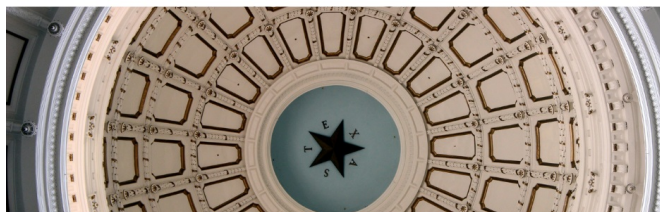


Happy Valentine's Day 



Let's Wear Red
Thursday, February 4 - Austin



TFRW

Legislative Day • Thursday, February 4, 2021





ADVOCATE LIKE A LOBBYIST!

The 87th Texas Legislature is in session – and it is time to register for this year's Legislative Day!

Thursday, February 4th

AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center • 1900 University Avenue, Austin

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

TFRW's Legislative Day will be held in Austin on Thursday, February 4th, with events at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center. Don't wait! **Discounted ticket pricing of \$85 ends on Friday, January 15th.** Regular registration is \$110 until Friday, January 29th, when ticket prices will go up to \$135. We will cap the number of attendees to 280 people to abide by the guidelines provided by the State of Texas and the CDC.

REGISTER NOW!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/legislative-day-2021-advocate-like-a-lobbyist-tickets-60974285730>

Tentative Legislative Day Schedule

7:30 a.m. | "Meet the Freshmen" Breakfast

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Educational Workshops including:

- Getting to Know your Representatives
- The Importance of Staff Contacts
- Tracking Bills
- Navigating the Capitol
- Strategies for Effective Advocates
- Participate in a Mock Hearing

Noon - 1:30 p.m. | Legislative Luncheon

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Optional workshops or Capitol on your own

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Patron Event - Details coming soon!



Let's Wear Red! Burnet County Republican Women will meet at 6:00 am at Beall's Parking Lot to Carpool and will pickup at 6:15 am at Opies BBQ in Spicewood. Please let MJA know you're planning on attending.

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ON
EVENTBRITE**

*** A John G. Tower Award
Club ***

Burnet County Republican Women

Region: XI • Senate District: 24

February 2021 • Newsletter



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Nest members

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Member Spotlight

Membership Form

Howdy New and
Returning Members!

Upcoming Events
Calendar

TFRW Nuts & Bolts
Workshop

Regional/District
Leadership



Hi Everyone,

Is it 2024 yet?

We have to remain steadfast in watching legislation in the Texas Legislature and Congress to take action when our voices need to be heard by our elected officials.

So proud of every member of our club ... we strive to stay informed, move conservative values through our circles of influence and then leap to action when called upon.

Wasn't last month's meeting simply awesome! Thank you to the team of folks who work hard to make a great meeting experience for all of us-every month! And we needed to hear from Nick Adams! A great word of encouragement.

We rolled out Wine Wednesday last week and was overwhelmed at the turnout. Who was there . . . new members, guests, and spouses. We had reservations for 10 and had over 25. Thanks to all who came out - it was fun! Hey, let's do it again next month. Same place, same time. Bring a friend.

Tuesday night is the Burnet County Republican Club meeting at the Trailblazer in

From Senator Dawn
Buckingham

Roxanne Nelson's
Texas Legislative
Report

Americanism
Flag Fun Facts

Political Activity
Hours

TFRW Candidate
Development
Program

Care & Kindness

*Political advertising paid
for by Burnet County
Republican Women,
Carolyn Richmond,
Treasurer, 320 Columbine,
Meadowlakes, TX 78654, a
non-profit organization
under Section 527 of the
IRS Code.*

Burnet. Krysta Walker will be leading a discussion on the "**Navigating the Constitution During Turbulent Times.**" Timely.

On Thursday, about 7 of us will represent BCRW at Legislative Day in Austin. Still time for you to come if you would like. Should be an informative day of learning and networking.

Looking forward to hearing from our County Commissioners at our upcoming meeting. Have questions??? They will answer them.

Carolyn Alexander has the most friendly greeting and serving team to welcome you, help you find a seat and serve you. Her team also has a great door prize for this month.

Please do us a favor . . **RSVP to Carolyn** in order to get a correct number of lunches. And as always, feel free to bring or invite a friend. Note that RSVP day is the **Monday before the meeting. (2/8)**

See you on the 11th. Dont' forget to RSVP!!!

MJA

February Meeting - February 11, 2021



SEE YOU THERE!

BURNET COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Thursday, February 11, 2021
Reed Building / 402 E. Jackson / Burnet
11:30 AM / \$15.00

*A reservation is requested
so we can properly set up our
space for social distancing
Email Carolyn Alexander:
rcalexander73@gmail.com*

*Speakers: Burnet County
Commissioners*



**Menu: Baked Ziti with Marinara, Salad, French Bread,
Cheesecake Squares & Tea/Water**

**Click to RSVP to Carolyn Alexander by Monday, February 8.
Thanks!**

Caring for America

**WOW! You donated \$808.00 for F.L.A.G.
Thank you BCRW!!**



President Glynis Chester

*Merry Christmas to the Rock Stars
Known as Burnet Co. RW! It was such a
genuine pleasure meeting you and installing
your new officers! I just wanted to say
thank you for allowing me to share in
your special day. Nothing can stop BCRW
in 2021! For Texas and the Country!
~ Glynis*

**Wine Wednesday
Let's socialize through the winter blues!
IT'S A HIT!**

Burnet County Republican Women



4TH WEDNESDAY • 6:00 PM • FLAT CREEK ENOTECA

**What fun we had at our first
Wednesday!
Loved seeing new members and guests!**

Hope to see you on February 24th!



