

# BCDP NEWSLETTER

## BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Message from the chair: Thank you.** *Page 2.*
- **Ten propositions on November ballot.** *Page 3.*
- **BCDP asks for longer early voting hours.**
- **Combatting high drug costs.** *Page 5.*
- **Candidate Siegel courts Bastrop County.** *Page 6.*
- **Voter registration at Hogeys Festival.** *Page 7.*
- **Bastrop County gets new election precinct.** *Page 8.*
- **Texas Dem Party honors LBJ, Barbara Jordan.** *Page 9.*
- **How do you want to be involved? Who represents me?** *Page 11.*

We were all devastated by the passing of our beloved Anne Beck on the morning of Oct. 31. In addition to being a stalwart member of the Bastrop community, Anne was a strong Democrat who served the party in numerous ways, most recently as a precinct chair. She will be missed beyond measure. Arrangements are pending.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nov. 1**

#### Last day of early voting

Any early voting location: Bastrop Courthouse Annex, Smithville City Hall, Cedar Creek United Methodist Church, Elgin Public Library  
7am to 7pm

**Nov. 5**

#### Election Day for Constitutional Amendments

Your precinct polling place  
7am to 7pm

**Nov. 9**

#### BCDP Main Street cleanup for Keep Bastrop Beautiful

Meet at BCDP office  
1009 Main St., Bastrop, 9am

**Nov. 12**

#### Stonewall Democrats meeting

The 602 on Main  
919 Main St., Bastrop, 7pm

**Nov. 13**

#### BCDP women's luncheon

Cedar's Mediterranean  
904 College St., Bastrop, 1pm

**Nov. 14**

#### BCDP County Executive Committee meeting (open to public)

Kerr Community Center  
1308 Walnut St., Bastrop, 7pm

**Nov. 24**

#### Stonewall Democrats cleanup for Keep Bastrop County Beautiful

Meet at soccer fields  
Across from Buc-ee's on Hwy. 95  
Bastrop, 4pm



## Thank you for allowing me to serve you

*By Cheryl Reese*

On Nov. 14 I will step down as chair of the Bastrop County Democratic Party to run for county commissioner of precinct 4 in 2020. I will need your support, as will all of our Democratic candidates for 2020. It is important to support our local Democrats as they will have the greatest impact on our daily lives.

I have enjoyed representing the Bastrop County Democratic Party as county chair. We have grown in our courage and visibility in the county. I have seen you come out in support of Democratic candidates and efforts to move the county blue, whether you contributed financially, put up candidate signs, block walked, or voted. Through all of our efforts we increased voter turnout by 10 percent in Campaign GOTV 2018. I am proud of all that we accomplished in the last two years. Now more than ever we need to continue supporting our Bastrop County Democratic Party in 2020 and step it up financially.



### **CALLS TO ACTION:**

- We need financial support. Please visit our website [bastropdemocrats.org/](http://bastropdemocrats.org/). Click on the DONATE button, and make a recurring donation. We need it.
- We also need chairs for the following precincts: new precinct 1022 (east of Highway 20 and FM 969); 2006 (Alum Creek); 2007 (Rosanky/Upton); 2008 (Smithville, West); 2011 (Circle D); 3013 (Red Rock, Rockne) 4018 (Elgin North); 4020 (Elgin East); and 4021 (McDade). Also, we will need to be at every polling location with election workers and poll watchers. Organization is the key.

On another note, I urge you to send letters to support Rodney Reed, who is scheduled to be executed on Nov. 20 for a murder many believe he did not commit. Please send your letter asking for a fair and new trial on behalf of Rodney Reed to Gov. Greg Abbott, Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711-2428. Let's not have the reputation of killing a black man because he dated a white woman. Let's request all facts of evidence be presented. We fight for those who cannot fight regardless of their color. That is why we vote because we care.

Anyone interested in serving as our next county chair?  
Email to [headquarters@bastropdemocrats.org](mailto:headquarters@bastropdemocrats.org) and find out.

## November election addresses 10 propositions

Texas voters heading to the polls Nov. 5 will decide on 10 constitutional amendments, which touch on issues ranging from animal retirement to disaster relief funding. A majority vote will be enough to adopt any of these propositions. The Texas Tribune has prepared this helpful guide, discussing each proposition according to what it says and what it means.



