

BCDP NEWSLETTER

BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

We've gone virtual.

To keep everyone safe as we wait out the pandemic, at this time we have canceled all physical meetings and are rolling out some options for meeting without physical contact. Please watch our website and mailings for upcoming virtual events.

See page 3 for more details on virtual events planned for April.

REAL SUPERHEROES

Gary Varvel
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Message from the chair

We shall survive

By Steve Chamberlain

Greetings, Democrats. I trust this message along with the newsletter finds you and your extended family safe and healthy. The past few weeks have seen the world in which we live turned upside down and thrown into chaos. We must rally together and follow the lead where calmer heads prevail.

I want to thank you for working with our elected officials and following the rule of social distancing. I understand that it is difficult to remain home isolated from friends and activities. However, if we adhere to the rules it will help flatten the curve and reduce the spread of the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

While we continue to worry about public health, we are also concerned about the health of our government. I have been in frequent contact with the Bastrop Elections Administrator as well as Texas Democratic Party leaders.

First, as you may have heard, we held a pro-forma Bastrop County Democratic Party convention on Saturday, March 21. Aimee Cook, vice chair, and I met at the Smithville Rec Center at 10 a.m. and opened the convention. We passed two motions to handle the delegate list and the resolutions, then adjourned. This satisfied the legal requirement and allowed the local delegates and resolutions to move on to the state convention.

As you also may know, there are several upcoming city and runoff elections as well as a special election to replace Senator Kirk Watson in state Senate District 14. Due to all the regulations and turmoil brought about by the coronavirus outbreak, the runoff and special election were pushed to July 14 by Gov. Abbott. Because this date is the same time as the Democratic National Convention, the TDP has filed a lawsuit to allow the coronavirus to be a valid need for mail ballots and keep the election in May.

We will be working to stand up for your rights and to keep you informed. So stay safe and stay tuned to the Bastrop County Democratic Party for the latest developments.



UPDATED
March 20, 2020
Subject to change

COVID-19 HOTLINES

BASTROP COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
COVID-19 INFORMATION HOTLINE

512-303-4300

OPEN: MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8am - 8pm
SATURDAY 8am-12pm SUNDAY 9am-1pm

ASCENSION
COVID-19 MEDICAL HOTLINE

833-978-0649

Virtual events in April

April 3, 10, 17, and 24

Madeline Eden, Democratic candidate for Texas House District 17, has begun hosting weekly video town halls on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Her goal is to help unite the community



in this challenging time by helping provide useful information, resources, and calls to action. Each week, she will invite guests to join and answer questions. Last week she was joined by epidemiologist Jeremy Smith, and civil rights attorney and candidate for Texas House District 10, Mike Siegel. To join these video town halls, sign up here:

<https://www.mobilize.us/dashboard/edenfortexas/event/263897/>

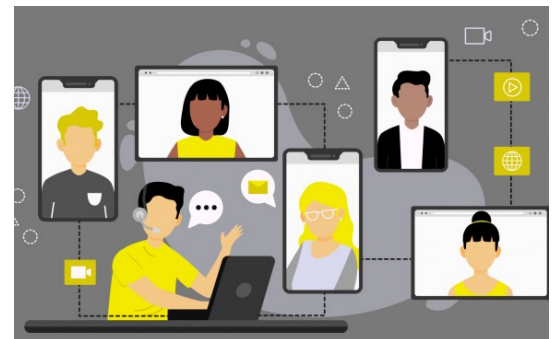
These town halls will also be live-streamed to Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/edenfortexas/>

April 9: Bastrop County Democratic Party monthly meeting to be held via video livestream at 6:45 p.m. We will discuss the postponed elections, county and state convention updates, county services that are available. To join, follow this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/292157787>

OR join by phoning in to 1-346-248-7799, with the meeting ID 292 157 787.



