGHTER]

**RAY HILL:** My feelings are not hurt about that.

**DEBORAH** I have the same problem. I've got two that I'm raising right now, and Lord help us all, yeah.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** I like breeders a lot.

**DEBORAH** [LAUGHS]

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** But the thing about it-- the thing about it is if you add these people to your benefit package, you're going to pay the premium.

**DEBORAH** That's right.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. It's not free.

**DEBORAH** And if they don't have insurance and they go down to the county or whatever, you're going to be paying their

**ROGERS:** premium.

**RAY HILL:** Yep, taxpayers right out-- I mean-- I mean, heavens knows the hospital district has got enough burdens as it is. And so it's made general public economic sense. So--

**RANDY:** Yeah, I'd like to throw another angle on this.

**RAY HILL:** OK.

**RANDY:** And this comes to something that's an interesting way of looking at it. There's this kind of law where if you want to get to a famous person, you can reach them through seven people.

**RAY HILL:** Ah, yes.

**RANDY:** Someone you know will know someone who will know someone.

**RAY HILL:** Sure.

**RANDY:** By the time you get to the seventh person, you've got your foot in the door. Well, the same thing works here in a funny sort of way, except I think it's more on the level of three. Someone you know knows someone who knows someone who is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender who is going to be affected by this.

**SPEAKER:** Ah, OK. Yes.

**RAY HILL:** Well, the fact of the matter is, is that as long as we've been involved in community politics, you can double or triple the vote any time you want to if you're calling Agnes.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Agnes.

**RAY HILL:** And Agnes or--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**RAY HILL:** --and George or--

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right.

**RAY HILL:** --or people. I mean, you could sit on the telephone, and you could triple the available votes against Proposition Two--

**SPEAKER:** Call all night.

**RAY HILL:** Tonight. Well, maybe not tonight. Wake them up, they'll probably vote for him.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Especially [INAUDIBLE]

**DEBORAH** Be nice when you do it. We don't want to tick people off.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** We had a caller called in.

**RAY HILL:** Don't get into the argument.

**JIMMY CARPER:** A caller called in and asked whether Proposition Two, if it's the same as the one that was declared unconstitutional in Colorado.

**RAY HILL:** It is not the same as was declared unconstitutional because the one in Colorado said gay people could not even-- gay and lesbian and transgendered bisexual people-- could not even ask the legislature for anything. And it became unconstitutional because you can't tell any citizen they don't have access to government. And so yeah, the Romer case, very interesting case. I mean, this thing is so poorly written that it's probably challengeable. But I'd rather just defeat it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, yes, so then you don't have to worry about.

**SPEAKER:** Now, Ray, you were around about 20 years ago when they-- maybe 15 years ago I guess when they had--

**RAY HILL:** 1985 referendum.

**SPEAKER:** Right, when they had a similar--

**JIMMY CARPER:** 16.

**SPEAKER:** --time. What's the difference between them now?

**RAY HILL:** Well, the fact of the matter is the election then was at a special election out of sequence. Nobody else was going to the polls. There was one other issue on some of the ballots. And that was Helen Huey-- bless her heart-- was leading a crusade to save Spring Branch high schools.

The school board had decided over there that they were going to tear down some popular high schools that people have been going to from generation and rebuild that whole district. And Helen Huey led a school district board election-- special election to save those high schools. And it grow a lot of heat. 2/3 of the people that voted that day lived in Spring Branch and were brought to the polls by Helen Huey.

All of those people voted against us. So we wound up losing like, 5 to 1. We won Montrose. We actually won third ward. We won some significant precincts elsewhere. But what's the use of winning if only 25 people go to vote?

**DEBORAH** There you go.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** And so we lost because we were on the ballot at an awkward time and that that time, the other side, the campaign treasurer was Ben Reyes on city council trying to get a political name for himself. We had endorsed Ben several times. He turncoated on us and started raising money. And so everybody that went to vote, they had all the money, all the media going for me. And little bitty one-room Black Baptist churches had hand-painted signs warning of the sins of Sodom in their front yard.

It was the most accred-- but after the election, after we got all of the doodoo kicked out of us. Nobody got fired. Nobody seeking city employment didn't get it. Even when it was absolutely unquestionably legal to discriminate against us, nobody got fired.

More people came out of the closet, and none of them lost their jobs. What was the deal? It was about the opportunity for some people whose hate is so supreme to say ugly, nasty, evil tacky things about me and you. That's what it was about.

