



# BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWSLETTER

*A Monthly Publication Dedicated to Moving Bastrop County Forward*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sept. 6

**Meet candidates Dock Jackson** (Pct. 1 Justice of the Peace) **and Michelle Ryan** (Texas House District 17) at Shiloh Community Center, 408 Shiloh Rd., Bastrop, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

### Sept. 10

**Smithville town hall featuring candidate Eric Holguin** (U.S. Congress, TX 27) at Flying Pony Farm, 309 Easley Rd. Smithville, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

### Sept. 11

**Bastrop Stonewall Democrats meeting** at 376 The Oaks Blvd., Elgin, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

### Sept. 12

**House party for candidates Mike Siegel** (U.S. Congress, TX 10) and **Michelle Ryan**, hosted by Mary Ann Walborg, 912 Garwood, Smithville, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
RSVP 512-284-3260

### Sept. 13

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

### Sept. 19

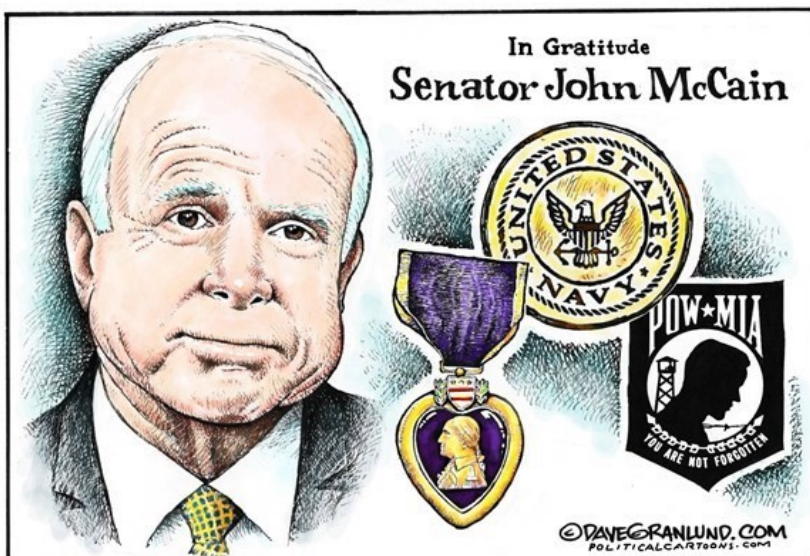
**Bastrop County Democrat ladies luncheon** featuring **candidate Mike Siegel**, at Cedar's Mediterranean Grill, 904 College St., Bastrop, 1:00 p.m.

### Sept. 25

**National Voter Registration Day**  
<https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org>

### Sept. 29

**I Vote Because I Care rally.** Join Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa and meet your candidates at Cedar Creek Park, FM 535, Cedar Creek (behind Bluebonnet VFD #2), 2:00-6:00 p.m.



## Message from the Chair

### Are you on the menu or at the table?

*By Cheryl Reese*

I am always amazed at the number of people who say they don't like being political, so they don't vote. Voting has nothing to do with being political. It has everything to do with participating in decisions being made about you. Some are as simple as street curfews in your community or how far a nightclub has to be from a school. I have had people tell me they were not registered to vote because they felt that the people in power could make a better decision about what was best for them than they themselves could. I was saddened by this admission. It means those people and anyone who thinks like this are definitely on the menu. What puts them there? If you answer yes to any of these questions, you are on the menu:

1. Are you still waiting for someone to knock on your door to invite you to register to vote?
2. Are you waiting for someone to remind you to go and vote?
3. Are you waiting for someone to tell you about the issues that affect you?
4. Do you believe that your vote doesn't count?

What does it mean to be at the table? If you answered no to at least two of these questions, you are on your way to being off the menu and at the table discussing the decisions being made about you. Caring about yourself and your neighbor moves you a little farther off the menu. Registering and voting without anyone having to remind means you are picking up speed. Talking to your friends and family about the issues that concern you and affect them means you are now in the running. Seeking out our candidates or persons currently holding office in your community means you have just jumped off that menu, and you are now sitting at the table. Listening to what is being said and questioning decisions that affect you are crucial. Believing that every voice matters, even if it doesn't agree with yours, is critical.

