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BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Publication Dedicated to Moving Bastrop County Forward

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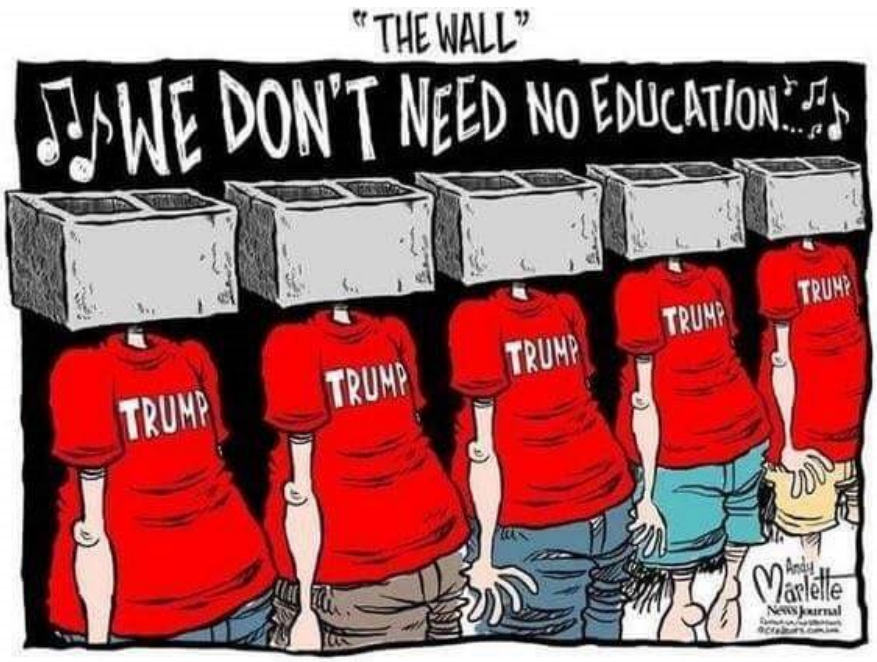

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2
Pancake breakfast fundraiser
benefiting Smithville Community Gardens
Rivers Street Garden, Smithville
9:00-11:00 a.m.

June 12
Stonewall Democrats of Bastrop County meeting
Neighbor's
601 Chestnut St., Bastrop, 7:00 p.m.

June 14
BCDP monthly meeting
Kerr Community Center
1308 Walnut St., Bastrop, 7:00 p.m.

June 15
Juneteenth celebration banquet and dance
Bastrop Convention Center
1408 Chestnut St., Bastrop
6:30-11:30 p.m.

June 16
- **Bastrop Juneteenth parade** on *Main Street*, 10 a.m.
- **Emancipation program** at *Kerr Community Center*, 11 a.m.
- **Street dance** in *downtown Bastrop*, 8-11 p.m.

June 16
Coke Float celebration for Dock Jackson
163 Tahitian Dr.. 3-6 p.m.

June 20
BCDP ladies luncheon
Cedar's Mediterranean Grill
904 College St., Bastrop, 1:00 p.m.

June 29-30
Bastrop Patriotic Festival
Fisherman's Park and downtown Bastrop

June 30
Special election for U.S. Congress District 27

Message from the Chair

Our voices and votes must be heard

By Cheryl Reese

Sometimes I don't know whether to scream or cry. I hear people say they want change in government. They can't understand why nothing is being done to update the minimum-wage or gun-safety laws. They can't understand why it is so difficult and expensive to have good health care. They can't understand why the wealthy and the corporations seem to get the breaks and working people get left behind.

You might ask, as my son did, "Who are 'these people'?" They are mothers, fathers, teachers, students, grandparents, sisters, brothers, veterans, minimum-wage workers, white-collar workers, churchgoers, city folk, country folk, working people, elderly, retired, pregnant women, homeless, homeowners, renters, car owners, bike riders, bus riders, walkers. We all are the people.

