

# Northwest Democrats News



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Northwest Democrats, P.O. Box 681911, San Antonio, TX 78268; TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com

## April 19<sup>th</sup> Program: Venue Tax & County Judge Nelson Wolff

Don't forget to attend our April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting where we will hear about the venue tax. Bexar County voters will go to the polls May 10<sup>th</sup> to decide on four tax extensions. Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff will be the guest speaker.

Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 am at Luby's, Floyd Curl and Huebner.

### 2006-2008

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## Earth Day 2008: Electronics Recycling

Woodlawn Lake Earth Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 19. You are invited to enjoy Earth Day after our meeting! Our friend, Joe Alderete, is chairman of the event. There will be many interesting booths about green subjects, a free tree giveaway by CPS, a bicycle giveaway, music, food, and more!

You can participate in Earth Day by recycling old computers and computer monitors. Please bring them to the NW Democrats meeting and your Special Projects chairman will deliver them to Earth Day. Almost everybody has used computers and monitors sitting around. They need to be dismantled properly, recycled, and not shipped off to 3rd World countries. To recycle computers is free. To recycle monitors there is a \$15 fee. Take this opportunity to clean off your shelves and bring your old computers and monitors to our April 19 meeting.

Call Gene Marck, chairman-Special Projects, if you have any questions about Earth Day...273-9201 (cell) 614-7400 (office).

**Authorized & Paid for by the Northwest Democrats**

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

TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com

## A Few 'Joyce' Words

*by Joyce Dorrycott*

The past couple of days some of us have watched some of the testimony of General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker concerning current and future plans for Iraq. It was mostly "more of the same." There are times I wonder whether the president taking office on January 20, 2009, will have enough time in four years to undo many of the actions of this lame duck president.

Whether it is the overall economy (It's the economy, stupid! - wonder if we still have any of those old bumper stickers left), the high cost of gasoline, or the war in Iraq - this administration has done nothing right. Not in my lifetime have I been as anxious to see the end of anyone's presidency. And, while I am on the short end of my life, I am deeply concerned about the future of my children and grandchildren.

While it is great that George Bush, as of this minute, has only 285 days, 14 hours and 27 minutes remaining, that is unfortunately enough time for him to do considerably more damage to this country. From taking a budget surplus and then producing the largest deficit in our history, to setting a pattern of acting as if the Constitution doesn't matter - only his decisions do, Bush has consistently acted as if he cares little for our people's welfare. As for his legacy, history will not treat his administration kindly. Not only did he take our country into war against a country that had not attacked us, he has raided our nation's treasury to maintain the longest war in our nation's history.

So, I guess you can understand why I can hardly wait to get to work helping to elect a Democratic president and our entire Democratic ticket. This will be an exciting election. Goodness knows no matter how much you honor John McCain's military service - and I do - it is hard to see how anyone could look forward to another Republican administration.

There will be much work to be done, and there will be a place for everyone who wants to participate in our fall campaign. This is your opportunity to change the direction of our country by helping to get a Democrat elected. We'll be keeping you informed as our plans develop.

One last thing - if it bothers you as much as it does me, write your senator or congressman to express your total disagreement with any effort by this administration to make agreements with the Iraqi government that do not require congressional approval.

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As you all know by now, our lives are no longer our own but are governed by the state of Don's health at a particular time. The past two Mondays have been spent at Methodist Hospital - the 31st to get platelets, the 7th to get two more units of blood.

For those who have asked, Don can use platelets donated by A and B donors as well as O. The doctor told me yesterday he will be needing platelets more often as well as blood. If you are interested in donating, please call me at 680-5701, and I will help to make arrangements. Also, if you go directly to the blood bank and "Specific Donations", tell them you are donating for Donald F. Green, and the blood should be sent to Methodist Hospital, then please call and let me know as I am unable to find out who or how many have donated. Thus, I can neither thank you nor count how much blood is available to him. We have obviously hit a time when the chemotherapy isn't working, so the need for more blood, platelets, etc., escalates.

We are both deeply appreciative of all the generosity of our fellow Democrats during Don's illness.

## Beware Voters Bearing Gifts, Part 2

by Jacob Middleton

Last month I bemoaned the fact that there was a significant drop off in the number of votes for down ballot races. Since then we've gotten another glimpse of the same potential problem in November: voters only interested in the presidential race and uninterested in down ballot races. For the primary Bexar County saw over 200,000 Democratic ballots cast. For the runoff, 10,921. For the primary statewide, we saw over 2.8 million ballots cast. For the runoff, 198,063.

In the primary we saw a candidate for railroad commissioner nearly win without a runoff while only spending \$150. In the runoff this now nominee for railroad commissioner spent an additional \$50. In addition, this candidate does not even have the basic disclaimer on his website. I have never met this person, but I seriously doubt he was the best of the three original choices. Once again another problem in November: voters who vote for down ballot races without any knowledge of the candidates.

Probably the bigger problem of the two would be voters not voting all the way down the ballot. Since apparently so many voters are coming out for the presidential race, I think the eventual nominee needs to help out. At the very least, the nominee needs to urge voters to vote all the way down. Something along the lines of "Now when you go the polls on November 4<sup>th</sup>, I want you to vote John Smith for president. But remember, I'm not the only person on the ballot. And I can't do it alone; I need help. And that's why I need you to vote for all the Democrats on the ballot. From president all the way down to your local judges."

The other solution is for us to educate voters about voting for the Democratic candidates. Northwest Democrats of course will be doing our part to educate voters, like we always do.

Switching gears to the topic of the extension of the venue tax, I have to say that right now I am supportive of two of the proposals and opposed to two of the proposals. At the very least, I need more information before I could commit to voting for all four.

The third proposal is for \$100 million to go to the AT&T Center, stock show and rodeo grounds, and the Freeman Coliseum. \$75 million of that will go to the AT&T Center. In actuality, the \$75 million will go to the Commissioners Court who will then decide how the \$75 million will be spent on the AT&T Center. No offense to the Commissioners Court, but how many times have we as voters approved bond packages for the city only to see the money be spent not on what was promised, but on the other projects that weren't even on the radar at the time.

One other reason I'm skeptical of the AT&T Center money, is because of the economic impact it doesn't seem to have had. I could have sworn that we were told that the AT&T Center would be helpful to the economy on the East Side. Unfortunately it doesn't look that way. Instead, what we see is the phenomenon known as the "Coning of the East Side." Anyone who has been to a Spurs game has seen how traffic cones block off streets for homes and local businesses. Just curious, how does that help the local economy?

My other question about the tax extension is the Youth & Amateur Athletic Facilities. I'm skeptical of the \$15 million for UTSA. My reservations stem from the fact that the UTSA athletics director has made it her number one goal to bring football to UTSA. UTSA originally wanted \$50 million to build a sports complex. No doubt this sports complex will look a lot like a football stadium. Why do we need another football stadium? If UTSA needs a practice area, Dub Farris Athletic Complex is right down the road from UTSA. Need a place to play, they could use either Alamo Stadium or the Alamodome. UTSA can't fill its convocation center to full capacity for basketball games, you really think they're going to be able to do it for football games? With the cost of college increasing by leaps and bounds, I can think of better ways to spend \$15 million.

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**We will be planning for our upcoming dinner.**

**If you want to get involved in helping this year's dinner be as successful, if not better than last year's, then plan on attending our April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting when we'll have more information available.**

## **DUES WERE DUE IN JANUARY**

**Remember that changes in the bylaws means that all dues are now due in January. Dues are \$15 for the entire family.**

**If you are not able to attend the meeting you can send in a check to:**

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