



BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

A Monthly Publication Dedicated to Moving Bastrop County Forward

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3
National Night Out

October 10
Last day to register to vote

October 11
Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training
Courthouse Annex Building
804 Pecan Street, Bastrop
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Bastrop County Democratic Ladies Luncheon
Tacos y Tequila
912 Main St. Bastrop
1:00 p.m.

October 12
Bastrop County Democratic Party Community Meeting
Kerr Community Center
1308 Walnut Street
7:00 p.m.

October 27
Last Day to Receive Application for Ballot by Mail (not postmarked)

October 28
Hogeye Festival
Elgin

October 31
Bastrop Trick or Treat Trail
Fisherman's Park
4:00-9:00 p.m.



Minerva Delgado Dedication



In 1948, a court case challenged the Bastrop Independent School District and three other districts to desegregate. Mexican-American leaders considered education important as an avenue for social and economic betterment, yet segregation policies in the Texas school system had curtailed learning opportunities for their children. Before the Delgado v. Bastrop ISD case was filed, public education for Mexican-American students stopped at 7th grade.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), joined by the American GI Forum of Texas, initiated the Delgado v. Bastrop ISD court case on June 15, 1948. Mexican-American attorney and civil rights advocate, Gustavo C. (Gus) Garcia represented plaintiffs Minerva Delgado and twenty other Mexican-American parents. The success of this suit, which disallowed the segregation of Mexican children in public schools, began a ten-year struggle led by the American GI Forum and LULAC which culminated in a 1957 ruling which ended pedagogical and de jure segregation in the Texas public school system. As a result, public education for Mexican-American students in Texas was raised to 12th grade.

On Saturday, September 23, the Minerva Delgado Park was dedicated, followed by the unveiling of a Texas “Undertold” Story Historical Marker at the corner of Main and Hawthorne streets, near the site of the original Mina Ward School. Judge Paul Pape and Senator Gonzalo Barrientos introduced Minerva Delgado Lopez, the lead plaintiff in the 1948 case, along with other distinguished speakers. One impressive speaker was Natalia DePaz, founder of the Young Democrats Club at the Colorado River Collegiate Academy (CRCA) in Bastrop. Natalia is an intelligent and energetic young student who is very involved in her community. She has been the National Honor Society’s president since 2016, a member of the Student Council since 2014 and a member of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council since 2015. By the time she graduates from CRCA in May of 2018, she will have also received an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Arts from Austin Community College.

Here are a few of her remarks: *“As I look back at the history of Delgado v. Bastrop ISD, I realize how much has changed for the better. Most people I talk to are not even aware of the case and haven’t stopped to think about its impact. 1948 was not that long ago when Mexican Americans could not have gone to high school. Certainly, a school like mine wasn’t in existence, and if it had been, its doors would have been closed to me. The educational opportunities that I have been blessed with were not open to Mexican American students in the 1940’s. If it were not for this case, or people standing together to advocate for their educational rights, we would not see the current trends in Hispanic high school graduation rates and college enrollment. According to the Pew Research Center, the percent of Hispanic students dropping out of high school is at an all-time low, and the percentage of Hispanic high school students immediately enrolling in college has never been higher. Positive change is happening and the current trends have their roots in the efforts of Minerva Delgado, the other 20 parents of Mexican American students in the case, their lawyer, Gus Garcia, and LULAC who challenged the segregation of Mexican American students in Texas public schools. Today’s ceremony and this memorial are so important to Bastrop. Most of Bastrop ISD’s students are Hispanic, and most, if not all, have goals to further their education, I being one of them. I am grateful and proud of this piece of history, and I am proud to be a student at the Colorado River Collegiate Academy, in BISD.”*

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS IN BASTROP COUNTY

With all the anticipation of the 2018 elections when we will have a chance to topple Greg Abbott, Ted Cruz and other odious Republicans, please be aware that voters in Bastrop County will have the opportunity to address several issues in the November 7, 2017 elections. In addition to state constitutional amendments, certain specific local proposals will be on some ballots, including the following:

- Bastrop County ESD No. 1 propositions A, B and C
- Bastrop County WCID #2 issuance of bonds for roads
- Bastrop ISD bond election
- City of Elgin special election for Councilmember, Ward 3 unexpired term

To see your sample ballot for this November's election, click on this link from the Bastrop Elections Office's website, then enter the information requested.

