



BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Publication Dedicated to Moving Bastrop County Forward

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2

Last day of **Early Voting**

March 5

Bastrop County Retired Teachers Assn. meeting

Featuring Michelle Ryan, Democratic candidate for Texas House
First National Bank Training Room
489 Highway 71 West
1:30-2:30 p.m.

March 6

Primary Election Day

7:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

March 8

BCDP community meeting

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

March 10

Beto for Texas field operations organizational meeting
Bluebonnet Electric Co-op HQ
155 Electric Ave., Bastrop
10:00 a.m.

March 24

BCDP Convention
Cedar Creek High School
793 Union Chapel Rd.
Cedar Creek
9:00 a.m.

OFFICIAL PRESIDENTIAL PORTRAITS UNVEILED



BARACK OBAMA
BY KEHINDA WILEY



DONALD TRUMP
BY ROBERT MUELLER



Message from the Chair

Your Voice Will Count at County Convention

By Cheryl Reese

If you are fed up with what's happening in Washington, if you want to learn what you can do about it, and if you want your voice heard, you won't want to miss the Bastrop County Democratic Party's convention on March 24.

The convention will be at the Cedar Creek High School cafeteria, 793 Union Chapel Rd. Sign up online at TexasDemocraticConvention.com. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.; convention begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m.

Our outstanding state Senator Kirk Watson will be the keynote speaker. If you heard Senator Watson speak at our 2016 convention or at other events, you know he is dynamic and he tells it like it is.

At the convention, you can vote on important local and state resolutions. If you have a resolution you would like to submit, please contact Robin Rieck, rriek@austin.rr.com.

You can help select delegates to the state Democratic convention in Fort Worth, June 21-23. You can offer to be one of the 29 delegates from Bastrop County to the state convention.

We want our local convention to be one that unifies Democrats countywide. It's ok to have differing opinions. One of the convention goals is to accept one another, including those differences, and focus on what we have in common. Another goal is to issue a call to action, asking local Democrats to step up as volunteers to help Democratic candidates, and to commit volunteer time to your party and to your community.

Despite the chaos in Washington, we have many reasons for optimism. Locally, I am happy with turnout at our precinct meetings, community meetings, and candidate forums. Around the country Democrats are winning elections they were not supposed to win. Sparked by the horrendous mass murder of students in Florida, teenagers are stepping forward and demonstrating what real leadership means. They give me more comfort each day that we will be leaving our great nation in good hands. Let's continue and build upon that optimism at our March convention.



Let's Rock the Vote for Beto



Many of you have had the opportunity to meet U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke and hear his progressive positions on important issues because he has reached out to us, holding town hall meetings in LaGrange, Bastrop, and Giddings since last August. As a result, it is apparent that Beto is Texas Democrats' "Great Blue Hope."

However, Beto needs our help if he is going to defeat Senator Ted Cruz and electrify the Democratic base in Texas. Toward that end, we are seeking team members who are ready to roll up their sleeves and become a part of our Bastrop County grassroots action group in support of Rep. Beto O'Rourke's race to become our next junior senator from Texas. We will be holding our organizational meeting Saturday, March 10, in the Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative Community Boardroom, 155 Electric Ave., Bastrop, at

10:00 a.m. We welcome enthusiastic supporters who are ready to replace Ted Cruz. Volunteers are needed to assist with voter outreach, voter registration, and event organizing. Join our team, be an active participant in our grassroots effort, and have some fun! Everyone who attends this meeting will receive a hand-painted Beto rock. Contact Mary Liz Singleton at marylizsingleton@gmail.com for more information.

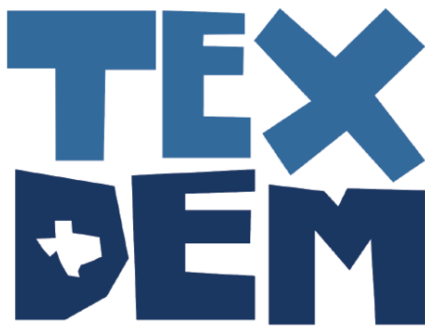
Bastrop County Democrats Contribute Cookies to Empty Bowl Project

Kay McAnally (on right) delivers her cookies to Duffy Smith, Chief Cookie Monster for the Feb. 24 Bastrop Empty Bowl Project. Other Democrats who donated more than 27 dozen cookies for the fundraiser that supports the Bastrop Food Pantry included Dayna Beck, Melanie Hunt, Carole Marmell, Cheryl Reese, Karen Sterling, Marie Drummond, Annie Marrs.



