

BCDP NEWSLETTER

BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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STAR TRIBUNE
S&K



UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 1

Block walking in Bastrop
Meet at BCDP office at 11 a.m.

Feb. 2

Coffee with candidate Madi Eden. **More info on p. 7**

Feb. 8

BCDP cleanup for Keep Bastrop County Beautiful
Meet at BCDP office at 9 a.m.

Feb. 8

Main Street Art Event
Sidewalk chalk art contest.
Judging 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **More info on p. 7**

Feb. 12

BCDP women's luncheon
Cedar's Mediterranean
904 College St., Bastrop, 1 p.m.

Feb. 13

BCDP county executive committee meeting
Open to public, Kerr Community Center,
1308 Walnut, Bastrop
Snacks at 6:30, meeting at 7 p.m.

Feb. 18

First day of early voting for March primary.
More on p. 4

Feb. 20

Candidate meet & greet
McDade Historical Society. **More info on p. 7**

Feb. 23

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

Feb. 27

Bastrop County Stonewall Democrats meeting
Why Knot Party House
353 Watersedge Terrace Dr., Elgin, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 28

Last day of early voting for March primary

Message from the chair

Time to stand up, America

By Steve Chamberlain

I know you have heard many voices say "I don't discuss politics because it's too controversial and I don't want to offend anyone. It doesn't affect me anyway." I'd like to state that from another perspective: "I'm going to crawl under a rock and let others dictate my life."

Politics affects everyone and everything you do. The only ones who will be offended are those who want to dictate how you live your life.

The Democratic Party of today must stand up to the constant barrage of elephant dung that the Republicans sling on us every chance they get. We will not stand idly by while Russia takes control of our country. Yes Russia! If you take a closer look at the inspiration behind the radical movement to back the Republican Party in America, you will find the Russian playbook as portrayed on their own website.

It is time that we stand strong and, more important than ever, united behind the foundation laid out by our forefathers. We not only have the right to stand up; we have a duty. It's called the VOTE. Following the 2020 census, we expect that Bastrop County will top 100,000 residents. Based on 2017 population figures, only 57 percent of Bastrop County residents are registered to vote. Of those registered, only 16.07 percent expended the effort to actually get out and vote in the last election. And we wonder how we ended up with Donald Trump in the Oval Office.

Stand up, America. Are you registered to vote? If not, contact me or any designated volunteer deputy registrar in the Democratic Party. Are your neighbors and friends registered? Ask them. If they are not, get them registered. Become a deputy voter registrar. The Bastrop County Elections Department holds regular trainings.

Stand up, America. You hold the key to a better future, but you have to use it. VOTE!



Take advantage of early voting

Early voting is a process by which voters in a public election can vote prior to the scheduled election day. The goals of early voting are to increase voter participation and relieve congestion at polling stations on election day. Although Election Day for the 2020 primary is officially Tuesday, March 3, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to vote early starting Tuesday, Feb. 18. Here are several reasons you should take advantage of this option:

- Someone could come down with the flu and need your care. And chicken soup.
- You could get to the polling place on election day at the last minute and find out it's not your polling place any more.
- Flat tires, fender-benders, misplaced car keys, late bus, dead batteries—the transportation gremlins are real.
- Bad weather and potential power outages could turn getting to your polling place a nightmare.



Once you vote early, the phone calls stop and no more candidates and volunteers knock on your door.

The election is just too important to leave any chance that you might not be able to vote.

Early voting locations and times are on the next page. You may vote early at any of the four locations regardless of your voting precinct.

Bastrop County, Texas
ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Bastrop County Elections
804 PECAN STREET
BASTROP, TX 78602

www.bastropvotes.org
512.581.7160
elections@co.bastrop.tx.us

2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

-EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS, DATES AND TIMES-

MAIN EARLY VOTING LOCATION

- ❖ Bastrop County Courthouse Annex, 804 Pecan St., Lower Level, Conference Room, Bastrop

FEBRUARY 18, 2020 - FEBRUARY 28, 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	17 No Voting County Holiday	18 7am – 7pm	19 8am – 5pm	20 8am – 5pm	21 8am – 5pm	22 8am – 5pm
	24 7am – 7pm	25 7am – 7pm	26 7am – 7pm	27 7am – 7pm	28 7am – 7pm	
		3 Election Day 7am – 7pm Vote at your Precinct Polling Location.				

