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Voting in Dallas County in the 2022 Election

By Wendy Rojo

We are nearing election time, and I plan on voting early. Luckily, I have a voting location down the street from my home. I grab my purse and drive the two minutes to cast my vote. On Election Day, I will be at a polling location helping others cast their vote.

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Dallas County allows any registered voter to cast a ballot in any Dallas County. Allowing people to vote in any county, regardless of where they are registered, can encourage people to go out and vote. In fact, Dallas County makes it easy to vote by providing various alternatives. For example, the county offers a mail-in ballot, curbside voting, and early voting.



Artwork by Stewpot Artist Teresa Zacarias.

Register to Vote

Dallas County attempts to make registering to vote simpler by providing the application for a ballot through various ways. For example, you can download the application online and mail it in or you can visit any government office and request an application. However, Texas does not allow individuals to register themselves

online. If Texas allowed individuals to register themselves through an online database, it would be possible to reach more unregistered voters.

Still, registering to vote can be a hassle for some due to the lack of identification. Obtaining the form to register to vote is simple but completing the form and having the correct form of identification can be difficult.

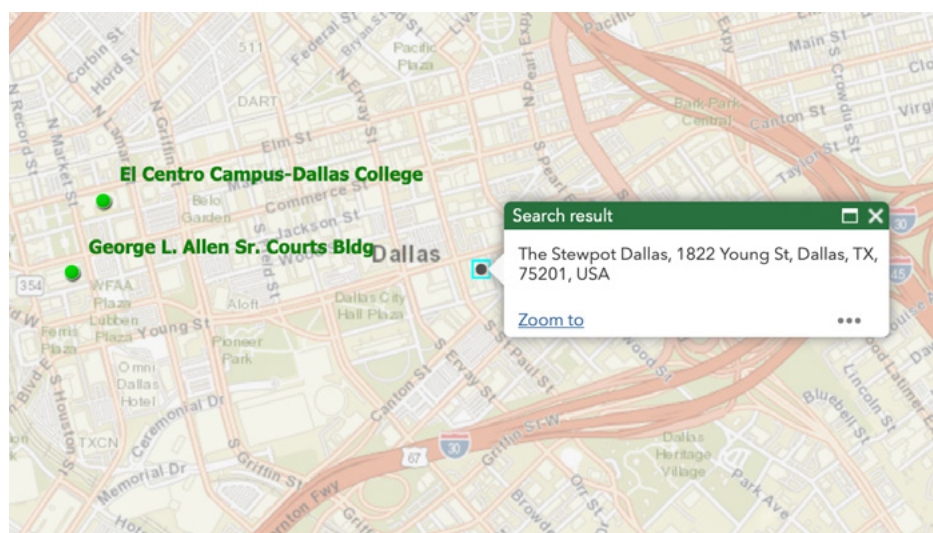
The Nonprofit VOTE discusses the challenges those experiencing homelessness or transitioning from one place to another or moving from one home to another. The site makes it clear that those experiencing homelessness can register to vote in the United States.

The Nonprofit VOTE discusses the challenges those experiencing homelessness or transitioning from one place to another or moving from one home to another. The site makes it clear that those experiencing homelessness can register to vote in the United States. The most important question on the voter registration form is writing down where you live. For those facing homelessness or transitioning, that can be a difficult question to answer. But Nonprofit VOTE reports that individuals can write down a shelter address, a street corner, or a park address as their residence.

Early voting

Early voting is convenient for anyone who knows they will be busy on Election Day. Early in-person voting began in Dallas County on October 14th and ends on November 4th. Voters have three weeks to go in early and avoid the crowds of Election Day.

Dallas County has 47 early voting locations throughout the city and all locations offer curbside voting. Curbside voting is available to anyone who is physically unable to enter the polling location.



Map of polling centers near The Stewpot.

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STREETZine

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The Stewpot.



The **STREETZine** is a monthly newspaper published by The Stewpot, a ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas. The Stewpot provides services and resources for people experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of being homeless. The organization also offers opportunities for a new life.

As part of this ministry, the **STREETZine** seeks to raise awareness about the issues surrounding homelessness and poverty. The monthly publication also offers financial opportunity for Stewpot clients who sell the paper to Dallas residents. Vendors are able to move towards economic self-sufficiency by using the money they receive from selling copies to purchase bus passes, food, and necessary living expenses. Clients also receive stipends for contributing articles to **STREETZine**.

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The Pastor's Letter: All of Time is Right Now

By The Reverend Amos Jerman Disasas

Editor's Note: This article is adapted from a sermon preached by Rev. Disasa at First Presbyterian Church of Dallas on June 17, 2022

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;...a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 6

This summer I visited my parents in rural South Carolina for a week. Not much has changed since our family moved in 30 years ago. The tiled kitchen counter still must be watched closely, or the grout gets stained. The water is still drawn from a well. My youngest brother's bedroom is just like he left it. The night sky is still full of stars you can't see in the city.

I spent much of the week trying to convince my parents to get rid of things they no longer needed now that they live alone. We don't have many prized family heirlooms, so I was free to challenge the necessity of the dated pink wingback chairs, boxes of books, and the Tandy computer equipped with a floppy disk drive.

