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Texas Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty

A Project of **TCADP**

Welcome to Texas CCATDP's March 2024 newsletter!

EXECUTION UPDATES

Ivan Cantu was executed by the State of Texas on Wednesday despite significant doubts around his guilt. Cantu was sentenced to death for the murders of James Mosqueda and Amy Kitchen in Collin County. Thank you to everyone who called, emailed, and sent letters in support of Ivan Cantu.

This week, **jury foreman Jeffrey Calhoun** wrote in a commentary piece published in the [Austin American-Statesman](#) he felt like he "was fooled" by witnesses who lied under oath and he urged the State to stop the execution.

Calhoun writes, "I am a proud Texan, conservative, and strongly support the direction our governor has taken in upholding the standards and freedom we Texans enjoy. In full respect, I ask Governor Abbott, that you hand me back the document I signed that confirmed the jury's decision, and delay the execution of Ivan Cantu so further examination can be conducted. This one is unfortunately flawed and therefore incomplete."

[You can also read a statement from Texas CCATDP about the execution of Ivan Cantu here.](#)

James Harris, Jr., originally scheduled for execution in March, was granted a stay by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on February 21. The Court remanded his application to the trial court to make findings of fact on whether the jury selection process in his trial violated the Equal Protection Clause.

TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTION: ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?

Texas will hold its 2024 primary election on Tuesday, March 5. Early voting ends today, **Friday, March 1**. Candidates for the Texas Legislature, the Texas Supreme Court, District Attorney offices, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, and other offices will be on the ballot.

Check your registration status, access a sample ballot, find your polling place, and more on the [Texas Secretary of State's website](#).

JOIN US TOMORROW AT TCADP'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN FORT WORTH!



Join Texas CCATDP at [TCADP's annual conference](#)

tomorrow, **Saturday, March 2 in Fort Worth!** The conference features a panel discussion, a keynote address from civil rights icon Opal Lee, educational workshops, and more.

Texas CCATDP director **Nan Tolson** will lead a **workshop** on the importance of conservative voices in the fight to end the death penalty. Tolson will share insight into conservative values, discuss strategies for engaging conservatives on the death penalty, and hold a Q&A. It's not too late to sign up — [register today!](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

COLLEGE OUTREACH Texas CCATDP Director Nan Tolson spoke at Texas A&M College Republican's weekly meeting last month and we are excited to visit Baylor University in just a few weeks. Interested in hosting Texas CCATDP at your next chapter meeting? [Contact us!](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday, March 1: First Friday Prayer Vigil On the First Friday of each month, Catholic Mobilizing Network holds a Virtual Prayer Vigil to lament upcoming executions and bear witness to the inviolable dignity of all human life. The vigils feature the voices of Catholic bishops, Church leaders, and allies across the death penalty abolition movement. [RSVP here.](#)

WHY WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY	
<p>INEFFECTIVE DETERRENT</p> <p>The death penalty does not keep us safe. There is no convincing or conclusive evidence that the death penalty is an effective deterrent for violent crime.</p>	<p>Since 1973, 36 people convicted and sentenced to death in Texas have been exonerated, and there is strong evidence that Texas has executed innocent people.</p> <p>INACCURATE SYSTEM</p>
<p>BURDEN ON TEXAS TAXPAYERS</p> <p>The cost of an average death penalty case is nearly three times higher than imprisoning someone for life without the possibility of parole. Costs more than prison.</p>	

Saturday, March 23: Republican Party County/District Conventions If you plan to attend your County/Senate District Convention on Saturday, March 23, 2024, and would be interested in taking Texas CCATDP materials on the death penalty, please [contact us](#). More information about the conventions can be found on the [Republican Party of Texas website](#).



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