BRANCH EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

- ❖ Smithville City Hall, 317 Main St., Smithville
- ❖ Cedar Creek United Methodist Church, 5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek
- ❖ Elgin Public Library-Civic Center, 404 N. Main St., Elgin

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	24 8am – 5pm	25 8am – 5pm	26 8am – 5pm	27 7am – 7pm	28 7am – 7pm	
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2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

-ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS-

7am - 7 pm

TUESDAY, March 3, 2020

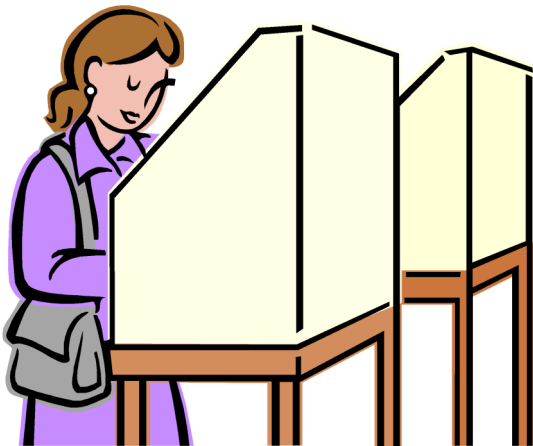
PLEASE NOTE THAT ON ELECTION DAY A VOTER MUST VOTE AT THE POLLING LOCATION ASSIGNED TO THEIR VOTING PRECINCT.

- 1001 Bastrop Fire Department Station 2 (Tahitian), 120 Corporate Dr., Bastrop ***NEW LOCATION***
- 1002 First Baptist Church, 1201 Water St., Bastrop
- 1003 River Valley Christian Fellowship, 1224 Hwy 71 W., Bastrop ***NEW LOCATION***
- 1004 Bastrop County Pct. 1 Road Barn, 601 Cool Water Dr., Bastrop
- 1022 Bastrop Church of Christ, 287 Hwy 20, Bastrop ***NEW LOCATION***
- 2005 Smithville City Hall, 317 Main St., Smithville
- 2006 Lake Thunderbird Community Center, 104 Thunderbird Dr., Smithville
- 2007 Rosanky Community Center, 135 Main St., Rosanky
- 2008 Heart of the Pines VFD, 109 Green Acres Loop, Smithville
- 2009 Calvary Baptist Church, 3001 Loop 150 E., Bastrop
- 2010 Paige Community Center, 107 S. Main St. (off Hwy 290), Paige
- 2011 Bastrop Fire Department Station #3 (Circle D), 926 FM 1441, Bastrop
- 3012 Hills Prairie Baptist Church, 1338 Hwy 304, Bastrop
- 3013 Red Rock Community Center, 114 Red Rock Rd., Red Rock
- 3014 Bastrop County ESD #1 Station 5, 1525 FM 812, Cedar Creek ***NEW LOCATION***
- 3015 Cedar Creek United Methodist Church, 5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek
- 3016 Wyldwood Baptist Church, 398 Union Chapel Rd., Cedar Creek
- 4017 Elgin Public Library-Civic Center, 404 N. Main St., Elgin
- 4018 Lost Pines Cowboy Church, 334 Roemer Rd., Elgin ***NEW LOCATION***
- 4019 Family Worship Center, 2425 FM 1704, Elgin
- 4020 New Life Baptist Fellowship, 175 Hwy 95 S., Elgin
- 4021 Faith Lutheran Church, 230 Waco St., McDade

Primary ballots contain long list of Democratic candidates

Bastrop County Democrats will face a long list of candidates for federal, state, and county offices when they go to the polls in the March 3 Democratic primary.