**JIMMY CARPER:** But what they didn't have then was 100 clergy who--

**RAY HILL:** Oh, we had 40 clergy. And their whole campaign was run by a Baptist preacher from Beaumont.

**JIMMY CARPER:** See, we've got the Wheeler Baptist Church on our side.

**RAY HILL:** Well, we have Reverend Lawson then too.

**JIMMY CARPER:** We've got--

**RAY HILL:** Reverend Lawson was on our side then.

**JIMMY CARPER:** We've got Catholics. We've got Baptists. We've got Jews.

**RAY HILL:** They didn't have any Catholics in those days. That's true. That's true. And now we've got Lutherans and Methodists and Episcopalians and--

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's amazing.

**RAY HILL:** And their spokesperson was Bob Schaibly from First U.

**DEBORAH** There you go. Don't forget-- always the Unitarians.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Yeah, we never have been without Reverend Lawson who incidentally, we had meetings in Reverend Lawson's church to found this radio station.

**DEBORAH** Oh, wow.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Yeah, let's not probably go back.

**JIMMY CARPER:** We have another question from the audience.

**RAY HILL:** Yes, OK.

**JIMMY CARPER:** : Can you discuss what actions someone who neither lives nor works in the city of Houston jurisdiction can do to help?

**DEBORAH** Oh, I can answer that one, yeah.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Go ahead, Deborah. You got it.

**DEBORAH** Because here I am, caucus president, and I can't vote in the city elections.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, how come?

**DEBORAH** I live in Bear Creek. I live like, 50 yards from the city limits.

**ROGERS:**

**SPEAKER:** [LAUGHS]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Wow.

**SPEAKER:** 150 yard line, huh?

**DEBORAH** But the bottom line is most of us who live out in the burbs work in town. That's the bottom line. And you've got to do exactly what Ray has talked about earlier and that I've got to say you've-- I mean, I can't emphasize this enough. You've got to talk to your co-workers that you have good relationships with.

You've got to set the example and bring it up. You've got to ask them that your brother-in-law who lives in town that you get along with or your family members. Or maybe you're close to someone in your fraternity or sorority, whatever. Your circle of people that you know who can vote in that election, you just say I just want you to do this one thing for us.

**RAY HILL:** And because of the confusion on which way to vote--

**DEBORAH** Oh, gosh, yeah.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** --don't fail to do it. Vote against Prop Two.

**DEBORAH** Exactly.

**ROGERS:**

**RAY HILL:** Vote against Prop Two.

**DEBORAH** Exactly. This ballot because of its length and wording is-- I would just hate to see the city's image besmirched by

**ROGERS:** something that could have been avoided because of confusion.

**SPEAKER:** And I know that the *Houston Chronicle* has finally come out against Prop Two,

**RAY HILL:** Although it's pretty much across the board, Channel Two, Channel 11 *Houston Chronicle*. Of course, all of these companies have domestic partner benefits. See.

**SPEAKER:** Now, concerning our votes and stuff like that, I'll say this. I watched the news for a good number of years in the fight for gay rights and how everything has gone and everything. And it's been my observation that when an equal rights ordinance or benefits or something like that comes up, it usually gets defeated the first time around and second time around in many cities.

**RAY HILL:** Well, one thing we know about this race compared to 1985 is that everybody has a chance to vote on it. Everybody's going to the polls that are going to the polls. And so we're going to have a voter turnout of maybe as high as 30% because the mayor's race is interesting. There's not much competition there at this point. But with a 30% turnout, I am confident that Houston will do the right thing. Jimmy, we have milked this duck. You need to say KPFT in Houston, don't you?

**JIMMY CARPER:** I do need to remind folks that they are listening to *After Hours Queer* radio with attitude, KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. And yes, you're right. We have-- hey. Any closing remarks for anyone?

**SPEAKER:** Deborah?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Deborah, I'm so glad that you're here tonight.

**DEBORAH** Thank you.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I really enjoyed it the last time you were here. And we need to have you on more often.

**DEBORAH** Well, we'll see what we can do.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, I know. She lives in Bear Creek, and she normally goes to bed at 10 o'clock, right? OK.

**DEBORAH** Yeah, right.

**ROGERS:**

[LAUGHTER]

**RAY HILL:** I don't think you can get to Bear Creek from downtown by 10 o'clock.

[LAUGHTER]

I want to say a special hello to my friends out there in Texas prisons that are avid listeners of *After Hours*. I left a letter in your box.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes--

**RAY HILL:** I you got your name misspelled, but it is Carper, not Cooper.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And brings the tires, yeah. Carper like--

**RAY HILL:** Jimmy Carper.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Carp like the fish-- Carper.

**RAY HILL:** And I want you to know, fellers, when I was sitting in my cell in Texas prisons in the early 1970s, I was lobbying the Texas legislature to restore not only my rights to vote, but yours as well. Whenever you get off paper, whenever you finish that sentence, get out, do your mandatory supervision or your parole. When you get off paper, you can register to vote that day. And they call that bill the Ray Hill Bill in the Texas Senate. So if you guys in prison-- and listen to me free world people. If you're not powerless, nobody is.

