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GAY MARRIAGE COMES TO TEXAS

Federal Judge throws out provision, stays his own ruling— Edgar Walter, The Texas Tribune

A federal judge in San Antonio ruled Wednesday that Texas' ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. Presiding U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia is the latest of a slate of federal judges in Republican states to rule against same-sex marriage bans, following last year's U.S. Supreme Court case U.S. v. Windsor, which required the federal government — but not states — to recognize same-sex marriages.

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HOUSTON PENSION PROMISES ARE TRULY UNSUSTAINABLE

In ten years, shortfall will be \$5B— Mike Morris, Houston Chronicle

The city of Houston will need to make painful decisions affecting current and future employees' pensions, including whether to raise the retirement age or cut annual cost-of-living adjustments, if it has any hope of climbing out of a multibillion dollar shortfall.

That was the message embodied in a Retirement Horizons Inc. analysis commissioned by the city as it searches for relief from a pension mess that threatens to engulf Houston financially in the coming years. The analysis was requested by Stephen Costello, who chairs City Council's budget committee, after a December 2012 presentation on sweeping reforms ended with council members asking for more detailed proposals.

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SEN. PATRICK MAKES A VERY BAD TYPO ON GAY MARRIAGE

Support for "1 man & 1 man"— Robert T. Garrett, The Dallas Morning News

Texas Republican lieutenant governor hopeful Dan Patrick reacted to Wednesday's big news on the culture wars front with an erroneous tweet suggesting he's for gay marriage.

It was a flub. Patrick, the man who brought Rush Limbaugh to Houston's airwaves some two decades ago and who has run a TV spot calling himself a "Christian leader," has not had a change of heart.

"You should know better, of course it was a mistake," Patrick told me, hours after pulling down his post on Twitter.

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ED EMMETT GIVES A VERY BIG DONATION TO PAUL SIMPSON

HCRP Chairman challenger gets support—[Kiah Collier, Houston Chronicle](#)

The unusually divisive race to lead the Harris County Republican Party also may be the costliest, as challenger Paul Simpson raised an additional \$145,000 in his bid to oust 12-year Chairman Jared Woodfill. The bulk of that - \$90,000 - came from County Judge Ed Emmett, who publicly and repeatedly has criticized Woodfill for his management style and unabashed focus on social issues.

The race, which ostensibly pits fiscal conservatives against those who view social issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage as paramount to the Republican Party, has even drawn attention in Austin, with some saying the outcome will indicate the party's direction in Texas.

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COMPTROLLER CANDIDATE HEGAR AMENDS DISCLOSURES

State Senator includes wife's income—[Aman Batheja, The Texas Tribune](#)

State Sen. Glenn Hegar, a candidate for comptroller, amended his recent personal financial forms this week to include more information about his wife's income and investments. Hegar, a Katy Republican, said earlier this month that he would amend the annual personal financial statements he is required to file as a member of the Legislature after the Associated Press asked him whether he was violating state law for leaving out details of his wife's finances.

Since first being elected to the Legislature in 2002, Hegar has excluded information from his personal financial reports about his wife's work as well as information about some investments in her name. Dara Hager works for the Lanier Law Firm, a personal injury firm based in Houston.

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ARMEY BEGINS CAMPAIGNING FOR SEN. CORNYN IN PRIMARY

Former House Majority Leader—[Todd J. Gillman, The Dallas Morning News](#)

Texas voters are getting robocalls from Dick Armeay, the former U.S. House majority leader and a key figure in the rise of the tea party, urging them to support Sen. John Cornyn.

“Sen. Cornyn is a Texas conservative that we can be proud of,” Armeay says in the calls, which are going to hundreds of thousands of GOP primary voters across the state, according to a Cornyn aide.

The calls could help the senator shore up support among tea partiers. That's likely the intent, anyway.

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SPEAKER STRAUS' PAC FIGHTS BACK FOR THE INCUMBENTS

Defends Speaker—[David Rauf, San Antonio Express-News](#)

A political action committee led by House Speaker Joe Straus has pumped more than \$300,000 into the coffers of incumbent Republicans in an attempt to fend off a wave of ultra-conservative candidates vying for control of the lower chamber. For the past two legislative sessions, Straus, R-San Antonio, has wielded the Texas House Leadership Fund to bolster the campaign coffers of sitting GOP members who often have been challenged by tea party candidates funded by outside groups with big money.

In 2012, for example, Straus poured \$150,000 into the effort, as the committee spent a total of \$467,000 promoting incumbent Republican House candidates in primary races, according to the Austin watchdog group Texans for Public Justice.

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THE DAMNED THIRD PAGE

^{new}
The Houston Post

YELLOW CAB JUST DOESN'T GET IT

Uber and Lyft are needed in the market—The Houston Chronicle Editorial Board

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

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EDITOR'S RANTINGS

Noah M. Horwitz

Gay Marriage in Texas! Well, just sort. The ruling got stayed by the judge, and is sure to be overturned by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Whatever way it goes, the Supreme Court will rule on this issue in 2015 or 2016.

This is sure to be the civil rights era of my generation, and I have to say it is entertaining (to say the least) to see the way Republicans have began hedging their bets on the issue. If you got a chance to read Attorney General Greg Abbott's words on this issue, you will know exactly what I mean.

He could have called homosexuality an abomination, or he could have declared it a lifestyle choice incompatible with both his religion and his morals. But he did not. Instead, he declared that there were "good people" on both sides of the issue. Hard to think he could have been anywhere near that conciliatory in years past. Times have changed, indeed.

No doubt the dominoes will continue to fall in response to this issue. It will come first from those most willing to take a leap (read: not immediately accountable to voters). This will emanate initially from out-of-office politicians such as Kay Bailey Hutchison, Susan Combs or even Rick Perry. Yes, I said Rick Perry. The times, they are a changin'.