

# BCDP NEWSLETTER

## BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 8**

**BCDP women's luncheon**  
Stem & Stone, 1507 Chestnut St.,  
Bastrop, 1 p.m.

**Jan. 9**

**BCDP community meeting**  
First National Bank, 312 Main St,  
Smithville, 7 p.m.

**Jan. 11**

**BCDP cleanup** for Keep Bastrop  
Beautiful, Meet at BCDP Office, 1009  
Main St., Bastrop, 9 a.m.

**Jan. 18**

**Women's March ATX—Rally at  
the Capitol**  
1100 Congress Ave., Austin  
Noon to 3 p.m.

**Jan. 18**

**Women's March After-Party  
with Madi**  
Why Knot Party House, 353  
Watersedge Terrace Dr., Elgin,  
5 p.m.

**Jan. 23**

**Bastrop Stonewall Democrats  
monthly meeting**  
Why Knot Party House,  
353 Watersedge Terrace Dr., Elgin,  
7 p.m.

**Jan. 25**

**Campaign kickoff for Madeline  
Eden for Texas House District 17**  
Casa Chapala, 1800 Walnut St.,  
Bastrop, 2-4 p.m.

**Jan. 26**

**Bastrop Stonewall  
Democrats cleanup** for  
Keep Bastrop County Beautiful  
Meet at soccer fields across from  
Buc-ee's on Hwy. 95, 4 p.m.



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## Message from the chair: Happy New Year

By Steve Chamberlain

Happy New Year, Bastrop County! I trust everyone had a wonderful and safe celebration to welcome in 2020. Whether you danced the night away, celebrated in the quiet relaxed atmosphere of your home, or something in between, the new year is upon us and it's time for making New Year's resolutions.

I invite and encourage you to include the Bastrop County Democratic Party in your resolve to make 2020 a better time and place to be. Patriots like you have made significant improvements to the lives of all Americans, and we can continue to make America stronger.

A small percentage of people out there only want to spread hate, but it is a small percentage. Most Republicans are really Democrats who just don't know any better. If you really get to know most people, you see that they are good at heart and want the best for everyone. They are just consumed by the hate and lies spread by Fox News and the right-wing agenda.

When you are confronted with lies, hit them back with LMGTFY (Let Me Google That For You). Hit them back with facts. They are probably not familiar with facts or where to find the truth.

Spreading the truth is just the first step. Once we educate people we must help them to take action: Get out and vote; stand up to injustice; fight for the rights of everyone.

I invite you to join the BCDP in fighting to improve the lives of all citizens. Our first goal is to get every eligible person in Bastrop County registered to vote. There are many opportunities to volunteer and help. Come be a participant in the ongoing improvement of Bastrop County. Resolve to turn Bastrop **BLUE**.



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### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend the Bastrop County Democratic Convention March 21, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Smithville Rec. Center, 106 Gazley, Smithville, TX 78957. 2020 is the year that we take back America. Come join us and be a part of it.

## Important information for March 3 primary election voters

By Robin Rieck

Happy New Year, Bastrop County Democrats. The time is now to get your voting credentials in order. If you are new to Bastrop County, have you registered to vote? If you have moved to a new Bastrop County address, have you updated your registration information? Will you be away from Bastrop County throughout the early voting period and primary election day on March 3? Are you 65 years or older or do you have a disability? Are you a citizen living outside the United States (including military service members and qualified family members)? Here is a handy list of upcoming dates to ensure that you are ready to cast your ballot.

### ***Am I registered? Where do I vote?***

Bastrop County Elections

[bastropvotes.org/voter-information-2/voter-lookup/#VoterSearch](http://bastropvotes.org/voter-information-2/voter-lookup/#VoterSearch)

### ***2020 March Primary Election Deadlines***

**Monday, Feb. 3: Last day to register to vote or update address.** You may do so at either of these websites:

- Bastrop County Elections  
[bastropvotes.org/voter-information-2/voter-registration-information/](http://bastropvotes.org/voter-information-2/voter-registration-information/)
- Register2vote.org: [register2vote.org](http://register2vote.org)

**Tuesday, Feb. 18: First Day of Early Voting.** Bastrop County Elections early voting locations and schedule. You may vote at the main location or any of the branch locations.  
[bastropvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Early-Voting-Schedule.pdf](http://bastropvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Early-Voting-Schedule.pdf)

