

Northwest Democrats

News

32 YEARS
And
Still Kicking



JUNE, 2024
Volume 29 Issue 6

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2024

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June 15th Program

One guest will be the **Hon. Jackie Valdes**, Juvenile Court judge of Bexar County. She will update NWD on the juvenile court and changes the court makes in the lives of families. Our second guest is **Hon. Tracie Shelton**, NEISD Board of Trustees, on the changes impacting the second largest school district in San Antonio.

The meeting begins at 8:30 am at Luby's,
Huebner@Floyd Curl.

Real Breakfast \$10



JUNE AND JULY SPECIAL PROJECT

Communities in Schools

Several of the Bexar county school districts will be starting schools earlier than in previous years. Communities in Schools will be distributing supplies August 1, 2024. We will need to **Stuff the Bus** during June and July. Please bring your items or checks to the June and July meetings.

**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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Why The November 2024 Election Is Important, Part 6

Why you MUST vote for all Democrats in 2024

Last month Texas Republicans held their state convention in San Antonio, and like any political party, they passed their platform. Aside from proposing a platform that would have us turn our clocks back by decades, one part of the platform disclosed the fear, for Texas Republicans, that **Democrats** will win Texas.

Tucked in among the 50 pages of right-wing red bait and conspiracy-laden proposals, you can find a seemingly innocuous item titled Concurrent Majority. What does it say? It's a new plank that has been added to the platform and is as follows:

The State Legislature shall cause to be enacted a State Constitutional Amendment to add the additional criteria for election to a statewide office to include the majority vote of the counties with each individual county being assigned one vote allocated to the popular majority vote winner of each individual county.

Read it again if you're unsure of what you just read. So under the proposed plan that is now a part of the Texas Republican Party's platform, candidates for statewide office would have to win a majority of Texas' 254 counties in order to be elected.

The official position of Texas Republicans is to enact a warped Texas version of the electoral college for statewide offices.

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So, Bexar, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis counties each have over 1 million residents and hold a combined population of over 15 million or 50% of the Texas population would have 1 vote each in Texas' electoral college for a combined voting strength of 7. At the same time, Loving, King, Kenedy, McMullen, Borden, Terrell, and Kent counties each have less than 1000 residents and hold a combined population of a little over 3,000. **The smallest 7 counties in Texas would have the same voting strength as the largest 7 counties in Texas: 7.**

What's the most dangerous about this proposal is that the ideas it espouses have been cropping up in other states. Republicans have been proposing and attempting to pass measures like this for several years now in different forms. From trying to change how they allocate electoral college votes, to changing how citizens can place statewide referendums on the ballot, to changing what would count as passage for those same citizen led initiatives. Michigan Republicans wanted to allocate their electoral college votes by congressional district after gerrymandering their districts to ensure Republicans would win the most seats while losing the popular vote. Republicans in Ohio wanted to require signatures for citizen initiatives to be obtained from every county in Ohio, thereby hampering any popular progressive idea. Republicans are also proposing that citizen initiatives don't just obtain a majority of the vote, but a supermajority. They can't win at the ballot box, so they must change the rules.

If it were a one-off case, it might be nothing. But Republicans have now tried to do this in Arkansas, Florida, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Utah. So when Texas Republicans include this in the platform they passed--
Believe Them!

But why would they need to change the rules for electing statewide positions? If republicans believe their views are supported by most Texans, why do they need to suggest suddenly changing the rules. Some people look at the proposal and say how undemocratic and illegal it is. I look at the proposal and say Republicans have revealed their hand: Republicans really believe [Democrats](#) will win Texas.

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Republicans in the state legislature were scared enough after 2018 and 2020 that rather than go for an aggressive gerrymander, they instead went for an incumbent protection program with the maps they passed. Among states carried by Trump in 2020, the only states closer than Texas were Florida and North Carolina.

Democrats are closest to obtaining power in the State House. They only need 11 seats to tie the chamber and 12 take a bare majority. If Democrats in Bexar County do our job, we can cut that number by two. HD 118 held by Republican John Lujan should be closely contested and hopefully Democrats can recapture the seat. Biden won the seat in 2020 and Beto won it in 2022. Over in HD 121 Republicans decided to throw out moderate Republican Steve Allison. This provides Bexar County Democrats a second opportunity. Greg Abbott won the seat in 2022, but Biden won it 2020.

Want me to find 2 more seats? How about HDs 108 and 112 in Dallas County. Abbott and Trump barely carried the districts. In 2022, Dan Patrick and Ken Paxton both lost HD 112. It can be done. In 2022, Patrick and Paxton barely won HD 108. What's barely? 469 votes and 193 votes, respectively. These districts don't like the MAGA world of Trump, Patrick, and Paxton. These districts are winnable. You see how quickly Republican fears of Democrats winning come to fruition? Four seats down and the margin to tie in the House is 7 and only 8 for a majority.

Among other things, a more closely divided House reduces the chance not only for vouchers next session, but a stop to the Republican attacks on cities and municipalities that we've seen the past few sessions. We have our job to do in Bexar County. You wanna give Republicans additional heartburn? **Northwest Democrats** can work at cutting the margin in HD 122. Redistricting greatly moved this district from northeast and north central Bexar County to northwest and north central Bexar County. Republicans seem to hold about a 9,000-vote margin in the district. Let's work to cut that margin and engage in a long-term goal of making the entire Bexar County state house delegation all Democratic.

Article written by Jacob Middleton
past Chair of NWD

Had Enough? VOTE Democratic!

Pat Maloney, Sr. Public Service Award Dinner

August 8, 2024

Westin San Antonio North

6 pm—9 pm

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Level 1 County District Attorney \$2,700

(8 tickets and 1/2-page ad in the event program)

Level 2 First Assistant \$1,700

(8 tickets and 1/4-page ad in the event program)

Level 3 Chief \$1,200

(8 tickets and 1/8-page ad in the event program)

Level 4 Second Chair Prosecutor \$700

(8 tickets)

Level 5 Third Chair Prosecutor \$110

(2 tickets)

Level 6 Misdemeanor \$60

(1 ticket)

Additional Program Ads

Center Page: Left or Right (\$300 each)

Full Page (\$250)

Half Page (\$150)

Quarter Page (\$100)

Eighth Page (\$50)

This event is exciting and fun and a chance to meet your Democratic officials and candidates. Everyone has a great time, encouraging each other for the important work ahead of the November, 2024 election.

Northwest Democrats
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www.northwestdemocrats.org

IMPORTANT DATES

June 3-11	Early voting Bexar County Appraisal District
June 15	Northwest Democrats Meeting
June 15	Election Day
July 20	Northwest Democrats Meeting
August 8	Pat Maloney, Sr. PSA Dinner