



TEXAS  
FREEDOM  
NETWORK

2016 Annual Report

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

TFN has now been around for more than two decades, and the importance of a progressive grassroots organization like ours only seems to be growing.

Let me tell you a little bit about 2016 and what to expect in 2017.

At the State Board of Education we helped lead the fight against a deeply flawed and highly offensive Mexican-American studies textbook. At the Capitol we stood with our friends to defend the reproductive rights of Texas women. And in many parts of the state, our youth program, Texas Rising, mobilized thousands of young Texans to register to vote and cast a ballot in November.

There was more, but just these three things kept us pretty busy the entire year. Now, in 2017, we expect to be even busier.

For starters, the Texas Legislature will be back in town.

The LGBT community has made some gains since legislators last met, and we expect that LGBT rights will be attacked with renewed ferocity. The U.S. Supreme Court has struck down the state's extreme anti-abortion law, which means you can expect that legislators will again target a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions.

And as has been the case during every legislative session since TFN has been around, we'll have to push back against private school voucher schemes that threaten our neighborhood public schools.

Those are just a few of the big issues, but one can never tell what far-right lawmakers will propose in any given session.

Also in 2017, at the State Board of Education, we'll have another fight over evolution. Yes, this is the 21st century and we're still somehow debating evolution. That's the SBOE for you.

Texas Rising is sure to be busy again. Our organizers will be making sure that all the young Texans that we've engaged in the electoral process stay that way, and that those who follow do the same.

On top of all of that, you can expect to see an extensive update to our groundbreaking 2009 report on what Texas schools are teaching kids about sex education.

None of this work is possible without the generosity of friends like you. We're grateful for your past support and I know that you will have our back in the future. In return, I promise you that TFN will be there whenever your values need a voice at Capitol, at the State Board of Education, and beyond.

Onward,



Kathy Miller  
TFN President

---

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Joni Cohan, Chair*

James Aldrete  
Paula Arnold  
Margie Becker  
Rev. Dr. Larry Bethune  
Rabbi Neil Blumofe  
Mark Chancey  
Stephanie Chiarello Noppenberg  
Cary Clack

Sally Drews  
Phil Durst  
Hon. Sarah Eckhardt  
Jessica Epperson  
Olac Fuentes  
Rhonda Gerson  
Diane Ireson  
Rabbi Neal Katz

Dale Linebarger  
Carisa Lopez  
Dr. Lynn Markle  
Deedee Ostfeld  
Ann Parrish  
Cecile Richards  
Susan Smith

## TFN STAFF

*Kathy Miller, President*

Val Benavidez  
*Outreach & Field Director*

Sandra J. Calderon  
*Office Administrator*

Shana Creeger  
*Annual Fund Officer*

Erica Faulkenberry  
*Digital Engagement Coordinator*

Rubén Garza  
*Field Organizer*

Rachel Glast  
*Development Director*

Ali Gorczynski  
*Field & Outreach Coordinator*

Rae Martinez  
*Field & Outreach Coordinator*

José Medina  
*Deputy Communications Director*

Faye Miller  
*Research Fellow*

Sonja Miller  
*Outreach & Faith Coordinator*

Rachel Perry  
*Field Organizer*

Dan Quinn  
*Communications Director*

Nick Savelli  
*Outreach & Field Manager*

Ryan Valentine  
*Deputy Director*

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TFN President Kathy Miller speaks at the #RejectTheText rally  
Photo by: Spencer Sobolik

TFN helped lead a broad coalition of organizations and scholars from across Texas to call on the State Board of Education to reject a proposed Mexican-American studies textbook that promoted offensive cultural stereotypes, distorted history and

was plagued by factual errors. With our partners, we collected more than 15,500 petition signatures demanding the board keep the textbook out of our children's classrooms. The board voted in November to #RejectTheText by a vote of 15-0.

---

Evolution deniers at the board are poised to, once again, try to inject junk science in the state's curriculum standards in 2017. But not if we can help it. Follow the **#StandUp4Science** campaign by registering at [tfn.org/science](http://tfn.org/science).