[Caption]

January Meeting Minutes

Burnet County Republican Women PAC Minutes of General Meeting – January 14, 2021 Sylvester H. Reed Memorial Building – Burnet, Texas

Welcome, Call to Order, and Opening Ceremonies: President Mary Jane Avery welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. A Mexican lunch of enchiladas, tacos, beans, and rice along with dessert was served. Chaplain Sue Boss Lee gave the invocation, and Americanism Chair Carleen Kaurin led the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

Introductions: President Mary Jane introduced BCRW board members, local elected officials, state and TFRW personnel. Guests and new members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report: The December 10, 2020 minutes were published in the newsletter. There were no corrections. They stand approved as published. There was no treasurer's report.

Membership Report: Membership Chair Janice Estill reported that we have 7 new members and 6 members renewed their membership today. Mary Jane reminded everyone about the BCRW cards on the table and encouraged us to give them to friends as an invitation to join.

Legislative Report: Legislative Chair Roxanne Nelson gave a report about the Texas legislative session which began January 12, 2021. She stressed that Senator Dawn Buckingham and Representative Terry Wilson are our rural voices in the legislature, and we need to let them know our opinion so they can represent us properly. Members can email or call them. Roxanne distributed on the tables a copy of "County Judges & Commissioners Association of Texas Legislative Priorities." Mary Jane reported that a Campaign Alert will be emailed asking us to call, email, or testify as the session goes on. February 4th is TFRW Legislative Day in Austin. Registration is \$85 for all-day seminars. Register on line. She will send an email about this.

Campaign Activities: Campaign Activities Chair Mary Jane Avery reminded us that campaign activities are due. Susan Doyle gave a report of her trip to Georgia and Washington D.C. Mary Jane also gave a report of the block-walking activities in Georgia.

Program: Gail Teegarden along with a video introduced our speaker, Nick

Adams. Nick is an author and the founder of a foundation called FLAG, For Liberty and American Greatness. He spoke of a need to rededicate ourselves to our founding principles and teaching Civics and Government in our schools. He would like to see a flag in every classroom, the pledge of allegiance recited every day in every school, and the national anthem played before every sporting event. He said we are in an ideological civil war, and it is time to reclaim our culture. His parents were present at the meeting and helped sell his publications.

Caring for America: Chair Deborah Smith and Carleen Kaurin presented a check for \$828 to FLAG. Thank you to those who donated today.

Announcements:

- Thank you to those who helped with the swearing in ceremony.
- Burnet County Republican Club President Londa Chandler announced that the next meeting of the club will be Tuesday, February 2nd at Trailblazer Grille in Burnet. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker is Krysta Walker.
- BCRW Wine Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at Flat Creek Enoteca, Marble Falls at 6:00 p.m.
- TFRW Nuts & Bolts Seminar at the Reed Building on February 27th.
- Donations in memory of JoAnn Meyers can be made to the BCRW Scholarship Fund.
- Sue Boss Lee is chairing Caring Kindness Action. Contact her if you know of members' illness or needing help.
- Thank you to BCRW Vice President Carolyn Alexander and her Hospitality Committee and Kevin for our delicious lunch. Thank you to Gail Teegarden for buying fabric, Judy Gibb for sewing, and Deidra Robertson for monogramming the Hospitality aprons.
-

Door Prize: Janice Estill won the door prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 with the singing of "God Bless America."

Respectfully submitted,

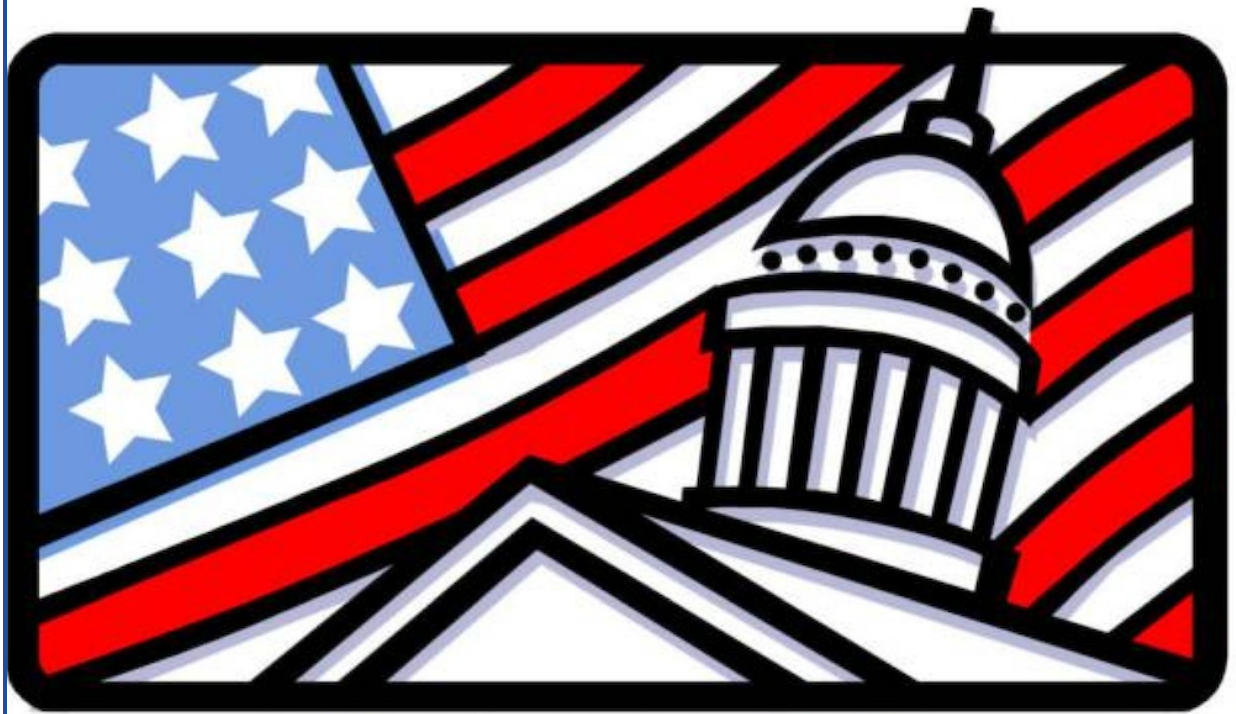
BCRW Secretary
Darlene Hargett

**January Meeting Highlights
with
Nick Adams**



Eagles Nest neighborhood working on getting our Constitutions ready to distribute to Burnet County schools. Thank you ladies! You rock!





