

Lloyd Bentsen,
U.S. Senate

July 27, 1981

Dr. Hector Garcia
1315 Bright St
Corpus Christi, TX 78405

Dear Dr. ~~Garcia~~ *Hector*

As I prepare to make a formal announcement of my intention to stand for reelection to the United States Senate in 1982, I am turning once again to those who have been friends and supporters in the past. I am asking for your help.

Regrettably, the politics of the 1980's seem destined to move America into a new era of negativism ... of single issue constituencies, targets, hit lists, and enemies. One extremist fundraising group in Washington, D.C. has vowed to defeat me next year and has pledged to spend three quarters of a million dollars to wage a negative campaign against my reelection.

That is the unpleasant reality of the 1982 elections, and that is why I am writing to you now, in 1981, to seek your commitment and financial assistance.

I intend to win in '82, and I am pleased to say that my political base in Texas has never been stronger. My approval rating hovers around 70% in all the various polls we have seen this year. My negative rating, the mark that many political analysts use to gauge an incumbent's vulnerability, has been extraordinarily low.

Obviously, I am greatly encouraged by this support which I feel is a direct result of my commitment to represent to the best of my ability the broad interests of 13 million fellow Texans.

During my time in the Senate, I have faced many difficult votes and issues. But I have always tried to judge what is best for our State and our Nation by asking three basic questions before making a decision:

1. Do we need it?
2. Will it work?
3. Can we afford it?

I think that approach to the issues and to the role of government is one that is shared by the overwhelming majority of Texans. From all indications, it would appear that my prospects for reelection are excellent. But we can take nothing for granted. We can certainly not afford to become complacent. In the months ahead hundreds of thousands of dollars will be poured into this State, from outside Texas, in a campaign of negativism, targeted at me. Even when the charges are false, this kind of campaign can do a lot of damage unless we are prepared to counter the lies and distortions.

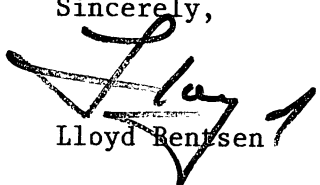
I hope we can begin now to solidify our position, demonstrate our strength, and make it apparent that the voters of Texas will not respond to a campaign of hate, no matter how professional or well financed.

I believe we, in this State, know what is right for Texas. As a friend and supporter over the years, you know what I stand for. Now I am asking you to stand with me and help me continue my efforts on behalf of our State and our Nation.

Will you please take the time to write your check today? I can assure you that your financial support now will matter more than at any other time.

As always, I am grateful for your friendship.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Bentsen

LB:kk