

Northwest Democrats News

29 YEARS
And
Still Kicking



AUG, 2021
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August 21st Program

Our guest speaker will be **Genevieve Van Cleve**, state director at All On The Line. ALL On The Line is the advocacy arm of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee. Our meeting will begin at 10 am and Zoom information is located on page 3 of the newsletter. BYOB (bring your own breakfast) and wear clothes.

AUGUST SPECIAL PROJECT:



Kids will be going back to school in about 2 weeks. The Communities in School website is www.cissa.org

The website has a "Donate" button and information about how you can help.

Contact Gene Marck, 210-273-9201, if you have any questions.

Authorized & Paid for by the Northwest Democrats

To submit an article or other info, email Brenda Middleton at:

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A Few Joyce Words

The first president I voted for was John F. Kennedy. I had waited a long time for the opportunity to vote. While I can never remember a time when I was not interested in world affairs, I had never voted.

In my home state of Alabama you could not register to vote until you were 21. We also had to take a written literacy test. And, the stories told about those tests scared many people from trying to take them. In addition, you also had to pay a "Poll Tax". All these restrictions had a purpose - the fewer the number of voters, the less people you had to contact to win. So, if you were not very well educated, poor, and in our state, black, you just didn't try to get registered to vote. I had just turned 21, with two children under three when we received orders to go to England for three years. There were many newspapers in England, most of whom wrote as much about what was happening in America as they did about England. But I learned more about the politics at home and realized how important it was to vote.

Fifteen months after returning from England, we were sent to Keesler AFB in Mississippi next door to my Alabama home town and I finally got registered to vote - just in time to vote for Kennedy. The voting hurdles of 1960 are not much different from the efforts by Governor Abbott and the Republicans to restrict voting. Instead of being proud of how many people voted last November, Republicans in Texas and across the country are trying to deny as many people the right to vote as possible.

A number of laws have been introduced to the Texas Legislature this session, among them are:

1. Restrict the use of mail ballots. Voting registrars would no longer be able to send someone a mail ballot request unless it has been specifically requested by the voter.
2. Handicapped voters could no longer vote from a car unless they were the only occupant of the vehicle or the other person has to sign the ballot as well.
3. Harris County also kept voting locations open later at night for working people. At least one location had 24-hour voting. They also had drive-thru voting in Harris County. The new laws would disallow these.
4. One of the very worst is allowing partisan poll-watchers inside the voting location to observe voters as they vote, thereby intimidating voters as they are voting. Partisan poll watchers can only be thrown out after being warned once by an election judge and they didn't change their behavior. Perhaps some of the voters might give up and leave without finishing their vote. Currently poll watchers are restricted to outside the voting location.

It is easy to see that the Republicans are trying to restrict the vote. Too many people voted in 2020, and since there is no presidential race at the top of the ticket, it appears that some of our Republicans are worried that they might not win.

It is the same story I watched as a young woman in Alabama. Restrict the vote by making it too much trouble to participate. Any wonder our Democrats flew to Washington, DC? Thankfully they realized that only the National Government had the power to stop this movement which is happening in many states across the country.

It is up to each of us to do everything we can to stop these laws from being passed and to make sure we do all we can to prevent the Republicans who voted for these restrictions from being re-elected.

August 21 ZOOM Meeting

10 am

<https://zoom.us/join>

For security and privacy concerns the Zoom meeting ID and passcode will not be displayed. Please contact an officer (listed on page 1, left) for the meeting ID and passcode.



November 4, 2021

Pat Maloney, Sr.

Public Service Award Dinner

Honoree: Hon. Albert Uresti

Keynote Speaker: Gilbert Garcia

The Return: September 18, 2021

Luby's, Huebner @ Floyd Curl, 8:30 am

Please be vaccinated—it's the Patriotic thing to do.

Announcement: Now is the time to be trained to be a voter registrar. Contact the Bexar County Elections Office for more information. Democrats need to be proactive. Republicans are trying to make voting more difficult. We need to register many people before 2022.

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www.northwestdemocrats.org

IMPORTANT DATES

August 21

Northwest Democrats Zoom meeting

Texas Redistricting

September 18

**Northwest Democrats Zoom meeting
at LUBY'S (depending on COVID)**

October 16

Northwest Democrats meeting

November 4

Pat Maloney, Sr. Public Service Award Dinner