



# BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## BCDP July Meeting

Our July community meeting featured 423rd District Court Judge Chris Duggan and Former Bastrop County Court Judge Ronnie McDonald sharing information on running for office. Highlights of the Q & A included the following:

**Q: What did you find difficult about running for office?**

*A: It was hard on the family. Trying to avoid the politics and just connect with people*

**Q: What did you find easy?**

*A: Just being myself and working hard to attend every event.*

**Q: Did it take a lot of money?**

*A: Yes. The filing fee for District Judge is \$1,500; however, filing fees can vary from \$375 for Justice of the Peace to \$5,000 for U.S. Senator. A countywide campaign can cost \$50,000.*



**Q: How can we support candidates?**

*A: It starts with evaluating your strengths and determining how you can contribute. A few examples provided included block walking, advertising your candidate by putting up yard signs, wearing campaign buttons, and inviting the candidate to a meet and greet with like-minded friends in the community. Learn about your candidate's position on the issues and be prepared to present a clear, brief "commercial" about his/her strengths and how their election will benefit the city, county, state or country.*

## *Message from the Chair: Cheryl Reese*

### *What do you do now?*

For many of us the November 2016 presidential election didn't go the way we wanted. Not even close. Some were disappointed by the fall-out within the Democratic Party. Some were unhappy because we couldn't agree on every promise that should be made. Some were downright confused or disgusted by the rhetoric and lies that were being told.

### *Whichever one you were, you were not alone.*

Now you are walking around with your head down, still confused or mad as hell, or both. You are angry because you didn't think Trump would win. You thought even if we don't come together as a party Trump won't win.

Some are still thinking my candidate didn't win the party support (even if he was cheated). You decided to withdraw from the whole thing and not vote for either of them. Just go Green.

For the first time in a long time you decided to stand for your principles and now look what it got us. Trump. You are upset because you couldn't reconcile with the fact that you couldn't have the candidate you wanted.

### *What do you do now?*

I am glad you asked, since we are all in this together. You pick yourself up, dust yourself off, wipe away the tears and start again.

- Start holding the elected officials in your district accountable.

- Start re-connecting with the Democratic Party. We need you.
- Began to realize everything will not be perfect. You may not agree with everyone 100 percent or 70 percent or even 60 percent of the time.
- Realize true democracy means everyone has a voice and the voices will not always say the same exact thing. But respect the rights of others without degrading, discriminating or demoralizing them.
- Strategize and get good candidates ready for the next races.
- Exercise your rights. March when you are not heard and vote to be heard.

*Come together.  
That is what you do now.*

*The Bastrop County Democratic Party hosted a Democratic candidate meet and greet at West End Park in Smithville July 15th. Approximately 125 people came out to meet Democratic candidates on a hot Saturday night that even a downpour couldn't dissuade people from attending.*



Attendees were serenaded by local musicians **Cottletown** and enjoyed potluck dishes and BBQ provided by **Micklethwait Craft Meats** before hearing from several candidates. Representatives from **Indivisible** and **Represent US** were on hand to tell us of their efforts and the importance of civic engagement in our democratic process. The evening was truly a representation of grassroots politics in small town Texas.



**Jacqueline Hernandez, Kirk Watson, Shanda Hernandez**

Our own Texas State Senator for District 14, **Kirk Watson**, kicked off the event by presenting the Bastrop County Democratic Party with a check for \$2500 to help us further our work in the county. Senator Watson set the tone of the night as one of optimism and enthusiasm. The crowd then heard from the following candidates:



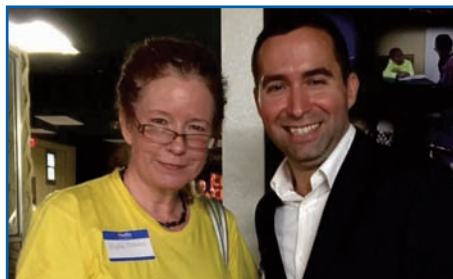
**Michelle Ryan, Michele Rutherford**

- **Michelle Ryan** for Texas House Representative, District 17, opposing John Cyrier. Michelle Ryan is a native Texan with roots in rural, small town Texas. The daughter of a law enforcement officer and public-school teacher, she learned the value of community service at an early age.



**Michele Rutherford, Tawana Cadien**

- **Tawana Cadien** for U.S. Congress, Texas District 10, opposing Michael McCaul. A Texas native, Tawana holds an Executive Master's degree in Public Administration from Texas Southern University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Prairie View A&M University.