[texastribune.org/2019/10/15/texas-2019-constitutional-amendments-what-voters-need-know/](https://texastribune.org/2019/10/15/texas-2019-constitutional-amendments-what-voters-need-know/)

---

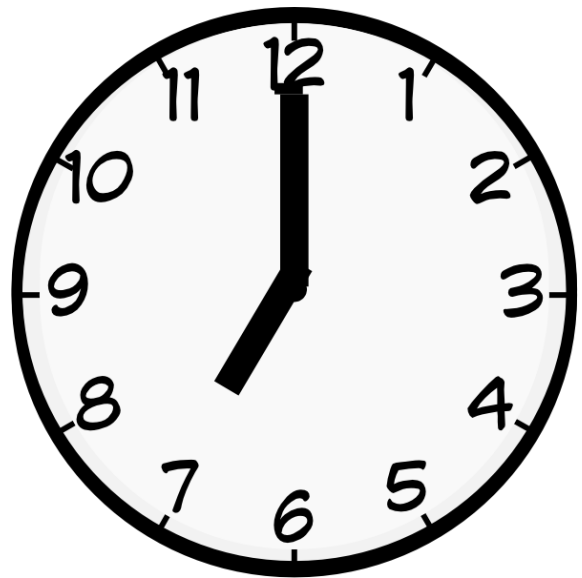
## BCDP seeks expanded access at the polls

*By Robin Rieck*

Is your vote burning a hole in your pocket regarding the current constitutional amendment election? You are not alone. If you are among the majority of voters in Bastrop County who commute outside the area each work day, you may be challenged to get to the polls during early voting.

The hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., along with a brief three-hour window on Saturday morning between 9:00 a.m. and noon, make it difficult for commuters to cast their ballots before Election Day. During the 2017 constitutional amendment election, a mere 13.66 percent of registered voters cast a ballot. When such a small percentage determines the outcome, we are not living in a healthy democracy.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average commute for workers in Bastrop County is 34.4 minutes (2013-2017). This statistic shows that many of our citizens



*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

are working outside the area and away from the four early voting sites. By the time polls open at 8:00 a.m., 72 percent of workers are already on the job. Those who work in Austin certainly cannot cast a ballot on a lunch break and many can't make it back in time to beat the 5:00 p.m. closing time.

The Bastrop County Elections Department does offer expanded hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the last two days of the early voting period. In the current election one of those days fell on Halloween, which made that evening off limits for many working parents. That left the three-hour window on the prior Saturday or the final day on Friday as the only two opportunities for many commuters.

Bastrop County Democratic Party Chair Cheryl Reese has been negotiating with the County Elections Department and the local Republican Party in an attempt to expand voting hours to the 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. schedule for a full week during the early voting period for the upcoming 2020 elections. This would allow more opportunities for all voters in Bastrop County.



The Bastrop County Commissioners Court will make the final determination at an upcoming meeting. At this time it appears this item will be on their Nov. 12 agenda. We are asking local Democrats to attend to voice their concerns about access to the polls during early voting for the majority of commuters in this county. Court convenes at 9:00 a.m. at the Bastrop County Courthouse Annex, 804 Pecan St. in Bastrop. Check our website and Facebook page for updates about this important agenda item.

## Combatting high drug costs

*Commentary by Mark Timerman*

I am a capitalist, and I am a socialist. But one industry where both of these concepts come crashing together is the pharmaceutical industry. I agree that drug companies have the right to recoup the investments they made to develop and patent new products and drugs.

One of the ways these companies recoup their money is to charge a lot for the products they have developed, and for which they have patent protection. In most cases they have complete control over the prices they can charge. The top 10 most expensive drugs on the market, for example, all cost more than half a million dollars per year, if taken as prescribed.



But drug companies are not only recuperating the costs of developing new drugs. They have chosen to pay their CEOs outlandish salaries. The top CEO in pharma makes \$42 million a year, while the top eight each make at least \$25 million a year. The top CEO in the insurance biz? He made \$22 million yearly, while the lowest was \$12 million. Don't fool yourself. People are dying so that CEOs can make huge pay checks.

Yes, what they are doing is legal. This is how the free-enterprise system works. It is capitalism at its best—inflating the cost of research and development to rake in more money. But where do you draw the line between outrageous salaries and having people die because they cannot afford their medicines?

In my view, greed and cold hearts have taken over compassion and empathy. One way of combatting the greed is for public options in insurance, or the single-payer healthcare plan. If everyone is insured, everyone can afford the medicines they need, while the government pursues how best to regulate the obscene salaries and drug pricing. Other countries have negotiated the costs of prescription drugs. It's something we need to be doing too.