True democracy is not democracy if all voices are not heard. Democrats turned out for the March primary at a rate of around 25 percent of registered voters. We must do better. This is not a true representation of democracy. Only a few made the decisions for all with this turnout. No one voice should be more important than anyone else's. Voting is the equalizer, and if your candidate, law, or group doesn't win this time, there is always next time. **Stop waiting to be invited!**

#### DO ANY OF THESE CONCERN YOU? COME TO THE TABLE! REGISTER AND VOTE!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Universal healthcare</li> <li>Public education</li> <li>Medicare, Medicaid</li> <li>Minimum wage increase to living wage</li> <li>Racism</li> <li>Gun safety in our society and schools</li> <li>Renewable energy—solar, wind</li> <li>LBGTQ rights</li> <li>Election fraud/tampering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployment</li> <li>Immigration</li> <li>Social Security</li> <li>Student loans</li> <li>Border security</li> <li>Environment—water, air, climate change</li> <li>Rural broadband internet access</li> <li>Legalization of marijuana</li> <li>Campaign finance reform</li> </ul>
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## Our community coming together

*By Sen. Kirk Watson*

When the Legislature drew the new boundaries for Senate District 14 in 2011, Bastrop County became part of my district for the first time. That's as it should be. We belong together.

Bastrop and Travis counties are tied together by much more than SH 71 and SH 290. We share a history, the Colorado River, and a growing economy that creates both opportunities and challenges. And I'm very proud to represent you in the Texas Senate.

We also have shared interest in bolstering public education, making our property tax system more fair, and reducing traffic congestion.

Over the past several years, the people of Bastrop County have faced the fires and the floods together, and you've come out the other side stronger as a community, ready to rebuild and better prepared for whatever was next. I have great respect for your resilience. I've worked for and am proud to have successfully obtained needed assistance for Bastrop County, including financial resources for recovery and readiness, new flood gauges installed between Austin and Smithville, and a \$6 million appropriation to repair flood damage at Bastrop State Park.



Senator Watson welcomes Nancy Wood and Debbie Moore to the Aug. 11 I Vote Because I Care rally in Elgin.



Senator Watson speaks at the Aug. 11 rally.

I'm also working closely with the Bastrop County Democratic Party to ensure that you have what you need to work to turn Bastrop blue, in part by financing the program for mail-in ballot applications to help make voting easier for folks in Bastrop County. The party is working hard and offers a lot of opportunities for people to help through blockwalking and other get-out-the-vote efforts.

*Continued...*

*Kirk Watson, continued*

A lot is at stake in the November election, and I hope you're doing everything you can to make a difference for our community, our state and our country. Resistance requires persistence.



Senator Watson greets Gonzalo Barrientos and BCDP Chair Cheryl Reese at the Aug. 11 coordinated campaign rally.



Oct. 9 is the deadline to register to vote. If you or anyone you know is not registered to vote in Texas, please go to this website and learn how you can register to vote for free:

<https://www.register2vote.org/>

## My big Beto birthday road trip

By Robin Rieck



An upcoming birthday. A new vehicle. A series of Beto town hall meetings at the southern end of my congressional district. Time for a road trip! On Aug. 7 my husband and I headed south to Corpus Christi to show our support for U.S. Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke.

Each of the four town-hall meetings we attended was as unique as the attendees from all walks of life with concerns that ranged through local, national, and international issues. Whether addressing an enormous group in a banquet hall packed beyond capacity or a small group of rural residents gathered in the midday heat around picnic tables, Rep. O'Rourke not only spoke to the concerns of each person but took the time to listen and to educate himself about what matters to us all.