---

## THANK YOU TO OUR RESPONSIBLE ETHNIC STUDIES TEXTBOOK COALITION PARTNERS:

ACLU of Texas  
Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
American GI Forum  
Education Austin  
El Paso Community College  
Chicana/o Studies Program  
Hindu American Foundation  
La Fe Policy Research and  
Education Center  
Labor Council For Latin  
American Advancement  
Librotraficante  
McNeil Educational Foundation  
Mexican American Legal Defense and  
Educational Fund  
Mexican American Legislative Caucus of the  
Texas House of Representatives

Mexican American School Board  
Members Association  
National Association of Chicana and  
Chicano Studies - Tejas Foco  
National Council of La Raza  
Rio Grande Valley Coalition for  
Mexican American Studies  
San Antonio Hispanic  
Chamber of Commerce  
Somos MAS  
Southwest Voter Registration and  
Education Project  
Texas Association for  
Bilingual Education  
Texas Association of Chicanos in  
Higher Education  
Texas AFT

Texas Association of Mexican American  
Chambers of Commerce  
Texas Freedom Network  
Texas Graduate Student Diversity  
Texas HOPE (Hispanics Organized for  
Political Education)  
Texas Latino Education Coalition  
Texas LULAC  
Texas NAACP  
Texas Senate Hispanic Caucus  
Texas State Teachers Association  
William C. Velasquez Institute

# TEXAS RISING



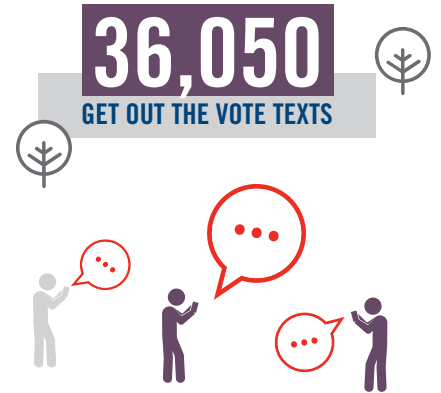
TFN's Texas Rising program is a movement of young, diverse, politically engaged Texans working to leverage their power through community organizing, electoral politics and public policy advocacy.

Texas Rising's student leaders advocate for sound public policies that address reproductive rights, LGBT equality, public education and voting rights.

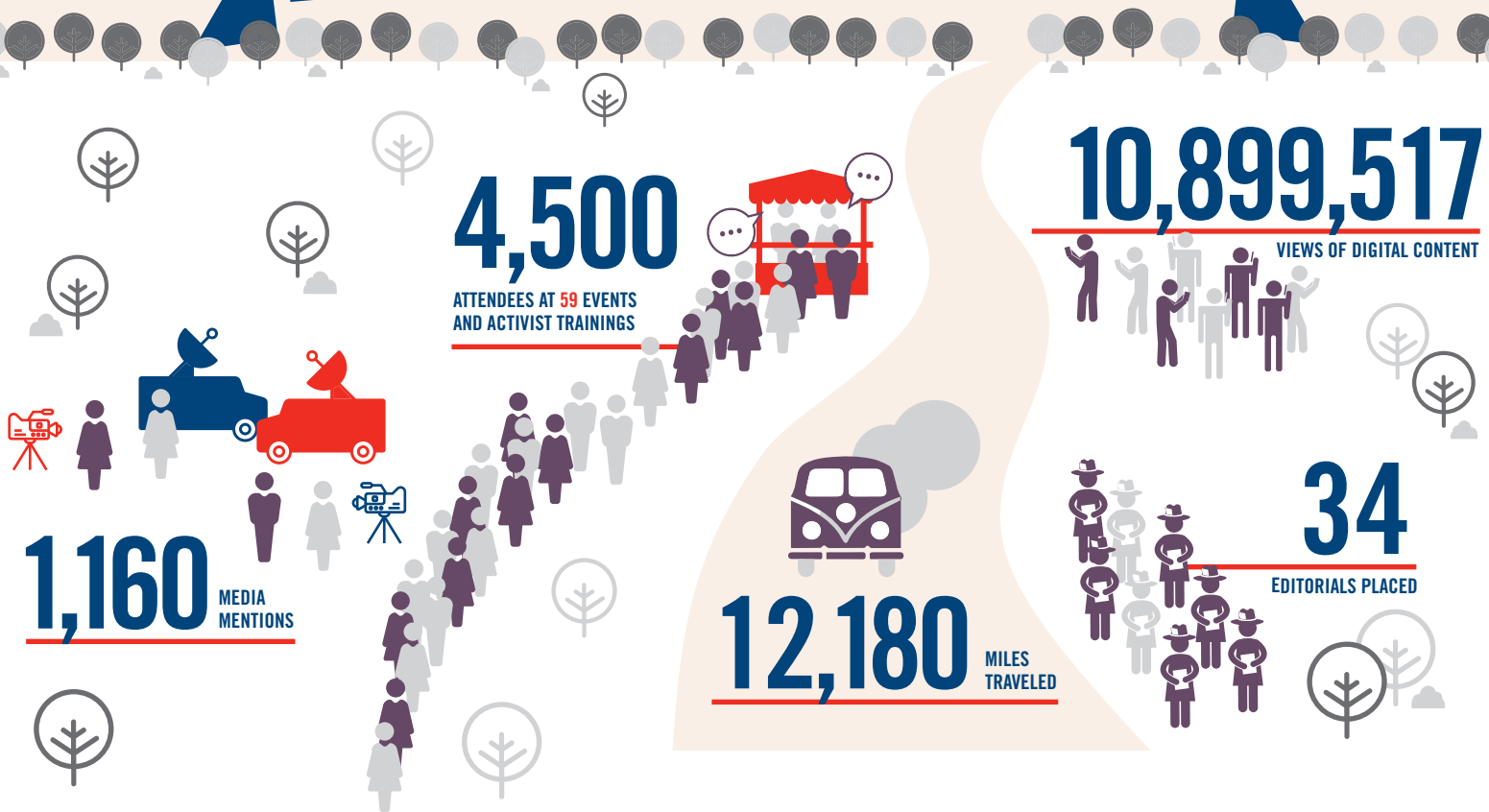
Left: Hon. Wendy Davis and 2016 Student of the Year Zoraima Pelaez