## Candidate Siegel courts Bastrop County Dems

Mike Siegel, who is running to replace Michael McCaul as U.S. Representative for District 10, has spent a lot of time in Bastrop. In addition to speaking to attendees at the September women's luncheon, Siegel presented at the BCDP October meeting and showed up to support our voter registration efforts at the Hogeys Festival (see page 6).

At the October BCDP meeting, Mike Siegel discussed his plan to register 37,000 voters in TX-10 before the Oct. 4, 2020, registration deadline. He needs volunteers to help him accomplish this goal, so if you are interested in helping his team register voters, contact [ben@siegelfortexas.org](mailto:ben@siegelfortexas.org)



## BCDP staffs voter registration booth at Elgin Hogeye Festival

Oct. 26, 2019—The Bastrop County Democratic Party has been a presence at Elgin’s Hogeye Festival for many years, and this year was no exception. In addition to food, music, arts and crafts, and much more, festival visitors were able to take a moment for more serious matters—registering to vote. Our own volunteer deputy registrars (VDRs) manned a booth to help visitors and answer questions about the upcoming election on Nov. 5.



In addition to registering new voters, BCDP Chair Cheryl Reese, Carrie Falk, Sharon Chamberlain, and Robin Rieck offered information about the Nov. 5 election and offered our new BCDP t-shirts for sale.



Thanks to Mike Siegel, candidate for U.S. Representative, District 10, and his mom (far right) for coming out to support us!

## Voting precinct 1003 gives birth to precinct 1022

According to the Texas Election Code, “a county election precinct must contain 100 but not more than 5,000 registered voters.” Voter registration records indicate precinct 1003 will exceed 5,000 voters by the end of 2019. As a result, the Bastrop County Commissioners Court has ordered the division of election precinct 1003 and the creation of election precinct 1022. The new boundaries for both precincts will take place on Jan. 1, 2020.

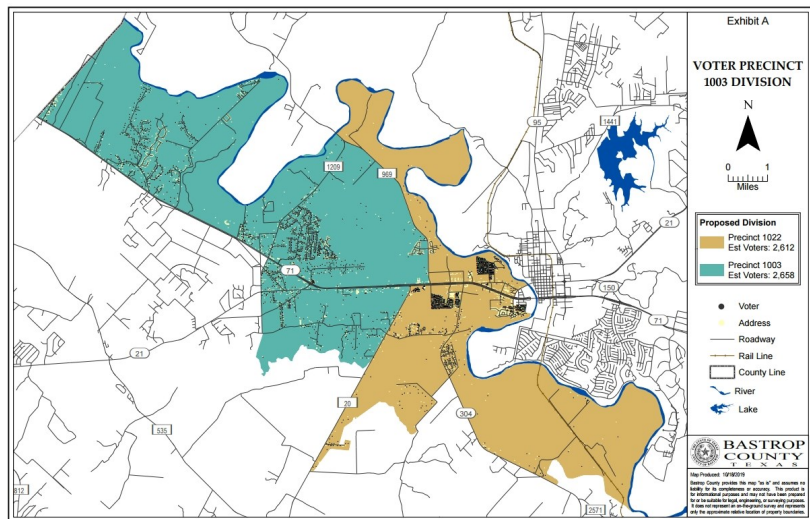
Specifically, precinct 1003 is divided along Hwy. 20 and FM 969. All territory to the west of Hwy. 20 and FM 969 remains in election precinct 1003. All territory to the east of Hwy. 20 and FM 969 becomes election precinct

1022. This move will change the voting precinct for all the folks in Hunter’s Crossing and Riverside Grove. Additionally, it opens up another precinct chair position for the newly created election precinct.

You may find additional information, including a larger map, on the BCDP website:

[bastropdemocrats.org/elections/](http://bastropdemocrats.org/elections/)

**NOTE:** Anyone living within the new election precinct 1022 boundaries who is interested in serving as the first precinct chair for this new precinct is encouraged to contact BCDP County Chair Cheryl Reese at [cheryl.reese@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl.reese@yahoo.com).





## Texas Democratic Party Annual Johnson-Jordan Dinner



The Texas Democratic Party's 6th annual Johnson-Jordan Dinner, celebrating the inspirational and guiding legacies of President Lyndon Johnson and Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, was held Saturday, Oct. 5, at the JW Marriott Hotel in Austin.