POLITICAL **Action Alert!**

Please become familiar with H.R.1
In the coming weeks the Democrats will try
to push this bill through the house which
will have *dreadful consequences* for
Republicans at the ballot box, if passed.
Please take time to contact Roger Williams
to voice your opposition to H.E.1
It does make a difference!

**Roger Williams website to leave a
comment**

Brief Overview of - "For the People Act of 2019" - H.R. 1

Sponsor: John Sarbanes (D-Md)

Introduced: Jan 3, 2019 (116th Congress – 2019-

2021)

Status: Jan 4, 2021 – Reintroduced Bill – this activity took place on a related bill

Sponsor says this bill will:

Expand access to ballot box

Reduce influence of big money in politics

Strengthen ethics rules for public servants & for other purposes

What does bill address?

Overall

Voting-voter access, election integrity, election

security
Campaign finance -- political spending
Ethics--for 3 branches of government

VOTING: (expands voter registration & voting access; makes Election Day a federal holiday; limits removing voters from voter rolls)

Provides for states to establish independent, nonpartisan redistricting commissions

Sets forth provisions related to election security:

To include sharing intelligence info with state election officials, protect security voter rolls, support states to secure their election systems, develop a national strategy to protect the security & integrity of U.S. democratic institutions, establish National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions in legislative branch, and other provisions to improve cybersecurity of election systems.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE: (political spending)

Addresses campaign spending:

Includes expanding ban on foreign nationals contributing to or spending on elections
Expands disclosure rules relating to organizations spending money during elections,

campaign advertisements, and online platforms; and revises disclaimer requirements for political advertising.

Establishes an alternative campaign funding system for certain federal offices--involves federal matching of small contributions for qualified candidates.

ETHICS: (all 3 branches of government)

Sets ethics provisions in all 3 branches of government. Specifically,

Requires code of ethics for federal judges & justices
Prohibits members of House from serving on board of for-profit entity; expands enforcement of regs governing foreign agents, and
Establishes additional conflict of interest & ethics provisions for federal employees & the White House
Requires candidates for President & Vice President to submit 10 years of tax returns

Heritage Foundation position on this bill can be found at

<https://www.heritage.org/election-integrity/report/the-facts-about-hr-1-the-the-people-act-2019>

Federalizes the micromanages the states election process

Interferes with the states/ ability to determine voters' qualificati'on and have accurate voter registration rolls

Reverses decentralization of election process -- essential to protecting liberty and freedom

Here is a sample letter or use as talking points for an email:

Dear Congressman/Senator (Insert appropriate title, name, here)

As a registered voter in the State of Texas, I am adamantly opposed to the provisions of the proposed "For the People Act".

- The Bill strips power from the States and hands it to the Federal government which is **unconstitutional**.
- The Act's requirements for **same-day voter registration** for federal elections and permitting voters to make changes to their registration at the polls destroys the ability of local elections officials to ensure voter integrity by eliminating opportunities to verify residency and citizenship requirements.
- **Automatic voter registration** infringes on an individual's authority to make the decision to register and requires them to take action to undo what the state has done in their name. This provision is obviously an effort to enhance Democratic turnout without any concern for ballot integrity.
- As evidenced in our most recent national election, **vote by mail** practices in several states were invitations to fraud and error. The vote by mail practice proven so effective in the state of Texas should become the standard for the nation! Efforts to mail ballots to every registered voter are an invitation to fraud and abuse.
- **Prohibiting** or restricting elections officials' efforts to **remove ineligible voters** from the rolls interferes with their ability to perform their duties in a timely and accurately manner. Likewise, electronic registration with no requirement for signature makes it impossible to validate the identity of the person registering online and does not provide for a penalty for falsifying a registration or subsequent vote cast.
- **Voting machines** must be manufactured, operated, and owned in the U.S. At no time, should voting information be transmitted to individuals or entities outside the U.S. Voting machines should undergo rigorous security testing and approval before being utilized in any election in the U.S.
- Any effort to utilize **public financing for campaigns** or require organizations to **disclose their donors** should be opposed.
- Efforts to overturn the Supreme Court **Citizens United decision** via a constitutional amendment should be ardently rejected.

Regards,

(Signature)

Meet Stephanie . . .



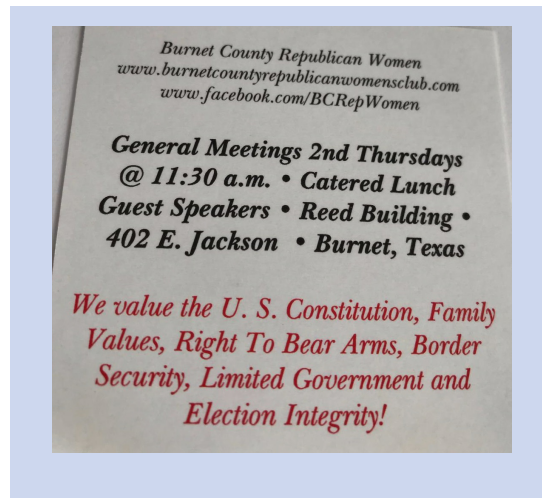


Stephanie DeVault joined the Burnet County Republican Women in January. She was born and raised in Austin then moved for high school to Albuquerque, New Mexico where her father worked for the non-profit foundation Art Has Heart. Undergraduate time was spent at St Gregory's University in Oklahoma on a Cross Country scholarship, while ultimately earning a Master's in Recreational Therapy. And, yes, she still enjoys running. She moved to Horseshoe Bay to be near her family and to take a job as Children's Director at First United Methodist Church in Marble Falls. Stephanie desires to be active in Republican organizations and seeks to get other twenty and thirty somethings involved. Let's help her in her efforts. Who knows? Maybe she will run for office some day.

ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



**It's great to have some of these when you're out and about! Super way to invite folks to join us!
Pick some up at the next BCRW meeting-
they're complimentary!**



Dues Renewal Time is Here!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE: _____

New _____ Renew _____

NAME: Last _____ First: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

(Give name here, but please complete separate application for spouse if associate member.)

ADDRESS: Street / PO Box _____

City: _____

OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER

(Required by Texas Ethics Commission)

PHONES:

Home: () _____ Office: () _____ Cell: () _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Active Member - \$35.00

Associate Member - \$20.00

Make check payable to BCRW and mail with this form to:

BCRW PAC Treasurer
P.O. Box 1055
Marble Falls, Texas 78654

Political advertising paid for by Burnet County Republican Women PAC. Contributions are not federal tax deductible as charitable contributions. Corporate contributions are NOT permitted. Updated 11/2019

New Members - Howdy!

Welcome!



we love our new members!

SID HOLDEN, DONNA HELGESON, LINDA STEWART,
STEPHANIE DEVAULT, BILLYE PURNELL, KAY BOKA, KAY
HALES, SUSANNE REYNOLDS, LESLIE SCARBOROUGH,
GENNIE WARD

PRESIDENT

Mary Jane Avery

409-781-5000

mjavery@swbell.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Carolyn Alexander

830-220-0479

rcalexander73@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Darlene Hargett

713-805-2325

darlene@dhargett.com

MEMBERSHIP

Janice Estill

estilljanice@gmail.com

830-220-0263

PAC TREASURER

Carolyn Richmond

203-610-9263

carolynrichmond27@gmail.com

REASURER

Dottie Stueckroth

830-613-9474

dstueck23@gmail.com

ASST. TREASURER



February 2, 2021

Burnet County Republican Club

**"Navigating the Constitution
During Turbulent Times"**

Trailblazer Grille

216 S. Main, Burnet

Dinner @ 5:30 p.m./Meeting @ 6:30
p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: Krysta Walker

February 4, 2021

TFRW LEGISLATIVE DAY

February 11, 2021

Burnet County Republican Women

Brenda Miles

512-755-5462

lagunalola@yahoo.com

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

NEWSLETTER

PUBLICITY

SOCIAL MEDIA

WEBSITE

Mary Jane Avery

409-781-5000

mjavery@swbell.net

LEGISLATION

Roxanne Nelson

512-755-1234

roxannenelson50@

yahoo.com

PROGRAMS

Gail Teegarden

512-525-1224

gailteegarden7@gmail.com

CARING FOR AMERICA

Deborah Smith

830-201-4072

deborahmarie23@gmail.com

BY LAWS

Janet Crow

512-771-4397

jswcrow@aol.gmail.com

AMERICANISM

Carleen Kaurin

830-953-9803

carleenkaurin@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY

Carolyn Alexander

830-220-0479

rcalexander73@gmail.com

AWARDS

Gail Teegarden

512-525-1224

gailteegarden7@gmail.com

LITERACY/BCRW

SCHOLARSHIP

Wanda Kauffman

713-299-8855

wfauffman52@verizon.com

CHAPLAIN

Sue Boss Lee

512-294-5863

sueboss2012@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Dianne Brummell

512-755-1191

ddbbrummell@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE

Meeting - Reed Building/Burnet

11:30 a.m. • \$15.00

**GUEST SPEAKER: Burnet County
Commissioners**

February 24, 2021

Wine Wednesday

Flat Creek Enoteca

112 US Highway 281, Marble Falls

6:00 p.m.

February 27, 2021

TFRW Region 12 Nuts and Bolts

Leadership Workshop

Reed Building/Burnet

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. \$20.00

March 11, 2021

Burnet County Republican Women

Meeting - Reed Building/Burnet

11:30 a.m. • \$15.00

GUEST SPEAKER: Connie Burton

March 31, 2021

Wine Wednesday

Flat Creek Enoteca

112 US Highway 281, Marble Fall

6:00 p.m.

April 5, 2021

BCRW Board Meeting

101 Falling Creek Cove

9:30 a.m.

April 8, 2021

Burnet County Republican Women

Meeting - Reed Building/Burnet

11:30 a.m. • \$15.00

GUEST SPEAKER: TBA

April 9-11, 2021

Bluebonnet Festival GOP Booth

April 28, 2021

Wine Wednesday

Flat Creek Enoteca

112 US Highway 281, Marble Falls

6:00 p.m.

Joy Evans

830-613-1151

vjoyevans@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE

GJudy Salvaggio

281-204-7440

judysalvaggio@sbcglobal.net

Contributions to Burnet County

Republican Women are NOT

deductible as charitable

contributions for federal income

purposes. Not authorized by an

candidate or committee.

Corporate contributions are not

permitted.

**Gail and Denise have organized a great
workshop. Everyone is invited to attend.**



TFRW Hill Country NUTS & BOLTS REGION XII WORKSHOP







LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP - SD 24 & 28

DATE: Saturday, February 27, 2021
PLACE: Hill Country Community Foundation Reed Building
 402 East Jackson Street, Burnet, Texas
TIME: 10: 00 am - 2:00 p.m. (Registration starting at 9:30 am.)
COST: \$20.00 (Includes Networking Catered Lunch)
RSVP NO LATER THAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

FEATURED SPEAKERS & SPECIAL GUESTS

Glynis Chester, TFRW President
 Zenia Warren, TFRW VP-Awards and Membership
 Cassie Daniel Howell, President Capitol Republican Women-Social Media
 Chip Howell, Elephant In The Room Strategies-Fundraising
 Donna Davidson, Texas Ethics Commission-PAC Reports
 Mary Jane Avery, President Burnet County Republican Women-Campaign Activities

All Club Members Are Invited To Attend • Door Prizes

NAME _____
 CLUB _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____, TX, ZIP _____
 EMAIL _____
 PHONE _____
 OCCUPATION _____ EMPLOYER _____

PLEASE SEND ABOVE REGISTRATION AND CHECK PAYABLE TO:
 DENISE RIVES, TFRW DEPUTY PRESIDENT, REGION XII,
 P.O. BOX 8989, HORSESHOE BAY, TEXAS 78657

TFRW Regional & District Leadership

SD24 District Director
Gail
Teegarden gailteegarden7@gm
 ail.com

Inspire. Unite. Achieve.