At the federal level, there are 17 Democratic candidates for president and 12 for the U.S. Senate on the ballot. At the state level, Democratic candidates are seeking election to the Texas Railroad Commission; Texas Supreme Court; Court of Criminal Appeals; State Board of Education; state representative; 3rd Court of Appeals; and state district judge. For Bastrop County elected positions, Democratic candidates are on the ballot for sheriff, Precinct 3 and 4 county commissioners, and Precinct 2 constable.



Candidates for a number of offices face no opposition in the Democratic primary. These include Christopher Duggan, district judge 423rd Judicial District; Madeline Eden, state representative District 17; Mike Renck, Bastrop County sheriff; Mark Meuth, Bastrop County commissioner, Precinct 3; Cheryl Renee Reese, Bastrop County commissioner, Precinct 4; August "Gus" Meduna, Bastrop County constable, Precinct 2; and Bastrop Democratic Party Chair Steve

Chamberlain. In addition, Judge Duggan, Meuth, and Meduna face no Republican opposition in the Nov. 3 general election.

You can view sample ballots for each Bastrop County precinct here: <https://www.bastropvotes.org/election-information-2/sample-ballots/>. Click on your precinct. Not all ballots are the same. While all of them contain the same presidential and U.S. Senate candidates, your candidate choices for some offices depend on where you live in the county.

The Democratic primary ballots for president include 12 major candidates; four who have dropped out but whose names remain on the ballot; and two relatively unknown perennial candidates. Most of the 12 U.S. Senate candidates are not widely known. There also are contested Democratic primary races for U.S. House districts 10, 17, and 27, all of which cover parts of Bastrop County.

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Meanwhile, time is running out for local Democrats to do their due diligence to pick their favorite candidates. The candidate list is too long to be covered here, but there are several good information sources online. One source to learn more about the Democratic presidential contenders is https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_Texas_Democratic_primary. You can learn more about Democratic contenders for other offices on these sites: https://ballotpedia.org/Democratic_Party_primaries_in_Texas,_2020 and https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_elections,_2020.

Also, Democrats statewide will have 11 propositions on their primary ballots. The propositions cover such issues as healthcare, education, immigrant rights, and fair taxation.

Upcoming events: More info

Feb. 2—Coffee with candidate Madi Eden, hosted by Precinct Chair Michele Rutherford. Madi will talk about her campaign and her work, and show some of the tools Civitech has built to make it easier for Democrats to win elections, 704 Main Street, Smithville, 9 a.m.



Feb. 8—BCDP has signed up to participate in a sidewalk chalk art contest. Judging is between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Artistic Dems are encouraged to contact Caroline Sinclair (momcat667@att.net) for details.

Feb. 20—A candidate meet and greet hosted by the McDade Historical Society will be held Thursday, Feb. 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. The address is 557 Old Hwy 20 in McDade. The format will be about five minutes for each candidate to greet the public. Then after the introductions, the candidates will take questions. Time allowed will vary depending on candidate participation. Contact information for the McDade Historical Society is Aaron Simpson 512-273-5151.

Every Tuesday—Coffee and conversation in the BCDP office, 1009 Main Street, Bastrop, 9 a.m.



Plan to attend BCDP convention on March 21

Mark your calendars, Bastrop County Democrats. On Saturday, March 21, we will gather in Smithville for our 2020 county convention. Attendees will sit together with neighbors from their precincts, allowing them to meet their fellow Democrats.

All across Texas, Democrats will gather together to elect delegates to the Texas Democratic Party convention and to vote on resolutions, which will determine the party's priorities for 2020. Folks who attend the Texas convention in San Antonio in June will represent their precinct of Bastrop County, and will help choose delegates to attend the National Democratic Party convention, which will be in Milwaukee in July.



Bastrop County Democrats are hard at work planning our county convention. If you would like to join the convention planning committee, please email Aimee Cook at pc2007@bastropdemocrats.org and she will give you more information about our planning meeting dates, and how you may be able to help. At the convention, we will host a silent auction fundraiser for the Anne Beck Scholarship Fund. So if you have anything that can be donated to be bid upon, please contact Shanda Hernandez at joshanda_bastrop@yahoo.com.