Tom Perez and Gilberto Hinojosa, chairs of

the Democratic National Committee and Texas Democratic Party, respectively, fired up elected officials, donors, and activists.

Celia Israel represents House District 50 in the Texas Legislature. She serves on the House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety and the House Committee on Elections.



*(Continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9)

Guest speaker Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., chair of the Department of African American Studies and the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, is a frequent guest on Morning Joe.

The Bastrop County Democratic Party was represented by Madi and Deena Eden.



## HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

There is much to do at all levels as we strive to thwart the Republican agenda and turn Bastrop County, the State of Texas, and America BLUE. Here are some possibilities for your consideration:

### ACTIVIST GROUPS

- **Bastrop County Indivisible**  
Contact Ginger Redden [bcitx10@gmail.com](mailto:bcitx10@gmail.com) or  
Robin Rieck [rriek@austin.rr.com](mailto:rriek@austin.rr.com)
- **Hogeye Huddle**  
Contact Michelle Ryan [hogeyehuddle@gmail.com](mailto:hogeyehuddle@gmail.com)
- **Stonewall Democrats of Bastrop County**  
Contact Madi Eden [mk@aifx.net](mailto:mk@aifx.net) or  
Dayna Beck [aspexrox@gmail.com](mailto:aspexrox@gmail.com)

### LIVELY DISCUSSION GROUPS

- **Bastrop County Democratic Women's Monthly Luncheon**  
Contact Mary Liz Singleton  
[marylizsingleton@gmail.com](mailto:marylizsingleton@gmail.com)
- **Liberals Dining & Drinking (LDD)**  
Contact Marsha Correia  
[marshac1017@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marshac1017@sbcglobal.net)
- **Uppity Women Monthly Caucus**  
Contact Carole Marmell [cmarmell@hotmail.com](mailto:cmarmell@hotmail.com)

### VOTER REGISTRATION

- **Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar**  
Contact Dayna Beck, [aspexrox@gmail.com](mailto:aspexrox@gmail.com)

### BCDP LEADERSHIP ROLE

- **Precinct Chair • Volunteer Coordinator**  
Contact Cheryl Reese [cheryl.reese@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl.reese@yahoo.com)

### CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE AT THE LOCAL OR COUNTY LEVEL

- Contact Cheryl Reese [cheryl.reese@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl.reese@yahoo.com)

### COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

- **Writers to contribute articles/letters to the editor to local newspapers and for this newsletter**

Contact Bill McCann [bmccann42@gmail.com](mailto:bmccann42@gmail.com)

### SUPPORT STAFF ROLE

- **Volunteer in the BCDP Office**  
Contact Dayna Beck, [aspexrox@gmail.com](mailto:aspexrox@gmail.com)

### VOTER OUTREACH

- ♦ **Block Walking • Canvassing**  
Contact James Denny [jedenny@comcast.net](mailto:jedenny@comcast.net)

### CONTRIBUTE TO THE BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

[secure.actblue.com/donate/bastrop-county-democratic-party-1](http://secure.actblue.com/donate/bastrop-county-democratic-party-1)

### KEEP IN TOUCH VIA THE BCDP NEWSLETTER

Visit [bastropdemocrats.org/newsletter/](http://bastropdemocrats.org/newsletter/)

## Who Represents Me?

### U.S. Senate

- John Cornyn: 202-224-2934 (DC); 512-469-6034 (ATX)
- Ted Cruz: 202-224-5922 (DC); 512-916-5834 (ATX)

### U.S. House of Representatives

- Michael McCaul, District 10: 202-225-2401 (DC); 512-473-2357 (Austin)
- Bill Flores, District 17: 202-225-6105 (DC); 512-373-3378 (Austin)
- Michael Cloud, District 27: 202-255-7742 (DC); 361-884-2222 (Corpus Christi); 361-894-6446 (Victoria)

### Texas State Senator

- Kirk Watson: 512-463-0114

### Texas State Representative

- John Cyrier: 512-463-0682

Visit [www.bastropvotes.org](http://www.bastropvotes.org) to find out your district and precinct. Additional contact information can also be found at this link.

Bastrop County Democratic Party  
1009 Main Street  
Bastrop, TX 78602  
512-807-6233

Editorial staff: Bill McCann  
Mary Liz Singleton  
Robin Rieck  
Chris Born-Long