The Valencia in Corpus Christi was crowded with excited supporters. The temperature in the air-conditioned ballroom spiked from body heat and raw energy. The next day at town-hall meetings at Drifter's RV Resort in Rockport, outdoors on the lovely grounds of Goliad Brewery, and at a community hall in Victoria, each venue was filled with folks who may come from different backgrounds and hold different political views but who all love this state and this country.

Everyone listened intently as Rep. O'Rourke explained his vision for providing affordable healthcare for all; keeping our promise to our veterans; rebuilding our public school system; treating our teachers (both active and retired) with the respect they have earned; protecting our planet; and upgrading infrastructure to serve all Texans and to create jobs. His honest and rational approach to each issue had even the most conservative-minded attendees cheering with enthusiasm.



Beto O'Rourke speaks in Goliad.

*Continued...*

*Beto birthday road trip, continued*

We came away with renewed optimism that this divided country can be united again if we can focus on the things that we all hold dear. Beto O'Rourke gets it. His love of Texas and Texans is apparent in both his words and in his actions. And the people of Texas, as diverse as we are, can all be served if we elect this dedicated public servant.



## **A case for bumper stickers**

*By Annie Marrs*

Okay, I get it. You are reluctant to put political bumper stickers on your car. I have been taking a very unscientific poll, and the numbers reveal, hands down, that people do NOT want to put bumper stickers on their cars. Let me propose a case in favor of political bumper stickers that support our local and state Democratic candidates.

I found the most common argument against bumper stickers is that they become permanently attached and are impossible to remove. I personally have never had that problem as long as I peel them off, slowly and carefully, as soon as the time for their need has passed. If you Google "How to remove a bumper sticker from my car," you will find a plethora of techniques. Also, you can purchase magnetic sheets at Walmart, peel and attach bumper sticker to magnetic sheet, cut around, and presto! a magnetic bumper sticker.

One person asked if anyone had ever damaged my car in retaliation because of a political bumper sticker. I first voted and began using bumper stickers in 1968. Yep, 1968. Over all these years, I have never had my car damaged. Love trumps hate. Love also trumps fear.

In 2007 I purchased my Honda Fit. In 2008 I put on two particular stickers that remain to this day. Yes, after 10 years they are now "permanently attached." If and when I sell my car, it will most probably be to a fellow Democrat. One simply says "Texas Democrat," and the other says "If you don't vote, don't whine." Even to this day, drivers of passing cars will honk, point to the rear of my car and give me a thumbs up.

So few cars these days have bumper stickers that it is very noticeable when they do have them. It's a good way to have our voices heard without saying a word.

## Last month around the county

August was full of activities for the Bastrop County Democratic Party. As we get closer to the midterm election in November, our members are organizing, rallying, and taking to the streets in record numbers. And we've got lots of photos to share!



Aug. 1: Bastrop County In-divisible protests Michael McCaul's appearance at the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon meeting.



Aug. 1: Candidate Michelle Ryan joins some 70 people for the Postcards for Beto party, hosted by Bastrop County for Beto activists.



More on next page...

*August around the county, continued*

Aug. 9: Beto O'Rourke volunteers hosted an organizing rally to recruit people to canvass and phone bank for Beto in Bastrop County.



Judge Chris Duggan swears in the Bastrop County Democratic Party precinct chairs at the August 9 County Executive Committee meeting. To contact your precinct chair, go to this link: <http://bastropdemocrats.org/contact-us/>



BCDP County Chair Cheryl Reese thanks Judge Duggan for swearing in the County Executive Committee officers.

If you are interested in serving as a Democratic precinct chair, please call BCDP Headquarters: (512) 807-6233

*More on next page...*



*August around the county, continued*

Aug. 11: Gonzalo Barrientos, former Democratic member of the Texas Senate, kicks off the I Vote Because I Care coordinated campaign as master of ceremonies at the Aug. 11 Elgin rally.



