

THE NEWSLETTER IS REVIVED!



BCDP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2021

BEXAR LOVE EDITION

ELECTIONS, VOTING &  
NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS!

HAPPY ST VALENTINE'S!

THIS MONTH'S ADDRESS BY  
THE BCDP COUNTY CHAIR



A Valentine to Remember, A New Challenge Ahead

Dear fellow Democrats,

We were able to participate in and contributed in creating a historic voter turnout during last November’s Presidential Election and now hopefully we can all experience some semblance of calm after the fallout of the chaos that spilled out into our nation’s Capitol Building in a scene that is best reserved as fodder for Hollywood drama than being played out into the very heart of our democracy. Hopefully, we can all take a moment to breathe for the next few weeks that will follow and look towards the upcoming election campaigns that will soon be marching on the horizon. We ought to take this upcoming election run just as seriously as this past general election, which will be the Bexar County municipal campaigns that will fundamentally shape the future for our resident voters most certainly.

The previous city and county election campaign resulted in a shockingly low turnout at the polls with a figure of 1.7%, which city mayor Ron Nirenberg felt uncomfortable regarding his election win with such a low turnout margin in the tallied results. We as a party need to turn our mobilization efforts from the General Election and reinvest them into these upcoming municipal elections so that we can generate the same type of urgency to the polls for our voters. I want to personally send out an invitation to all BCDP volunteers that would be interested in joining us in the effort to support our Democratic candidates running for municipal offices. Now is the time to focus on making democracy work for us at the local level and county level that can shape definitive policies that will affect those at home directly if not almost immediately upon their authorization.

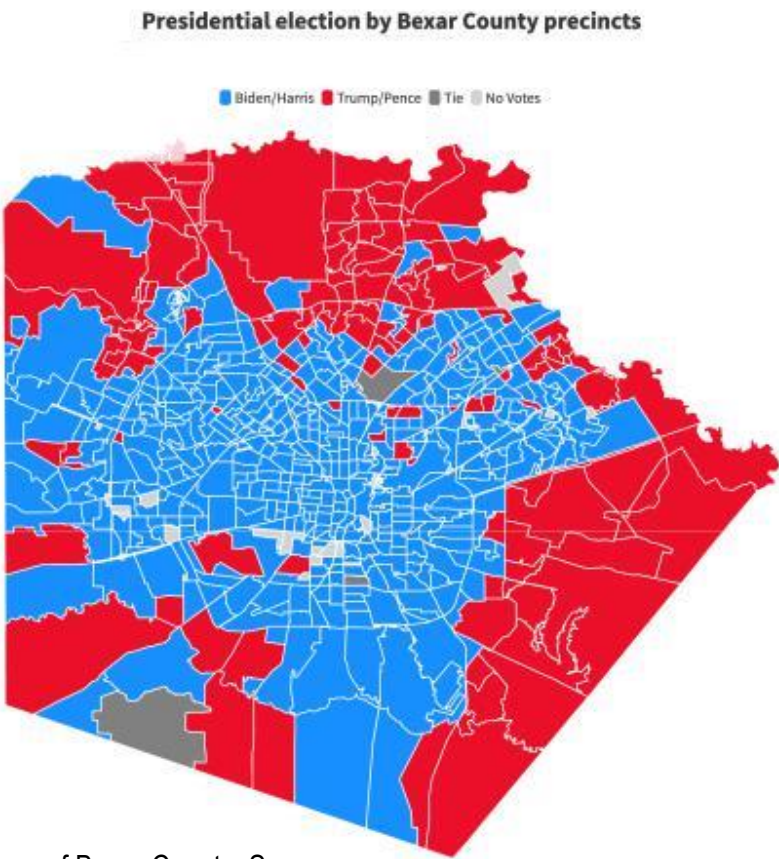
Here we are once more, gearing up to march onward to the polls and I salute every one of you that will take a portion of your time to help influence democracy in Bexar County. Let’s prepare for the challenges that lie ahead as we prepare for what will surely become some hotly contested municipal elections in the months to come. I want to send out warm Valentine’s wishes to our communities and hope that everyone safely spends the spirit of the holiday with family and friends in a safe manner given the

challenge of social distancing throughout the pandemic. Together, we can all be a part of the improvement to strengthen the soul of Bexar County! I’ll leave you with this thought.... *Con todo el amor desde el corazon con el fe en Dios que vamos a sobrevivir juntos en este camino.*

Remember,

ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL!