Above: Texas Rising Summer Institute participants  
Photos by: Jill Malinger

## GETTING OUT THE YOUTH VOTE



# TFN BY THE NUMBERS



“

**This fight continues until our lawmakers trust Texas women and families to make their own decisions about their health care and their future.**

**KATHY MILLER**  
TFN PRESIDENT



## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND JUSTICE

2016 was a historic year with the Supreme Court decision on the Texas-based case of *Whole Woman's Health vs. Hellerstedt*. Alongside our reproductive rights partners, TFN participated in events around the *Roe v. Wade* anniversary, the March 2 Supreme Court hearing and decision day as well as hosting a series of town halls after the decision in Dallas, Houston and the Rio Grande Valley.

# STANDING FOR LGBT EQUALITY

“ I will never forget the 2015 Texas Legislature. As a freshman House member, it was my first legislative session. A few months earlier, I was honored and humbled to be elected by the people of my district.

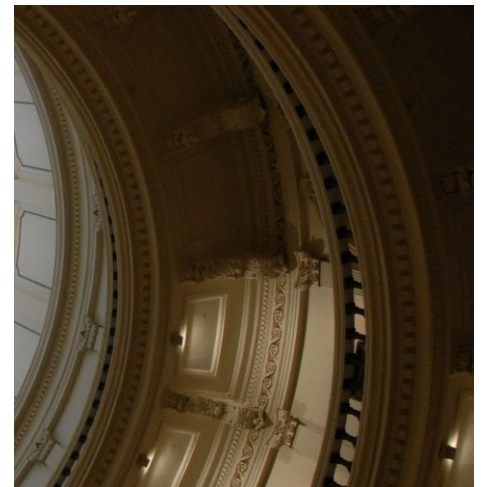
It was not an easy session. That session saw some of my colleagues file more than two dozen anti-LGBT bills that would have discriminated against people like me, my loving partner of 18 years, Celinda, and the people I represent.

Thankfully, every one of those bills was ultimately defeated. Those fights

were, of course, difficult. But at each one, there was TFN standing with us. TFN has been a loyal and effective advocate for LGBT rights in and outside the Capitol.