Details about the county convention are as follows:

- Date: March 21, 2020
- Time: Sign-in begins at 9:00 a.m. The gavel will be at 10:00 a.m.
- Location: Smithville Recreation Center, 106 Gazley St., Smithville, TX 78957
- Resolution submission dates:
 - Round 1: Feb. 29, 2020
 - Round 2: March 7, 2020

Resolutions will be accepted until 11:00 a.m. on convention day, but we would prefer them to be submitted earlier so they can be checked for formatting by the Resolutions Committee. For more information about resolutions, please contact the chair of the Resolutions Committee, Cheryl Reese, at cheryl.reese@yahoo.com.

To attend the Bastrop County Democratic convention, you must be 18 years or older (on or before Nov. 3) and vote in the Democratic primary election. Alternatively, at the convention you may sign an oath of affiliation with the Democratic Party, attesting that you have not voted in another party's primary or convention, nor supported a candidate of another party. To learn more about the convention process and to sign up for the convention, please go to this site: <https://www.texasdemocrats.org/action/become-a-2020-convention-delegate/>

Keep an eye on your inbox for more details about the event as the date approaches.

Thank Obama, not Trump, for the economy

By Mark Timerman

A couple of weeks ago media accounts reported that President Trump's popularity was rising. Most people who thought so said it is the Trump economy they liked the most, though most people are not benefitting from his policies.

Sure, the economy is doing well, but let's look at some facts. The economy was doing great when Trump took office, thanks to President Obama. Obama came into office in 2009 as the economy was in meltdown, thanks to Republican policies under President Bush. The unemployment rate was at 7.8 percent when Obama took office and climbed to 10 percent before the economy turned around.

The Obama administration then set a record for most consecutive months of job growth at 75 months. So when Trump took office the economy was doing great. To think that Trump alone saved the economy is ridiculous, and to assume that he alone could keep that growth going is absurd too.

After the worst of the "great recession," experts put the blame for it on the poor economic policies of the Bush administration, including tax cuts for the rich, increased spending, and deregulating the stock market. Sound familiar?

Trump has given the richest Americans huge tax cuts, increased spending, and deregulated Wall Street again. We now have huge budget deficits, putting the national debt over \$23 trillion. Our national debt is now greater than gross domestic product. The interest alone amounted to almost \$600 billion in fiscal year 2019, which accounts for almost 9 percent of the budget. The annual budget deficit is expected to rise another \$1 trillion in 2020.

We also need to re-think how we gauge the economy. The stock market is no longer a realistic gauge of how well the economy is doing. Most people do not have money in the stock market, mostly because they can't afford it. Wages still remain stagnant for most of Americans while the upper 5 percent have had their bank accounts grow at record rates.

We are now repeating the failed mistakes of the Bush administration. Increased spending, decreased revenue, and deregulating Wall Street will surely lead to another economic collapse. Most experts predict it will be worse than the one Obama inherited. But don't worry, the Democrats will fix it again just like we have always done historically.

Madeline Eden kicks off her campaign for State House District 17

On January 25, our own Madi Eden formally announced her candidacy among family and friends at Casa Chapala in Bastrop. Madi is running to represent Bastrop, Caldwell, Gonzales, Karnes and Lee counties in the Texas House. Unopposed in the primary election, she will face Republican incumbent John Cyrier next November.



Other candidates at the event were Cheryl Reese for Precinct 4 county commissioner, Mike Renck for Bastrop County sheriff, and Charlie Jackson for US House District 27.



Cheryl Reese and grandson address the audience.

Mike Renck assures attendees of his commitment to fairness for all if elected sheriff.



Charlie Jackson, candidate for U.S. representative, Texas District 27, meets Vic and Judy Vreeland.

(Continued from page 10)



Dock Jackson served as master of ceremonies that included special guest and primary director of the Texas Democratic Party Glen Maxey.