The SDEC and the Texas Democratic State Convention

My name is Andre Treiber, and I am the state Democratic executive committeeman for Senate District 14, meaning I am one of the people who represent Bastrop Democrats on the Texas Democratic Party Executive Committee. I serve on the Rules Committee, including on the Convention Processes Subcommittee, and as vice chair of the Base Voter Turnout Committee.



Much of my work has been around planning the 2018 Texas Democratic State Convention. The convention this year will be held June 21-23 in Fort Worth, a fantastic convention city. If your convention experience was soured by San Antonio in 2016, I ask that you give it another try. Fort Worth's convention center is everything the Alamodome wasn't. It's close to hotels and restaurants in the heart of a walkable downtown. The conven-

tion will take place after primary runoffs are completed, so we'll be a unified party with our nominees ready to take on Greg Abbott, Dan Patrick, and the rest of the Republicans in November.

The 2018 convention chair is U.S. Representative of Fort Worth Marc Veasey. Featured speakers will include Democratic nominees for statewide office on the November ballot.

At the state convention, we will be electing our statewide officers, such as state chair, along with the usual convention committees, like platform and rules. SDEC positions will be up for election as well. There will also be a wide variety of caucuses, panels, and trainings to attend, along with, of course, plenty of fundraisers and parties. We have put a lot of effort into streamlining the process and righting the wrongs of past conventions. I hope you will join us this year in Fort Worth!

To participate in the state convention, you'll first need to attend the Bastrop County Democratic Party convention, which will be held on Saturday, March 24, at Cedar Creek High School, gaveled in at 9:30 a.m. This year, Bastrop County will be selecting 29 delegates to attend the state convention.

Plea from a Bastrop County Young Democrat

My name is Monte Moore, and I am a senior at the Colorado River Collegiate Academy. In the wake of the recent atrocity that happened in Florida, I would like to weigh in on the discussions that are taking place. Talking to other high school students, I have found that, unlike the current situation in Washington, our stance is clear: WE NEED CHANGE! By change, I mean that we need to take away weapons of war such as assault rifles, which are designed for the battlefield, not the schoolyard. We need stronger background checks, including raising the age so someone can't buy a rifle before they can purchase a cigarette or drink a glass of wine.

We are scared when we leave for school five days a week, not knowing if we are going to come home that afternoon. We should be worrying about turning in our English essay, not having to plan an escape route if a shooting happens at our school. This point in our life is very stressful, even more so with the daily possibility that we could lose our lives in what should be a safe zone.

My classmates and I have discussed President Donald Trump's proposal to arm our teachers, and we say, "BS." That would definitely not make us feel safer. How is introducing more guns in classrooms, raising the possibility of accidents, going to solve the gun problem? I agree with Senator Kirk Watson who said recently, "We already ask way too much of teachers and provide them with way too little to do it all. Adding sharpshooter to their list of responsibilities is ridiculous."

How can we focus on our studies while living in fear for our lives? On behalf of my fellow high school students, I am pleading to you call your senators and your representatives; if not for me do it for your kids and grandkids. Together we can make a change so that students all over the country can breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that we can once again feel safe in our institutions of learning.



Bastrop County Democrats Turned Out for Important Events in February

The Young Democrats Social with Senator Kirk Watson was held at The Amenity Center in The Colony.

Feb. 3



In addition to enjoying pizza provided by Senator Watson, the Young Dems engaged in painting and decorating rocks for the Beto Rocks! Campaign.



Feb. 4

Precinct 1001 held a highly successful Meet Your Neighbor event featuring six Democratic candidates at the home of Bj and Sam Jenkins.

Judy Kennedy, Precinct Chair Trent Mareth, Mary Liz Singleton, Sam Jenkins and June Taylor staffed the sign-in table that welcomed 55 attendees.



February events, continued

Feb. 8



The Bastrop County Democratic Party held a Candidate Forum featuring seven candidates in Smithville.

Jeffrey Payne, candidate for Governor, visits with a small group of voters during the "speed dating" format while Ronnie McDonald, candidate

for U.S. House of Representatives District 27, makes his pitch to another group.

Feb. 11

A standing-room-only crowd, many from Bastrop County, welcomed U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, candidate for U.S. Senate, to Giddings, where



he held an enthusiastic town hall meeting.

The Beto merchandise table sold out of t-shirts, yard signs and bumper stickers.



Beto even found time to support #MyBastrop with Michael Mulhollan and Mary Liz Singleton.

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.