



Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 9, 2011

**Joint Statement
From Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance
and
Stonewall Democrats of Dallas**

The Dallas Morning News recently highlighted an opinion piece published in the Dallas Voice, a personal commentary written by David Webb, who does not live in Dallas and does not represent the Voice's editorial board. He suggested that the LGBT community should essentially roll over and support Mike Rawlings for Mayor because - in his opinion - David Kunkle is a nice guy, but he's going to lose and we need to suck up to Rawlings right now or it's going to be bad for us later.

David Kunkle was endorsed by the Stonewall Democrats prior to the May election. He won most precincts in the LGBT community, in the neighborhoods where we live and raise our families. The DGLA has also endorsed David in the runoff, deciding for a second time the Mr. Rawlings did not deserve the support of their community.

The LGBT community is a diverse community, and no one person or group speaks for all of us. But we know our support for Mr. Kunkle, as a whole, was proven by election results in the LGBT neighborhoods in the general election.

Some gay elected officials who endorsed third-place finisher Ron Natinsky have now endorsed Mr. Rawlings. For every gay former elected official who endorses Mr. Rawlings, we have dozens upon dozens of community activists supporting Mr. Kunkle. These community activists register voters, fight for LGBT rights at every level of government and interact daily with Dallas citizens. Telling them to support someone else 'if they know what's good for them' is offensive, pandering and irresponsible because of the effect it has on apathy in our community.

For the Dallas Morning News and David Webb to assume his endorsement will carry more weight in a runoff than the efforts of Mr. Kunkle's LGBT supporters is presumptuous and offensive to our community.

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