



BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Publication Dedicated to Moving Bastrop County Forward

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Message from the chair.** What gives you the right to vote? *Page 2*
- **Candidate yard signs available.** *Page 3*
- **Bastrop Dems** on National Voter Registration Day. *Page 4*
- **Letter to the editor.** Robin Rieck contrasts Beto and Ted. *Page 6*
- **Update from the Texas 10th.** Candidate Mike Siegel. *Page 7*
- **Update from the Texas 27th.** Candidate Eric Holguin. *Page 9*
- **Cedar Creek rally draws candidates and voters.** *Page 11*
- **Voting schedule.** Dates and locations for early voting and election day. *Page 14*
- **How do you want to be involved, who represents me?** *Page 15*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 1

Beto O'Rourke Elgin town hall
featuring music by Ray Wylie Hubbard
Railroad Ranch, 412 Depot St., Elgin
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Oct. 9

Last day to register to vote

Oct. 9

Bastrop Stonewall Democrats meeting
Olde World Bakery and Café, 112 Main St.,
Smithville, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Oct. 11

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

Oct. 12

Meet and greet with Michelle Ryan,
Democratic nominee for TX House Dist. 17
406 E. 8th St., Elgin, 1:00 p.m.

Oct. 13

**Riverside Grove block party for Dock
Jackson**, candidate for Justice of the Peace
Precinct 1, 218 Nicole Way, Bastrop
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Oct. 17

**Bastrop County Democratic ladies
luncheon**, Cedar's Mediterranean Grill,
904 College St., Bastrop, 1:00 p.m.

Oct. 20

**I Vote Because I Care coordinated
campaign rally**, Neighbors, 601 Chestnut
St., Bastrop, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Oct. 22: Early voting begins!

Oct. 22

**Bastrop Justice of Peace
Precinct 1 candidate forum**
Bastrop City Hall, 1311 Chestnut St.
9:00-7:30 p.m.



Message from the Chair

What gives you the right to vote?

By Cheryl Reese

Today, all U.S. citizens have the right to vote. But it hasn't always been that way. Getting to this point has been a long struggle.

The earliest colonists, the Pilgrims, traveled here at great peril to practice their religion in the manner they chose. While still loyal to the English King, in 1620 they developed the Mayflower Compact, binding its signers into a "Civil Body Politic" for the purpose of passing "just and equal Laws . . . for the general good of the Colony." Those few words expressed the idea of self-government for the first time in the New World. Paramount to that idea was the right to vote.

After the American Revolution severed our ties with England, the U.S. Constitution and various amendments and laws have granted, rescinded, and protected voting rights. Over the years, people have marched, protested, sat in, and literally died for the right to vote.

When did you get the right to vote?

- **1789:** The Constitution grants the states the power to set voting requirements. Generally, states limited this right to property-owning or tax-paying white males (about 6 percent of the population).
- **1792-1838:** In several northern states, as voting rights are extended to poor white men, those rights are withdrawn from free black males.
- **1870:** The 15th Amendment grants voting rights to African American men. However, through the use of poll taxes, literacy tests, and other means, southern states were able to effectively disenfranchise African Americans.
- **1920:** Women are guaranteed the right to vote by the 19th Amendment. In practice, the same restrictions that hindered the ability of non-white men to vote now also applied to non-white women.
- **1924:** All Native Americans are granted citizenship and the right to vote, regardless of tribal affiliation. By this point, approximately two-thirds of Native Americans were already U.S. citizens.
- **1943:** Chinese immigrants are given the right to citizenship and the right to vote by the Magnuson Act.
- **1965:** Protection of voter registration and voting for racial minorities, later applied to language minorities, is established by the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This has also been applied to correcting discriminatory election systems and districting.



(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

- **1971:** Adults aged 18 through 21 are granted the right to vote by the 26th Amendment. This was enacted in response to Vietnam War protests, which argued that soldiers who were old enough to fight for their country should be granted the right to vote.
- **2006:** The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is extended for the fourth time by George W. Bush, being the second extension in 25 years.
- **2008:** State laws on felony disenfranchisement have since continued to shift, both curtailing and restoring voter rights, sometimes over short periods of time within the same U.S. state. Texas is notorious for disproportionately burdening voters of color.
- **2013:** The U.S. Supreme Court rules in a 5-4 decision that Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act is unconstitutional. Section 4(b) states that if states or local governments wants to change their voting laws, they must appeal to the U.S. Attorney General.

Throughout our history, those who have had the right to vote have decided what is best for all of our citizens—the few deciding for everyone. Today, voting is the one act that makes all men and women equal. We each have one vote. No one person's vote weighs more than another person's vote. And yet many people still stay home from the polls, relinquishing that hard-won right and allowing the few to decide for everyone.

Don't discount the power you've been given. Your vote doesn't count unless you cast it.



Candidate Yard Signs Available at BCDP Headquarters

By Dayna Beck, Office Manager

If you are in need of candidate signs, you're in luck. We have plenty of Beto O'Rourke, Mike Siegel, Justin Nelson, Michelle Ryan, Dock Jackson, Chari Kelly, and Gisela Triana yard signs in our office at 1009 Main Street. Please come on by and pick up what you need for your yard and possibly your neighbors. Office hours until Election Day are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Saturday.

