



BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Publication Dedicated to Moving Bastrop County Forward

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Message from the Chair.** Change needs to come. *Page 2*
- **Beto Rocks! Project.** Spread the word artfully. *Page 3*
- **BCDP County Convention.** Here's what happened on March 24. *Page 4*
- **Bastrop County For Beto: Grassroots Campaign Update.** *Page 6*
- **How do you want to be involved? Who represents me?** *Page 7*



'MELANIA, HONEY- DOES THIS TIE MAKE MY BUTT LOOK GUILTY?..'

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7

Smithville Jamboree parade

April 9

Bastrop Chamber of Commerce candidate forum

Bastrop City Hall
1311 Chestnut, Bastrop
6:00-8:00 p.m.
City Council, Place 2

April 12

Bastrop County Democratic Party monthly meeting

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

April 17

Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce candidate forum

Smithville Recreation Center
106 Gazley, Smithville
6:30-7:30 p.m.
City Council and School Board

April 18

Bastrop County Democratic ladies luncheon

Chinese Dragon
1591 Hwy 71, Cedar Creek
1:00 p.m.

April 23

First day of early voting for City of Bastrop/WCID #2, City of Smithville/SISD, City of Elgin (ward 3)/EISD

Message from the Chair A Change Needs To Come

By Cheryl Reese

As I sit here remembering the events that took place at the Bastrop County Democratic Party convention on Saturday, March 24, at Cedar Creek High School, I can't help but smile. I was so excited about the convention because I wanted to meet more Democrats in Bastrop County who feel the same way I do.

It is time to move away from the anger, sadness, and discord. It is time to get busy growing and educating our young Democrats, newcomers, and anyone wanting to make a difference at the local and state levels. It is time to lift up our voices as one and say, "My voice and vote do matter."

We, meaning the community, have to understand that, when the Constitution states, "We the People," it is talking about you and me. All Americans have rights, and we must stand up for one another. We can no longer walk around with the attitude that, because it is not happening to me, I should not be concerned. When you look around and reflect, how many people do you know who are affected by what is happening?

We all know someone who is living on minimum wage, working more than 40 hours a week trying to raise a family and make ends meet. But he or she just can't afford housing and food, insurance, and a car note.

Many of us know people who have been incarcerated and upon release have not been able to find a job or housing. On an application for housing or a job they must check "Yes" indicating a felony conviction, and then they can be subjected to legal discrimination.

We all know people who are retired and living on a fixed income. Because of circumstances, they may have had to take in grandchildren. However, because it is a kinship placement, they are not eligible for assistance. If it had been a non-kinship placement, they would receive all the assistance they needed.

We all know people who need healthcare assistance because they don't have or can't afford insurance, or perhaps by the end of the year, they have a gap in health insurance.



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Message from the Chair, continued

We all know people in a lot of these and many other situations. To sit idly by, not being concerned because "It is not happening to me," seems so un-American. It is time to stop letting our differences separate us and start realizing we are all in this together.

A change needs to come now!

Beto Rocks! Project

By Mary Liz Singleton

Join Bastrop County's Beto Rocks! Project to support U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke for U.S. Senate from Texas. You can select a painted Beto rock, available at the BCDP Office, and either:

Place the rock in a special location where it will likely be found and appreciated OR

Keep the rock and paint additional rocks to be "hidden in plain sight" throughout Bastrop County.

If you decide to paint additional Beto rocks, here are the materials you will need:

- Rocks
- DecoArt Patio Paint Outdoor for base coat
- Acrylic Pens for decorating the rock
- Mod Podge for sealing the rock
- Paint brush



NOTE: When you place your rock, be sure to take a picture and post it on Facebook as #BetoRocks!

Bastrop County Democratic Party 2018 County Convention

The Bastrop County Democratic Party held its 2018 convention Saturday, March 24, at Cedar Creek High School. County Chair Cheryl Reese welcomed a total of 94 attendees, including 81 certified delegates and 13 visitors.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bastrop County Young Democrats President Natalia DePaz. Young Democrat and new Precinct 1003 Chair Xabier Hernandez followed with an inspirational speech. Next, Anthony Hubbard Jr. sang a soulful rendition of the Sam Cooke classic "A Change Is Gonna Come."