I regret not quoting some Bible verse to my mother when she refused to donate the pink chairs to Goodwill. "Hey Mama, you know what it says in Ecclesiastes 3 about those old pink armchairs, 'For everything there is a season, a time to keep, and a time to throw away.'"

The Clock

The one thing I didn't dare offer to haul to the Goodwill was the Clock. The Clock is arguably our only family heirloom. It hasn't been moved from its spot on the wood veneer wall between the kitchen and den since the day we moved in. The Clock's preeminence is known by the fact that there isn't another clock, on a wall or nightstand, in the whole house.

Despite its small stature, uninspired design, and reserved aesthetic, the Clock demands attention. It should have been forgettable, but it wasn't. The Clock reminded us we were late to school, late coming home, late to get started on our Saturday chores, and late to leave for church.

The Clock didn't just tell time, it made time expand and contract. Depending on what it communicated back to us, the Clock could surface feelings of anticipation, loneliness, dread, glee, surprise, and security. The Clock never told a lie, remaining indifferent to any attempt at changing the time by squinting or acting as if it's just not there. Silently, steadily, solemnly, it reminded us that time wasn't ours to tame, slow down, repeat, speed up, or skip past.

The Clock didn't just tell time, it made time expand and contract. Depending on what it communicated back to us, the Clock could surface feelings of anticipation, loneliness, dread, glee, surprise, and security.

Ecclesiastes 3 says the same: It is a heart song for the frantic, a lullaby for the lonely, an anthem for the hopeful, a disclaimer addressed to the dying, and a subtle affirmation of the almighty.

Ecclesiastes 3 says the same: It is a heart song for the frantic, a lullaby for the lonely, an anthem for the hopeful, a disclaimer addressed to the dying, and a subtle affirmation of the almighty.

Still, the poetry of the passage belies a rejection of relative truths; those based on circumstance or self-identity. Birth and death, planting and plucking are subject to time alone, ignorant to the popular myth promoted by product marketers and pop-wellness influencers that we can have it all, when we want.

For us sophisticated types that seek refuge in and are comforted by areas of grey, Ecclesiastes 3 is jarring. We are either living or dying, planting or plucking. The seasons oppose each other; the boundaries between are fixed.

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Executive Director's Report

By **Brenda Snitzer**

The first time I voted I don't think I realized what a significant privilege that I had. I thought it was a right-of-adult passage and was happy to participate and only took time to educate myself about the presidential race.

During that time, Ronald Reagan was running for a second term. I had been able to vote for several years but didn't take advantage of my right until that election. And, as a young adult, I took that right for granted, having no real knowledge that women hadn't been able to vote until 1920.

I merely thought when the United States came into being, everyone was able to vote when they turned 18. Nor did I understand that despite enslaved African Americans being freed during the Civil War, it wasn't until 1868 that they were granted the rights of citizenship, which included voting. However, this didn't always translate into the ability to vote. Black voters were systematically turned away and have continued to be treated unfairly at polling places throughout our history.

As I have learned more through the

years, I take my right to vote very seriously. I definitely have become more informed about candidates and why I am voting for specific individuals. And I have found I look not to merely one political party but am more independent in my choices across party lines. I've tried to be better educated on local as well as state and national issues. I still have so much to learn.

Voters who experience homelessness

For citizens in poverty, and especially those experiencing homelessness, they have so many obstacles to voting. The average citizen doesn't take time to understand all the issues or all the candidates for the plethora of elected offices. Obtaining that information by anyone takes a focused and intentional effort. For those experiencing homelessness, it is even more difficult to both get information and then exercise the right to vote. If the person is of color, then it might be even more challenging.

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Finding your polling place, getting to the polling place, having the right documents to show to vote are

all difficult aspects of the process. Encouraging folks to utilize the early voting period gives them more opportunities to get themselves to the polls. Providing information about candidates and issues so their vote can make an impact is important. But, frankly, most of the organizations that assist folks experiencing homelessness run out of the time and capacity to take on this type of initiative.

Voting is the one way we as citizens can express our voice on every issue. The hardest part of that is convincing each person that their vote matters even if they don't believe the people or issues they vote for have a chance to win.

What voting means for our society

Voting is the one way we as citizens can express our voice on every issue. The hardest part of that is convincing each person that their vote matters even if they don't believe the people or issues they vote for have a chance to win. If everyone voted, and not just the people who have the power already, then there might be a more legitimate understanding of how we the people envision how our country should be and who should lead it.

Brenda Snitzer is the executive director of The Stewpot.

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Photo Courtesy of Tom Barrett through Unsplash.

Building on a 40-Year Voting Tradition

By Poppy Sundeen

When Robert Bates turned 18, he cast his first vote, and he's been at it ever since. He credits his time in the military with teaching him the importance of voting. "People have given life and limb for the right to vote, and some people cast it aside like it's nothing."

Robert's military service ended abruptly with an 80-foot fall that broke his pelvis in two. "The doctor said that if I wasn't in such great shape, it would have killed me." The injuries left him with pain and limited mobility but didn't diminish his dedication to the military. In fact, support for the military is a critical factor in Robert's evaluation of election candidates. "I don't want anybody messing with the military."

