

Ex-rep’s campaign paid wife’s firms \$54K

Records: Two recently created companies don’t appear to have physical or online presence

By Haajrah Gilani
STAFF WRITER

Since resigning this spring amid scandal, former U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales has sent tens of thousands of campaign dollars to companies recently created by his wife that don’t appear to have any physical or online presence, according to records reviewed by the San Antonio Express-News.

Between April and September, Gonzales’ campaign and an associated PAC reported paying \$54,350 to two companies,

Adulting Consulting and Casagrande LLC, according to filings with the Federal Election Commission. Both businesses were registered with the state after Gonzales stepped down and include the same San Antonio address as Gonzales’s campaign committee, which appears to be a UPS store about a seven-minute drive from Gonzales’ house. Gonzales’ wife, Angel, is listed as the manager for each.

Neither company appears to have a website. In their incorporation documents, they each include the same generic business



Gaby Velasquez/El Paso Times
Former U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales’ campaign said the spending was in compliance with federal law.

description.

Federal law allows former candidates to pay companies that are operated by family members. But the services pro-

vided must be necessary, legitimate and billed at standard commercial rates, said Michael Beckel, director of money in politics reform at the nonpartisan group, Issue One. It’s illegal to use campaign funds for personal use.

In FEC records, Gonzales’ campaign said the money went toward “data management,” “compliance” and “compliance consulting.” Tony Gonzales is the only candidate whose campaign has reported paying the organizations.

In a statement to the Express-News, Gonzales’ campaign said the spending was in compliance with federal law. The statement did not answer questions about

the specific services provided by Adulting Consulting and Casagrande LLC.

“As the campaign transitions from active status there remain ongoing administrative expenses to include but not limited to compliance requirements, storage, data management, and others,” the statement said. It was unsigned.

Jordan Libowitz, a spokesperson for Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a nonpartisan watchdog group, said it was suspicious that the campaign paid two different companies run by his wife to do what appears to be similar work, and that they

Gonzales continues on A5

A FAREWELL FOR VETS



PHOTOS BY KATINA ZENTZ/SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

ABOVE: Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery and the Bexar County Military and Veterans Services Center conduct a memorial service for 19 veterans who had no known family to attend the ceremony on Wednesday.

LEFT: Michael Barnett, left, and Dale Adams, both U.S. Army veterans with the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment Honor Guard, carry out the folding and presentation of the American flag during the service honoring the veterans in San Antonio.

Council curtails mayor’s power over bond picks

By Madison Iszler
STAFF WRITER

In a direct jab at Mayor Gina Ortiz Jones, the City Council is curtailing her power over who will oversee San Antonio’s next bond program.

Council members voted 7-3 on Wednesday to give themselves the authority to pick and approve the three chairpersons who will guide the city’s 2027 bond process, breaking with precedent. Before Jones, mayors were free to unilaterally name the so-called tri-chairs, who usually are business and civic leaders.

Jones had announced her chairs on Monday: Jim Perschbach, president and CEO of Port San Antonio; Jelynn LeBlanc Jamison, president and CEO of the Center for Health Care Services and chairwoman of the San Antonio Water System’s board of directors; and Mario Obledo Jr., chief of government and public affairs at the San Antonio Food Bank.

Wednesday’s vote nullifies those appointments.

Council members Teri Castillo, Marina Alderete Gavito and Marc Whyte forced the special meeting by filing a three-signature memo last week requesting that Councilwomen Sukh Kaur and Phyllis Viagran review the mayor’s selections and that city staff draft an ordinance requiring the council to green-light the nominees.

But the ordinance sets up Kaur and Viagran to go further than weighing in on Jones’ selections. It gives the two councilwomen the authority to recommend tri-chair candidates, who will then go to City Council for approval.

The five council members behind the measure have repeated-

Bond continues on A7

Poll: Democrats’ faith in elections falls but still exceeds that of GOP

By Ali Swenson and Linley Sanders
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Daemien Williams used to trust U.S. election results, but not anymore.

The 50-year-old Democrat in Centreville, Ill., worries President Donald Trump and other Republicans will try anything from intimidating voters to seizing ballots to hold onto power in November’s midterm elections — and, in the process, jeopardize the outcome.

“I don’t put anything past these people,” he said. “My trust level is at its all-time low.”

Registered voters who identify

Elections continues on A8



Marta Lavandier/Associated Press
Voters get ballots from Miami-Dade Supervisors of Elections employees during early voting Monday in Miami. Democrats’ faith in elections has dropped to 55%, down from 75% in 2022.

O’Connor parents allege Northside ISD mishandled possible staph infections

By Nancy M. Preyor-Johnson
STAFF WRITER

Several parents of O’Connor High School athletes said the school did not notify them about possible staph infections among student-athletes in October and said they only learned of the cases through their children.

They worry that the school is not taking the infections as seriously as it should, raising concerns over cleaning protocols at shared athletic facilities and whether the district retaliated against student-athletes whose parents pressed school officials

about how it was addressing the situation.

O’Connor initially identified 14 student athletes with impetigo-like symptoms last month, Northside Independent School District spokesperson Barry Perez said. The district confirmed 10 impetigo cases among students who received treatment from a doctor; four could not be fully diagnosed, he said.

Impetigo is a contagious skin

Infections continues on A7