The changes we want to come about can only happen if we "people" get involved, starting with our vote. We need to do better. Gone are the days of accountability being the conscience of members of Congress. Many of them now seem to serve mainly their monied masters rather than the people.

We can see the evidence of lack of congressional accountability in the number of U.S. cities that have lead in their water systems. According to CNN.com, some 5,300 U.S. cities are in violation of lead rules. Where is the outcry and where is the action in Congress? Since clean water is something we all need to survive, it should be available to everyone as a priority.

Clean water is only one example why none of us should be sitting on the sidelines. Think health care, public education, affordable housing, equal opportunity, human rights, climate change, etc. Don't wait for someone to call you or wait for a tragedy to happen before you get involved.

Look around at the people in your community. We all have more in common than we think. It's time to let our voices and our votes be heard. It's past time.

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Saturday, June 2, 2018
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Rivers Street Garden

Located at the corner of Rivers and SE 4th Street

Bastrop County Democratic and Republican parties have partnered for this event to serve their community.

Suggested donation: $10/plate

Proceeds benefit the Smithville Community Gardens

Bastrop County for Beto Update

In conjunction with the First Annual Bastrop Music Festival, activist members of Bastrop County for Beto were out in full force on the Bastrop Pedestrian Bridge Saturday, May 19, showing their support for Beto O'Rourke and other Democratic candidates.

From left to right: Caroline Sinclair, Gail Byler, Annie Marrs, Robin Rieck, Kenny Timerman, Dayna Beck, Linda Harrison, Douglas Ginn, Karen Sterling, Madi Eden, Mark Timerman, Deena Eden and Clara Maynard.

What better way to spend a spring weekend than promoting Beto O'Rourke's campaign to replace Ted Cruz as U.S. Senator?

This is what democracy looks like!

U.S. House District 27 special election will be costly for disaster-affected counties

By Robin Rieck

On April 25, Gov. Greg Abbott called a special election for U.S. House District 27, which covers 13 counties ranging from the Gulf Coast in Nueces County to western Bastrop County. His stated rationale for calling this election was his concern for the district following the devastation left in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, which left all 13 counties in the district under disaster declarations. The district has been without representation since Rep. Blake Farenthold resigned on April 6 following the disclosure that he used $84,000 in taxpayer funds to compensate a former employee who accused him of sexual harassment.

The special election will be held on June 30. The winners of both the Democratic and Republican runoff elections, Eric Holguin and Michael Cloud, and four other candidates filed to run in the election that will fill the vacant seat until the winner of the Nov. 6 midterm election takes office in January 2019. With six candidates on the ballot, it is likely that none will gain the 50 percent of votes necessary to win. In that event, a runoff election will be held in September. The result of these costly elections will ultimately be to fill a temporary position for three months until the new Congress is seated in January. Many struggling and displaced constituents in the district will be far too busy putting their lives back together to pay attention to repeated elections, much less what they are costing taxpayers in the struggling counties to run them.

Disaster funds allocated in a HUD community block grant on Oct. 20, 2017, were held up in the Texas General Land Office while Commissioner George P. Bush came up with a plan. Bush didn't submit his plan to HUD for approval until April 10. Bush’s long-awaited plan was then sent to Secretary Ben Carson’s HUD Department before it was finally approved on May 1. A couple of well-placed phone calls by Abbott to expedite disbursement of those funds would have done more to provide timely relief for the disaster victims than this costly special election to fill a temporary vacancy in a district that has been poorly represented since Farenthold was elected in 2010.