**Erin O'Brien of Represent Us with former candidate for U.S. Rep. District 10 Ryan Stone.**



**Kim Olson**

- **Kim Olson** for Texas Agriculture Commissioner, opposing Sid Miller. A U.S. Air Force retired Colonel who served both her nation and the Texas Guard for over 28 years, Kim was one of the first women to command a flying squadron. She served in the Pentagon and deployed to several combat zones, including Iraq. Kim also served as Director of Human Resources for Dallas ISD, overseeing 22,000 employees and a billion dollar budget. Dedicated to the future of sustainable food production, Kim is a beekeeper, Texas Master Gardener, author, and grower. Her steadfast commitment to Texans was recognized with her induction into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.



**Indivisible Group**



**Jacqueline Hernandez, Shanda Hernandez, Cheryl Reese**

## AUGUST UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday, August 9**

**Bastrop County  
Democratic Ladies  
Monthly Luncheon**

1:00 p.m.

The Roadhouse in Paige

- **Wednesday, August 9**

**Volunteer Deputy  
Registrar Training**

10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Lower Level of the Bastrop  
Courthouse Annex,  
804 Pecan Street, Bastrop

- **Thursday, August 10**

**BCDP Monthly  
Community Meeting**

7:00 p.m.

Kerr Community Center  
Bastrop

- **Saturday, August 12**

**Bastrop ISD  
Back-to-School Bash**

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Bastrop Memorial Stadium,  
755 TX Hwy. 21  
Cedar Creek

- **Thursday, August 16**

**Uppity Women Caucus**

5:30 p.m.

Chinese Dragon  
1591 TX-71  
Cedar Creek

# BETO

FOR SENATE

**YOU'RE INVITED - "Meet & Greet"  
Congressman Beto O'Rourke**

**Wednesday, August 23 - 5:00pm - 6:30pm**

Sealand Seafood & Steaks Restaurant  
2359 Highway 71 West, La Grange, Texas

[www.betofortexas.com](http://www.betofortexas.com)



## **Fossil-Fuel Resolution Approved by the BCDP CEC**

The County Executive Board of the Bastrop County Democratic Party has approved a resolution urging the Texas Democratic Party to cease taking any money from companies in the fossil-fuel industry. This resolution was written in response to the 2016 state party convention that featured sponsorship by TXU, Luminant, Atmos Energy and CenterPoint Energy, all of which own natural gas or coal production, or distribute electric power created by those methods.

## **Open Letter to my Republican Friends and Family**

by Will Holcomb, Precinct 2005

This may surprise you, but I relate to a lot of the platform of the Republican Party. There are parts of it I strongly agree with. There are parts of the Democratic platform I disagree with. My wife and I ran a daycare for a long time and the government regulations were a nightmare, making an already difficult business more difficult. I think my taxes are too high and the government infringes on my freedom. We can sit down and complain about it over a drink. That drink would be a glass of clean water. You know, the clean water we have because of government regulations, paid for by our high taxes. Clean water, clean air, safe food, safe cars are all part of that system. In the 1960's and 70's, Lake Erie was a dying lake from human sewage, agricultural runoff and industrial waste. Due to government efforts, the lake didn't die and is recovering well. I think we can agree clean air, clean water, safe food, safe cars are desirable. I think we can also agree government agencies are often bureaucratic, slow and expensive.

But here's where the problem comes in. People like to take sides, form dialectics. We like to argue and disagree. We even teach debate in schools where students learn to take sides and argue their side. Personally, I love a lively discussion with people I disagree with. In Karen Armstrong's book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, she said something which really struck me. In my own words: If you aren't willing to listen to the person you're talking to, if you aren't willing to be wrong, if you aren't willing to change, stop the discussion. You have no reason to be in it. That idea changed how I listen and argue. If we don't approach it that way, we become slaves to cognitive dissonance. Confirmation bias becomes the way we search out information. Truth gets a beautiful wreath at its funeral.

Too many times we draw lines in the sand and solidify our beliefs. We divide the world into contrived dialectics and pick a side. We have pro-gun/anti-gun, pro-choice/pro-life, climate change believers and deniers. The list goes on. No matter what 'side' you're on, take a look at the other 'side.' Once we say we are something, we put on shaded glasses and fail to see "the other side". So, I agree with you that we are overtaxed. I understand why people feel abortion is wrong; we have second amendment rights; businesses are overburdened because of government regulation, and more. Those aren't insane views. Unfortunately, it is the hyper-partisanship we're in now which makes real issues divide into extremes with no chance of being resolved.

Most of the dialectics are over symptoms and don't deal with the disease. There was a school system which had a problem with kids being thrown off multi-story buildings. The officials got together and decided the solution was to only build one-story buildings. We have an education problem. We have a mental health problem. We have a health-care problem. We have a criminal justice problem. We have an income inequity problem. How do we address the causes?

Republican friends and family, I fail to listen to you like I should. But I also know you tune me out. Let's drop the pointless dialectics and find solutions.