<http://www.bastropvotes.org/voter-information-2/voter-lookup/#VoterSearch>

Precinct 1001 Update by Annie Marrs

The first meeting of the newly formed Steering Committee for Voter Precinct 1001 was held in August. Committee members roundly agreed that Democrats in our precinct seem to feel politically isolated. The decision was made to hold a MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR event in February, just prior to the March 6th Primary Elections. If you live in Precinct 1001 and if you would like to help as we organize the event for our precinct, contact Annie at amarrs2@austin.rr.com. IMPORTANT NOTE: On Nov. 7th Tahitian Village will vote on a bond issue for road construction. For comprehensive information about the bond go to: <http://www.bcwcid2.com>.

VDR Update



Our Democratic Volunteer Deputy Registrars were busy during the month of September. They were invited to set up voter registration tables at Bastrop ISD secondary schools for their Open House Nights on September 11 and 18. Eight of our VDRs participated and registered more than a dozen voters. September 26 was National Voter Registration Day, and 15 of our VDRs partnered with the Bastrop Elections Office to staff voter registration tables at the Elgin ACC campus, Silver Pines

Nursing Home and all three Bastrop County public libraries. They were successful in registering 33 new voters.

— Bastrop County Young Democrats Club Chartered at CRCA —

The Colorado River Collegiate Academy established a Young Democrats Club on Wednesday, September 13 with a growing number of 10 student members and their Sponsor Dr. Doughty. We wanted to make sure that as students and members of our community, we would have our voices and opinions heard in order to implement change. One of the events that the Young Democrats have already participated in is the DACA rally that occurred on Thursday evening, September 20. We plan to raise more awareness on this issue by hosting an information session on a Friday afternoon for the CRCA and Genesis High School. Another project we are working on is hosting a Voter Registration booth during lunch hours on Friday, September 29, in order to increase the number of voters among students who are eligible to vote. We are excited for what is next on our agenda and we hope to accomplish only good in our school and community.

Proposed Cedar Creek Waste Transfer Station Faces Unified Opposition

About 100 Bastrop County residents gathered at Cedar Creek High School on Sept. 23 to voice opposition to a proposed waste transfer station in Cedar Creek near the intersection of State Hwy. 21 and FM 812.

Residents initially heard from two representatives of Lealco, which submitted a permit application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a facility that will be a temporary dumping site for up to 2,500 tons of garbage gathered daily from Bastrop, Hays, Williamson, Travis and possibly other counties. Up to 300 garbage trucks per day would dump loads at the facility onto a concrete pad where it would be reloaded onto larger trucks and taken to a landfill. The concrete pad would be on a 10.45-acre tract that backs up to the Cedar Creek watershed and sits above the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer.

Residents expressed concerns about the proposed project's impact on traffic, air quality, drainage and the potential for an ecological disaster on Cedar Creek in a flood. As the TCEQ awaits input from TXDot regarding the facility's traffic plan, residents shared their grave concerns about what will happen if 300 garbage trucks and 18-wheelers are added to the often heavy traffic they already see in the area.

Rural resident and Bastrop County Democratic Party Chairwoman Cheryl Reese testified about the project's effects on local farms and ranches and the Cedar Creek and Colorado River ecosystems. Steve Chamberlain, Democratic Precinct Chair for Precinct 3016, testified about the need for a detailed traffic study to be conducted by TXDot and TCEQ before approving a permit. Bastrop County Precinct 3 Commissioner Mark Meuth also testified about the impact of increased traffic upon area infrastructure. Other elected officials in attendance included State Rep. John Cyrier and Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape.

