

# The Houston <sup>new</sup> Post

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## DAVIS BACKS GAY MARRIAGE

*Calls on Greg Abbott to stop defending ban — Peggy Fikac, San Antonio Express-News*

Sen. Wendy Davis said Thursday that she supports same-sex marriage and that Attorney General Greg Abbott, her presumed general-election opponent in the race for governor, should stop defending the state's ban. "It's my strong belief that when people love each other and are desirous of creating a committed relationship with each other that they should be allowed to marry, regardless of their sexual orientation," Davis told the Express-News editorial board.

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### WAYNETTE CHAIN, MAYOR'S CHIEF OF STAFF, TO RESIGN

*Longtime advisor is leaving to spend family time— Mike Morris, Houston Chronicle*

One of Mayor Annise Parker's closest advisers, a 28-year veteran of City Hall and arguably the city's most powerful non-elected official, Waynette Chan, has filed paperwork to retire at the end of March.

As Parker's chief of staff since her election as mayor in 2009, Chan, 67, has helped oversee city operations and has supervised the Houston Police Department and the departments of Public Works and Engineering, Solid Waste Management, Houston Emergency Center, Public Safety and Homeland Security, and Human Resources.

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### GREG ABBOTT NOT BUDGING ON HIS MARIJUANA POLICIES

*Follows revisiting of issue by Perry— Rodger Jones, The Dallas Morning News*

I sent an email to Greg Abbott's gubernatorial campaign after posting Wendy's Davis' positions on marijuana. I got this in return from Abbott spokesman Matt Hirsch:

"Greg Abbott supports Texas' current drug laws, and is supportive of diversionary and rehabilitative programs that have proven effective in Texas. His goal would be better enforcement and compliance without stocking prison beds with non-violent offenders.

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# JOHN CORNYN CRITICIZED FOR DAVIS, STANDING WITH MAYOR HIS DEBT CEILING POSITIONS CASTRO, UNVEILS PRE-K PLAN

*Seen as betraying Ted Cruz— Todd J. Gillman, The Dallas Morning News*

*Also joined by Leticia Van de Putte—Maria Luisa Cesar, San Antonio Express-News*

In case you weren't glued to C-Span2 for the last hour, here's what you missed. The Senate voted 67-31 to quash a filibuster by Sen. Ted Cruz that would have blocked the Senate from lifting the federal debt ceiling. Cruz voted against cloture, naturally. But the top GOP leaders, fellow Texas Sen. John Cornyn and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, sided with Democrats to cut off the filibuster.

The measure raising the federal credit line through March 2015 sailed through the House on Tuesday, after Speaker John Boehner decided that it would be better to let Democrats own it (only 28 Republicans voted aye).

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Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Sen. Wendy Davis reiterated her proposal to expand state-funded preschool to all Texas students at a campaign stop here Thursday, greeted by early childhood education proponent Mayor Julián Castro and Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, a San Antonio Democrat running for lieutenant governor.

“As your mayor knows, San Antonio has been leading the way in providing a full day, quality pre-kindergarten program for the community,” Davis said at Leal Middle School. “The opportunities that are happening right here in the Alamo city should be opportunities that are available to every single child across the state.”

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## COURT OF APPEALS REVIVES TRANSGENDERED WIDOW CASE

*The widow of a firefighter asks for benefits—Houston Chronicle*

A transgender woman who was denied benefits after her firefighter husband died in the line of duty will get another chance to litigate the case in a state district courtroom, the 13th Court of Appeals ruled Thursday.

Nikki Araguz was denied benefits when the mother and ex-wife of late husband Thomas Trevino Araguz III filed a lawsuit claiming the marriage was void because of Texas' ban on same-sex marriage.

Nikki Araguz identified as a woman when they married but was born a male named Justin Graham Purdue.

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## ETHICS COMMISSION STUDIES A LIMIT ON DARK MONEY

*Matter now set for public comment—David Rauf, Houston Chronicle*

State campaign finance regulators are moving forward with a draft regulation aimed at pulling back the curtain on secret donors influencing Texas elections.

The Texas Ethics Commission voted 6-2 Thursday to grant a rulemaking request on dark money disclosure from Austin lobbyist Steve Bresnen. Commission chairman Jim Clancy and vice chairman Paul Hobby cast the two nay votes (more on that below).

Thursday's action means the commission will post the draft rule on the Texas Register and allow the public to weigh in over a period of at least 30 days. Once published online, the commission has six months to decide whether to take up the proposed rule or to let it sit and die.

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# THE DAMNED THIRD PAGE

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**The Houston Post**

## A REDNECK DEMOCRAT AND OPEN CARRY

*Just how ticked off is Wendy Davis' base over Open Carry?—Christopher Hooks, The Texas Observer*

*The Houston New Post* is an exclusive service of Rancher, bookstore owner and 79-year-old iconoclast Bill Bond has been sticking it out in Limestone County *Texpatriate* ([www.texpate.com](http://www.texpate.com)). We strive to bring for a long time, waiting for Texas Democrats to take back control of the state. He thought Wendy Davis had a you the biggest news, from around the State, every good chance to do it. But the lifelong liberal activist says he's so pissed off by Davis' open carry talk that business day. Articles are property of the individualhe's shutting the Democratic Party storefront in Groesbeck, housed inside his bookstore. Bond swears that author and publication, not of the Post. Any opinionshe'll sit out the rest of the campaign—and that nothing will win him back. expressed are similarly those of only the author.

While *Texpatriate* will offer editorials andLately, Wendy Davis has been fleshing out her policy portfolio—drawing clear, bright lines around issues endorsements, the Post will never take sides in anshe may have only touched on in the Senate. She recently told the Dallas Morning News that she personally ongoing dispute or take political positions. supports medical marijuana, and she's endorsed recent efforts to challenge Texas' gay marriage ban in court.

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

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## BEST OF THE BLOGS!

### BIG JOLLY POLITICS

[“Texas Asian Republican Caucus”](#)

### BRAINS & EGGS

[“Ted Cruz puts out a hit”](#)

### BURNT ORANGE REPORT

[“200k newly insured Texans”](#)

### DOS CENTAVOS

[“Parker announces FAFSA day”](#)

### EYE ON WILLIAMSON

[“Voter ID working as designed”](#)

### OFF THE KUFF

[“We need to reduce inmates”](#)

### RHYMES WITH RIGHT

[“Putting together the pieces”](#)

### TEXPATRIATE

[“We endorse Michael Fjetland”](#)

### TEXAS LEFTIST

[“Is Obama afraid of Maddow?”](#)

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## THE EDITOR'S RANT

*Noah M. Horwitz*

## **THE PEANUT GALLERY**

Send your Letters to the Editor to "[houstonnewpost@gmail.com](mailto:houstonnewpost@gmail.com)"!  
Upper limit of 200 words, all submissions will be published!