The greatest good for regular people

Keeping the military strong is one of Robert's top two considerations when choosing a candidate. The other is help for low-income people. "I don't see myself getting to a million-dollar tax bracket. I'm here with the regular people. I look at who is going to help the lowest of the low the best."

Robert knows the hardships of poverty, because he's experienced it firsthand. "After the military, I had a remodeling business. I was married to a teacher. We had a home and three daughters." When business got bad, he lost everything. "My wife got the house and custody of the kids. All I kept was my tools."

A friend helped out by storing Robert's tools and hiring him for a few projects, but without a truck he couldn't make a go of it. "It's hard to be in a trade where you have to use tools and not have a way to transport them."

Fourteen years on the street

With no steady work, Robert couldn't afford a place to live and joined the

ranks of the homeless. "I was robbed more times than I can count. I've been stabbed."

Eventually, he got the rhythm of street life. He learned where he could go for food, clothes, and a shower. He secured an address at The Stewpot and picked up his mail there. He also began earning money as a vendor for The STREETzine. "I had some great regular customers."

Although he survived the experience, he doesn't recommend homeless for anyone. "I tell people to get off the street as soon as possible. It's so easy to get stuck there."

Last summer, Robert moved into a rent-subsidized apartment in Oak Cliff. "It's really nice to be inside. I'm loving it. I've got electricity. I can take shower." Still, his struggles are far from over.

Getting from point A to point B

These days, Robert's greatest challenges stem from the distance between his apartment and downtown Dallas, where he had easy access to resources. "My STREETzine customers were all downtown." His new neighborhood isn't populated with business people to buy his wares.

He's also far from the health care resources and food pantries he once relied on. "The closest grocery store is four miles away." The injuries that resulted from his broken pelvis left him in no condition to walk more than a block.

It helps that Robert's caseworker provides him with a bus pass for their meetings. "I'll get my next bus pass in 14 days." Despite his transportation problems, Robert sees the potential of housing for the homeless as a steppingstone back into society.

Sharing a realistic perspective

Robert has seen a lot in his 58 years. His view of politics and government is anything but idealistic. "There's always going to be some corruption. I haven't seen many politicians do what they say or make improvements, but I have



Artwork by Stewpot Artist Jennifer Moore.

seen them cause hurt and problems."

That perspective hasn't soured his belief in the system. "We've just got to vote for the one who'll do the least damage," he explains.

Robert knows it isn't easy to tell which candidates best meet his do-the-least-damage qualification. He tries to hedge his bets by doing research on the internet. "I look at their records. There's usually some kind of history."

The power of the vote

While no method for choosing good candidates is foolproof, Robert considers exercising the right to vote a must. "Voting's great. It's the most powerful thing in America. Every person should vote, and they should use that vote to make the changes that they need. Without the vote you've got nothing."

Robert doesn't know how he'll get to his polling place this November, but he does know he'll cast his vote, just as he has for 40 years.

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Poppy Sundeen, a Dallas writer, is a member of the STREETzine editorial board.

Continued from page 2**Ten Things to Know About Voting and Homelessness in the 2022 Election**

The first day for voting early in person is October 14. The last day is November 4.

Source: Texas Secretary of State

*Election Day is November 8.

Source: Texas Secretary of State

*People experiencing homelessness can register and vote in all 50 states.

Source: Nonprofitvote.org

*Homeless citizens who are registered to vote can use a shelter address as their voting address. They also may use a street corner or a park for their address.

Source: Nonprofitvote.org

*Registered Texas voters need to supply a street address but they don't have to live at that address. The address may be a shelter or service provider where they receive mail.

Source: TexasVoterProtection.org

*A registered voter's ID need not have their current address.

Source: TexasVoterProtection.org

*Accepted forms of ID that must be presented when voting in Texas:

Texas driver license as issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS);

A DPS-issued election identification certificate;

A DPS-issued personal identification card;

A DPS-issued Texas handgun license;

A United States military identification card with a photograph;

A United States citizenship card with a photograph; or

A United States passport.

Source: VoteTexas.org

*Except for the United States citizenship card, which never expires, Texas voters age 18-69 must have a photo on their identifying document that is no more than four years old. For voters 70 and older, their ID can be older than four years if the identification is valid.

Source: VoteTexas.org

*Other acceptable forms of ID that registered Texas voters can present at their voting location:

A copy or original of a government document that shows the voter's name and an address, including the voter's registration certificate;

A copy of or original of a certified domestic birth certificate from a U.S. state or territory;

A copy of or original of a document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and that establishes the voter's identity (the document may include a foreign birth document);

A copy of or original current utility bill;

A copy of or original bank statement;

A copy of or original government check; or

A copy of or original paycheck.

Source: VoteTexas.org

*After presenting a supporting ID, voters must execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration.

Source: VoteTexas.org

Time Keeps Us

We love to keep time, but here we are reminded that time keeps us.

The definitive cycling of seasons text is consistent with the rhythms of creation. Trees change color in the fall, the sun sets each day, and eventually we all die. For everything there is a season, but what about us -- what season are we in? I think the writer of Ecclesiastes wants us to know that all of time is right now.

Who would we be If we lived like all of time was right now?