TFRW provides the avenue for women to influence policy, develop candidates, and elect the leaders of Texas. We are a multi-generational, multicultural organization that provides the structure and support for political activists to learn, engage, and flourish.

From our Senator Buckingham . . .



Dear Friend,

These last four years have seen America face many challenges and overcome tremendous obstacles.

Small businesses were booming, unemployment was at an all time low, and wage growth was at a record high.

We moved our nation's embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and set a new tone in the Middle East.

COVID-19 changed everything. Overnight businesses were forced to close and

much of the nation shut its doors.

We also saw a summer filled with strife and violence as rioters attempted to burn city centers, destroy monuments, and attack our law enforcement both physically and politically, with many left wing cities moving to “defund” police.

In response to the November elections, Texas needs to lead. Now more than ever is the time for conservatives to come together and make Texas an even brighter light for the rest of the nation.

As a constitutional conservative, I believe we have an opportunity to come out of this adversity even stronger. I promise to fight every day for our core conservative principles:

Strict adherence to the original language and intent of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutions of the United States and of Texas;

The inalienable right of all people to defend themselves and their property;

The sanctity of innocent human life;

Preserving our American and Texas sovereignty and freedom;

Limiting government power;

Personal accountability and responsibility;

Traditional family values;

Empowering parents in their children’s education;

Honoring those that serve and protect our freedom;

We will be rolling out our legislative package soon and as always we will be sending our video and email updates. Our goal is to keep you updated in an open and transparent way.

May God bless you and may God continue to bless the great State of Texas!
Dawn



Many of you asked for it . . . here it is - Roxanne's Legislative Update

COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS ASSN. OF TEXAS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Texas counties are responsible for the operation and management of many and various governmental programs as required or authorized by law.

Some county government programs are fully or partially supported with funds disbursed by the State of Texas.

The State of Texas may enact laws or promulgate rules that have the effect of imposing mandatory financial obligations upon Texas counties.

Opposition to Unfunded Mandates

The State of Texas mandates that counties implement certain governmental programs or perform certain duties and obligations including financial commitments by a county to expend county funds in connection therewith; and every unfunded mandate results in a mandatory increase in property taxes.

During each regular session of the Texas Legislature, all state funds that support county programs are reviewed through the state appropriations process and by other state budgetary review systems; and the process may result in a reduction, or cessation, of state financial support of county government programs causing an unforeseeable disruption and reduction of the county budget and operations.

Texas counties cannot achieve reliable financial planning and the necessary bond ratings sufficient to support county-related obligations when the state mandates a new program that is not fully funded or under conditions where the state reduces or fully withdraws prior funding and disbursement for county government programs.

The County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas (CJCAT) and its current member counties do hereby resolve that for the foregoing reasons, it is in the best interests of Texas counties and their taxpayers to support and favor the passage of legislation in the form of an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas that would expressly prohibit the imposition of a mandatory governmental program on Texas counties, whether by an act of the Texas Legislature or a state agency or by executive order, unless the State of Texas has fully funded and disbursed all necessary funds to enable Texas counties to operate said governmental program.

Support for Local Decision-Making and Opposition to Revenue Caps

Fifty-four percent (54%) of the average taxpayer's property tax burden is due to school taxes while only sixteen percent (16%) is due to county taxes. It is inequitable for the Texas Legislature to impose additional revenue caps on local governments without alternative funding sources and unfunded mandate relief.

The CJCAT expresses its opposition to limits in the past legislative session to local decision-making and does oppose any further unreasonable revenue caps upon Texas counties, and the CJCAT expresses its deep appreciation to all legislators who oppose these unsound measures.

County Local Option Revue Sources

County revenue sources are extremely limited; and under current statutes, counties are forced to rely upon property taxes to fund necessary services.

The CJCAT requests that the Legislature amend the tax statutes to allow the adoption of a county local option sales tax, a local option severance tax, a local option motor fuel tax, an increase in local vehicle registration fees, and other revenue sources for the reduction of property taxes without imposing any additional revenue caps.

Indigent Health Care

Revisions have been proposed regarding the Texas system of indigent health care. Some revisions propose an assessment upon counties to support a regional indigent health care system. Such assessment would constitute an unfunded mandate, requiring property tax increases in those counties; and such regional systems would not be efficient or responsive to local taxpayers. The present Section 1115 Waiver provides voluntary opportunities to participate in health care innovation projects.

The CJCAT opposes any attempt to impose a mandatory assessment upon Texas counties to fund a regional or statewide health care system and instead supports the continuation of the voluntary Section 1115 grants.

State Funds for Indigent Criminal Defense

The right to assistance by legal counsel is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the State of Texas is required to implement this right and provide legal counsel to indigent criminal defendants. The Texas Fair Defense Act, adopted by the Texas Legislature in 2001, implements this right and requires certain procedures and attorney appointments.

The Texas Legislature has failed to provide sufficient funding to offset the additional costs of the Fair Defense Act and has shifted this cost to county taxpayers. County expenditures for indigent criminal defense have increased over 200 percent since the adoption of the Fair Defense Act. The state funding is totally inadequate, providing approximately 12 percent of the indigent defense costs.

Indigent criminal defense is a state responsibility that should be adequately funded on a statewide basis, not a burden overwhelmingly borne by local property taxpayers. The Texas Legislature has failed to appropriate current funds that are committed by statute to the Indigent Defense Fund.