The importance of being counted

By now most Bastrop County households have received letters from the U.S. Census Bureau inviting residents to respond to the 2020 Census. Most of us can complete this task on line, as the letter explains. Your response is required by law. Those who don't respond will receive follow-up letters and, ultimately, a visit from a Census Bureau interviewer. These in-person visits, originally scheduled to begin April 1, have been postponed for 2 weeks (until April 15) based on guidance from federal, state, and local health authorities.

Why, you might wonder, is this so important? The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community,

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2020**

no matter the size, no matter the location. Census data help communities respond to natural disasters and secure funding for hospitals and fire departments. Census results help determine how money is allocated for the Head Start program and for

grants that support teachers and special education. The list goes on, including programs to support rural areas, to restore wildlife, to prevent child abuse, to prepare for wildfires, and to provide housing assistance for older adults.

The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—who we are, where we live, and so much more. The results of this once-a-decade count determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. They are also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use 2020 Census data to make critical decisions. The results will show where communities need new schools, new clinics, new roads, and more services for families, older adults, and children.

The results will also inform how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, block grants for community mental health services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP.

Learn more at the [2020 Census website](https://2020census.gov), <https://2020census.gov>.

Bastrop County city and school May 2 elections postponed until Nov. 3

That's months away, but the list of candidates is locked in. Here's who you'll see on the ballot in November.

Bastrop ISD

- Trustee Place 3: Billy Moore
- Trustee Place 4
Gwendolyn Robinson
Molly McClure

Bastrop County WCID#2

- Board of Directors, Place 4
Ron Whipple
Karen Pinard
- Board of Directors, Place 5:
Scott Ferguson

Smithville ISD

- Trustee, Place 1
Josiah Cook
Chris Hinnant
- Trustee, Place 2
Grant Gutierrez

City of Smithville

- Mayor
Scott A. Saunders, Jr.
- Councilmember Place 4
Joanna Morgan
- Councilmember Place 5
Janice Elaine Bruno
Daniel J. Hrna

Bastrop County MUD#1

- Bastrop County MUD No. 1 Directors
Steve Adamcik
Will Tullis
Terri Mealy

City of Elgin

- Mayor At-Large
Ron Ramirez
Chris Cannon
- City Councilmember, Ward 1
Jessica A. Bega
Arthur Gibson III
- City Councilmember, Ward 2
Susana Arreaga
- City Councilmember, Ward 4
Sue Prinz Brashar

Bastrop-Travis Counties ESD#1

- Commissioners
Tommy McCullough
Carl Newstrom
Jodie Lopez
Larry Foehner

At this writing, the Bastrop ISD bond election has also been postponed until Nov. 3. Information about the proposed bonds can be found here: <https://www.bisdtx.org/bond2020>

Special election to replace Texas Senator Kirk Watson scheduled for July 14

Governor Greg Abbott has issued a proclamation setting the special election for Texas State Senate District 14 on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. The special election will fill the seat being vacated by Senator Kirk Watson. Candidates who wish to have their names placed on the special election ballot for Texas State Senate District 14 must file their applications with the Secretary of State beginning Wednesday, April 29, 2020, with a deadline no later than 5:00PM on Monday, May 13, 2020. Early voting will begin on Monday, June 29, 2020.

Why We Are Voting BLUE No Matter Who



When I was old enough to understand the political banter in my household, I realized my mother was a Democrat and my father was a Republican (or more likely Libertarian since he wanted the IRS abolished.) However, both acknowledged racial inequality and civil rights abuses, and they helped those who were less fortunate when possible. I've always been a Democrat who supports American liberalism and progressivism. I will vote blue no matter who.

Please read my haiku:

Fighting for our rights
I'll vote blue no matter who
I hope you will too.

