



Yolanda Clay

Yolanda was born and raised in her beloved city of El Paso, Texas. Though she grew up on Upson Street, she developed an affinity for northeast El Paso after her parents, Ramon and Dora, took advantage of the GI Bill and purchased the family's first home there.

Yoli attended Vilas Elementary and graduated from Irvin High School. She went on to attend the University of Texas at El Paso, where she met and married an army colonel. Together, they lived and traveled all over the world and raised two children. Their firstborn daughter, Yvette, currently resides in Austin while her second daughter, Christina resides in El Paso with her husband, Kurt, and their son, William, Yoli's only grandchild.

Yolanda's passion for politics began at an early age when her parents instilled in her the importance of voting. Her grandfather, Reyes Moreno, Sr. had instilled that same sense of civic responsibility in her parents after paying the family's poll tax. Yolanda started campaigning for her uncle, State Representative Paul Moreno, in the early '60's and has been on the campaign trail ever since. She has volunteered on all levels of campaigns, from local to presidential elections. Yolanda has consistently represented her Precinct by serving as a convention delegate at the precinct, local and state level. One of her highlights over the years was attending the Inauguration of Governor Mark White, but her biggest event has been attending the many Swearing-in Ceremony's at the State Capitol.

During campaign season, you will always find Yoli walking precincts, phone banking, planning events, putting up signs at 5 am on election day, and sometimes even making hot dogs or sweeping floors at Party Headquarters! She has served as an election judge for her precinct and during past Party Chairman Mary-Bowles Grijalva's tenure, Yolanda fulfilled the role of Party secretary. Currently, Yolanda holds two elected positions - one as precinct chair and the other as your State Democratic Executive Committee woman (SDEC). During her first term on SDEC, Yolanda has been appointed to the Legal Affairs and Convention Committees. She was also singled out by Chairman Boyd Ritchie to serve on the Task Force Committee for Financial Affairs.

Yolanda's involvement does not stop with party politics. She is a proud Union member of Texas State Employees Union, active board member of the Mission Trail Association, a United Way Volunteer Allocation committee and Plaza Theatre Charter member. She has also been a Girl Scout leader and PTA President. Professionally, Yolanda is a certified Weights & Measures inspector for the State of Texas and a Marketing Specialist. When asked about the hardest job she ever had, she replied, "I was a waitress once for a very short time. Since that time, I have new found respect for all wait staff!"

Yolanda does not allow state lines or vacations to prevent her from talking politics. While in Hawaii last year to attend a wedding, she noticed a car parked in front of her hotel with lots of political bumper stickers all over it. She asked the parking attendant about it and soon, she had two Hawaiian Democratic bumper stickers which are still on her much loved "juevo".

Yolanda's unfaltering support of the Democratic Party and Democratic ideals make her a truly deserving recipient of this honor.