



BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Publication Dedicated to Moving Bastrop County Forward

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 3

Young Democrats Social with Senator Kirk Watson

The Colony Amenity Center
368 Stephen F. Austin Blvd,
Bastrop, Noon – 2 p.m.

Feb. 5

Last day to register to vote

Feb. 8

BCDP Candidate Forum

Smithville Elementary
Cafeteria, 800 Bishop St.
Smithville, 7-9 p.m.

Feb. 14

Democratic Ladies Luncheon

Las Vegas Steakhouse
and Seafood, 1375 Texas
71, Bastrop, 1 p.m.

Feb. 20

First day of Early Voting

Feb. 21

Quarterly BCDP County Executive Council Meeting

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

Feb. 23

Last day to apply for Ballot by Mail
(received, not postmarked)



Message from the Chair

Coming Soon: Two Important Democratic Events

By Cheryl Reese

Please mark your calendars for two important events that Bastrop County Democrats are sponsoring in February and March: a Democratic candidate forum on Thursday, Feb. 8, and the Bastrop County Democratic Party convention on Saturday, March 24. I very much appreciate the work that the members of our candidate forum and convention committees are doing to make these events successful. I hope you will be able to attend both events as we gain momentum to turn Texas blue.

Building upon the successful candidate forum in January, we have scheduled the Feb. 8 forum for 7 p.m. at a larger venue, the Smithville Elementary School cafeteria, 800 Bishop Street. The larger location is to accommodate the 10 Democratic candidates scheduled to attend. They are vying for governor, lieutenant governor, state court of appeals, and three U.S. congressional districts. Please check our web site for the list of scheduled candidates.

Our January forum proved a little tight in accommodating the seven candidates who attended the forum at the Kerr Community Center from as far away as Corpus Christi and Cypress, thanks to our gerrymandered congressional districts.



Dock Jackson and Cheryl Reese with Huston-Tillotson President Dr. Colette Burnette at MLK Scholarship Memorial Service at Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church

Like the January forum, the February event will be a "speed-dating" format. Attendees will sit in one of 10 numbered groups of chairs that will be set up. Candidates will move from group to group at 10-minute intervals, making their pitch and engaging in conversation about issues. After candidates have met with all groups, attendees can mingle and continue conversations with the candidates.

We have many excellent Democratic candidates on the March 6 primary ballot. Please plan to attend the forum to help you decide your favorites.

Meanwhile, we have begun detailed planning for our March 24 convention, which will begin at 9 a.m. at the Cedar Creek High School cafeteria, 793 Union Chapel Rd. Among other things, we will be electing delegates to the state Democratic convention and approving resolutions. We will send you more details about the convention in coming weeks. Also, please let me know if you would like to volunteer to work on the convention.

Precinct 1001 Schedules Feb. 4 Meet Your "Super" Neighbors Event

By Mary Liz Singleton

Led by the vision of former Precinct Chair Annie Marrs, who had to step down for health reasons, and implemented by Bj Jenkins and new Precinct Chair Trent Mareth, Precinct 1001 has become one of the most active Democratic precincts in Bastrop County.

Here is how it was accomplished:

- Annie Marrs searched our Voter Activation Network (VAN) and found numerous strong Democrats, based on their voting record. She called and invited them to serve on her Steering Committee.
- At the initial meeting of the Steering Committee, Annie assured attendees that there are lots of Democrats living in the Tahitian Village area and laid out her plan to organize the precinct by reaching out to like-minded neighbors. This meeting led to the establishment of the Home Visits Committee.
- Assisted by VAN data, the Home Visits Committee visited 140 homes in Precinct 1001 (yes, block-walking on those rough roads and narrow streets in Tahitian Village!).
- In addition to handing a formal invitation for their Feb. 4 Meet Your Neighbors event to each home visited, the visitors conducted a survey, asking residents (1) Do you wish to receive the BCDP monthly newsletter? (2) Are you interested in attending the Meet Your Neighbors event? (3) Do you or any members of your household need to register to vote or make a change of address?
- The work of 12 committed people who visited 140 residences in Precinct 1001 will culminate Sunday, Feb. 4, with a Meet Your Neighbors social at the home of Bj and Sam Jenkins on Riverside Drive, from 2 to 4 p.m.
- All of this energy will be parlayed into ongoing "Taco Tuesdays," hosted by Precinct Chair Trent Mareth every third Tuesday, to keep precinct residents informed about upcoming important dates and events, as well as to provide a platform for candidates and party members to meet and discuss issues.



Precinct 1001 has now provided a model that we would love to see all the other precincts in Bastrop County emulate. This is how we Turn Bastrop County BLUE!

Legal Abortion Saves Lives

By Carolyn Banks

President Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to directly address the March for Life anti-abortion rally in Washington.