**Friday, Feb. 21: Last day to submit application for Ballot by Mail (65 or older/ disabled).** Application must be received by the Bastrop County Elections Dept. at 804 Pecan Street, Bastrop, Texas 78602 on or before this date.  
[bastropvotes.org/election-information-2/early-voting-by-mail-and-absentee/](http://bastropvotes.org/election-information-2/early-voting-by-mail-and-absentee/)

**Friday, Feb. 21: Last day to submit application for FPCA (military/eligible family/ overseas citizens).** Application must be received by the Bastrop County Elections Dept. at 804 Pecan Street, Bastrop, Texas 78602 on or before this date.  
[bastropvotes.org/voter-information-2/military-and-overseas-voters/](http://bastropvotes.org/voter-information-2/military-and-overseas-voters/)

**Friday, Feb. 28: Last day of early voting.** Bastrop County Elections  
[bastropvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Early-Voting-Schedule.pdf](http://bastropvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Early-Voting-Schedule.pdf)

**Tuesday, March 3: 2020 March Primary Election Day and deadline to submit ballot by mail.** Bastrop County precinct voting locations. You must vote at the assigned location for your precinct on Election Day.

[bastropvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Election-Day-Locations.pdf](http://bastropvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Election-Day-Locations.pdf)

Bastrop County Elections Ballot by Mail information: Original ballot must be received by the Bastrop County Elections Dept. at 804 Pecan Street, Bastrop, Texas 78602 on or before this date.

[bastropvotes.org/election-information-2/early-voting-by-mail-and-absentee/](http://bastropvotes.org/election-information-2/early-voting-by-mail-and-absentee/)

## BCDP coffee and conversation



Join fellow Democrats in 2020 for weekly coffee and conversation BCDP-style.

On Tuesday mornings, beginning Jan. 7, you are invited to stop in the BCDP Main Street office, from 9 to 11 a.m., have a cup of coffee and muffin, and chat about whatever you want, from politics to grandkids.

"We are hoping coffee and conversation will allow us to meet new friends and bring some new faces into the local Democratic Party," said BCDP Chair Steve Chamberlain.

Bill Haschke will host the initial gatherings.

Our next monthly community meeting is an opportunity to meet our local candidates, some of whom are featured later in this newsletter.

### Bastrop County Democratic Party

#### MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

**Jan. 9, 2020**

7:00 p.m.

First National Bank

312 Main St Smithville, TX

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Open meeting/word from the chair            | Steve Chamberlain |
| 2. Introduction of candidates                  | Steve Chamberlain |
| Call for poll workers                          |                   |
| 3. Announcements—Upcoming events               | Aimee Cook        |
| • February date and location, CEC meeting      |                   |
| • Other announcements/events                   |                   |
| 4. Emma Lischka for Pete Buttigieg (via Skype) | Aimee Cook        |
| 5. Adjourn                                     |                   |

The best voting advice...

Voting isn't marriage. It's public transport. You are not waiting for "the one" who is absolutely perfect. You are getting on the bus. And if there isn't one going exactly to your destination, you don't stay at home and sulk. You take the bus going closest to where you want to be.

## **Madeline Eden**

### **Candidate for District 17, Texas House**

Madeline Eden is the Democratic candidate for the Texas State House of Representatives in District 17 in 2020 (serving Bastrop, Caldwell, Lee, Gonzales, and Karnes counties). Madi has lived in Bastrop with her family for more than a decade and has been an active volunteer, community organizer, and vocal advocate for voting rights. She's president of the Bastrop County Stonewall Democrats, a former Democratic precinct chair, and currently works full-time as the chief technology officer for Civitech (an Austin-based public benefits corporation focused on creating political technology for Democrats and progressives).

Madi is also known for her work with Register2Vote, a Texas-based nonprofit that she founded with her friend Jeremy Smith in 2018. During the 2018 midterms their organization successfully harnessed the grassroots power of more than 1,000 engaged volunteers to register more than 150,000 Texans before the voter registration deadline. Register2Vote has since gone on to create a suite of free tools that are used by nonprofits across the country to identify and register new voters.

Madi's campaign is working to address issues like environmental protections, rural broadband accessibility, marijuana legalization/decriminalization, veterans care, common-sense firearms legislation, voting rights, water rights, protections for immigrants, better funding for teachers/schools, social justice reform, and improving healthcare coverage and expansion for Texans. Most importantly, she believes that Democrats must gain control of the Texas House in 2020 to prevent the unconstitutional gerrymandering of our state election districts during the 2021 redistricting process.