Local water expert Phil Cook testified that the TCEQ should be reviewing the results of a survey by Bastrop County in 2011 that places most of the site in the 100-year floodplain. Several people discussed the increased frequency and severity of flooding close to the proposed project.

Sen. Kirk Watson sent a representative and has issued the following statement: "The residents of Bastrop County are right to be concerned about this project and are asking legitimate questions. It's the responsibility of our state agencies to recognize the validity of their concerns and address them thoroughly and in a timely manner. My office will continue to monitor this situation to ensure that happens."

To My Independent and Progressive Allies

By Maryliz Singleton

Can we talk? I certainly don't need to educate you on the situation our country is in with Donald Trump at the helm. To those of you who turned up your nose at the Democratic Party for a variety of reasons and refused to vote for the "lesser of two evils" in the 2016 election, how is that working out for you? While we are resisting the Trump/Republican agenda with all our energy, many of my independent friends who join me in making daily calls to our members of Congress and gathering for protest rallies around Bastrop County remain reluctant to embrace the Democratic Party.

Here is my question to you: Why? Is this really the time to argue with each other about who we want to carry the banner of sanity in the 2020 presidential election? Don't we agree on these important issues?

- Immigration Reform/DACA
- Universal Healthcare
- Climate Change
- Marriage Equality
- Equal Rights

Perhaps the better question to ask would be, "Is there any aspect of the Trump/Republican agenda you do not find abhorrent?" Anticipating your answer to be a resounding, "No!" I urge you to add the following fresh faces to your Watch List as possible contenders you might consider supporting for the Democratic nomination in 2020:

Kamala Harris:

Her announcement that she would co-sponsor Sen. Bernie Sanders' Medicare-for-all legislation resulted in "Me too!" responses from 11 other senators, including Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren and Kristen Gillibrand.

Joe Kennedy III:

He has been an outstanding member of the House and has been re-elected by huge margins. He speaks fluent Spanish so would start off with a strong advantage with Hispanics.

Al Franken:

This "Giant of the Senate" visited Austin recently, and he loathes Ted Cruz as much as the rest of us.

In short, we agree on every important issue facing our country, so why quibble about Kamala Harris being supported by establishment Democrats, or Joe Kennedy III being a Kennedy or Al Franken being too liberal, etc.? No candidate will be perfect, but these are all individuals of integrity who would stand an excellent chance of defeating Trump in 2020 ~ if we join forces and work together.

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?

www.bastropvotes.org/elected-officials/press-releases/#ElectedOfficials *

United States Congress

US SenatorTed Cruz
 US SenatorJohn Cornyn
 State Senator Dist 14.....Kirk Watson
 State Rep Dist 10Michael McCaul
 State Rep Dist 17Bill Flores
 State Rep Dist 27Blake Farenthold

State House Representative

District 17.....John Cyrier

Bastrop County Officials

County JudgePaul Pape
 SheriffMaurice Cook
 District AttorneyBryan Goertz
 County SurveyorMichael Olson
 Tax Assessor-CollectorLinda Harmon
 County TreasurerLaurie Ingram
 County ClerkRose Pietsch
 District ClerkSarah Loucks
 County Court at LawBenton Eskew

Bastrop County Commissioners

Precinct 1Melvin (Mel) Hamner
 Precinct 2Clara Beckett
 Precinct 3Mark Meuth
 Precinct 4Gary "Bubba" Snowden

Bastrop County Constables

Precinct 1Wayne Wood
 Precinct 2August Meduna, Jr.
 Precinct 3Tim Sparkman
 Precinct 4Sal Abreo

Bastrop County Justice of the Peace

Precinct 1Donna Thomson
 Precinct 2Raymah M. Davis
 Precinct 3Katherine K. Hanna
 Precinct 4Larry Dunne

Visit www.bastropvotes.org to find out your district and precinct.

* Your representatives contact information can be found at this link.