Who would we be If we lived like all of time was right now?

If we lived like all of time was always right now, and there were no second chances to love like all of creation depended on it, we would remain aware of our own otherness and claim it so that we'd be able to see the otherness in everybody

If we lived like all of time was always right now, we wouldn't save our gifts or visions for some other day.

Maybe then, all the clocks and calendars that orient our days and notify us of what we left undone, will be mere reminders that right now there is enough of God to go around. Right now, there is someone you could call to say I'm sorry or I love you. And right now, right now all of God, the Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit is near.

***The Reverend Amos Jerman
Disasa is senior pastor at the First
Presbyterian Church of Dallas.***



Transforming Trash into Treasure

By Giles Clasen

John Torres hates when people look at his amputated leg and pigeonhole him or feel sorry for him.

“Some people think I need a lot of help, but I get by fine on my own,” Torres says. “I can do about anything and will ask for help if I need it — which I don’t.”

Now, Torres spends his days scavenging anything he can from alleys and dumpsters. Torres makes an okay living finding, repairing, then selling items on Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace.

Losing a leg

Torres lost his leg nearly 18 months ago on account of diabetes. He had faced infections and sores for a long time. His leg developed blisters, which caused painful wounds that wouldn’t heal, and those slowed him down.

“It wasn’t nothing to lose it. It had to go. It was making me sick. I had sepsis; it wasn’t good,” Torres said.

He has a very matter-of-fact demeanor when talking about the amputation.

Torres doesn’t lament his leg, and as he talked about losing it, he repeated several times, “It had to go.” Then, after a pause, he said, with a wry grin and in a soft tone, “I never thought I would have a leg like this, though.”

While he may not mourn the loss of his leg, Torres misses the community that was once North Denver and the neighborhood where he grew up, surrounded by family members who have since passed away. To honor his loved ones, Torres had a custom tattoo designed with the names of his grandfather, grandmother, and mother listed in one work of art on his left arm. He calls it “the dead arm,” a living memorial to what he has lost.

Finding something that is broken

Torres canvases neighborhoods, alleys, and dumpsters for anything of value. He considers it work that is good for his

community, the environment, and himself. He is proud that he can find something broken, destined for the landfill — and by showing another person’s trash a little love, he can transform it into a new treasure for someone else.

Torres canvases neighborhoods, alleys, and dumpsters for anything of value. He considers it work that is good for his community, the environment, and himself.

One evening, he received a tip that a mini-fridge was sitting in a nearby alley. There also happened to be an abandoned grocery cart near the fridge, so Torres wasted no time getting the shopping cart just right as he positioned his motorized wheelchair. He then lifted his good leg out of the chair, and stood on the concrete, his amputated leg propped on the scooter’s seat. Leaning on the cart for balance, Torres pivoted quickly, wrapping his torso and arms around the fridge. His movement was practiced and intentional. Once he had the fridge within his grip, Torres lifted it and then quickly packed it for the journey home. Torres refers to what he does as both work and a hobby.

It gives him purpose and some money. He also enjoys the adventures scavenging offers.

“I see it as a treasure hunt. Every day I am searching for something new, something I can sell,” Torres said.

There is a lot of skill and a lot of luck in scavenging. It is tough to find a diamond in the rough; sometimes it is even harder to find the right person to buy what Torres has found, repaired, and returned to service.

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Trying to live as normal a life as possible

He collects disability and has stable housing. But sometimes, money is hard to come by, and his disability payments only go so far. The extra income he earns helps pay the bills.

Torres is known to travel 50 blocks a day or more in his scooter, zigzagging through alleys and residential streets. “I charge

my scooter and I go,” Torres said. “Just because I’m disabled doesn’t mean I’m going to stop. Losing my leg won’t stop me.”

Torres said a lot of people go through depression when they lose a limb or face other serious medical issues. While Torres is upbeat, he acknowledges that he also suffers from depression but says he works hard to fight it and live as normal a life as possible.

Torres has the support of his girlfriend, which has been monumental for him. “Sometimes I get down a little bit. But she says, ‘It doesn’t matter, babe. I still love you,’” Torres said with a smile.

Torres strives to be the first to find items he believes are worth selling, even though someone else cast them aside.

“I’ve got four mortal enemies,” Torres said. “The trash man, skunks, raccoons, and the pawn shop. The trash man’s doing his job, so you let that go. The skunk and raccoon — they don’t know any better. But the pawn shop wants to give you nothing in exchange for gold. I only have hate for them.” (And yes, Torres has been sprayed by skunks while working.)

“I’ve got four mortal enemies,” Torres said. “The trash man, skunks, raccoons, and the pawn shop.”

When he comes across certain items, Torres sees them as small kindnesses that brighten his day. For example, he came across a TV placed gently against a trash can — as though it had been left there just for him. Torres looked the TV over and noticed a scratch on the surface of the screen, but there was no other damage. He was confident he could buff out the scratch and make the TV as good as new. He then put the remote control in his chair’s storage and lifted the TV to his lap.

With the shopping cart full, Torres flicked his chair’s joystick and motored forward, faster than any jogger or a Lime scooter could keep up with. Then, he proceeded to another neighborhood, another set of alleys to patrol, certain he could fit more in the shopping cart before he headed home.