Featured speakers included former state Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, who shared a brief history of the Bastrop County Democratic Party, recognizing founding members and longtime supporters. State Senator Kirk Watson followed as guest speaker with observations about how reality versus reality TV has produced chaos in government. Senator Watson also referred to the internal fighting within the Republican Party in their efforts to elect people who would vote against public education and pass mean-spirited bathroom bills. He stated that the Republican Party cannot be both the victim and the perpetrator regarding their plan to increase local property taxes by 14 percent while blaming local government for raising them.



However, Senator Watson expressed his excitement about the enthusiasm he sees among Democrats who are committed to do something about all the craziness foisted upon us by Republican officeholders, stating, "We're going to do something about it; we're going to vote!"

The business of the county convention included passing 62 resolutions and selecting 29 delegates to represent Bastrop County at the Texas Democratic Party's state convention June 21-23 in Fort Worth.

In addition to Senator Kirk Watson, who is running for re-election, candidates for office in attendance included Michelle Ryan, who is opposing Republican John Cyrier for state representative, District 17, and Dock Jackson, who is seeking the office of justice of the peace, Precinct 1.

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BCDP County Convention, continued



Treasured for their service and leadership to the Democrats of Bastrop County are Clara Maynard (standing), Judge Frank Evans, Elizabeth Evans, Anne Beck, and Virginia Piper and her husband Gerald.



Dock Jackson, candidate for justice of the peace in Precinct 1; venerated former state

Xabier Hernandez's inspirational remarks were well received.



Senator Gonzalo Barrientos; president of the Bastrop County Young Democrats Natalia DePaz; state Senator Kirk Watson; and BCDP Chair Cheryl Reese.



Candidate for Texas Representative Michelle Ryan with Senator Kirk Watson and former Senator Gonzalo Barrientos.

The silent auction raised \$761 for the BCDP's Molly Ivins Scholarship.



Bastrop County For Beto: Grassroots Campaign Update

By Robin Rieck



The seeds for our grassroots campaign, Bastrop County for Beto, were planted way back at a town hall meeting in La Grange last August. Our Fayette County neighbors welcomed Beto O'Rourke, running for U.S. Senate, and encouraged us to attend that meeting. Local enthusiasm kicked into high gear when Beto came to Bastrop County for a town hall meeting last October.

The Bastrop County for Beto Facebook page was built in the evening on Jan. 1, 2018, and by the morning of Jan. 2, we had over 200 members! We recently held our first organizing meeting, set up a Bastrop for Beto website, and have big plans to spread the good word throughout Bastrop County prior to the November election.

We have developed a preliminary plan for community outreach and have some fun, creative events in the works:

1. **Beto Rocks!:** Talented Beto supporters are painting rocks with pretty designs and the message "Beto Rocks!" Team members place these rocks in public areas around the county. We hope to spread cheer and build a "buzz," leading to more name recognition for Beto.
2. **Smithville Jamboree Parade:** On Saturday, April 7, Smithville will hold its annual parade. Michele Rutherford is putting together plans for a decorated Beto truck/trailer entry in the parade. Supporters will ride on the trailer on hay bales with signs.
3. **Pop-Up Events:** Our Beto team will be popping up at various locations in Bastrop County to greet voters and to sell Beto campaign gear. Voter registrars will be on site at these events.
4. **Beers and BBQs For Beto:** We hope to organize monthly events to rally supporters and raise funds for Beto's campaign.
5. **Banner Drops:** Supporters will meet at busy intersections and places around the county with our big Beto banner and signs to show our support.
6. **Canvassing For Beto:** We will be working in teams knocking on doors of tier 1 Democrats and sporadic voters to spread the word about our candidate.

Join us on this fun mission to help elect the next junior senator from Texas. For more information, contact Mary Liz Singleton at marylizsingleton@gmail.com or Robin Rieck at rrieck@austin.rr.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
- **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.