LGBT Texans don't have full equality yet, and getting there will take lots of hard work that will span many years. I'm comforted that, no matter how long it takes, we can be sure that TFN will be in our corner. ”

– State Rep. Celia Israel  
*TFN honored Rep. Israel as the 2016 Samantha Smoot Activist at our Liberty Luncheon in Austin*



**Since Cecile Richards founded the Texas Freedom Network, the organization has been committed to championing religious freedom, individual liberties and public education. As we prepare for the 2017 Legislative Session, we remain steadfast in our mission:**

- ★ Oppose any action that would promote one faith over all others and threaten religious freedom.
- ★ Fight irresponsible private school voucher schemes and other attempts to undermine public education.
- ★ Protect Texans' access to reproductive health care – including abortion care, birth control and other family planning services.
- ★ Support responsible, comprehensive and evidence-based information in sex education classes.
- ★ Defend the dignity and equality of all families, including those of LGBT Texans.
- ★ Advocate for reforms that would rein in radicals and anti-science zealots at the State Board of Education and depoliticize our schoolchildren's classrooms.

# 2016 FREEDOM COUNCIL

The Texas Freedom Network thanks all our generous supporters and regrets that we do not have space to list them all.

Naomi Aberly  
Hesha Abrams  
Elma Cantú Aldrete & James Aldrete  
Joan & Stanford Alexander  
Stanford & Joan Alexander Foundation  
Ruth Alhilali  
Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation  
Chinhui & Eddie Allen  
Hon. Rafael Anchia  
Anonymous (10)  
Karen & Everett Anschutz  
Maida & Paul Asofsky  
ATPE  
Robbie & Tom Ausley  
The Austin Chronicle  
Bonnie L. Bain  
Carol M. Barger & William D. Elliott  
Diane Barlow  
Deborah L. Barnette & Mark S. Finkelstein  
J. Cary Barton  
Marge Becker & Glenn Smith  
Catherine & James Benedict  
Maggie & David Bettner  
Lisa Blue Baron  
Rabbi Neil Blumofe  
Mary L. Brandt, M.D. & Stacey Berg  
Suzanne Bryant & Sarah Goodfriend  
Kaki & Larry Buck  
Marili Cantú Burbes & Craig Burbes  
Lize Burr & Chris Hyams  
Sarah Buttrey & Greg Sheff  
Lisa & Ky Cauble  
Laura Scanlan Cho & Ken Cho  
Judith Coffin & Willy Forbath  
Joni & Bob Cohan  
Serena Simmons Connelly  
Nina Cortell & Robert Lee Fine, M.D.  
Katelena Hernandez Cowles & James Cowles  
Luanne Kelly Cullen & Charles Cullen  
Kathleen Curry & Roger Sawtelle  
Jan Demetri & James L. Davis  
Barbara & Wayne Derrick

Lynne Dobson & Greg Wooldridge  
Libby & Hon. Lloyd Doggett  
Kimberley Elting  
Embrey Family Foundation  
Bill Farrell  
Amy & Lee Fikes  
Katy & Ted Flato  
Marion Flores  
Bob Flynn  
Dr. Georgia Gatoura Foulard  
Friedel Family Foundation  
Friends of UUMC  
Rhonda & Dr. Paul Gerson  
Glast Family Charitable Fund  
Anne Glickman & Damon Steed  
Melanie Gray & Mark Wawro  
Richard Hartgrove & Gary Cooper  
Sharon & Don Henley  
Sandy & Kevin Henning  
Maria Cantú Hexsel & Ricardo Hexsel  
Darlene Hicks  
Marty & Steve Hixon  
Hon. Scott Hochberg  
Marguerite Steed Hoffman  
Tim Horan  
Diane Ireson & Rowland Cook  
Rachel & Jonah Jackson  
Rusty & John V. Jagers  
Joan Jenkins  
Mitchell Kaliff & Bruce Smiley-Kaliff  
Dr. Norman Kaplan  
Rabbi Neal Katz  
Susan & Richard Keeton  
Cindy & Greg Kozmetsky  
Lisa & Peter Kraus  
Carole & Ronald Krist  
Peggy Leff & Bruce Smith  
John A. Lehner  
Kathy & Bob Lindauer  
Libby & Dale Linebarger  
Sandy & Charles Lloyd  
Susan & Collin Loewen