Giles Clasen wrote this article for the Denver Voice.

Courtesy of the Denver VOICE / International Network of Street Papers

A View from Nature: The Red Rooster vs. The Old Auto

By Vicki Gies

My husband and I rented a mobile home and were living in a rural community with our dogs. It was quiet and peaceful. We loved country living, and our dogs did too. But we soon realized that country animals are quite different from other animals.

Sometimes, for fun, we would drive down the back roads just to look at some of the old country homes or pastures. We loved seeing animals on our drives too. You'd kind of expect to see cows, horses, and maybe some chickens. But one day, to our surprise, we saw a beautiful Rhode Island Red rooster. He pranced back and forth across the small road.

Now, I know that in the animal world most of the males protect the females. But this particular rooster had a different plan. One day when we were driving down this same road, we saw several hens crossing the road together. Of course, we slowed down to let them cross.

When we got to their crossing, the Rhode Island Red rooster came out of a bush and stopped right in the middle of the road! Of course, we stopped again to see what was to come next.

The rooster was cackling and raising a fuss, prancing back and forth in front of our car, as we had seen him do before. Was he protecting the hens? Was he a crossing guard? Was he scared of us? Was he just showing off? Who knows! The hens were already well on their way, not paying a bit of attention to the rooster.

When we thought it was clear to continue down the road, we began to inch our car forward. All of a sudden, the rooster charged our car! Once we were able to move past him, we continued down the hill and on our way. As we looked back in the rearview mirror we saw the rooster, still squawking loudly.

This encounter with the rooster kind of reminded me of a boxing match of sorts. It ended in a tie, I suppose. I could just imagine this rooster wearing boxing gloves and coming at us.

This encounter with the rooster kind of reminded me of a boxing match of sorts. It ended in a tie, I suppose. I could just imagine this rooster wearing boxing gloves and coming at us.

This story is dedicated to the Rhode Island Red rooster for protecting his hens, even though he is probably still holding a grudge against our car.

Vicki Gies is a STREETZine vendor and frequent STREETZine contributor.

Continued from page 1

Another possible way to vote early is by mail. The final day to submit your application for a mail-in ballot is October 28th. You are allowed to vote by mail if you are 65 years of age or older, disabled, expected to give birth, civilly committed, out of the county for the entirety of the election, confined in jail or involuntary civil commitment, or if you are a part of the Attorney General Address Confidentiality Program.

Election Day

Dallas County has hundreds of polling centers open on election day. Most schools, libraries, recreation centers are open for voters.

However, getting to these locations can be another obstacle voters face on Election Day. The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) normally provides free rides that day without proof of voter registration. Once voters arrive at a polling location, they can provide their identification and vote.

According to VoteTexas, those who do not possess one of the seven acceptable forms of identification can fill out a reasonable impediment declaration (RID) at a polling location. Along with this declaration, an alternative form of identification must be shown: a utility bill, bank statement, government check, or a voter registration certificate.

By providing both the RID form and an alternative form of identification a voter can fill out a standard ballot instead of a provisional ballot. According to Vote411, provisional votes are for those who claim to be a voter but their name is not listed as a voter, a person who applied for a ballot by mail but has not completed it, someone who votes during extended hours, or a person who is not able to present any acceptable identification. VoteTexas reports that a voter must go to the registrar's office within six days to show approved identification for their provisional ballot to be considered and counted. For these reasons, voting on a standard ballot is always the better choice.

Regardless of your political beliefs, it is crucial that everyone who can vote does so. There are 52 early voting centers in and hundreds of locations in Dallas County where you can vote on November 8th.

Wendy Rojo is managing editor of STREETZine.

Writers' Workshop Essays

Editor's Note: Each Friday morning at 10 a.m., The Stewpot hosts a Writers' Workshop. During the sessions, participants address selected topics through prose or poetry. In this edition of STREETZine, we feature the essays of writers on what voting means to them.

What Voting Means to Me

By Larry Jackson

Vote! The vote! Vote! My voting rights pay tribute to the past and present. History has shown the right to vote has been a long, drawn-out battle. I honor all the men and women who went before me, my fore-parents, by exercising the right to vote. Thank you!

History also has shown that voting has solved many of our problems. Voting helps establish laws. These laws help create a better lifestyle for many people.

Debates around elections help us better understand issues, too. There are so many issues to consider. I need to know what's good for me. Then, I can stand for something and vote for something that benefits my future. Voting is the best way to safeguard my interest.

Over the years, I have exercised my right to vote at the national and local levels in different states and cities. My first national vote was cast for president of the United States. Locally, my first vote was to change the name of a street.

Currently, I am a registered voter and plan to exercise my right to vote in November. That is very important because it is my way to let my voice be heard. One man, one vote.

Also, I am aware that the right to vote is being taken away in many places. That's too bad because voting is the right thing for all. In biblical days, laws were handed down without any debating and voting. Now, we have a chance to express our beliefs and make changes. Once debates are held, voting finalizes the deal.

History has recorded the many battles over the right to vote, from Wyoming women in 1869 being the first females in the United States being granted the right to vote to African American voters being empowered through the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Voting has revolutionized the way decisions are made and enhanced the standard of life for many people. Fair voting also can lead to a dark-horse candidate winning an election.