Campaign manager Aimee Cook and candidate Madi Eden did a terrific job of organizing the event that was attended by over 100 enthusiastic supporters, including Caroline Sinclair (in back).

Aimee Cook urges attendees to organize block walking and other events in support of Madi's candidacy. Several people volunteered, including Michele Rutherford, James Denny, Robin Rieck, and Jeremy Smith, among others.



In addition to excellent speakers, the crowd was treated to a nacho bar and soft drinks.

Anne Beck Memorial Scholarship honors one of our own

The Bastrop County Democratic Party is inviting all high school seniors who are residents of Bastrop County and who will graduate with the class of 2020 the opportunity to apply for the Anne Beck Memorial Scholarship. After the passing of our beloved Anne Beck in October, and at the suggestion from BCDP member Cindy Geisman, BCDP executive committee and the scholarship chair decided to rename the Molly Ivins Civic Scholarship to the Anne Beck Memorial Scholarship.



The scholarship can be used at any accredited technical school, college, or university. The scholarships are sponsored by local Democrats to promote civic awareness and leadership. Scholarship applications will be available to students by Jan. 25. Students can check with their school counselors for the application, or they can download it from our website on this page: <https://bastropdemocrats.org/2020-anne-beck-memorial-scholarship/>

Applications are due March 28. In 2019, BCDP awarded four \$500 scholarships.

The scholarship committee will have the following opportunities for our membership to help us raise our goal of \$6,000 (one \$1,000 scholarship each for a Bastrop, Cedar Creek, Colorado River Collegiate Academy, Smithville, McDade, and Elgin student).

- You can donate to the Bastrop County Democratic Party scholarship fund via ActBlue: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/annebeckscholarship>. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.
- You can donate items for the silent auction at the Bastrop County Democratic Party convention March 21, 2020. You can drop off items at the BCDP office.

If you are interested in joining the scholarship committee, please contact Shanda Hernandez at joshanda_bastrop@yahoo.com or 512-573-9149.

BCDP represents at 2020 Women's March in Austin

Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020—Joining more than 52,000 others at the Texas Capitol, a delegation from the Bastrop County Democratic Party brought enthusiasm and energy to the Women's March ATX—Rally at the Capitol.



Sign-making party at Tough Cookie with (back row) Jan Kuchel, Dayna Beck, Amy Fariss, Madi Eden, Robin Rieck; (front row) Steve Chamberlain, Karen Farrier, Aimee Cook, Deena Eden, Michele Rutherford)

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Bastrop County Democratic Women gathered to rally with Madi



BCDP Chair Steve Chamberlain and wife Sharon show their support for Madi Eden.

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Longtime BCDP activists Joni Ashbrook and Barbara Bogart share their feelings at the rally.

Michele Rutherford (right) shares her opinion with a suffragette.



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 or
Robin Rieck rriek@austin.rr.com
- **Hogeye Huddle**
Contact Michelle Ryan hogeyehuddle@gmail.com
- **Stonewall Democrats of Bastrop County**
Contact Madi Eden mk@aifx.net or
Dayna Beck aspenrox@gmail.com

LIVELY DISCUSSION GROUPS

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

VOTER REGISTRATION

Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Contact Dayna Beck aspenrox@gmail.com

BCDP LEADERSHIP ROLE

Precinct Chair • Volunteer Coordinator

Contact Steve Chamberlain bcdp16@gmail.com

CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE AT THE LOCAL OR COUNTY LEVEL

Contact Steve Chamberlain 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

SUPPORT STAFF ROLE

Volunteer in the BCDP Office

Contact Dayna Beck aspenrox@gmail.com

VOTER OUTREACH

Block Walking • Canvassing

Contact James Denny jedenny@comcast.net

CONTRIBUTE TO THE BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

secure.actblue.com/donate/

bastrop-county-democratic-party-1

KEEP IN TOUCH VIA THE BCDP NEWSLETTER

Visit 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 to find out your district and precinct. Additional contact information can also be found at this link.

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512-807-6233

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