### ***Editor's Note:***

*Will Holcomb is an author and playwright. For more information about him and what he is currently creating, or to respond to his Letter, please visit his website: <https://willholcombauthor.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:

### RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES

- **Bastrop County Indivisible for District 10**  
Contact Robert Kraft [robert@voicekraft.com](mailto:robert@voicekraft.com)
- **Indivisible TX-27 Bastrop**  
Contact Robin Rieck [rrieck@austin.rr.com](mailto:rrieck@austin.rr.com)
- **Progressive Revolution Bastrop County**  
Contact Chris Smith [cbsmith@myself.com](mailto:cbsmith@myself.com)
- **Hogeye Huddle**  
Contact Michelle Ryan [hogeyehuddle@gmail.com](mailto:hogeyehuddle@gmail.com)

### LIVELY DISCUSSION GROUPS

- **Bastrop County Democratic Ladies Monthly Luncheon**  
Contact Mary Liz Singleton [marylizsingleton@gmail.com](mailto:marylizsingleton@gmail.com)
- **Drinking Liberally**  
Contact Marsha Correia [marshac1017@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marshac1017@sbcglobal.net)
- **Uppity Women Monthly Caucus**  
Contact Carole Marmell [cmarmell@gmail.com](mailto:cmarmell@gmail.com)

### VOTER REGISTRATION

**Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar**  
Contact Mary Liz Singleton [marylizsingleton@gmail.com](mailto:marylizsingleton@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

- **Photographers** for meetings and events
- **Webmaster**
- **Writers** to contribute articles/ letters-to-the editor to local newspapers  
Contact Bill McCann [bmccann42@gmail.com](mailto:bmccann42@gmail.com)

### SUPPORT STAFF ROLE

**Volunteer in the BCDP Office**  
Contact Diana Kern [expectrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:expectrecovery@gmail.com)

### VOTER OUTREACH

- **Block Walking • Phone Banking**  
Contact your local Precinct Chair [www.bastropdemocrats.org/contact-us/](http://www.bastropdemocrats.org/contact-us/)

### CONTRIBUTE TO THE BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/bastrop-county-democratic-party-1>

### KEEP IN TOUCH VIA THE BCDP NEWSLETTER

visit [www.bastropdemocrats.org](http://www.bastropdemocrats.org)

## Who Represents Me? <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/mnuAddress.aspx>

| Zip Codes:   | U.S. Senators | U.S House Representative                                       | State Senator   | State Representative   |
|--|---------------|--|---|--|
| 78602  | Cornyn / Cruz | McCaul / Farenthold  | Watson  | Cyrier   |
| 78612  | Cornyn / Cruz | McCaul / Farenthold / Doggett                                  | Watson / Zaffirini  | Cyrier / Rodriguez   |
| 78957  | Cornyn / Cruz | McCaul / Farenthold  | Watson / Kolkhorst  | Schubert / Cyrier  |
| 78621  | Cornyn / Cruz | McCaul / Flores / Farenthold / Carter                          | Schwertner / Watson / Kolkhorst                                   | Cyrier / Wilson / Israel / Gonzales                            |
| <b>Carter, John</b> (Dist 31)<br>202-225-3864            |               | <b>Farenthold, Blake</b><br>(Dist 27)<br>202-225-7742          | <b>Kolkhorst, Lois W</b><br>(Dist 18)<br>512-463-0118             | <b>Schwertner, Charles</b> (Dist 5)<br>512-463-0105 Ext E1.806 |
| <b>Cornyn, John</b><br>512-469-6034                      |               | <b>Flores, Bill</b> (Dist 17)<br>202-225-6105                  | <b>McCaul, Michael T</b><br>(Dist 10)<br>202-225-2401             | <b>Watson, Kirk</b> (Dist 14)<br>512-463-0114 Ext E1.804       |
| <b>Cruz, Ted</b><br>512-916-5834                         |               | <b>Gonzales, Larry</b> (Dist 51)<br>512-463-0670<br>Ext E2.418 | <b>Rodriguez, Eddie</b><br>(Dist 51)<br>512-463-0674              | <b>Wilson, Terry</b> (Dist 20)<br>512-463-0309<br>Est E2.702   |
| <b>Cyrier, John</b> (Dist 17)<br>512-463-0682 Ext E2.314 |               | <b>Israel, Celia</b> (Dist 50)<br>512-463-0821<br>Ext E2.212   | <b>Schubert, Leighton</b><br>(Dist 13)<br>512-463-0600 Ext E1.512 | <b>Zaffirini, Judith</b> (Dist 21)<br>512-463-0121             |
| <b>Doggett, Lloyd</b> (Dist 35)<br>202-225-4865          |               |  |   |  |