I always look forward to the outcome of voting. The future rests heavily on we the people. So, let's go to the polls and cast our votes.

Darin Thomas, a STREETZine vendor, is a participant in the Writers' Workshop.

The Power of Voting

By Jason Turner

My name is Jason and I'm a 35-year-old Black male in America. Voting to me means such a sliding scale of things. Having a voice and being registered to vote is extremely important as most of you may know.

I enjoy door-to-door canvassing when it becomes close to election time in November. We don't bother anyone who isn't registered, and our main purpose is to remind voters where to go and update them on the candidates.

Being part of the community is one of the best feelings a man like me can have. A voice and a swing vote are beneficial when it comes to candidate issues. I never participated outside of a mock children's Nickelodeon vote for Bill Clinton until 2008, when former President Barack Obama ran. I was a young college student. I considered owning a home, defending myself in court, and being a registered active voter would look good for anyone. If you go to court, or are involved in a civil proceeding, then being registered to vote looks good.

It's very easy to fall in with those who believe that voting does not matter. They believe the Electoral College makes the count pointless. I encourage all to look past that and continue to engage because voting is crucial. And contribute to our democracy, including singing the National Anthem together, whether while taking a knee, standing up, or placing our hands over our hearts.

If you ever see a kind door-to-door political canvasser like me, feel free to engage with them politically. Finding a person willing to discuss political opinions is difficult in general. Canvassers are willing to do these tough jobs with respect.

Even if you are not voting for the president, there are judges to select, primaries to participate in, and propositions that require votes. I have hope that those who are able to vote can and do vote. To those who don't vote, try it and see the smiles. Let America sink in.

Jason Turner participates in The Stewpot's Writers' Workshop.

Voting

By Mike McCall

If you started getting in trouble at a young age, voting was never an option.

When I turned 18, I gained and lost my right to vote on the same year. Truth be told, I have never even seen the inside of a polling center, much less a voting booth. But like every citizen, I feel the effect of voting results.

A prime example is HB 1925, which became state law last year. The legislation makes it a criminal offense to camp in or create a shelter in public areas. Without enough space in Dallas shelters, the homeless are being punished for trying to survive. So are local governments that show and defy the law. They are blocked from state grants that could be used to create or improve shelters.

There is still hope for those of us who have lost our rights. Section 11.002 of the Texas Election Code states that a convicted felon can vote if he or she has “fully discharged” their sentence, “including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by any court.” The same is true if a convicted felon has been pardoned.

So, for all of you Texans who thought you had lost your right to vote, there is a way to get those rights restored. With a little bit of time and effort, you can discharge your sentence and become a registered voter. My advice is to do what you must do, and let your voice be heard.

Mike McCall participates in The Stewpot’s Writers’ Workshop

Ready to Vote When Given the Chance

By Darin Thomas

Everybody should be able to vote. That way, we get leaders who can improve communities so that people can live better. And we can get leaders who can help others around the world meet needs like housing, food, and clothing.

I was told I couldn’t vote because of my criminal record. But I think my vote is just as good as anyone else’s. I like that the state has passed a law that allows people with a felony conviction to vote who have served their time and fully discharged their responsibilities.

I can count on one hand the number of times that I have voted. I would love to vote again after I get off probation in another year. In fact, I get upset when I cannot vote. I feel like I have lost my voice and rights.

Now, voting means a lot to me, and it would make me feel good. That would make me feel like I am part of society. And I am ready to vote when given the chance.