**SPEAKER:** Now--

**RAY HILL:** Go--

**SPEAKER:** I can't let this segment end without urging people to show up at the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus general meeting, which will be this Wednesday--

**DEBORAH** Mm-hmm. 7 o'clock.

**ROGERS:**

**SPEAKER:** At 7 o'clock at the Houston Lesbian Gay Community Center at 8:00-- 8:03, or I am the topic.

[LAUGHTER]

I almost said 5:00, and I keep getting--

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, no, no, no, no, no.

**DEBORAH** Let me add this one thing in there. We have no time to waste because invariably we will have some runoffs in some of the elections. Runoff election being December 8. So the time will be of the essence. And there is no time for the caucus to rest because no sooner we get done with that in December, then we have to look at March primaries.

**SPEAKER:** Oh, boy.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Aye, yay--

**DEBORAH** And we've got judicial candidates coming up. So that's--

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** So the caucus is busy.

**DEBORAH** Oh, we're going to--

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --and will be busy

**DEBORAH** --really busy over the next year-- very intense.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I'm sure glad you're there.

**SPEAKER:** And folks, I do want to say this. One of the complaints I've heard from people about why they do not want to attend the caucuses because of all the-- they hear about big-- they hear all these scare stories about bickering and all that sort of stuff. People that come to the caucus are concerned. They are politically active. And that's what we want. We want your fire. We want your zeal. We need that dedication.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet.

**DEBORAH** We also want your money.

**ROGERS:**

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. Yes. If you don't want to do all of that, then support it with a check.

**DEBORAH** Yes, a check helps. It goes to helping us get out the information through push cards. So if you're interested in

**ROGERS:** helping us get out endorsement information, we would be more than happy to take donations to the Houston Gay Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee or the HGLPC PAC. And then our regular organization can always use donations and memberships to help us sustain just normal operating costs.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet.

**DEBORAH** --which are very, very slim and efficient. I mean, we're talking shoebox. So I mean, if you want the most bang for

**ROGERS:** your buck, we're it. [LAUGHS]

**SPEAKER:** And folks, visit the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus website at [hglpc.com](http://hglpc.com).

**RAY HILL:** Deborah, you did a magnificent job on that website.

**DEBORAH** Well, it was a starting point. Thanks. I mean, it's been difficult to maintain because I haven't always had the time

**ROGERS:** to put into it what I'd like to put into it. And I've got some volunteers that I finally gave the get go to help with it, but it's a work in progress. We'll just put it that way.

**SPEAKER:** If you'd like to volunteer, call the caucus at 713-521-1000.

**DEBORAH** Yes. Or you can even email us at voter-- that's V-O-T-E-R-- @hglpc.com

**ROGERS:**

**SPEAKER:** And folks, do you need volunteers for the push cards for keep?

**DEBORAH** We always need volunteers. If people are interested in going to the polls and working the polls in shifts to help

**ROGERS:** put out push cards to get our vision of things out to the voters, you can give us a call or email us. And we can put you in contact with the coordinator for that and any other thing that we're doing like I said.

Once this election is over, it's like making your bed. You're going have to keep doing it over and over again. And getting people in city council isn't the only thing out there. We've got to get the right people in judiciary.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Whoa, that is the biggie.

**DEBORAH** I mean, the judiciary-- and that is something that affects every single person in this community at some point,

**ROGERS:** whether you get married, you get it divorced, oh, gosh, child custody issues. You've got basic civil cases that come up-- criminal cases that come up. This is something that affects all of us regardless of gender orientation or perception or anything else. This is a human issue. And right now, we don't have much room in Harris County itself over variations in that issue. Our entire judiciary county level is Republican.

There's no diversity there of sorts if you look at it from that standpoint. And this is an opportunity with a year where we are also choosing a governor. There's going to be a lot of party money coming in to back both Republican and Democratic candidates and whatever other independent candidates come in. And as a nonpartisan organization, that means we are not in allegiance to any one party. But as a nonpartisan organization, the caucus hopes to be able to screen judicial candidates to give us voters an idea of what choices we're going to have.