If you have not met Madi yet, please be sure to attend the next monthly meeting of the Bastrop County Democratic Party. She would appreciate hearing more about the issues that are important to you and your family. You also can learn more about Madi through her webpage [edenfortexas.com](http://edenfortexas.com).

She also is proud to be a community ambassador for the 2020 Women's March in Austin. Sign up here (<https://bit.ly/35Qoq5I>) to march with Madi on Jan. 18. Everyone is also invited to attend the Women's March After-Party at the Why Knot Party House, 353 Watersedge Terrace Dr. in Elgin, 5:00 p.m.

Special Note: You are invited to join us at Madi's campaign kickoff event on Jan. 25, upstairs at Casa Chapala, 1800 Walnut St., Bastrop, 2-4 p.m.





## Congratulations to our unopposed candidates for 2020

### Judge Chris Duggan 423rd District Court

It is both an honor and a privilege to run unopposed as district judge for the 423rd District Court of Bastrop County, Texas. I knew when I first took the bench that the position would necessitate a need to navigate some difficult cases, and require thoughtful decisions. My philosophy has always been to recognize "cases" as real people with real issues, not simply a docket list. I look forward to serving the wonderful citizens of Bastrop County for a fourth term.



### August "Gus" Meduna Precinct 2 Constable

I am a lifelong resident of Smithville, 24 year military veteran, 21 years of service as your constable, and a member of numerous local nonprofit military and civic organizations that support our community.

The county is growing, and I have met the increasing workload with enthusiasm and a work ethic that ensures keeping up with an increasing demand for service. I plan to meet future demands with the least possible fiscal impact.

I like the job and I will continue to provide prompt professional service to all while treating everyone equally with respect and dignity to keep our communities safe.

### Mark Meuth Precinct 3 Commissioner

For the next four-year term, I plan on continuing to listen to my constituents on their concerns with the roads, bridges, budgets, and any other concerns they may have in county government.

The past three years I have accomplished paving and/or rehabilitating 27.5 miles of roadways, collected approximately \$483,000 from FEMA for repairing roads, culverts, and bridges caused by the 2015, 2016, and 2017 floods, and assisted in passing the last three county budgets.



I feel very honored and blessed for running unopposed in the 2020 election.

## Meet our new elections administrator

### Kristin Miles

*By Dayna Beck*



In September 2019 the Bastrop County Elections Department went through a transition—a smooth one—when Kristin Miles, who was the office’s second in command, was appointed to the position of elections administrator by the county’s Election Committee. Kristin has lived in Bastrop County for all of her 30 years and has worked with the county’s Elections Department for 10 of those years. She resides in Smithville with her husband and two sons.

When asked why she chose election duties as a career, Kristin said she stumbled on it by accident. Initially, she had attended college to become an accountant. But, after accepting a job with the county’s Elections Department in 2009, she admits she has come to love and enjoy serving, educating, and sharing valuable information with the voters of Bastrop County.

I’ve known Kristin for a little over three years and see her as a very honest, dedicated, hard-working, and motivated individual. She considers her ability to meet the challenges of deadlines and her desire to continue to create new processes, intended to ultimately improve efficiency in the elections office, as some of her best assets.

When asked what she feels has been her greatest achievement so far, Kristin said becoming a mother was both “one of the most difficult but also the most rewarding” parts of her life.

Kristin hopes that she can continue to make a difference in Bastrop County by serving its current and future voters for many years to come.

If you have questions about anything elections or voter related, the Elections Department, located in the courthouse annex at 804 Pecan Street in Bastrop, is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can reach the office by calling 512-581-7160 during these hours or by emailing [elections@co.bastrop.tx.us](mailto:elections@co.bastrop.tx.us) or [kristin.miles@co.bastrop.tx.us](mailto:kristin.miles@co.bastrop.tx.us).

## 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 [aspenrox@gmail.com](mailto:aspenrox@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 [aspenrox@gmail.com](mailto:aspenrox@gmail.com)

### BCDP LEADERSHIP ROLE

**Precinct Chair • Volunteer Coordinator**

Contact Steve Chamberlain [bcdp16@gmail.com](mailto:bcdp16@gmail.com)

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

Contact Steve Chamberlain [bcdp16@gmail.com](mailto:bcdp16@gmail.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 [aspenrox@gmail.com](mailto:aspenrox@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/](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/)

[bastrop-county-democratic-party-1](https://bastrop-county-democratic-party-1)

### KEEP IN TOUCH VIA THE BCDP NEWSLETTER

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

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