



BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

A Monthly Publication Dedicated to Moving Bastrop County Forward

BASTROP COUNTY HERO



There are lots of kudos to hand out for heroes during and following the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey. Definitely one of those heroes was Scott Saunders, Jr., Mayor of Smithville, whose updates via social media were greatly appreciated by citizens as Smithville received 23.58 inches of rain from Friday through Monday. It was the hardest hit town in Bastrop County. Although Scott had not heard

from the Red Cross as of Tuesday morning, he did state that State Senator Kirk Watson and U.S. Representative Michael McCaul had reached out to him. Upon learning that President Trump would be visiting Austin last Tuesday, Mayor Saunders tweeted @realDonaldTrump, "Come to Smithville. It's only 30 minutes south of Austin. We need assistance. You said you would provide." However, we doubt he was holding his breath for a response.

Additionally, Mayor Saunders posted to the public, "If you would like to volunteer or make a tax deductible monetary donation (all stays local) please contact the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce. They have done a fantastic job getting the volunteers and donations

where they are needed most. Smithville is resilient and will bounce back, but the next couple weeks will be hard, and pass slowly. Please help your neighbors and pitch in where you can."

A typical citizen's response to Mayor Saunders' numerous updates stated, "You've done a great job standing by our community, keeping them updated and safe, along with checking on everybody! We're very lucky to have you as a representative of Smithville!!" We agree.

While other examples of heroism throughout Bastrop County abound, we are particularly proud of the resilience of Smithville residents who, led by their mayor, have done a remarkable job in the face of adversity.

— Message from the Chair: Cheryl Reese —

In 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered North America. One of his many Spanish expeditions seeking to colonize in North America and other parts of the world. Skipping forward to why the fight between the Colonial American and British occurred.

- The debt of the "Seven Year's War" and funds needed to keep British troops on American soil was passed on to the Colonial Americans.
- The lack of Parliamentary representation in the House of Commons.
- The Proclamation of 1763 by King George III prohibiting colonial expansion.
- The Sugar Act and the enactment of the Revenue Act.
- The passing of the Stamp Act.

To summarize, Colonial Americans did not agree with laws that were being passed.

If they could get away from these British laws, they could rule their own lives and determine their destiny. They could make their own decisions about religion and taxes. Freedom for all who

lived in the Colonies was their goal.

I find it interesting that we are in the same situation the Colonial Americans were in. There are laws being made that are not in America's best interest. We have fought for decades to have freedom for all. Yet laws continue to be made challenging these freedoms. Why are we still trying to keep certain Americans from voting almost 52 years after signing the Voting Rights Act? We are

still looking at laws that make it hard for minorities to vote. We are still fighting to get a minimum standard of living. We are fighting for quality health insurance. We are being prohibited from owning our own land because of property taxes that never end. In the end, immigration will be our undoing since growth happens with the sharing of ideas from each culture. When will we learn, or will history continue to repeat itself?



A hearty
**THANK
YOU**
to Senator
Kirk Watson
for donating
\$2,500 to the
Bastrop County
Democratic
Party



Results of August Survey

A link to a SurveyMonkey questionnaire was included in the email that accompanied our August newsletter. The question asked readers to select their top three issues of greatest concern to help the Bastrop County Democratic Party focus our efforts on your behalf. Survey results were as follows:

- **Healthcare Services**
- **Water Conservation/Supply**
- **Managing Growth/Property Taxes (tie)**

Regarding healthcare services, members of the Bastrop County Democratic Party joined with Progressives and Indivisibles to mount a successful campaign to thwart the Republicans' attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act that would have resulted in 2,430,600 Texans losing healthcare by 2026. Their efforts included daily calls to our members of Congress, as well as rallies and protests in Bastrop and Smithville. At our August meeting, the BCDP welcomed Ann Beeson, Executive Director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities, who shared a wrap-up of the 2017 Texas Regular Legislative Session, as well as activities of the Special Session. Ms. Beeson also provided copies of Our Vision for Texas that can be viewed here: https://forabettertexas.org/images/2015_COM_CPPP_VisionforTexas.pdf

What began as a plan to erect flags of the US and Texas in front of the BCDP office on Main Street has morphed into an effort to purchase flags, provide supplies for the office and add to the scholarship fund. We've found a great location and have a date, but we can't have a sale without things to sell so we're relying on you. This is your chance to clean out the closets, garage and shed. It's all for a good cause.

FLAG-RAISING YARD SALE

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 9am to 2pm

**This event has been cancelled.
Sorry for any inconvenience
this may have caused**

If you don't have donations for the yard sale, bake something or contribute handmade items to the arts and crafts table. Perhaps you could help by picking up, pricing or actually selling on the day of the sale.

For More Information Contact

*Part of the proceeds will go to the **BCDP Scholarship Fund***

DONATIONS

Dropoff

724 E Riverside Drive
Tahitian Village

Pickup

Please call
512-629-7825

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13

Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training

Courthouse Annex Building
804 Pecan St, Bastrop
10:00-11:00 a.m.