**JIMMY CARPER:** While we were talking, Beth Richard walked in.

**BETH RICHARD:** Yes, indeed.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Richard or Richards?

**BETH RICHARD:** No S on the end.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No S. One Richard. OK.

**BETH RICHARD:** Just wanted to mention that for those of you who are familiar with KPFT*After Hours'* way of doing things, next week would be the transgendered radio show for the first segment in the midnight to 1:30 time slot. If you're looking forward to hearing the sonorous tones of one, Monica Roberts, well, unfortunately, she's moved on, and I'm taking over her slot.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**BETH RICHARD:** And I have invited back Ray Hill to come back. And I've invited back-- Deb Rogers, was that a mouthing of an agreement?

**DEBORAH** Yes.

**ROGERS:**

**BETH RICHARD:** Yes, it was. So you got your wish pretty quick here, Mr. Jim. You're going to see Deb again next week. I've also invited some other people I haven't heard back from. Between now and then, we're going to have this election come and go. And we're going to be breaking it all down and analyzing it and see where we all came out.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And that is the first half segment.

**BETH RICHARD:** So again, yeah, it is--

**JIMMY CARPER:** You are the first-- yes

**BETH RICHARD:** That's correct. Midnight to 1A.

**JIMMY CARPER:** So that, yes. That will be 12:15 to 1:15.

**BETH RICHARD:** Right, right.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes. Great, great, great. And what brings you out tonight?

**BETH RICHARD:** I was driving home from Sarah DePalma's Bachelorette party and heard you guys on the air and said, hey, wait, there's Deb Rogers. I need to talk to her.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** And that worked out wonderful.

**DEBORAH**      That's why I live in Bear Creek. [LAUGHS]

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, Bear Creek is way in town for me. [LAUGHS]

**SPEAKER:**      You're that far out.

**DEBORAH**      Yeah, I'm way far out. Oh, OK. I'm like, far out, dude. [LAUGHS]

**ROGERS:**

**SPEAKER:**      Well, folks, I want to thank you all for listening in to this-- my first go at this After Hours News and Views News Magazine segment.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It went very well.

**SPEAKER:**      I've learned a lot of things.

**DEBORAH**      I had fun.

**ROGERS:**

**SPEAKER:**      And Deborah, I am so happy that you made it.

**DEBORAH**      Thank you.

**ROGERS:**

**SPEAKER:**      --thankful that we have people like you in our community and for people like Beth Richards over here.

**BETH RICHARD:** Thank you very much.

**SPEAKER:** Richard.

**JIMMY CARPER:** One Rich--

**SPEAKER:** Richard.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There you go.

**DEBORAH** Aren't you glad they don't shorten last names because then people could call you Beth Dick.

**ROGERS:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ooh.

**BETH RICHARD:** Don't go there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Rick.

**BETH RICHARD:** Don't go there.

The stories I could tell, don't go there.

[LAUGHTER]

Oh.

**SPEAKER:** OK, folks.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, I think it's time for a song. Yes, I do.

[LAUGHTER]

**SPEAKER:** I really do believe so. We've painted ourselves into the corner.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, thank you for being here. And I do have a song from Suede from her CD. New. Her newest CD came out this year called *On the Day We Met*. This is a song that I heard her do live at the Pride Fest last June. And uh. God, it just brought down the house. It's called *Built For Comfort*. And you're hearing it on *After Hours Queer* radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

[AUDIO OUT]

Ooh. Matthew Cloran. Fun from his CD *Finally Free*. Love came in and you came out singing to his best girlfriend.

**RANDY:** Ooh, baby.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, yes, yes. Lots of musical things happening. I told you about the lavender lounge that's happening-- [GASPS] ouch-- happening on November 16. That's going to be at the River Cafe at 8 o'clock PM. And as a side note, Blaise DiStefano of *OutSmart Magazine* is going to have a little blurb on that in the November issue. So look for that coming your way out on November 6. Tuesday, November 6. Melissa Ferrick is going to be in town. That's the other Melissa. The one who has always been out.

**SPEAKER:** Ah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** She's going to be at the fabulous Satellite Lounge, 3616 Washington Avenue. So go vote and then go see Melissa Ferrick. And let's see. Something coming up tomorrow, today, Sunday. Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

**RANDY:** Sunday.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, Randy, that's for you. November 4 at the BRB, the Rainbow Wranglers Dance Club is having an annual 10 buck barbecue picnic and dance party. Join the Wranglers on the BRB patio, the Brazos River bottom at 2400 Brazos Street for barbecue and be prepared to dance the afternoon away. And that money is, of course, a donation. And it's going to go to Houston--