Monica Alcantara  
Bexar County Democratic Party Chair



Political map of Bexar County. Source:  
<https://sanantonioreport.org/did-your-neighborhood-vote-...>

## Some Upcoming Meetings/Events:



### Membership Meeting

#### **Meeting Date(s)**

February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11 - 2021

#### **Meeting Time**

10 am - 12 pm

#### **Meeting Location (Address with zip code)**

Zoom Meeting until further notice - Check your email for locations after 2021 vaccine release

North East Bexar County Democrats holds regular monthly meetings with interesting guest speakers to address current affairs affecting our community.

Sandra Thompson  
[sj\\_thompson@icloud.com](mailto:sj_thompson@icloud.com)  
Comm: (210) 571-5790

#### **Event Name:**

B & F Committee Meeting

#### **Meeting Date(s):**

March 2nd (Tue), April 14th (Weds)

#### **Meeting Time:** 6:30

#### **Meeting Venue:** Zoom

### **SDEC Committee Members**

**Joan Simoncelli – SD 19**

**Richard Gonzales – SD 19**

**Jen Ramos – SD 21**

**Max Lars – SD 21**

**Jamie Eickhoff – SD 25**

**Andres Lopez – SD 25**

**Rose Marie DeHoyos – SD 26**

**Robert Vargas – SD 26**

### Precinct 3 Questions?

*\*If you have questions for me, send to [precinct3195@yahoo.com](mailto:precinct3195@yahoo.com) or text me at 210-365-4462. Responses to this email go the mailchimp group account.*

*Gina Sandoval*  
Deputy Chair, Precinct 3

**CALLING ALL CANDIDATES!**

If you live in a municipality outside of San Antonio, and have been thinking about running for office, or know someone who is, please consider one of these positions in your town. Everyone listed here is NOT a Democrat, according to their voting record and is being targeted by the Texas Democratic Party. Our goal is to get as many Dems elected as possible!

**Alamo Heights**

Council member PLC 2 Wes Sharples  
Mayor At-Large Bobby Rosenthal

**Alamo Heights ISD**

Board of Trustees PLC 5 Bonnie Giddens  
Board of Trustees PLC 7 Perry Shankle

**Balcones Heights**

Council Member PLC 3 John Halpin  
Council Member PLC 4 Lamar Gillian  
Council Member PLC 5 Miguel Valverde

**Castle Hills**

Alderman PLC 1 Joe Izbrand  
Alderman PLC 3 Kurt May  
Mayor At Large JR Treviño

**China Grove**

Alderman At Large Larry Keller  
Alderman At Large VACANT  
Mayor At Large Mary Ann Hajek

**Cibolo**

Council Member Dist.4 Ted Gibbs  
Council member Dist 5 Mark Allen  
Council member Dist 6 Tim Woliver

**Converse**

Council member PLC 5 Richard Wendt  
Mayor At Large Al Suarez

**Elmendorf**

Council Member PLC 2 Tommy Hicks  
Council member PLC 4 Manuel Decena

**Fair Oaks Ranch**

Council member PLC 1 MaryAnne Havard  
Mayor At-Large Garry Manitzas

**Helotes**

Council member PLC 3 Bert Buys  
Council member PLC 5 Paul Friedrichs  
Mayor At-Large Thomas A. Schoolcraft

**Hill Country Village**

Council member PLC 1 Carl A. Register  
Council member PLC3 Thomas Doyle  
Council member PLC5 Allison Greer

**Hollywood Park**

Alderman PLC 1 Michael Howe  
Alderman PLC 3 Oscar Villarreal, Jr.  
Alderman PLC 5 Paul Homburg III

**Judson ISD**

Board of Trustees District 2 Shatonya King  
Board of Trustees District 3 Debra Eaton  
Board of Trustees District 4 Rafael Diaz Jr.