I would like to march for the life of a woman who doesn't want to be pregnant. If the right to a safe and legal abortion is taken away from such a woman, she will, statistics show, risk her life to end her pregnancy.

**SAFE AND
LEGAL
ABORTION
IS A
WOMAN'S
HUMAN
RIGHT**

Before the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, the procedure was not safe. It was often carried out in basements and kitchens and even in cars. The people who performed abortions frequently had no medical training.

The typical illegal abortion was done with rubber tubing, stiffened with knitting needles or bent coat hangers, inserted up the vagina, through the cervix and into the uterus. The stiffening object would be removed, but the tubing would remain in place. This source of irritation would eventually cause the woman to abort. The bloody event would happen hours or even days after the insertion.

Before abortion was legal, the lives of far too many women who had endured illegal abortion were taken by infections that need not have occurred.

What is the argument against abortion? For many, it is based on the belief that human life begins at conception. But even the Bible disagrees. In Genesis, chapter 2, verse 7, we read, "Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Thus the man became a living creature."

Is it fair for people who don't equate life with breath to force their belief on others? Think about it. Let's march to continue life-saving abortion rights.

Candidates Meet Voters at January Forum



Seven candidates on the March 6 Democratic Primary ballot visited with BCDP members at the Jan. 11 Candidate Forum: Raul "Roy" Barrera, U.S. Representative Dist. 27; Madeline Eden, U.S. Representative Dist. 10; Eric Holguin, U.S. Representative Dist. 27; Dock Jackson, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1; Michelle Ryan, State Representative District 17; Matt Harris, U.S. Representative Dist. 10, and Tawana Walter-Cadien, U.S. Representative Dist. 10.



Precinct Chair Michele Rutherford took the lead in organizing the Jan. 11 Candidate Forum, pictured here with candidate for U.S. Representative District 10, Matt Harris.

Dock Jackson, candidate for Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, visits with voters for 10 minutes of "speed dating."



Candidates Meet Voters, continued



Michelle Ryan, candidate for State Representative District 17, makes a point.



Roy Barrera, running for U.S. Representative District 27, fields questions during the Candidate Forum.

Eric Holguin, Tawana Walker-Cadien, Madeline Eden and Michelle Ryan want to remind everyone that Early Voting starts Feb. 20. Let's get out the BLUE vote!



Thoughts on Leadership

By Scott Saunders, Jr.

When you are in a position of leadership, you have both the duty and obligation to do what is right for the common good. In the case of a politician, you must make decisions about what is right for the people over which you govern. To refuse to act on a decision that you know is right, that you have stated is right, just in hopes of gaining political momentum, is pathetic.

THE WALL: Since the year 2000, apprehensions of immigrants illegally trying to cross the border have plummeted. They peaked in the year 2000 with over 1.6 million people caught; last year, there were 300,000. Why wouldn't we strengthen border security and give our agents more resources to keep them safe and able to patrol the area? A wall is just a monolith for a man more infatuated with size than actual performance.

DACA or The DREAMers: These are people who were brought to our country as children. Most have no idea what it is like to live in a different country, having worked hard, paid taxes, gone to school, and had a positive influence on American society. We now hold them to an uncertain future. The country they have grown up in, one that touts "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," has turned its back on them.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN: Although the Democrats agreed to reopen the government, mistakenly trusting that Mitch McConnell will allow a "dreamer" vote, another government shutdown is looming. However, the Essential Services Act of 2013 made it possible that, in the case of a government shutdown, essential services will continue to remain active. Most are those necessary for the protection of life and property — including the military, law enforcement such as the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Border Patrol, the Federal Aviation Administration, and Transportation Security Administration, to name a few.

The bottom line is...most politicians are too worried about lining their pockets, and not upsetting PACs or their base. They have lost sight of what those positions were made to accomplish, the will of the people. We the people deserve better.

CANDIDATE SPEED DATING

Thursday, February 8, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Smithville Elementary Cafeteria
800 Bishop St., Smithville, TX

What's "candidate speed dating"? It's a great way to meet your candidates in a small group and spend a few minutes discussing the issues that are important to you. Then the candidates rotate, and you'll meet the next one.

These Democratic candidates are eager to talk with you and share their plans.



Candidate for

Governor	Jeffrey Payne Tom Wakely Grady Yarbrough
Lieutenant Governor	Mike Collier
U.S. Representative District 10	Kevin Nelson Mike Siegel Tami Walker
U.S. Representative District 17	Dale Mantey
U.S. Representative District 27	Ronnie McDonald
Justice, 3 rd Court of Ap- peals, Place 6	Gisela D. Triana

The March 6 primary election will be here before you know it. Prepare yourself and come on this date with us!

Hosted by Bastrop County
Democratic Party

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
- **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?

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)
- Blake Farenthold, District 27: 202-225-7742 (DC); 361-884-2222 (Corpus Christi)

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.