BCDP delegates to Texas Democratic State Convention

The following 30 Bastrop County Democrats were selected to represent us at the Democratic State Convention, June 21-23 in Fort Worth:

David Balough
Dayna Beck
Patricia Brown
Pedro M. Cortez, Jr.
James Denny
Madeline Eden
Carrie Falk
Patricia Green
Holly Hargrave
Dan Hayes
Shanda Hernandez
Xabier Hernandez
Dock Jackson
Melissa Kearns
Travis Kearns
Cynthia Lee
Thomas Lehmeier
Vicki Lehmeier
Emma Mackey
Trent Mareth
Emma McGregor
Rachel McGregor
Kathy Meinsen
Don Raschke
Cheryl Reese
Guffie Robinson
James Ryan
Michelle Ryan
Caroline Sinclair
Gloria Zamarripa

Bastrop County Democratic ladies monthly luncheons

On the third Wednesday of each month, Bastrop County Democratic ladies are invited to meet for lunch at a different area restaurant. In addition to socializing and getting to know one another, attendees have the opportunity to discuss issues of concern with like-minded friends.

Attendees at the May luncheon, held at The 602 on Main, from left clockwise: Jane Overall, Joan Barton, Merry Lou Holmes, Chris Born-Long, Madi Eden, Caroline Sinclair, Clara Maynard, Annie Marrs, Carolyn Banks, Dayna Beck, and Karen Sterling.

The June 20 luncheon will be held at Cedar's Mediterranean Grill. Please contact Mary Liz Singleton at marylizsingleton@gmail.com to be added to the group mailing list.

Stonewall Democrats of Bastrop County organizes

By Dayna Beck and Madeline Eden

On Tuesday, May 15, 10 Bastrop County residents met for the first time to establish a local Stonewall chapter. Attendees decided on the name Stonewall Democrats of Bastrop County.

Our name memorializes the Stonewall riots of June 28, 1969. These spontaneous, violent riots launched the modern fight for LGBTQ rights in the U.S.

The National Stonewall Democratic Federation is devoted to advancing equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. National Stonewall Democrats support the Democratic Party and Democratic candidates who support our mission. We draw our strength from a nationwide network of individuals and clubs composed of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Democrats who are working to realize these goals.

Our stated goals are:

- To educate the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community and its allies about the vast differences that exist between the two major parties on the issues of concern to our community;
- To lead our party to improve its record on issues of importance to our community, and to work for the nomination of Democratic candidates from the local to the national level, including qualified openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender candidates who will be fully supportive of our fight against bigotry and intolerance;
- To encourage our community to support and vote for Democratic candidates who are committed to defeating homophobia and prejudice; and
- To work with other local gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Democratic clubs to encourage and foster the creation of new clubs.

The next meeting of the Stonewall Democrats of Bastrop County will be held at Neighbor's Kitchen and Yard in Bastrop on Tuesday, June 12, at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, please check out our Facebook page: Bastrop County Stonewall Democrats.

Meet & Greet highlights runoff candidates for Bastrop County voters

On May 5 an enthusiastic and curious crowd of Bastrop County voters turned out to meet three candidates vying for our votes in the May 22 runoff election. Bastrop County Democratic Party Chair Cheryl Reese (left) kicked things off and introduced the candidates.

Eric Holguin (right), candidate for District 27 U.S. Representive, explained his positions to Diana Kern.

Mike Siegel (below), District 10 U.S. Representative candidate, visited with Melanie Hunt.

Tawana Cadien (right) took questions from the group. She was running for District 10 U.S. Representative.

In the May 22 runoff elections, Siegel (District 10) and Holguin (District 27) were the winners.

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:

ACTIVIST GROUPS

- **Bastrop County Indivisible**
  Contact Ginger Redden **bcitx10@gmail.com** or
  Robin Rieck **rrieck@austin.rr.com**
- **Bastrop County for Beto**
  Contact Mary Liz Singleton
  marylizsingleton@gmail.com or
  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 Correira
  marshac1017@sbcglobal.net
- **Uppity Women Monthly Caucus**
  Contact Carole Marmell **cmarmell@gmail.com**

VOTER REGISTRATION

- **Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar**

Contact Dayna Beck, **aspenrox@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)
- District 27: VACANT. Special election on June 30

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.

Bastrop County Democratic Party
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512-807-6233

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