**Kirby**

Mayor At Large Lisa B. Pierce  
Council Member At Large  
Kimberly McGehee-Aldrich

**Leon Valley**

Council Member PLC 1 Donna Charlesil  
Council Member PLC 3  
Council Member PLC 5

**Live Oak**

Council Member PLC1 Mendell D. Morgn Jr.  
Council Member PLC5 Aaron Dahl

**Northside ISD**

Board of Trustees Dist 6 Carol Harley

**Olmos Park**

Council member PLC 1 Erin Harrison  
Council member PLC 2 Julliana Dusek  
Council member PLC 3 Sharon Plant

**San Antonio ISD**

Board of Trustees District 3 Debra Guerrero

**Sandy Oaks**

Alderman PLC1 Charales Fillinger  
Alderman PLC 3 Thomas Repino  
Alderman PLC 5 Michael E. Yelton, Sr.

**Schertz**

Council member PLC 6 Allison Heyward  
Council member PLC 7 Tim Brown

**Selma**

Council member PLC 4 Kevin Hadas  
Council member PLC 5 Jim Parm  
Council member PLC6 Ken Polasek

**Shavano Park**

Alderman At Large Michele Bunting Ross  
Alderman At Large Mike Colemere  
Mayor At Large Bob Werner

**Southwest ISD**

Board member At Large  
James Sullivan, Jr.  
  
Board member At Large  
Keith Byrom

**Terrell Hills**

Council member PLC 3  
William Ochse III

Council member PLC 4  
Peter Mako

**Universal City**

Council Member At Large  
Bear Goolsby

**Von Ormy**

Commissioner At Large Deborah Ivy  
Mayor At Large Sally Martinez

**Windcrest**

Mayor At Large Dan Reese



# Community Spotlight

## **It's about that time again... (back in the saddle)**

The time to gear up for the municipal elections is coming nigh, and the BCDP Committees for Voting & Voter Protection and Integrity are working hard on making sure that Precinct Chairs & Coordinators will be ready to assist their communities by providing materials for Voter Deputy Registrar training, Vote by Mail applications, and ballot tracking during elections. If you need any assistance, please contact your local Precinct Chair, Coordinator, or call the BCDP Office at 210-504-0507 cell, 210-332-5436 landline to find out who represents & serves in your neighborhood. The website information for the State of Texas can be found at: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml> and for Bexar County at: <https://www.bexar.org/1568/Elections-Department> . Bexar County Elections Division has created a permanent hotline for reporting Voter/Ballot fraud issues or activities at 210-335-8160.

## **Precinct 4 News updates in the Texas Legislature**

Hello everyone, I'm Deputy Chair of Precinct 4, Jesus "Toro" Martinez, and I am bringing you some exciting new information about what's about to take place in Precinct 4 now that the new session of the Texas Legislature is now in session. Our elected Texas Senator Judith Zaffirini (District 21) has filed the following bills in the Texas Legislature, and these are specific to those community constituents in Bexar County's Precinct 4:

- Senate Joint Resolution 34, which would allow lawmakers to pass bills in the first 60 DAYS of a legislative session;
- Senate Bill 590, creates an independent Redistricting Commission;
- Senate Bill 613, will help TEACHERS and SCHOOL PERSONNEL who contracted COVID-19 at work to obtain workers' compensation benefits;
- Senate Bill 614, this will provide improvements within the administration of apprenticeship programs;
- Senate Bill 625, going to be working for those in Precinct 4's county courts to provide adequate and sustainable funding for their specialty programs
- Senate Bill 626, implements recommendations modifying probate and guardianship matters and certain procedures for persons who are incapacitated or have a mental illness;
- Senate Bill 644, ensures that families are not thrown into a financial crisis due to post-judgment collection action;
- Senate Bill 645, expands eligibility of the Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program