The CJCAT requests that the Texas Legislature fully fund the cost of indigent criminal defense, which has cost local taxpayers over \$3.2 billion from 2001 through 2019, and immediately release all funds in the Indigent Defense Fund for distribution.

Juvenile Probation Funding

The supervision of juvenile offenders is a responsibility of the State of Texas.

The Texas Legislature has consistently failed to appropriate sufficient funding to meet this responsibility and Texas counties have increasingly met this burden by funding juvenile probation services and facilities.

Texas counties and their local taxpayers are now providing over 75 percent of the costs of juvenile probation and current state funding formulas will continue to shift additional costs to county taxpayers unless addressed by the State of Texas.

The CJCAT requests that the Texas Legislature fully fund the costs of supervision of juvenile offenders, including the costs for juvenile probation services.

Mental Health Patients

Texas counties are being forced to hold mentally incompetent prisoners for up to six months while awaiting court-ordered transfer to a state mental facility for treatment. Each of these pre-trial inmates costs the local taxpayer approximately \$9,000 during this period of incarceration.

The county jail is not an appropriate facility for the mentally ill, and these prisoners pose a high risk of injury to themselves, the jail staff, and other prisoners.

A State District Court in Travis County ordered the Department of Health Services to receive these prisoners within 21 days of a judge's order; and instead of accepting its responsibility, the state appealed this order. This delay by the state is increasing the cost to our taxpayers and continuing this improper practice.

The CJCAT requests that the State of Texas implement additional funding for mental health services and implement the state mental health plan to ensure the efficient and effective use of these resources, and accept all mentally incompetent inmates within 21 days of their court-ordered transfer.

Opposition to Granting Powers to Municipal Utility Districts and Special Utility Districts

Texas is one of the fastest growing states in the Union and city government and county government should have appropriate authority to regulate growth in their respective counties and cities.

Special water districts and private water corporations have the means to furnish water and provide for growth in rural area of the counties. Municipal utility districts and special utility districts have been improperly used by certain developers to avoid compliance with county and city infrastructure plans.

The CJCAT opposes the granting of additional powers to municipal utility districts, special utility districts, and any special districts, and requests that the approval of the county be required before any further districts are created.

Support for County Road Grant Fund

Constitutional amendments have been approved by the voters to increase dedicated funding for public roadways. These constitutional amendments provide additional funding to be used only for constructing, maintaining, and acquiring right of way for public roadways, other than toll roads.

These constitutional amendments provide needed support for public highways without increasing taxes. The county road system is eligible for assistance from this funding.

County roads are being devastated by overweight trucks to enhance the production of oil and gas. The oil and gas severance tax should be equitably shared with counties to repair this damage.

The Economic Stabilization (Rainy Day) Fund has reached record levels through deposits from the oil and gas severance and the appropriations from this Fund can be utilized to fund the repair and rehabilitation of county roads.

The CJCAT expresses appreciation for the additional funding appropriated to support the county road grant program and requests expedited distribution of the \$250 million appropriated in the 86th Texas Legislature's S.B. 500 and H.B. 1.

Uranium Mining Regulation

Uranium mining creates a special hazard for local groundwater and places a high demand upon local groundwater resources. Groundwater pollution by uranium mining cannot be recovered or rehabilitated and creates a permanent loss of groundwater. County and groundwater conservation districts have very limited power

to regulate uranium mining under current law.

The CJCAT requests that state law be amended to require a due process permit processing and approval by the local Commissioners Court and groundwater conservation district before any permit is granted for uranium mining.

Sludge Waste and Biosolid Disposal

Human waste and other toxic materials are contained in municipal, domestic, and commercial sludge and biosolids and this waste contains harmful bacteria, viruses, and chemicals that may contaminate local water supplies.

The current rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality are inadequate to protect the water supply and adjacent landowners from the improper disposal of sludge and biosolid waste. Disposal of these materials should be a matter of local regulation.

The CJCAT requests that no permits be issued for the disposal of sludge and biosolid waste without the approval of the Commissioners Court and that the Texas Legislature clearly authorize local control of all sludge and biosolid waste permits.

Fireworks Regulations

Counties currently have limited authority to regulate fireworks and due to the continued danger of drought and the concern for public safety, such regulations are necessary to protect life and property.

The CJCAT is opposed to any legislative action that would remove or limit current county authority to regulate fireworks.

Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Facilities

The Texas oil and gas industry is a vital part of our economy and this industry requires the use of disposal facilities, such as waste injection wells, to operate in an efficient manner. The operation of these disposal facilities can pose a substantial risk to the groundwater supply.

Protection of the groundwater is also essential to the economy and health and safety of Texas citizens. Adequate information should be provided to Texas counties and their citizens to ensure the safe operation of oil and gas waste facilities and protection of the groundwater.

The CJCAT requests that the Texas Legislature and the Texas Railroad Commission require that Texas counties, their citizens, and groundwater conservation districts be provided all available information concerning proposed oil and gas waste facilities in their area and a full opportunity to participate in the evaluation of any applications for additional facilities; and that the Texas Railroad Commission be required to evaluate and consider the full local infrastructure impact and effect on local communities before voting on any such permit.

Rural Public Transit

Rural Transit Districts serve all the counties throughout Texas and provide access to needed goods and services, jobs, and medical services throughout the rural counties of Texas.

Rural Transit Districts traveled 36,056,467 miles and provided 4,624,135 one-way trips to the citizens of rural Texas in 2018. On average, bus fleets for Rural Transit Districts are at 130 percent of their established lifecycle and funding opportunities for large federal and state grants have historically left qualified rural projects underfunded. Without increased funding, in order to meet increasing service demands and costs in rural areas, services to those most in need in rural Texas will suffer.

The CJCAT expresses its support for a meaningful increase in funding for Rural Transit Districts.