September 13

• Bastrop County Democratic Ladies Luncheon

Luigi's Italian Restaurant
103 N. Main St, Elgin
1:00 p.m.

September 14

BCDP Community Meeting

Kerr Community Center
1308 Walnut St, Bastrop
7:00 p.m.

September 18

Texas Commission for Environmental Quality Meeting

(TCEQ) Discussion of proposed Waste Transfer Station slated for Cedar Creek Area.
Cedar Creek High School
7:00 p.m.

September 23

Healthcare Forum

Fayette County Agricultural Building
255 Syoboda Ln,
La Grange

September 26

National Voter Registration Day

www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org

Beto O'Rourke Impresses at La Grange Meet and Greet



At least 20 Bastrop County Democrats joined a standing room only crowd of more than 150 people at a meet and greet for Beto O'Rourke in La Grange August 23. Beto, currently a third term U.S. Representative from El Paso, is running against Ted Cruz for U.S. Senator in 2018. The event was organized by Citizens for Common Sense and supported by Texas Rural Voices, the Fayette County Democratic Party and the Bastrop County Democratic Party.

Beto energized the enthusiastic crowd by sharing issues he is excited about, including opposing Trump's wall and rewriting our immigration laws. While traveling the state's rural counties, he has knocked on doors from the Panhandle to the Rio Grande Valley listening to voter concerns. Immigration reform is at the forefront for residents of Booker, Texas, where the salutatorian of Booker High School was recently deported. Henrietta, Texas, voters are anxious about the possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act. In La Grange, he heard concerns about the effect the green energy movement will have on area jobs in the coal processing industry.

When asked about gun control, Beto stated his belief in the Second Amendment but mentioned that he also supports universal background checks, pointing out dramatic decreases in gun violence where they are being implemented. Regarding Social Security, Beto pointed out that it is currently fully funded only through 2030. However, he supports a bipartisan approach such as the Social Security 2100 Act that stands to comprehensively strengthen benefits for current and future Social Security beneficiaries while keeping the program strong through the 21st Century.

Acknowledging the polls showing that Congress is currently less popular than President Trump, Congressman O'Rourke stated, "D.C. is focusing on the next election rather than the next century," particularly regarding climate change.

In his senate campaign, Beto has not received or requested funds from the Democratic National Committee (DNC,) and he mentioned that he is accepting no PAC money. Here is how you can help support Beto's run against Ted Cruz:

- Text "Beto" to 90975 to join Team Beto.
- Circulate a petition in your neighborhood to get Beto on the ballot.
- Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar and register people to vote.
- Go to BetoForTexas.com and buy a Beto t-shirt. Make a small donation to his campaign and become a member of the team while you're there.
- Follow the campaign on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Attend one of his events and share photos on social media, along with your thoughts about why electing Beto O'Rourke is so important.
- Reach out to your Texas family, friends and neighbors to talk to them about Beto.

VDR Update

There are currently 79 Volunteer Deputy Registrars in Bastrop County. At least 44 of them are Democrats. If you are interested in becoming certified as a VDR to help register voters, the next training will be held Wednesday, September 13, from 10-11 a.m. in the Bastrop County Courthouse Annex. If you are planning to attend, please call the Bastrop Elections Office at 512-581-7160 and notify them so they can have

materials ready for you.

On Saturday, August 12, the Bastrop County Democratic Party had a booth at the Bastrop ISD Back to School Bash, and our VDRs were able to register 22 new voters.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is having a festival Sept 2 at Memorial Park in Elgin. VDRs are needed to register voters at this event from 3-11 p.m. Please contact Carrie Falk if you can help at

carrie.falk@hotmail.com

Tuesday, September 26, is National Voter Registration Day. Our VDRs will have voter registration tables set up at the following locations: ACC Elgin campus, Bastrop Public Library, Elgin Public Library, Smithville Public Library and Silver Pines Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. If you can assist at any of these venues, please contact Mary Liz Singleton at marylizsingleton@gmail.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 Ginger Redden bcitx10@gmail.com
- **Indivisible TX-27 Bastrop**
Contact Robin Rieck rrieck@austin.rr.com
- **Progressive Revolution Bastrop County**
Contact Chris Smith cbsmith@myself.com
- **Hogeye Huddle**
Contact Michelle Ryan hogeyehuddle@gmail.com

LIVELY DISCUSSION GROUPS

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

VOTER REGISTRATION

Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar
Contact Mary Liz Singleton marylizsingleton@gmail.com

BCDP LEADERSHIP ROLE

- **Precinct Chair • Volunteer Coordinator**
Contact Cheryl Reese cheryl.reese@yahoo.com

CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE AT THE LOCAL OR COUNTY LEVEL

Contact Cheryl Reese 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

SUPPORT STAFF ROLE

Volunteer in the BCDP Office
Contact Diana Kern expectrecovery@gmail.com

VOTER OUTREACH

- **Block Walking** • **Phone Banking**
Contact your local Precinct Chair 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

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

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