I am particularly invested in SB 590 as it is critical that our Texas Senators examine each of our communities' similarities in comparison to other counties that might have no other similarities to our own. I would like to see my areas of Bexar County placed back into Senatorial District 21. Ten years ago, the area where I reside was cut away from Senatorial District 21 to create a little district for someone else. During the time I've lived here in my current district, I've felt disenfranchised as my entire area as my community has disconnected in a way that was much, much different than it ever was before the redistricting took place. There are a lot of similarities in Bexar County within Senate District 21, and ever since my property was placed into Senate District 25 I encountered instances of being ostracized by incoming members of the area and a severe lack of accessibility to our representative. I believe that being carved out of Senate District 21 was simply a strategic maneuver by opposition leaders in order to nullify or silence my voice which is a miscarriage of justice for redistricting in my personal view. I encourage more of you to attend and sign up to be a speaking witness if you have experienced a similar experience in your area. If you need to ask any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at: [jesustoromartinez@yahoo.com](mailto:jesustoromartinez@yahoo.com) . Senator Zaffirini would like to hear your input, so please feel free to register at least 24 hours in advance for one of the following hearings: a.) Austin, Friday, Feb. 26 @ 9 am or All Regions: Saturday, Feb. 27 @ 9 am. Our once-per-decade redistricting has significant implications for Texans' representation in the Legislature, in Congress and at the State Board of Education. Join us to ensure committee members understand your community's needs and priorities.

- 1.) [Register as a witness](#) to testify virtually. 2.) [Submit written comments](#) to be shared with all committee members and archived in official records. 3.) [Livestream the hearings](#) to follow the hearings in real time. 4.) Detailed hearing notices with more information are available via the [Texas Senate Committee Hearings and Events](#) webpage.

## **Volunteer Training Session**

### **Precinct Chair Recruitment and Training Committee**

Hello Precinct Chairs, Coordinators, Party Officers, Volunteers, and Friends. Your Precinct Chair Recruitment and Training Committee has a lot going on in the next couple of months! We have three courses to teach precinct chairs and coordinators about best practices to GOTV (Get Out The Vote). All courses include hands-on practice. The classes are offered monthly. Please note that you MUST have activated your VAN account before class begins!

Here's this month's schedule:

#### **Precinct Chair Training Course #1: Developing Your Precinct Sunday, February 21, 2021, 1-3PM via Zoom**

In this course, we learn about organizing your precinct to GOTV in upcoming elections. Discussion topics include:

- providing information to voters
- having volunteer get-togethers
- voting by mail
- creating lists of voters in VAN
- GOTV calendar

Deadline to Register: RSVP by February 19<sup>th</sup> to receive the Zoom link and course materials. REQUEST VAN ACCESS at this link by the same date:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe-6SKRPptegfynm0aZXq\\_ziLLaVKCTPPn0e07cTOyA2Yu36Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe-6SKRPptegfynm0aZXq_ziLLaVKCTPPn0e07cTOyA2Yu36Q/viewform)

#### **Precinct Chair Training Course #2: Looking at Data Sunday, February 28, 2021, 1-3 PM via Zoom**

In this course, we dive deep into the Bexar Elections website. Discussion topics include:

- Overview of the website,
- Analyzing historical voting data for your precinct
- Setting goals for turnout in different types of elections.

#### **Precinct Chair Training Course #3: Advanced VAN Training Sunday, March 7, 2021, 12-2PM, via Zoom**

As the saying goes, "If it's not in VAN, it didn't happen." This course is “where the rubber meets the road” as we learn how to use technology to implement what we learned in Course #1.

Discussion topics include:

- How to cut turf
- Creating lists in MiniVAN
- Updating information during block walks
- Printing address labels
- Creating virtual phone banks.

Please RSVP to John Goodman by Thursday, March 4th to receive Zoom link and course materials. You should attend Training Course #1: Developing Your Precinct before attending this class.

#### **March Super Training Day!**

In March, we will have a big training event where all three courses will be presented on the same day. In addition, we will be offering courses on Voting by Mail, and Voter Registration Best Practices. More on this later. This course is open to all new and existing precinct chairs. A lot of content has been added to this course, so if it's been a while, feel free to join us again!

**John Goodman**  
**BCDP Precinct Chair Recruitment and Training Committee**

## **2021/2022 Municipal & State Calendar (Thanks Colt)**

2021

Jan 12 – May 31.....Texas Legislative Session Begins  
Jan 13 – Feb 12.....Municipal Elections Filing Period Starts  
April 1.....Last Day to register to vote in Municipal Elections  
April 19 – 27.....Municipal Early Voting  
May 1.....Municipal Election day  
Sep14.....Filing Period for Primary Elections Begins  
Oct 18 – 29 .....November Election Early Voting  
Nov 2.....November Election Day  
Dec 13.....Filing Period for Primary Elections Ends

2022

Jan 31.....Last day to register to vote in Primary Elections  
Feb 18..... Last day to apply for VBM ballot  
Feb 14 – 25.....Primary Early Vote  
March 1.....Primary Election Day

### **Voter Deputy Registrar Re-Certification**

We can take the course online or in person. Per conversation with Bexar Elections, the upcoming dates, and here is the reference link for Voter Deputy Registrar training if you are interested in getting involved with signing up new voters prior to the upcoming municipal elections:

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/deputy.shtml>.