Over 100 people attended the I Vote Because I Care rally in Elgin, including James Denny, Esther Martinez, Robin Rieck, Precinct 1002 Chair Madi Eden, candidate for U.S. House District 27 Eric Holguin, BCDP Chair Cheryl Reese, candidate for U.S. House District 10 Mike Siegel, and Emma Mackey.

*Even more on next page...*

August around the county, continued

Candidate for U.S. House District 10 Mike Siegel visits with Emma Mackey while his children enjoy snowballs on a hot day in Elgin.



Candidate for Texas House of Representatives Michelle Ryan visits with a constituent.

Candidates Eric Holguin and Mike Siegel compare campaign trail experiences.



Keep going...

*August around the county, continued*

Senator Kirk Watson and Precinct 2010 Chair Connie McMillin enjoyed the Elgin rally festivities that featured inspiring remarks by Senator Watson, Michelle Ryan, Mike Siegel, and Eric Holguin. We are excited about our Democratic candidates!



Aug. 12: Precinct 1003 Chair Anne Beck and her husband Marvin hosted a meet and greet for Michelle Ryan, candidate for Texas House of Representatives District 17, and Dock Jackson, candidate for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1.

*Still more ahead...*

August around the county, continued



Candidate Michelle Ryan discusses her top priorities: strong public schools, reliable rural internet, universal healthcare, and equity for all Texans.

Candidate Dock Jackson shares a humorous anecdote about his on-the-job training while working at the Bastrop County Courthouse.



Aug. 15: Michelle Ryan responds to questions at the Bastrop County Democratic ladies monthly luncheon.

*And finally...*

*August around the county, continued*

August 18: Precinct 1001 Chair Trent Mareth and his wife Dani hosted a "Meet Your Neighbor" event at their home in Tahitian Village for all residents of Precinct 1.



Bastrop County, Texas
ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Bastrop County Elections  
804 PECAN STREET  
BASTROP, TX 78602
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512.581.7160  
elections@co.bastrop.tx.us

## BASTROP COUNTY VOTING SCHEDULE for the 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

### — EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS, DATES AND TIMES —

- ❖ **Bastrop Courthouse Annex Bldg.**, 804 Pecan St., Lower Level, Conference Room, Bastrop
- ❖ **Smithville City Hall**, 317 Main St., Smithville
- ❖ **Cedar Creek United Methodist Church**, 5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek
- ❖ **Elgin Public Library**, 404 N. Main St., Elgin

### OCTOBER 22, 2018 – NOVEMBER 2, 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	22	23	24	25	26	27
	8am – 5pm	8am – 5pm	8am – 5pm	8am – 5pm	8am – 5pm	7am – 7pm
	29	30	31	1	2	
	8am – 5pm	8am – 5pm	8am – 5pm	7am – 7pm	7am – 7pm	

### — ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS — TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018

PLEASE NOTE THAT ON ELECTION DAY A VOTER MUST VOTE AT THE POLLING LOCATION ASSIGNED TO THEIR VOTING PRECINCT.