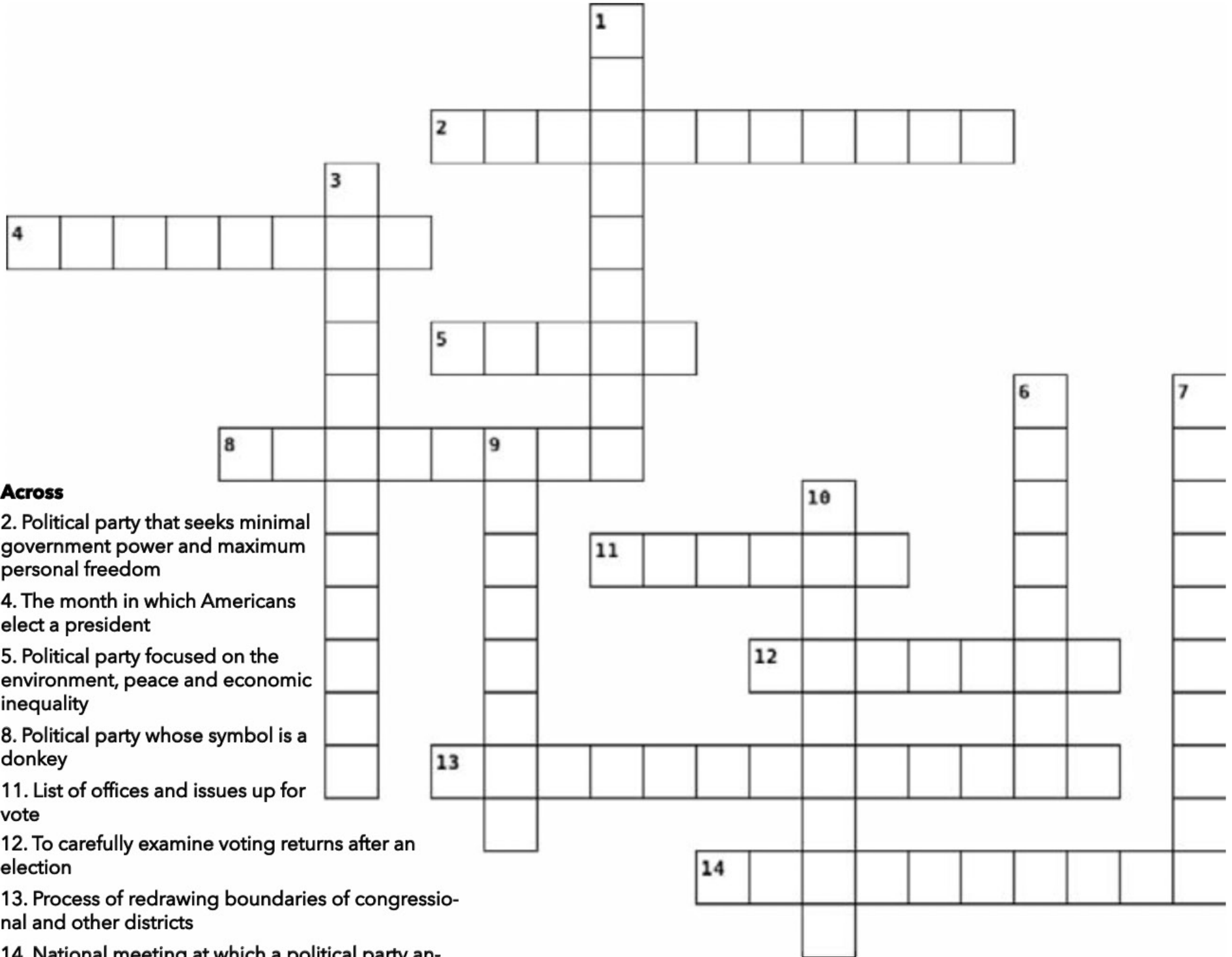
Darin Thomas is a STREETZine vendor and participates in The Stewpot’s Writers’ Workshop.



Photo Courtesy of Red Dot through Unsplash.

Election Day

By: Jennifer Nagorka



Across

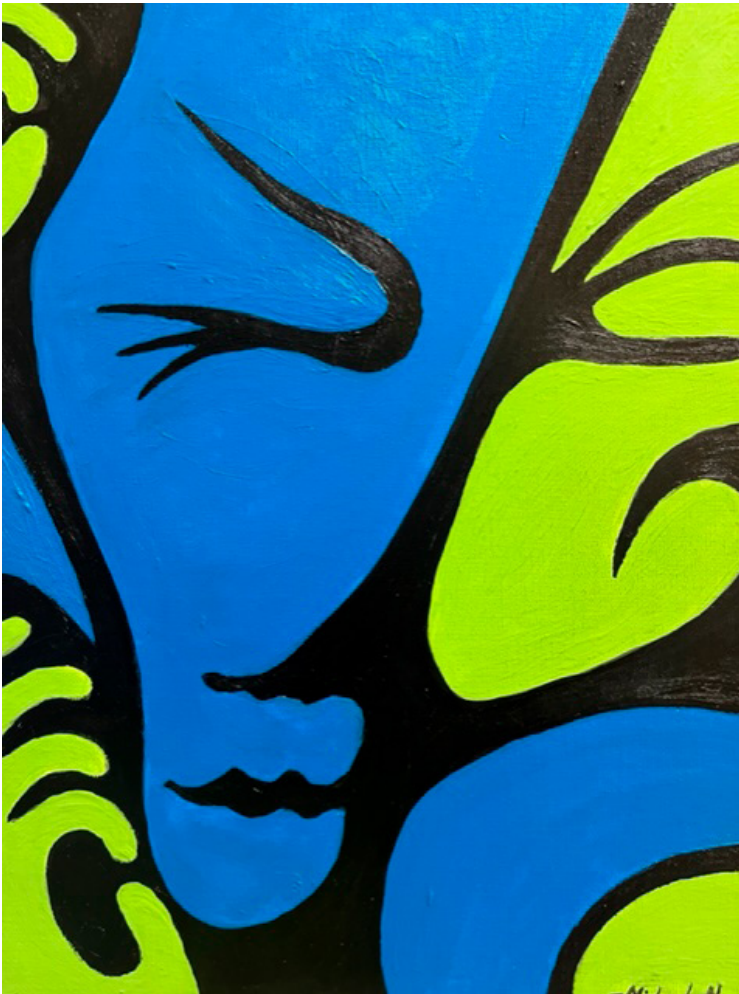
- 2. Political party that seeks minimal government power and maximum personal freedom
- 4. The month in which Americans elect a president
- 5. Political party focused on the environment, peace and economic inequality
- 8. Political party whose symbol is a donkey
- 11. List of offices and issues up for vote
- 12. To carefully examine voting returns after an election
- 13. Process of redrawing boundaries of congressional and other districts
- 14. National meeting at which a political party announces its candidate for president

