

Northwest Democrats

News

31 YEARS
And
Still Kicking



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2023

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April 15th Program

Our guests will be the candidates for **Northside ISD Board of Trustees, Districts 1, 2, 3, 4.** You will want to hear what the candidates' goals are for NISD. You will get an opportunity to meet the candidates. NISD will have a new superintendent and many other challenges for the 2023-2024 school year. A knowledgeable and dedicated Board of Trustees will be essential for the district. We are meeting at **Luby's** (Huebner@Floyd Curl). Meeting begins at 8:30 am. Continental breakfast: \$7

APRIL SPECIAL PROJECT

Voting in the Upcoming Elections

Early Voting April 24—May 2, 2023

Election Day May 6, 2023

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

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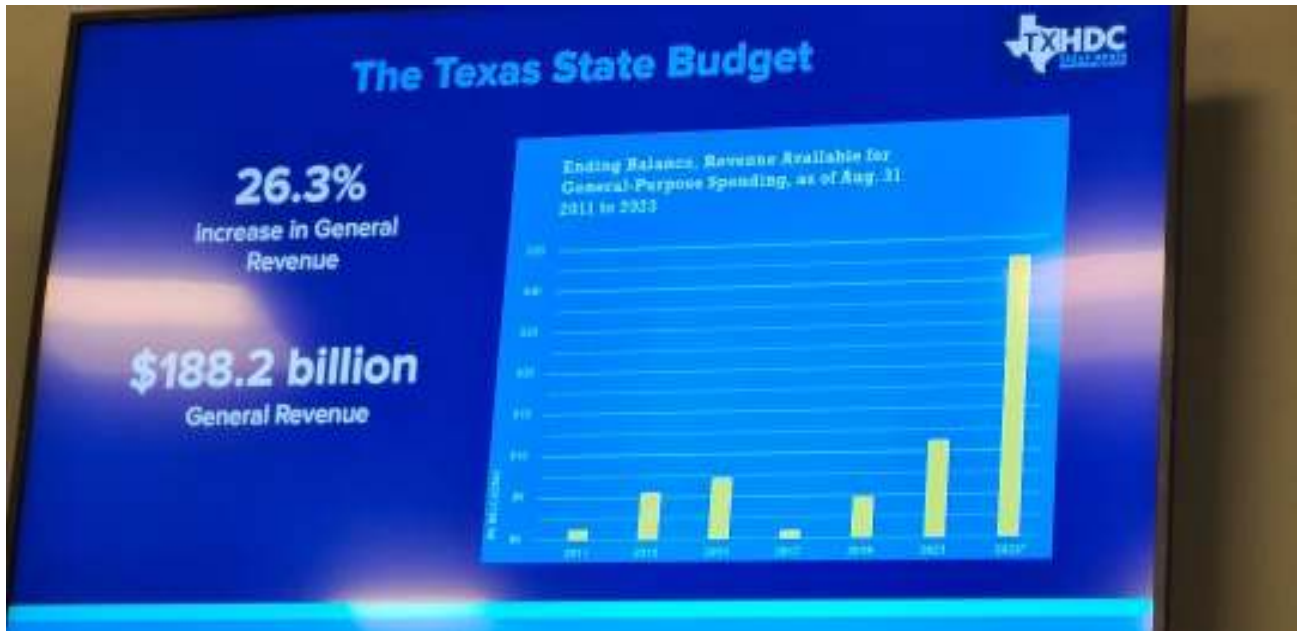
To submit an article or other info, email Brenda Middleton at:

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Summary of the Town Hall meeting:

Speakers: St. Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins, St. Rep. Trey Martinez-Fischer, St. Rep. Josey Garcia



The Texas State Budget is approximately 1,000 pages and has 11 Articles. The details and decision-making behind the Senate Finance Committee's latest budget effort - laid out over more than 1,000 pages - were hammered out largely behind closed doors. State agencies, advocacy groups and private citizens asked for tens of billions of dollars worth of requests, which were debated in smaller committee work groups not subject to public meeting laws.

Article 3 deals with Education. Before the Appropriations Committee met to begin discussing the budget, \$12 billion had been removed from the education budget to give to property tax relief. Senate budget leaders declined to fund \$1 billion for some programs requested by colleges and universities that the schools said would have allowed them to freeze tuition for two years. The House committee version has that funding in it, setting up tuition freezes for a showdown in future negotiations. The senators added a provision to the budget that tied funding to a [ban](#) on diversity,

inclusion and equity offices on college and university campuses. The measure passed on a Republican party-line vote, with three Democrats on the panel voting against it. The DEI ban states if any university or state department has a DEI office, state funding for the university or department could be lost. This lost of funding would impact federal money that is contingent on diversity, equity and inclusion in many areas.

The state budget currently has a \$32.7 billion surplus. Tax Reform and Education are the priorities for the surplus. In regard to property tax relief, several proposals are being put forth. One proposal is reducing school taxes by \$0.65--\$0.75, increase state contribution to schools by \$50/student. An increase in the Homestead Exemption and a decrease in Business Property Ownership taxes are also being discussed. The \$12 billion removed from the Education budget for property tax relief has of April 2, 2023, has not been put back into the Education budget.

Other items being considered:

1. State employees will get a pay raise (cost \$1.8 billion)
2. Women's Health Programs (\$60 million)
3. Juvenile Justice System increase (\$1 billion)
4. SB30 Semi-conductor processing in Texas (\$1.5 billion)
(an incentive to the federal government to put more money
Into Texas for semi-conductor manufacturing)

Texas Democratic Legislators do not have the majority in either house, but Republican legislators will need Democratic votes to get many of these measures passed. They will need Democrats to pass many proposals and Democrats will use their "power" to compromise, sway, amend many of these proposals to benefit the majority of Texans.

This Town Hall was planned by Northwest Democrats and Northeast Democrats and all Democrats and citizens were invited. The speakers were receptive to having another Town Hall at the end of the legislative session.



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www.northwestdemocrats.org

IMPORTANT DATES

April 15	Northwest Democrats Meeting
April 24—May 2	Early Voting
May 6	Election Day
May 20	Northwest Democrats Meeting
August 3	Pat Maloney, Sr. Public Service Award Dinner