We encourage everyone to participate and take part in helping to keep Bexar County municipalities Blue!

## **TDP Online Training Tip:**

All Democrats are encouraged to take the free online training courses offered by the Texas Democratic Party on their extensive Training Platform. All courses can be found at [mytexaslearns.com](https://mytexaslearns.com).

New folks can sign up here:

<https://txdemocrats.litmos.com/online-courses/>

We will be rolling out content for voter registration and the 2021 municipal elections shortly, but those are not yet live. In there you will also find some of the most popular courses currently — Activism 101 and Organizing 101. Candidates, activists, organizers, and Precinct Chair VAN Courses are available.

### ***Jamie Eickhoff***

SD25 Committee Member  
Texas Democratic Party  
State District Executive Committee

### **Northwest Democrats Announcement**

The next monthly Zoom meeting will be on Saturday, February 20, 2021 from 10 am until 11:15 am. The meeting will be featuring two great speakers:

- Rob Goodman, healthcare expert, will speak on Medicaid, Medicare, and Healthcare issues.
- James Dykman, FixSAPD, will discuss their program to improve the policies within the San Antonio Police Department.

Zoom info: Zoom.us, click on “Join a Meeting”

ID: 826-8885-7999

Passcode: 362113

For more information or questions, contact Gene Marck at 210-273-9201



## ANALYSIS OF THE 2020 ELECTION IN BEXAR COUNTY

### **VOTER SURVEY:**

The election integrity and voter protection EIVP Committee of the Bexar County Democratic Party (BCDP) commissioned a survey of voters and people who volunteered at voting centers about the performance of the Bexar County voting system performed during the 2020 general election. The survey invitation was e-mailed to over 12,000 people who subscribe to the BCDP monthly newsletter. 288 people returned their responses for a rate of 2.4%.

The survey questions were nonpartisan and focused on the election process in Bexar County during early voting, and on election day. The survey collected responses from people who voted by mail as well as those who voted in person.

Survey respondents, like the general population of voters, strongly preferred early voting, and vote by mail was significant. Voting patterns among random respondents were as follows:

37.0 % Vote by mail  
61.0% in person early voting  
2.0% in person voting on election day

Respondents in this survey were three times more likely to vote by mail than the general population of voters, and more than five times less likely to votes on election day in person than the general population of voters. This may be a reflection of the aged of the respondents, 57% of whom identified themselves as retired.

The majority of respondents who received a VBM ballot reported receiving their ballots without any problem. Nineteen percent (19.0%) of those who reported receiving the VBM ballot opted to vote in person instead. Another 14.0% delivered their completed ballots to the Bexar County Elections Office, the location of the only ballot drop box in the county.

Among people who voted in person instead of using their VBM ballot, 95.0% reported no problems when they went to the voting centers.

Seventy-five percent (75.0%) of respondents waited an hour or less to vote. Of those, 66% waited a half an hour or less, and 46% waited 15 minutes or less. Respondents offered

comments regarding their experience. For the most part the viewed the voting centers as efficient and effective.

Twenty-six percent (26.0%) of respondents used the Bexar County Election Department website to track their vote. Comments indicate that the teaching was a positive experience for respondents.

Leading up to the election, a good deal of concern was expressed regarding the safety and security of the election, due both to the pandemic, political polarization, and rhetoric. Respondents observed few problems. The top three concerns were social distancing, difficulty voting a curbside, and lack of visible signage for disabled voters.

Only 13.0% of respondents said that they are precinct chairs. One might expect that precinct chairs would have responded in higher numbers. It is unknown whether their lower response is due to not subscribing to the newsletter, not reading the newsletter even though they are subscribed, a lack of interest in the survey, or other reasons.