Special Note: Because of the tremendous demand for Beto yard signs (over 500 have been ordered, and our supply is quickly dwindling), we request a \$5 donation.

We also have a handful of the larger signs for Chari Kelly (4x6) and Gisela Triana (4x8) available. If you have questions, please contact Dayna at 512-789-3295. Let's get this show on the road.

Bastrop County Democrats Participate in National Voter Registration Day



When the Bastrop County elections office sent out a call for volunteer deputy registrars to assist with their National Voter Registration Day initiative on Sept. 25, Bastrop County Democrats did not disappoint. A dozen of our dedicated VDRs quickly stepped up to cover four three-hour shifts from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Tractor Supply in Bastrop.



BCDP volunteer deputy registrars Dayna Beck, Ward Hillyer, Dan Hayes, and Dwight Lindsley teamed up with Martin Enriquez, Bridgette Escobedo, Jordan Frost, and Kristin Miles to help set up and cover the first shift on National Voter Registration Day.

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

Bastrop County Precinct 3013 Chair Dan Hayes registers a new voter. A total of 73 new voters were registered at Tractor Supply, plus an additional 16 new voters at satellite locations in Elgin.



BCDP Precinct 3014 Chair Carol Johnson, Precinct 3015 Chair Caroline Sinclair, and Diana Kern, all VDRs, had fun registering voters during their 2:00-5:00 p.m. shift.

When the going gets tough, Beto gets going while Cruz circles the drain

**Bastrop
Advertiser**

*Letter to the editor of The Bastrop Advertiser
Sept. 15, 2018
by Robin Rieck*

As momentum builds for Rep. Beto O'Rourke's bid for a United States Senate seat, Ted Cruz has opted to employ the same negative tactics that failed him in his two unsuccessful attempts to win the Republican presidential nomination. Each day brings another hateful attack from Cruz and his supporters against O'Rourke. The enthusiasm around O'Rourke's campaign was built on the desire by Texans for civility and an open, honest discussion about solutions to the problems we're facing. Cruz can't compete in that arena. He can't even seem to find the arena with GPS.

Recently I attended a series of town halls hosted by Beto O'Rourke. At events packed with Democrats, Republicans and Independents in Corpus Christi, Rockport, Goliad and Victoria, the candidate enthusiastically spoke of his vision for a unified Texas that leads in providing solutions for immigration reform, honoring our commitment to our veterans, improving infrastructure and creating jobs, leading the country in production of clean energy and rebuilding our ailing public school and healthcare systems. No audience question or suggestion was off-limits. Attendees were eager to listen and eager to be heard after years of being shut out by elected officials like Cruz.

What you won't hear at O'Rourke's town hall meetings are attacks against his opponent. Attacks don't provide solutions. In recent days Cruz has attempted to distort O'Rourke's voting record and ridicule his experiences as a young man. Those experiences, both good and bad, molded the congressman into the dedicated public servant he is today. Cruz has now resorted to splicing together video clips to falsely imply that

O'Rourke condones burning our American flag. With no record of achievement in his six years as a senator, Cruz chooses to circle the drain as Beto O'Rourke shows up across the state welcoming input from every Texan. On Nov. 6, we need to flush Cruz down that drain and elect a man who strives to unite us all to make Texas the leader in solutions that will benefit our country.



Update from the Texas 10th

By Mike Siegel, Candidate for U.S. Representative, 10th Congressional District

With less than six weeks to go, we can feel the rising wave.

Taking on Michael McCaul was a leap of faith, but I've been rewarded by the amazing commitment and enthusiasm of grassroots activists, including folks at the Bastrop County Democratic Party and Bastrop County Indivisible. Our path to victory requires reaching out to every Democratic and independent voter and letting them know we are fighting for them. For my race and many others, Bastrop County will be key!



Siegel addresses an enthusiastic audience during one of his many visits to Bastrop County.

My campaign message has been distilled to "fighting to protect our safety net and restore common decency to our government." A true safety net includes healthcare for all, a living wage, a retirement with dignity, quality public schools, and reliable infrastructure, including high-speed internet and hospitals in our

rural areas. Common decency means as a country we care for each other, and we don't discriminate or separate parents from children.

My opponent has not held a public meeting in 10 years and is not accountable to the people of this district. We are going to show him that you can't just sit back and rely on gerrymandering and personal wealth. The job of a representative is to listen to the people and fight for their needs.

My campaign is going well, and we have hired additional staff, including folks working in the Bastrop area. Look for Ben Deatrick and others to be coordinating volunteers, knocking on doors, and getting out the word. You can contact Ben at ben@siegelfortexas.org to join our Bastrop team.

It is places like Bastrop that will make the difference in this election. This county voted Democrat in 2008 and has not since. 2018 is our chance to turn the county back to blue.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

We are going to keep knocking doors, making calls, and sending texts and postcards to reach every voter in the area. Big picture, we are "showing up," like Beto says, and letting folks know that the Democratic Party cares for them and is willing to fight to improve the lives of all of us.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Beto Town Hall in Elgin on October 1. Until then, keep working hard, and thank you for your support.