Opposition to Rules Adopted by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles That Decrease Revenues, Increase County Costs, and Reduce Local Control

and Local Services

The county tax assessor-collector is charged with collecting vehicle registration fees which provide for certain legislatively authorized revenues to offset costs associated with collecting and dispensing these fees for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

The 83rd State Legislature created the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Fund, authorized the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to establish certain fees by board rule, authorized the board to direct certain fees to the fund, and allowed for county revenues to be set by board rule.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles has adopted rules setting title transfer and registration processing and handling fees for its own funding and has further adopted fees and changes for the county tax assessor-collectors and the various deputy classification types.

The county tax assessor-collector may deputize full-service title companies to provide titling and registration services and limited-service companies to provide registration services, which increases access and locations for these services by citizens. The rules adopted by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles will decrease county revenues, increase county cost, and reduce local control and local services.

The CJCAT opposes the rules as adopted by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles amending Title 43 of the Texas Administrative Code Chapter 217.

Full Funding of DPS Labs

The State of Texas through the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) provides for the testing of controlled and illegal substances for criminal cases. While the service is valuable to the prosecutorial process, it is not timely as most tests require six-nine months before results are rendered.

Many alleged and formerly convicted violators must be released after 90 days with the high probability that they will reoffend and further endanger the public and further burden law enforcement.

The recent reduction in state funding will reduce the effectiveness of the DPS labs and result in further delays in the administration of justice.

The CJCAT requests full funding, staffing, and equipping of the DPS labs to return results in the required legal time to serve justice.

County Homestead Exemption

The current constitutional provisions limit the ability of counties to a percentage of the appraised value of homesteads and current limitations prevent the adoption of a homestead exemption to provide greater benefit to lower-priced properties. Additional discretion should be granted to counties to determine the homestead exemption.

The CJCAT requests that a constitutional amendment be adopted to allow counties to grant discretionary homestead exemptions based upon a dollar amount of the taxable value of the property.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice Inmates

Currently, counties are required to hold inmates who have been committed to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for up to 45 days.

TDCJ has failed to timely accept its inmates during the current COVID-19 epidemic, forcing this additional expense on county taxpayers. Counties are required to hold parolees who are awaiting a revocation hearing before the TDCJ Parole Board.

TDCJ does not provide adequate transportation of its inmates from county jails to its facilities.

The cost to county taxpayers for the failure of the State of Texas to meet its responsibilities for state inmates is approximately \$100 million per year.

The CJCAT requests that the State of Texas fully reimburse counties for all costs incurred for the confinement and transport of TDCJ inmates.

Optional County Road and Bridge Tax

The current maximum county optional road and bridge fee has been frozen at \$10 since 1991.

The cost of construction and maintenance of the county road system has increased tremendously in recent years. As the population of Texas continues to grow, the need for efficient county transportation systems will increase.

The CJCAT requests that the maximum county optional road and bridge fee be raised to \$20 per vehicle.

Voting Machine Costs

The Federal Help America Vote Act requires that counties provide an electronic voting system at each voting location.

The current voting systems have serious security and maintenance issues and replacement of these systems will require a great expenditure of public funds. The purchase, programming of, and maintenance of these systems are state and federal responsibilities.

The CJCAT requests full funding from the federal and state government for the replacement of all voting systems, programming, and maintenance.

Limitations of Registered Sex Offenders in Counties

Home rule municipalities have the authority by ordinance to provide for the public safety of their citizens to restrict a registered sex offender from going in, on, or within a specified distance of a child safety zone in the municipality. General law municipalities now have the authority with the passage of H.B. 1111, enacted by the 85th Texas Legislature, effective September 1, 2017, to provide for the public safety of their citizens to restrict a registered sex offender from going in, on, or within a specified distance of a child safety zone in the municipality.

Texas counties should also be able to provide for the public safety of their citizens living outside the boundaries of any municipality by restricting a registered sex offender from going in, on, or within a specified distance of a child safety zone in the county.

No current statute authorizes a Texas county to enact an ordinance or order establishing a “Child Safety Zone” and restricting a registered sex offender from going in, on, or within a specified distance of a child safety zone in the county. Legislation is necessary to authorize counties to enact an ordinance or order to provide public safety for its citizens by placing limitations on registered sex offenders in the county.

The CJCAT requests that the Texas Legislature pass legislation providing Texas counties the authority to enact an ordinance or order regarding limitations on registered sex offenders in counties.

Opposition to Effort to Prohibit County Lobbying

Certain legislative bills filed in the 86th Texas Legislature would have prohibited the use of county funds to retain lobbyists to influence legislation, pay dues to associations that influence legislation, and to reimburse county officials for influencing legislation. Any bills which would prohibit the use of county funds would effectively silence the voice of local officials and prevent effective communication and representation of their citizens and taxpayers.

County officials require the ability to express their positions and information through associations. The inability to retain experienced representation before the federal and state legislative bodies and agencies would place our communities at a distinct disadvantage in efforts to obtain and retain federal and state projects and military bases.

Smaller counties especially need to be able to combine their resources to effectively

present their unique issues to state and federal government. Requiring elected officials to personally expend personal resources to present the views of their citizens would impose an extreme hardship upon these public servants; and such prohibition would stifle the basic tenets of democracy and open government.

The CJCAT expresses its opposition to any legislation that attempts to silence the combined voices of the county officials of this state and does hereby express appreciation for the defeat of the 86th Texas Legislature's S.B. 29.

Damage to County Roads by Oil and Gas Activity

Counties impacted by oil and gas activity experience significant and costly damages to the county road system.

The Texas Legislature has created the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund (CTIF) which has received two appropriations from the state revenues. Local tax revenue must be appropriated to repair the damages when the CTIF grant appropriation is insufficient.

The 86th Texas Legislature restricts property tax revenue growth and provides for a local referendum on property tax increases. The needs of the oil and gas industry may not be met and public safety may deteriorate if local elections for tax revenue increases are vetoed by local taxpayers.

The CJCAT requests that the Texas Legislature relieve local taxpayers of the burden of repairing county roads damaged by oil and gas activity by enacting a permanent statewide funding solution for repairing the damage to county roads caused by the oil and gas activity.