**January 23, 2021**

**Author: Martha Spinks, Ph. D.**

**Election Integrity and Voter Protection Committee**



## VETERANS COMMITTEE

### VETERANS EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

#### Event Listing

- 10 February** – Virtual Group: Coping in 2021 & Beyond (Stephen A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors, El Paso)  
Registration Info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-group-coping-in-2021-beyond-tickets-138391297095>
- 10 February** – Money Management  
Registration Info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-money-management-workshop-tickets-136871786197>
- 11 February** – Virtual Hiring Fair: Government Contracting & Consulting  
Info: <https://events.hiringourheroes.org/event/2d769d6c-0132-404d-8726-63c16500c4e8/summary>
- 12 February** – Virtual Support Group: Parenting School-Aged Children During a Pandemic  
Info: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvf-CorzwfHNFKRuWLGJgbAuO9iMRfZK8K>
- 16 February** – National Virtual Career Fair  
Info: <https://recruitmilitary.careereco.com/Fair/EventDetails?fairId=9b7f7243-77c2-4a7d-adbc-ac71017a998a>
- 16 February** – VSN Tuesday Talks – Emotional Intelligence in the Job Search  
Info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vsn-tuesday-talks-emotional-intelligence-in-the-job-search-tickets-136476732581>

**17 February** – PVA Veterans Career Live: Resume Tips & Techniques

Registration Info:

[https://pva.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkdOutrjkiH9b9S\\_lETe78ixkgQOkzhyqx](https://pva.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkdOutrjkiH9b9S_lETe78ixkgQOkzhyqx)

**18 February** – Soldier's Angels Food Distribution @ Cowboys Dance Hall

Info: <https://soldiersangels.org/san-antonio/>

**18 February** – Endeavors Presents: A Conversation with Major General Alfred K. Flowers (Celebrating Black History & Heritage Month)

Info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/endeavors-presents-a-conversation-with-major-general-alfred-k-flowers-tickets-138559309625>

**18 February** – Virtual Couples Training: Strengthening Relationships Through Effective Communication

Info: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_roX8mH-YTqWix7Ivn0xV\\_Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_roX8mH-YTqWix7Ivn0xV_Q)

**18 February** – NatCon 2021 – Nation's largest convention of Post-9/11 Veterans in the world!

Info: <https://studentveterans.org/programs-events/national-conference/>

Contact the BCDP Veterans Committee:

POC: [awongpromo@gmail.com](mailto:awongpromo@gmail.com)

We need donations of hygiene & blankets

Items for homeless or needy Veterans!

Drop off contributions with a marked label  
"BCDP Veterans Committee" at this address:

1844 Fredericksburg Road  
San Antonio, TX 78201

Thank you for helping those who served!



## ADDITIONAL VETERAN SERVICES

### VA Welcome Kit for Veterans

Download the VA Welcome Kit to learn more about the benefits and services you have earned or call VA411 at 800-698-2411. Visit the website: <https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/>

### *No Veteran Should Be Without a Place to Call Home!*

**Free Help for Homeless Veterans** Dial 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) for 24/7 access to VA services for homeless and at-risk Veterans. Homeless Veteran Chat Confidential, 24/7 online support for homeless Veterans and friends

Please visit <https://www.va.gov/homeless> for more information.

### Veterans Staffing Network for Veteran Job Seekers

Contact the Easter Seals Veterans Staffing Network for access to job seeking services to help connect Veterans to careers with Fortune 500 companies. Visit the website for more information at <https://www.easterseals.com/DCMDVA/our-programs/military-veteran-services/veteran-staffing-net-work.html>

### Free Entrance to US National Parks for Veterans and Gold Star Families

The US Geological Survey website is offering America the Beautiful Lifetime Passes to Veterans and Gold Star families of fallen service members. Disabled Veterans can order directly from the website <https://store.usgs.gov/access-pass> and pay \$10 for an Access Pass, Parking ID hangar & Information brochure. Veterans and Gold Star family members can also visit any National Park, show military identification or proof of service to receive the Lifetime Access Pass.

