

# LONE STAR PROJECT

*Fighting Back... with Facts*



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September 27, 2006

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On the web at [www.LoneStarProject.net](http://www.LoneStarProject.net)

## **Lone Star Project Follow-up**

The following report provides additional information regarding the pending lawsuit against the State of Texas and Texas AG Greg Abbott regarding selective enforcement of a flawed Texas mail ballot statute. The lawsuit was filed following a series of reports issued by the Lone Star Project that can be viewed [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

## **Solicitor General Ted Cruz Launches Abusive Verbal Attack**

*Abbott's Representative makes false and misleading statements about Texas Voters*

The office of Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott launched an extraordinary verbal assault against the citizen plaintiffs who filed suit to overturn a narrow provision of the Texas mail ballot statute. The six Texas voters joined the Texas Democratic Party in an effort to overturn a provision that makes it a crime to help a senior citizen vote by mail. The suit also seeks to stop the Attorney General's office from using the flawed statute to harass minority voters and senior citizens and suppress voting in minority areas. Rather than respond to the substance of the complaint or even accuse the Texas Democratic Party of engaging in partisan politics, Texas Solicitor General Ted Cruz, speaking on behalf of Abbott, launched the following verbal attack on the six Texas voters named as plaintiffs in the suit.

From: Press Office [REDACTED]

Sent: Sep 21, 2006 5:38 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Statement from Solicitor General Ted Cruz

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, September 21, 2006

<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/>

**Solicitor General Ted Cruz issued the following statement**

**This lawsuit has no basis in law --- the plaintiffs are a combination of political operatives and individual criminals who have already pleaded**

**guilty to voter fraud. We will vigorously defend this baseless lawsuit to ensure that admitted criminals like the plaintiffs will not be able to defraud Texas voters and undermine the integrity of Texas elections.**

*(official statement of Texas Solicitor General Ted Cruz, September 21, 2006)*

This defaming and abusive statement was formally issued by the Attorney General's office and was quoted verbatim by news organizations across the State of Texas and in national publications like the New York Times.

## **Facts**

- None of the six citizen plaintiffs have been convicted or admitted to defrauding a voter.
- Two of the six plaintiffs admitted only to the simple act of mailing a ballot at the request of a voter. It is this narrow statute prohibiting the assistance of senior citizen voters that the plaintiffs are challenging.
- There has been **NO** contention or evidence that any of the ballots delivered reflected anything other than the intent of the voter themselves.
- None of the six plaintiffs are current or past employees of the Democratic Party.

## **Citizen Plaintiffs**

- **Parthenia McDonald** lives in Fort Worth and is a 79 year old widow who is wheelchair bound and lives alone. She cannot leave her home without assistance. She has not admitted to or been convicted of any violation. She is a voter who is a plaintiff based on her need for assistance in order to participate in elections.
- **Walter Hinojosa** lives in Austin and is a retired school teacher and labor organizer. He has not admitted to or been convicted of any violation. He is a plaintiff based on his desire to assist senior citizens and disabled individuals participate in future elections.
- **Gloria Meeks** lives in Fort Worth and is a 69 year old community activist who assists senior citizens in many ways. She has not admitted to or been convicted of any violation. She is a plaintiff based on her desire to assist senior citizens and disabled individuals participate in future elections.
- **Rebecca Mineweather** lives in Fort Worth and is a 52 year old community activist and volunteer. She has not admitted to or been convicted of any violation. She is a plaintiff based on her desire to assist senior citizens and disabled individuals participate in future elections.
- **Willie Ray** lives in Texarkana and is an elected official herself, serving as a respected Member of the Texarkana City Council. She has admitted **ONLY** to mailing the ballot for a voter who requested her assistance so that the elderly voter could participate in the election.
- **Jamilla Johnson** lives in Texarkana and is the granddaughter of Willie Ray. She too has admitted **ONLY** to mailing the ballot for a voter who requested her assistance so that the elderly voter could participate in the election.

## **Why are Cruz and Abbott attacking these citizens?**

- By attacking the plaintiffs, the AG's office is attempting to distract the media and

the public from the fact that the statute itself appears to violate both the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. (See the [Lone Star Project Report HERE](#))

- The AG's office does not want to justify its decision to spend more than \$1.2 million to enforce a flawed statute that has resulted in only 13 questionable prosecutions involving only 50 ballots.
- 12 of the 13 prosecutions involve African Americans or Hispanics and 8 of the 13 prosecutions involve citizens over 50 years old. 13 of the 13 prosecutions involve Democrats. The AG's Office does not want to explain why it has engaged in selective enforcement and created "training materials" that have the effect of harassing voters and suppressing voter turnout in minority communities.
- By attacking and defaming citizens who are willing to fight back, the AG's office further creates a hostile political atmosphere that will discourage senior citizens from requesting help when needed and discourage community activists and organizations to offer or provide help when asked. Cruz's verbal attack is another calculated tactic to suppress minority vote.
- Cruz's verbal assault further sends an ominous signal to any other potential "whistle-blower" in Texas that to exercise their constitutional right to legitimately speak out against any unconstitutional government action puts them at risk of being attacked and defamed by a high government official.

***"It strains logic to believe that in this deeply  
Republican state only Democrats have violated the law  
against possessing another's ballot."***

***(Austin American Statesman Editorial, September 27, 2006)***



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