In addition to the adopted resolutions, the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas Resolutions Committee requests that the following items be recommended for future study and consideration.

1. State funding to meet county cost of transport, autopsy, and disposition of dead bodies.
2. Maintain local control and recovery of cost of reproduction of clerk's digitized records and e-filing.
3. Require vehicles to reduce speed and/or yield a traffic lane to county road and bridge vehicles and equipment.
4. Require Commissioners Court representation on Regional Water Planning Groups.
5. Request legislation to require state reimbursement for court-appointed attorneys in child protective services cases.
6. Restore full funding for the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Grant Program.
7. State funding for all state special elections.
8. Additional funding for sales tax support on fireworks dedicated for local use.
9. More local authority on the regulation of fireworks.
10. Additional county authority over vehicle inspection and licensing procedures.
11. Local retention of asset forfeiture funds.
12. Prohibit abuse of the Public Information Act by excessive and burdensome requests.
13. Support and restore county authority to regulate all county buildings and property.
14. Support an exemption from state motor fuel taxes for county equipment and vehicles.
15. Support full state funding for lost revenue from disabled veterans and surviving spouse's exemption.
16. Review of the equity of ad valorem tax exemptions, tax rate calculation, and the property appraisal process to facilitate a more equitable tax system.
17. Increase the fees for out-of-county mental health hearings and include an allowance for payment of court reporters and interpreters.
18. Allow the county to retain the child protection and family preservation fees for distribution to family and child agencies unless the city requests distribution.
19. Allow for the return of the 2 percent fireworks sales tax to the county to distribute to its volunteer fire departments.
20. Broaden the use of the Texas Forest Service insurance fund to assist Volunteer Fire Departments with equipment and buildings.
21. Prohibit the inclusion of optional road and bridge and other elective taxes and

interest and sinking fund taxes in Tax Increment Financing agreements and projects.
22. Redistribute the cost for special probate judge appointments to assess the cost against the estate when feasible.

The County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas 2020 Resolutions are available for download at www.countyprogress.com

If you would like a copy of the resolutions sent to you via email, please contact Julie Anderson at janderson@zacpubs.com

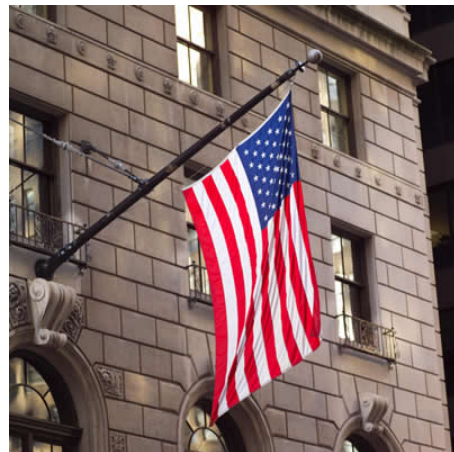
If you would like more information on the impact of these resolutions or other Burnet County matters, please contact the following:

County Judge James
Oakley joakley@burnetcountytexas.org (512) 756-5400
Pct. 1 Commissioner Jim
Luther jluther@burnetcountytexas.org (512) 715-
5233
Pct. 2 Commissioner Damon Beierle dbeierle@burnetcountytexas.org (512)
715-5232
Pct. 3 Commissioner Billy
Wall bwall@burnetcountytexas.org (512) 715-5236
Pct. 4 Commissioner Joe Don Dockery jdockery@burnetcountytexas.org (512)
715-5235

Americanism

Carlen Kaurin

The American Flag has had 27 design changes since 1777. The current design change was adopted in July of 1960 after Alaska and Hawaii became states and holds the record for being used the longest - 60 years.



Political Activity Hours

Don't forget to keep track of your hours.

This month:

Feb. Meeting preparation
Board Meeting Participants
Constitution Volunteers
Legislative Day Participants
Wine Wednesday



Candidate Development Program



TEXAS FEDERATION
of
Republican Women

TFRW is Proud to Introduce its Next Candidate Development Program

The next TFRW Candidate Development Program begins in June!

Mark your calendars for Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. starting on June 3rd, 2021, and ending on July 29th, 2021.

The Purpose of this Program is to:

1. Empower women to run for elected office at all levels of government
2. Build capacity among TFRW members to run for office
3. Help women to gain confidence needed to run for office
4. Reduce barriers to running for office
4. Reduce barriers to running for office

About the Program

Eight 2-hour training sessions

Price \$49

Maximum class size: 15 women

Summer 2021 (June and July)

Schedule: Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Completely web-based video conferencing via Zoom online platform

Guest speakers: TBA

Participants will be asked at times to read or prepare in advance for discussion

Participants will have short, practical weekly assignments, goal-setting, and action planning

Professionally facilitated meetings

Training Schedule

Week 1: Introductions and Identifying Why You Want to Run for Public Office

Week 2: Potential Barriers to Running for Office and How to Overcome Them

Week 3: Candidate Message Development

Week 4: Candidate Image Development

Week 5: NO CLASS THIS WEEK

Week 6: What is to be Expected When You are Elected: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Week 7: Managing Potential Conflict Within and Across Party Lines
Week 8: Money, Money, Money: Financing Your Campaign
Week 9: Candidate Social Media and Marketing

REGISTRATION OPENS ON FEBRUARY 1ST, 2021.

Priority is given to those who wish to run for office within the next two years.

For Questions Contact

TFRW Candidate Development Program Coordinator

Lesli R. Fitzpatrick

leslifitz@sbcglobal.net | 512-426-5993

For Texas and The Country!

Care & Kindess Action

2021 will bring an emphasis of developing relationships and caring for one another.

When you receive an email with the Care & Kindess Action logo -please consider taking some type of action - an email, phone call, card, or a meal to help a member depending on the specific need.



impact

You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.



BURNET COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN
P.O. BOX 1055, MARBLE FALLS, TEXAS 78654