### The USGS Lifetime Pass



### Are You a Veteran in Crisis or Concerned About One?

The VA Offers same day services in Primary Care and Mental Health at 172 VA Medical Centers across the country! *Make the Connection Resource Locator Contact the Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255. Also visit the following websites for more resources:*

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/78063/postvention-va-offers-support-suicide-loss/> [www.https://operationpopsmoke.com](http://www.https://operationpopsmoke.com)

## Commentaries & Editorials

### A Monumental Failure in Texas History

The dates of May 27, 2011 and October 18, 2014 marked the ushering of Texas Senate Bill 14 into official state law much to the chagrin of minority voters. Truly it ought to be a time marked in remembrance if not altogether in infamy in Texas for its disenfranchised voters, especially those of African American and Hispanic ethnicities as the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg penned a scathing dissent on the US Supreme Court ruling upholding a Texas Senate Bill 14 where she noted the following:

“The potential magnitude of racially discriminatory voter disenfranchisement counseled hesitation before disturbing the District Court’s findings and final judgment, Senate Bill 14 may prevent more than 600,000 registered Texas voters (about 4.5% of all registered voters) from voting in person for lack of compliant identification. A sharply disproportionate percentage of those voters are African-American or Hispanic.”

Former Governor Rick Perry, then Attorney General Greg Abbott (now Governor), & Co. stated that the numbers that lower District Court mentioned in their opinion were in fact meaningless due to their assertion that all registered voters were able to obtain adequate forms of identification, to which Justice Ginsburg made a quick retort by contesting the claim in stating that the costs paid for receiving any required identification would create an unconstitutional barrier for voters. Ginsburg noted that the penalties for clerical mistakes made by voters would be a substantial imposition for them where the costs could be far greater for voters that were born in States outside of Texas. What further drives the point home is that she made the assessment that SB 14 was a calculated move on the part of the Republican controlled Texas Legislature in terms of strategically preserving their voter numbers while eliminating a significant threat to future elections. Ginsburg comments that “racial discrimination in elections in Texas is no mere historical artifact. To the contrary, Texas has been found in violation of the Voting Rights Act in every redistricting cycle from and after 1970.” This form of redistricting involved racial gerrymandering, something that remains a constant in Texas today.

Furthermore, to add insult to injury, federal courts also have ruled time and again that the law is racially discriminatory to which the US District Court, Southern District of Texas in the Corpus Christi Division gave its opinion “as its findings of fact and conclusions of law. The Court holds that SB 14 creates an unconstitutional burden on the right to vote, has an impermissible discriminatory effect against Hispanics and African Americans, and was imposed with an unconstitutional discriminatory purpose. The Court further holds that SB 14 constitutes an unconstitutional poll tax.” This means that despite courts at multiple levels of government intervening on behalf of minorities, Texas GOP members are continually permitted to conduct disenfranchisement while the minority pleas fall on their deaf ears because election politics holds more weight to these officials than the basic rights of their constituents that ought to have been protected under the Voting Rights Act. Justice Ginsburg left a roadmap for legal scholars and representatives to use in future arguments against SB 14:

“Refusing to evaluate defendants’ likelihood of success on the merits and, instead, relying exclusively on the potential disruption of Texas’ electoral processes, the Fifth Circuit showed little respect for this Court’s established stay standards. See *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U. S. 418, 434 (2009)”

Frankly put, we need to take the time to truly honor the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg not by wearing merchandise, but through action in fighting to ultimately strike down Texas SB 14 and put an end to racially motivated gerrymandering tactics so that the Texas Legislative body can uphold an oath to ensure that the rights of every voter is preserved and remain constitutionally protected by every elected official regardless of political affiliation in accordance with the basic freedoms guaranteed not only to Texans, but to all Americans. Anyone can post on Facebook, tweet out a statement, or place photos on Instagram but that alone does not make any real concrete change into existing laws. **Action in petitioning and in written proposals for changes to Texas laws through constant communication with elected representatives are the keys to accomplishing such a task.** Let us honor Justice Ginsburg and her fellow colleagues Justices Kagan and Justice Sotomayor by picking up the proverbial baton to accomplish something that not even the late Ginsburg could achieve during her storied career in the US Supreme Court. The bell has rung Bexar County, who among you are willing to answer this call?

**Do you have an idea for a story, or editorial to share? Contact us!**

If you would like to contribute stories, editorials or would like to give any feedback to the BCDP Newsletter, please reach out to us at: [bcdpcomms@outlook.com](mailto:bcdpcomms@outlook.com)

All submissions must be in Word or Google Docs format & presented at least one week prior to the upcoming publication. The Communications Committee thanks each of you readers out there for helping us improve in delivering important information out to the community!