Sheila & Norman Loewenstern  
Judy & Bruce MacKenzie  
Joy & Ronald Mankoff  
Nancy McGregor Manne & Neal S. Manne  
R. Lynn Markle, M.D.  
Elena & Kenneth Marks  
Deborah Martin & Robert Sullivan  
Patsy Woods Martin & Jack Martin  
Catherine Mauzy & Hans Magnusson  
Ann & Jim McMullan  
MFI Foundation  
Katherine Miller  
Ginni & Richard Mithoff  
Susan Moffat & Nick Barbaro  
Susan Mooberry & Gregory Patterson  
Ronald Moore  
Laura Moorman  
National Institute for Reproductive Health  
The Neavel Family  
David Newberger  
Sandy & Art Nicholson  
Martha & David Norton  
Bettye & Bill Nowlin  
Bill Nye  
Ann C. Parrish  
Janis & Joe Pinnelli  
Irving Pozmantier  
Ann-Marie & Dr. Bob Price  
Timothy Price  
Kelly Ranson  
Macey & Harry Reasoner  
Bonnie Reed & Stuart Schlossberg  
Hon. Alec Rhodes  
Cecile Richards & Kirk Adams  
Carol Riddick  
Kathy T. Rider, LCSW  
Margaret Rigney  
Harriet Riley & Greg Browne  
Catherine & Will Rose  
Betty Sanders  
Jan Sanders  
Mark Sanders

Ms. Mary Sanger  
Joyce & Amb. Arthur Schechter  
Katherine Sherwood & Yogesh Sharma  
Judith Shure & James R. Mattingly  
Barbara & Louis Sklar  
Shawn Slywka & Kenneth Roe  
David C. Smith & Chris Long  
Susan & Tommy Smith  
Pat & Bud Smothers  
Nancy & John Solana  
Keri-Dawn & Rick Solner  
Phyllis & Ronald Steinhart  
Bob Stephenson  
D. Ford Stuart  
SXSU Community Fund  
Mustafa Tameez  
Temple Beth El Sisterhood  
Texas AFT  
Texas State Teachers Association  
Dyana Thomas  
Nancy & Dr. Peter Thompson  
Judy Trablusi  
Kristie & Ryan Valentine  
Jill van Voorhis  
Patricia A. Vaughan  
Kristine & Stephen Wallace  
Delane & Tom Weber  
Ede & Dr. Bruce Weiner  
Jamie & Carl Weisbrod  
Pamela & Rom Welborn  
Jeanne F. West  
The Winkler Family  
Sarah Woelk & Phil Durst  
Megan Wood  
Kellye & Kyle Wright Family Fund  
Edith & Robert Zinn

★ *Freedom Council Members make a commitment of \$1,000 or more annually. List as of 12/2/16.*

## TRIBUTE & HONOR GIFTS

### IN HONOR OF

*Stephanie Chiarello  
& Cole Noppenberg*  
By James Aultman  
Rachel Glast  
Amy, Jason, Magnolia &  
Poppy Lowrey  
Shana Merlin  
Joan & Gary Mitchell  
Zachary Most  
Yvonne & Wallace Reynolds  
Subha Lahari Samineni  
Paula & Gary Spencer

### *Phil Durst*

By Judith Coffin &  
Willy Forbath  
Regina Rogoff

### *Janestreet Productions*

By Dyana Thomas

### *Rabbi Neal Katz*

By Karen & Bob Peake

### *Julie & Michael Lowenberg*

By Lynn & Robert Behrendt

### *Tovah Pentelovitch & Greg Franson*

By Emily Goodstein & Ron Kelly

### *Joanne Richards*

By Mike Harris

### *Barry Schneider*

By Phyllis Levy

### *Elizabeth Turnage*

By Sharon & John Blevins  
Susan Martinez

### IN MEMORY OF

#### *Sara Barker*

By Kathy Murphy

#### *John J. Leffler*

By Robert Miller

#### *Mendel Kaliff*

By Stanley Schoenbaum

#### *Kay Killough*

By Janis & Joe Pinnelli

#### *Dolores Schneider*

By Phyllis Levy



Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Austin, Texas  
Permit No. 1943

P.O. Box 1624  
Austin, TX 78767

Return Service Requested



**THIS  
CONGREGATION  
TRUSTS AND  
RESPECTS WOMEN**

Creating a movement to  
eradicate stigma around  
reproductive  
health care in Texas...

One congregation at a time.

To learn more about how your congregation can become a Reproductive  
Justice Congregation, **visit: [justx.org/congregation](http://justx.org/congregation).**