Deena Eden

I'm not the enemy of the people. I'm a proud, retired journalist. It's an honorable profession where men and women, often working for paltry pay, take on powerful politicians and corporations daily to uncover the truth. People like Donald Trump cannot handle the truth because it often exposes their corruption and incompetence. So they try to deflect by calling journalists the enemy. Unfortunately, many folks believe



Trump's lies. In reality, Trump is the enemy and a danger to the people. That's why I'm going to vote blue no matter who.

Bill McCann

I'm voting blue no matter who because our nation's senior citizens deserve to retire with security and dignity. We owe the very existence of our Social Security and Medicare programs to Democratic elected officials who enacted them, and we've witnessed decades of Republican attempts to undermine them. My husband and I have worked hard throughout our careers for the dream of retirement, and we will depend on these programs as a large part of our future security. We must protect these programs from the threat of Republican harm.



Robin Rieck

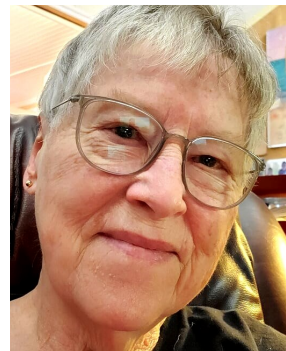
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To me, the most important issue is the environment, followed by healthcare for all. We are the only country that doesn't recognize that humans cause global warming. The planet's temperatures are rising every year; CO₂ levels have been rising since the start of the industrial revolution; and we have cut the world's forests by more than half. If Trump is president four more years, we may lose all opportunities to save the planet. Clean drinking water and air are a right. That's why I vote blue no matter who!



Mark Timerman



I am voting blue no matter who because any Democrat will do more to fix our broken healthcare system than any Republican ever would. We need Dems all the way down the national ticket—the

White House, the Senate, and the House—to change this system and make it work for all Americans. I am confident that progressive ideas will play out no matter who our candidates are. It makes no sense to pout if your candidate doesn't make the ticket. We absolutely must prevail in November—together!

Chris Born-Long



Joe Biden was not among my top five choices for the Democratic nomination. However, I will happily support him and the lucky lady who lands a spot on the ticket. As a retired educator, I know we need to get rid of Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos almost as much as we need to trounce Trump. Despite over one million letters and 80,000 phone calls from National Education Association supporters, the Republican Senate voted to confirm her, with VP Mike Pence casting the deciding vote. They also need to go.

Mary Liz Singleton

Updated procedures for VDR Training

Bastrop County Elections Department will no longer be holding in-person volunteer deputy registrar (VDR) training. All training will be completed on line, and the applicant will be required to take an examination to become a VDR. Volunteer deputy registrars are entrusted with the responsibility of officially registering voters in the State of Texas. They are appointed by county voter registrars and charged with helping increase voter registration in the state. Please visit the Bastrop County Elections Department to learn more about this training:

<https://www.bastropvotes.org/voter-information-2/volunteer-deputy-registrars/>

May 26 primary runoff elections postponed

The primary runoff has been moved to July 14, 2020. Early voting will be Monday, July 6, through Friday, July 10.

Runoff candidates:

Office Name	Candidate Name	Email
U. S. SENATOR	MARY "MJ" HEGAR	INFO@MJFORTEXAS.COM
U. S. SENATOR	ROYCE WEST	ROYCE.W@WESTLLP.COM
U. S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 10	PRITESH GANDHI	PRITESH@GAHDHIFORTEXAS.COM
U. S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 10	MIKE SIEGEL	BRIANA@SIEGELFORTEXAS.ORG
U. S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 17	DAVID ANTHONY JARAMILLO	JARAMILLOFORCONGRESS@GMAIL.COM
U. S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 17	RICK KENNEDY	IN-FO@RICKKENNEDYFORCONGRESS.COM
RAILROAD COMMISSIONER	ROBERTO R. "BETO" ALONZO	ALONZOPC2003@YAHOO.COM
RAILROAD COMMISSIONER	CHRYSTA CASTAÑEDA	INFO@CHRYSTAFORTEXAS.COM

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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