- 1001 ..... **Bastrop County WCID#2 Bldg**, 106 Conference Dr., Bastrop
- 1002 ..... **First Baptist Church**, 1201 Water St., Bastrop
- 1003 ..... **First Baptist Church Newest Expansion** 915 Hwy 71 W., Bastrop **\*\*NEW LOCATION\*\***
- 1004 ..... **Bastrop County Pct. 1 Road Barn**, 601 Cool Water Dr., Bastrop **\*\*NEW LOCATION\*\***
- 2005 ..... **Smithville City Hall**, 317 Main St., Smithville
- 2006 ..... **Lake Thunderbird Community Center**, 104 Thunderbird Dr., Smithville
- 2007 ..... **Rosanky Community Center**, 135 Main St., Rosanky
- 2008 ..... **Heart of the Pines VFD**, 109 Green Acres Loop, Smithville
- 2009 ..... **Calvary Baptist Church**, 3001 Loop 150 E., Bastrop
- 2010 ..... **Paige Community Center**, 107 S. Main St. (off Hwy 290), Paige
- 2011 ..... **Bastrop Fire Department Station #3 (Circle D)**, 926 FM 1441, Bastrop
- 3012 ..... **Hills Prairie Baptist Church**, 1338 Hwy 304, Bastrop
- 3013 ..... **Red Rock Community Center**, 114 Red Rock Rd., Red Rock
- 3014 ..... **Bluebonnet VFD #2**, 5554 FM 535, Cedar Creek
- 3015 ..... **Cedar Creek United Methodist Church**, 5630 FM 535, Cedar Creek
- 3016 ..... **Wyldwood Baptist Church**, 398 Union Chapel Rd., Cedar Creek
- 4017 ..... **Elgin Public Library**, 404 N. Main St., Elgin
- 4018 ..... **Elgin Public Library**, 404 N. Main St., Elgin
- 4019 ..... **Family Worship Center**, 2425 FM 1704, Elgin
- 4020 ..... **New Life Baptist Fellowship**, 175 Hwy 95 S., Elgin
- 4021 ..... **Faith Lutheran Church**, 230 Waco St., McDade

## 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](mailto:bcitx10@gmail.com) or  
Robin Rieck [rrieck@austin.rr.com](mailto:rrieck@austin.rr.com)
- **Bastrop County for Beto**  
Contact Mary Liz Singleton  
[marylizsingleton@gmail.com](mailto:marylizsingleton@gmail.com) or  
Robin Rieck [rrieck@austin.rr.com](mailto:rrieck@austin.rr.com)
- **Hogeye Huddle**  
Contact Michelle Ryan [hogeyehuddle@gmail.com](mailto:hogeyehuddle@gmail.com)
- **Stonewall Democrats of Bastrop County**  
Contact Madi Eden [mk@aifx.net](mailto:mk@aifx.net) or  
Dayna Beck [aspenrox@gmail.com](mailto:aspenrox@gmail.com)

### LIVELY DISCUSSION GROUPS

- **Bastrop County Democratic Ladies Monthly Luncheon**  
Contact Mary Liz Singleton  
[marylizsingleton@gmail.com](mailto:marylizsingleton@gmail.com)
- **Liberals Dining & Drinking (LDD)**  
Contact Marsha Correia  
[marshac1017@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marshac1017@sbcglobal.net)
- **Uppity Women Monthly Caucus**  
Contact Carole Marmell [cmarmell@gmail.com](mailto:cmarmell@gmail.com)

### VOTER REGISTRATION

- **Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar**  
Contact Dayna Beck, [aspenrox@gmail.com](mailto:aspenrox@gmail.com)

### BCDP LEADERSHIP ROLE

- **Precinct Chair • Volunteer Coordinator**  
Contact Cheryl Reese [cheryl.reese@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl.reese@yahoo.com)

### CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE AT THE LOCAL OR COUNTY LEVEL

- Contact Cheryl Reese [cheryl.reese@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl.reese@yahoo.com)

### COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

- **Writers to contribute articles/letters to the editor to local newspapers and for this newsletter**

Contact Bill McCann [bmccann42@gmail.com](mailto:bmccann42@gmail.com)

### SUPPORT STAFF ROLE

- **Volunteer in the BCDP Office**  
Contact Carole Marmelle [cmarmell@gmail.com](mailto:cmarmell@gmail.com)

### VOTER OUTREACH

- ♦ **Block Walking • Canvassing**  
Contact James Denny [jedenny@comcast.net](mailto:jedenny@comcast.net)

### 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](http://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)
- Michael Cloud, District 27: 202-255-7742 (DC); 361-884-2222 (Corpus Christi); 361-894-6446 (Victoria)

### Texas State Senator

- Kirk Watson: 512-463-0114

### Texas State Representative

- John Cyrier: 512-463-0682

Visit [www.bastropvotes.org](http://www.bastropvotes.org) to find out your district and precinct. Additional contact information can also be found at this link.

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