#### BCDP Newsletter Team

Communications Co-Chairs.....Joe Flores  
Sara Aranda

Newsletter Editors.....Thomas Booker  
Guillermo Osorio





## Bexar County Democrats!

We have new swag at the Bexar County Headquarters!!

Attached are photos of the items we have for sale:



## BCDP Merchandise

### **M"ask.... What YOU can do for YOUR Country & Win \$25!!!**

THE BCDP and its Fundraising Committee is asking **YOU** to support President Joe Biden's "100-days Challenge" to wear a mask to prevent the spread of the COVID virus in America by wearing a BCDP "JFK" or "BIDEN – HARRIS" mask with a chance to win \$25!!!

**Here's how.....** (go to the BCDP website to the mask order link here: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/bcdpmaskfundraiser> )

- 1.) Donate any amount to the Bexar County Democratic Party...a minimum of at least \$20 for contributions
- 2.) RECEIVE a "JFK" or Biden – Harris Mask for every \$10 donated.
- 3.) SHOWCASE wearing your mask ANYWHERE in San Antonio that demonstrates YOUR SUPPORT of "Stopping the COVID-19 Spread." Post it on YOUR Facebook page and tag the Bexar County Democratic Party Facebook page with #BCDPFaceMaskChallenge and post in body:  
"Sixty years ago, President John F. Kennedy challenged us by asking what we can do for our country...now President Joe Biden has a clear but simple ask – wear a mask!"
- 4.) The BCDP weekly drawing MAY PICK YOUR PHOTO and... **YOU WIN \$25!!!**



Rules:

1. You may enter twice per week wearing either the "JFK" or the "BIDEN-HARRIS" mask. ONLY one of your entries may win.
- 2.) The drawing will run for four (4) consecutive weeks during the period of February 12 – 19, February 19 – 26, and March 5, 2021.
- 3.) ALL entries become property of the BCDP, giving the BCDP the authorization to use these entry photos, copies and/or likeness of the person or persons in the photo for use in promotion, advertising on any media of the BCDP's choice starting on the promotion date of February 8, 2021.
- 4.) A "winning post" may win the \$25 award ONLY ONCE during this promotion within the calendar year of 2021 in which this contest is held.



## **BCDP Area Clubs & Organizations**

### **Alamo City Democrats**

President: Mary Ann Ramos

Contact: (210) 722- 4199

Email: [maramos6670@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maramos6670@sbcglobal.net)

### **Bexar County Democratic Women**

President: Jennifer Longoria

Vice President: Kim Robinson

Contact: (210) 483-3680

Email: [bexarcountymw@gmail.com](mailto:bexarcountymw@gmail.com)

### **Bexar County Tejano Democrats**

Chair: Peter Vallecillo

Vice Chair: Joseph Nazarof

Contact: (210) 854-3053

Email: [el12valle6@yahoo.com](mailto:el12valle6@yahoo.com)

### **Mission Democrats**

Chair: Maria Davilos Salinas

Contact: (210) 885-4558

### **Northeast Bexar County Democrats**

Chair: Zack Lyke

Vice Chair: Bob Miller

Email: [zl@zacklyke.com](mailto:zl@zacklyke.com) or [rwmiller7@hotmail.com](mailto:rwmiller7@hotmail.com)

### **Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio**

Co-chairs: Cynthia Benton / Bryan Gerard

Contact: (210) 602-2799

Email: [outreach@stonewallsa.org](mailto:outreach@stonewallsa.org)

### **Northwest Democrats**

Chair: Esmeralda Rodriguez

Phone: (210) 771-6984

Vice-Chair: Barbara Moschner

Mailing Address:

Northwest Democrats

PO Box 681911

San Antonio Texas 78268-1911

“In a sense we have come to our Nation’s Capital to cash a check. When the architects of our great republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given its colored people a bad check, a check that has come back marked “insufficient funds.”

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and security of justice.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is not time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.

Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.

Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

Now is the time to make justice a reality to all of God’s children.”

**- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *I Have A Dream* speech, August 23, 1963**