Mike listens to constituents at a candidate meet and greet in Smithville.



Mike Siegel visits with Pct. 2 Constable Gus Meduna and Bill McCann.



Update from the Texas 27th

By Eric Holguin, Candidate for U.S. Representative,
27th Congressional District



Eric Holguin makes a point to participants at his September 12 town hall meeting held at the Flying Pony Farm in Smithville.

As I've traveled all over the 27th Congressional District, I can't help but notice something in the air, and it's not just Beto. Having a range of town halls in Wharton, Victoria, Corpus Christi, Smithville, Palacios,

and more, people are waking up to the reality that our country is in a state of emergency. And they want to take action. The way that we reverse this emergency is by stepping up and fighting back for what our values truly are—caring for one another and ensuring that everyone has a fair shot again, that we are able to have civil discourse, and that we protect the great democracy that we know and love.

Voters all over this district want someone who's going to focus on the issues, put interests of the people over corporations or super PACs, and have genuine intentions for serving our communities. Having come from a family of public servants, and previously working in both federal and city government, I have a true understanding of how to navigate our government and deal with complex community issues, which enables me to properly serve our communities.



Despite the weather, a robust crowd attended Eric Holguin's town hall meeting to learn more about how he plans to address issues of concern to all Democrats.

I plan to bring federal dollars to invest in our infrastructure, reverse the damage done to our public education system and give teachers much needed raises, ensure we expand healthcare to all, fight for women to get equal pay for equal work, push for better care for our veterans, and protect our democracy from outside forces that seek to influence our decision making. We need more than

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

equality in Texas. We need equity for everyone. Whether you are a veteran, a retired teacher, a student, senior citizen, LGBTQ, and everything in between, this campaign is for you. I'm here to listen to your concerns and turn them into action, because that's what the people of the 27th Congressional District are ready to see.

Candidates Michelle Ryan and Eric Holguin visited with voters and Handsome, a resident at Flying Pony Farm.



I Vote Because I Care

Saturday, October 20, 2018

Neighbor's Kitchen and Yard

601 Chestnut St., Bastrop

5:00 to 7:30 p.m.



Come to the rally and meet your candidates.

- Dock Jackson, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1
- Chari Kelly, Justice, 3rd Court of Appeals, Place 3
- Michelle Ryan, State Representative District 17
- Mike Siegel, U.S. Representative, District 10
- Justin Nelson, Attorney General (invited)
- Edward Smith, Justice, 3rd Court of Appeals, Place 2 (invited)
- Mike Collier, Lieutenant Governor (invited)

I Vote Because I Care rally in Cedar Creek



Sept. 29, 2018—The blue wave rolled into Cedar Creek Park as around 50 local Democrats gathered to hear from local, congressional, and judicial candidates.



Eric Holguin, candidate for U.S. Representative, shares his vision for TX27 with attendees, including Mike Renck, Carrie Falk, Madi Eden (standing), and BCDP Chair Cheryl Reese.

Eric Holguin greets Vic Vreeland as Dan Hays and Bill McCann keep an eye on the weather radar during a downpour.



More on next page...

Kathy Cheng, candidate for TX Supreme Court Place 6, fired up the crowd as she talked about the importance of diversity in our judicial system.



Chari Kelly talks about how her experience as a veteran, defense attorney, and prosecutor will serve Texans on the Third Court of Appeals, Place 3.

Dock Jackson, master of ceremonies for the event and candidate for Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, greets the crowd.



Continued...



Thanks to candidates Kathy Cheng, Chari Kelly, and Dock Jackson for joining us.

Mark Meuth, Bastop County Commissioner Pct. 3, listens to constituents.



Bastrop County, Texas



ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT



Bastrop County Elections

804 PECAN STREET
BASTROP, TX 78602

www.bastropvotes.org

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 or
Robin Rieck rriek@austin.rr.com
- **Bastrop County for Beto**
Contact Mary Liz Singleton
marylizsingleton@gmail.com or
Robin Rieck rriek@austin.rr.com
- **Hogeye Huddle**
Contact Michelle Ryan hogeyehuddle@gmail.com
- **Stonewall Democrats of Bastrop County**
Contact Madi Eden mk@aifx.net or
Dayna Beck aspnrox@gmail.com

LIVELY DISCUSSION GROUPS

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

VOTER REGISTRATION

- **Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar**
Contact Dayna Beck, aspnrox@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

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

Contact Bill McCann bmccann42@gmail.com

SUPPORT STAFF ROLE

- **Volunteer in the BCDP Office**
Contact Carole Marmelle cmarmell@gmail.com

VOTER OUTREACH

- ♦ **Block Walking • Canvassing**
Contact James Denny 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

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 to find out your district and precinct. Additional contact information can also be found at this link.

Bastrop County Democratic Party
1009 Main Street, Bastrop, TX 78602
512-807-6233

Editorial staff: Bill McCann
Mary Liz Singleton
Chris Born-Long