Down

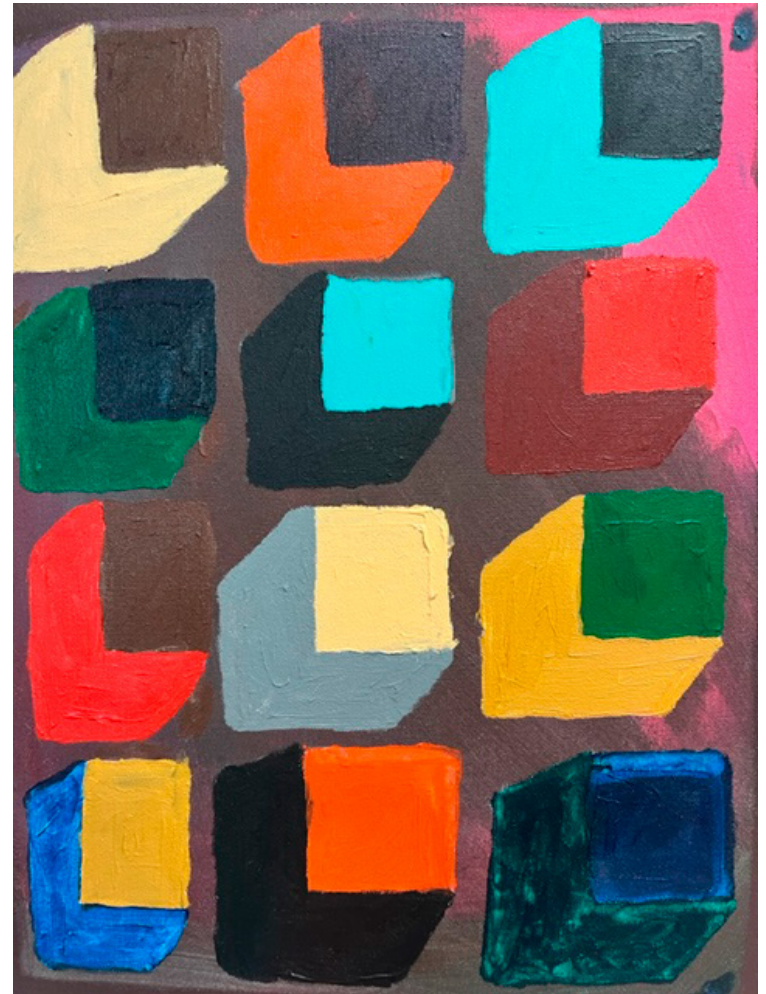
- 1. Top office on the ballot in November
- 3. State that holds the first primary in presidential election years
- 6. Elections in which candidates run as members of a party
- 7. Political party whose symbol is an elephant
- 9. Eligible citizens must do this before they can vote
- 10. How most candidates fund a run for office

Look for answers in the November/
December edition.

Stewpot Artists



Michael Norwood



Fernando Segovia



Edwin Fuller

Street Newspapers - A Voice for the Homeless & Impoverished

What is **STREETZine**?

STREETZine is a nonprofit newspaper published by The Stewpot of First Presbyterian Church for the benefit of people living in poverty. It includes news, particularly about issues important to those experiencing homelessness. **STREETZine** creates direct economic opportunity. Vendors receive papers to be distributed for a one-dollar or more donation.



Advertise in **STREETZine**

Support **STREETZine** and its vendors with your business or personal advertisements and announcements.

Email:

streetzine@thestewpot.org

Distributing **STREETZine** is protected by the First Amendment.

STREETZine vendors are self employed and set their own hours.

They are required to wear a vendor badge at all times when distributing the paper. In order to distribute **STREETZine**, vendors agree to comply with Dallas City Ordinances.

If at any time you feel a vendor is in violation of any Dallas City Ordinance please contact us immediately with the vendor name or number at streetzine@thestewpot.org

CHAPTER 31, SECTION 31-35 of the Dallas City Code PANHANDLING OFFENSES

Solicitation by coercion; solicitation near designated locations and facilities; solicitation anywhere in the city after sunset and before sunrise any day of the week. Exception can be made on private property with advance written permission of the owner, manager, or other person in control of the property.

A person commits an offense if he conducts a solicitation to any person placing or preparing to place money in a parking meter.

The ordinance specifically applies to solicitations at anytime within 25 feet of:

Automatic teller machines; Exterior public pay phones; Public transportation stops; Self service car washes; Self service gas pumps; An entrance or exit of a bank, credit union or similar financial institution; Outdoor dining areas of fixed food establishments.

Want to be a vendor?

Come visit us at The Stewpot!

1835 Young Street, Dallas, TX 75201

Mondays at 1 PM or Friday mornings, or call 214-746-2785

Want to help?

Buy a paper from a vendor!

*Buying a paper is the best way to support **STREETZine** and our vendors.*

Make a donation!

thestewpot.org/streetzine

Write for us!

Contact us at streetzine@thestewpot.org



Any other ideas? Take our survey:

<https://bit.ly/2WbMRsg>

VENDOR #