

PARKER SUES OVER FIRE PENSION

City seeks to get State Law governing negotiations with union thrown out– [Jayme Fraser, Houston Chronicle](#)

Mayor Annise Parker announced Wednesday the city is suing the firefighters' pension fund in an effort to gain greater control and limit rising contribution costs. Parker has twice failed to persuade state legislators to grant her local negotiating authority over the firefighters' pension as she has with police and municipal pensions. The mayor repeatedly has said the current plan is financially unsustainable for the city.

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KINKY FRIEDMAN HIRES A NEW DIRECTOR OF HIS CAMPAIGN

Cody Garrett out, Rania Batrice in– [David Barer, The Dallas Morning News](#)

One mischievous email later and the Kinky Friedman campaign has a new director. Political consultant Rania Batrice, who previously worked with Friedman in his bid for agriculture commissioner, will helm the campaign.

A Morning News report on an internal Friedman campaign email played a role in the shake up. In the correspondence, the campaign plotted using an introduction to country music legend Willie Nelson as bait to lure Democratic primary challenger Jim Hogg out of the race

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CITING FRACKQUAKES, BROWN URGES REFORMS IN MEETING

Democrat for Railroad Commission–[Jim Malewitz, The Texas Tribune](#)

Steve Brown, a Democrat running for railroad commissioner, has a plan to address the earthquakes rattling North Texas: Shut down the area's oil and gas waste injection wells.

He made the proposal Tuesday, after Parker County residents, who packed a Railroad Commission meeting, demanded that the agency tighten oversight of waste injection, which research has tied to mild earthquakes.

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COUNTY SUIT AGAINST DAVE WILSON DROPPED (FOR NOW)

New trial to begin in April— [Cindy George, Houston Chronicle](#)

County officials have dropped their request to temporarily keep Houston Community College trustee Dave Wilson from his office in favor of an expedited trial date that will allow jurors to decide if he lives in District 2. Last month, the county sued to prevent Wilson from serving on the HCC board amid questions about his residency.

On Tuesday, First Assistant Harris County Attorney Robert Soard confirmed that the county will stop pursuing immediate legal action against Wilson in exchange for a civil trial beginning on April 15.

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JACK ABERCIA, FORMER PCT1 CONSTABLE, GETS PROBATION

Pleaded guilty to corruption— [Brian Rogers, Houston Chronicle](#)

Former Harris County Precinct 1 Constable Jack Abercia was sentenced Wednesday to three years probation for conducting illegal criminal background checks to raise money, in part, for an elevator at his home. Abercia pleaded guilty in August to 11 counts of misusing his authorized computer access.

Federal prosecutors said Abercia and a top staffer performed illegal background checks for private companies for a fee, using a national criminal information database that is restricted to law enforcement purposes. Abercia, 80, who took office in 1991, was facing up to five years in prison on each count, but pleaded guilty in U.S. District Judge Keith Ellison's court in exchange for three years probation..

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WENDY DAVIS' EX DEFENDS HER AGAINST THE ONSLAUGHT

Says she would be good Governor— [Ashley Killough, CNN](#)

All four contenders for lieutenant governor vowed Monday night to protect the right of Texas voters to pick U.S. senators.

This was somewhat remarkable in that three months ago, at another tea party forum, two of those candidates – Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and state Sen. Dan Patrick — called it a great idea to repeal the century-old 17th Amendment.

But at a forum Monday night hosted by the King Street Patriots, each said they opposed such repeal. So did Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples and Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson.

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PAYDAY LENDERS CANNOT BE USED FOR LOCAL TOLL ROADS

Board votes to cut ties— [Aaron Martinez, El Paso Times](#)

The Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority today will vote whether to cut ties with payday lender ACE Cash Express for motorists to pay for the use of the César Chávez Border Highway toll road.

"At the meeting, I am going to recommend to the board and ask for a motion to direct staff that we send a written notice to the NTTA (North Texas Tollway Authority) to discontinue using ACE Cash Express as a local retail option for toll tags here in El Paso," said Scott McLaughlin, chairman of the mobility authority board. "The public has given us feedback and we are listening to them."

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THE DAMNED THIRD PAGE

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The Houston Post

TWO THIRDS RULE SHOULD BE KEPT

Protects geographical and political interests—Noah M. Horwitz, The Daily Texan

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While *Texpatriate* will offer editorials and endorsements, the Post will never take sides in an ongoing dispute or take political positions. Most of the lieutenant governor's powers involve the position's role as the president of the Texas Senate. The lieutenant governor presides over the chamber, names the chairmen of the ever-powerful committees and helps to craft the rules at the beginning of each session. Accordingly, many of the far-right ideas propagated by these candidates will involve changing the way the Senate works and runs.

Presented by: *Sophia Arena, Olivia Arena, George Bailey, Luis Fayad, Noah M. Horwitz and Andrew Scott Romo.*

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EDITOR'S PICKS

Noah M. Horwitz

They say that only Nixon could go to China, and for good reason. After all, the fiery politician had originally made a name for himself in denouncing everything Red China had stood for. Accordingly, when he visited the old nation and visited with Mao himself, the right-wing did not have a figurative heart attack in the same sense that he would have if Kennedy or Johnson had been the President at the time. Similarly, only Parker can take on the unions and the pensions.

They say that Nixon understood the value of turning China from foe to friend, the delicate and time-sensitive matter of it all. Much in the same breath, Parker understands that the City's current pension obligations are unsustainable over the course of the long run. In taking this major action, Parker aligns herself with other big-town Democratic mayors who have also accepted the inevitable, namely Rahm Emmanuel of Chicago. However, at least for the time being, unlike Bloomberg and Emmanuel, Parker has kept the far-left at bay when digging her claws into two of its sacred cows: unions and pensions.

Personally, I think this is because of all the red meat issues Parker has been throwing to this base of constituents since being re-elected. Payday lending, Wage theft, same-sex benefits, just to name a few. She will have enemies in this fight, but I do not think that public opinion will be one of them.