

Northwest Democrats News

32 YEARS
And
Still Kicking



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Northwest Democrats, P.O. Box 681911, San Antonio, TX 78268; mererodriguez@yahoo.com

2024

OFFICERS

Chair

Esmeralda Rodriguez
210-771-6984

Vice-Chair

Barbara Moschner
210-492-6630

Secretary/ Treasurer

Brenda Middleton

Program Director

Barbara Moschner
210-492-6630

Special Projects

Gene Marck
210-273-9201

Communications

Gene Marck
Adam Castillo

Past Chair

Jacob Middleton

U.S. Capitol

1-202-224-3121

Rep. Joaquin Castro

1-202-225-3236

April 20th Program

Our guests will include the run-off candidates for the 73rd District Court, candidates for ACCD trustee District 6, Bexar County Appraisal candidates and Heather Eichling, "Youth Do Vote", sharing information about the organization.

The meeting begins at 8:30 am at Luby's,
Huebner@Floyd Curl.
Real Breakfast \$10

APRIL SPECIAL PROJECT Voting

Early voting begins April 22 and continues through April 30. The election day is May 4. For more information:

**Bexar County Elections Administrator,
Jacquelyn F. Callanen,
(210) 335-VOTE (8683)**

or

Elections.Bexar.org

**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:

bkdmiddleton@yahoo.com

Why The November 2024 Election Is Important, Part 4

Why you MUST vote for all Democrats in 2024

School vouchers being pushed by Texas Republicans have an ugly origin story

After the Uvalde school shooting, many predicted that this legislative session would be focused on school safety, but it turns out the top of the education agenda for lawmakers is privatization with vouchers. This was demonstrated last week by Governor Greg Abbott and the State Board of Education.

“When a school does fall short of excellence, parents should not be helpless. They should be able to choose the education option that is best for their child,” said Gov. Greg Abbott at the Annapolis Christian Academy in Corpus Christi. “The way to do that is with ESAs – Education Savings Accounts.”

Abbott delivered a full endorsement for vouchers through [Education Savings Accounts](#).

This would give parents public dollars to spend on private schools. The bill to create Education Savings Accounts was introduced by State Senator [Mayes Middleton](#), a Republican from Galveston.

“Every child in Texas deserves the opportunity to have an education that fits their unique needs, and one of the problems in this state is we don’t have educational freedom and true educational opportunities,” Middleton said.

But opponents of school vouchers point out there already is education freedom in Texas with charter schools, home schooling and options presented within an I.S.D. Joshua M. Cowen, Professor of Education Policy in the College of Education at Michigan State University, said there isn’t education freedom at voucher supported private schools.

“It’s nice to kind of stand on a podium and say education freedom but a parent whose child is rejected by the school they are trying to get into on the private side, doesn’t have a lot of freedom – and there’s nothing in these bills that requires a private school to take any of these children.”

Speaking on behalf of Pastors for Texas Children, public education advocate Louis Malfaro said school vouchers have an ugly origin.

“The whole notion of vouchers. They were originally called segregation vouchers,” Malfaro said.

He said this idea was a [white supremacist response](#) to the landmark Supreme Court Brown v. Board of Education decision.

“So it makes me sad that our state leaders don't see the value of the common school. Hispanic children now are a majority of the students in public schools in Texas. So now the state has all of a sudden lost the will to invest in its public school system,” Malfaro said.

But another main point that Abbott offers in support of vouchers is that it will improve school outcomes.

“When students are given education options – it’s a proven fact – that it leads to better education results for all schools across the entire state,” Abbott said.

Cowen said that’s wrong. He said based on vouchers in other states, it leads to the de-funding of traditional public schools. And the education results are worse.

“On the academic side in states like Indiana and Ohio we’re seeing devastating effects on student outcomes.”

[In Indiana](#), students who used vouchers, on average, suffered learning loss on par with New Orleans kids after Katrina. [Ohio kids](#) who used vouchers had an average learning loss twice the size of the COVID effect, according to Cowen.



Planting Joyce’s Tree



On Tuesday, April 2, about 10 of NWD’s members attended the planting of the Monterey oak at Katie Reed Elementary in honor and remembrance of Joyce. The day was beautiful and a day Joyce would have enjoyed.



Biden-Harris Yard Signs

NWD will have Biden-Harris yard signs available April 20 at our meeting. A donation of \$10 will get your sign and show neighbors your support for our democracy.

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San Antonio, TX 78268-1911

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IMPORTANT DATES

April 20	Northwest Democrats Meeting
April 22-30	Passover
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May 18	Northwest Democrats Meeting
August 8, 2024	Pat Maloney, Sr. PSA Dinner