



Bellaire Democrats

Newsletter

Vol. 2, Issue 3 October 2002

General Meeting of Bellaire Democrats on October 15th

At the Residence of David Minberg - 5406 Braburn Drive - Bellaire, Texas

Social Gathering: 6:30

Club Meeting: 7:00

All members of the Bellaire Democrats are invited, as well as anyone interested in joining the Club. Don't miss this opportunity to meet many of the candidates and become acquainted with their platforms. We encourage open discussion at the meeting, and hope you'll participate with your questions and comments! Refreshments will be served.

If Not Now, When?

Your Bellaire Democrats Club has been working hard to assure that you have the opportunity to meet the candidates and be an informed voter. We have provided opportunities to volunteer and train as a voter registrar. We want to be certain that as Democrats each of us understands how critical this election year is to the future success of our party and to the well being of our families and our fellow citizens.

We have an opportunity to regain the Governor's mansion and get Texas moving in the right direction on issues that are important to us, like a balanced budget, moving our state from one of the worst in education to one of the best, mandating environmental improvements for clean air and water, and the list goes on. We can put a Democrat, Ron Kirk, in the Senate and have a voice from Texas that supports the issues of all Texans, not just a conservative minority.

Together we can make a difference in this upcoming election, but it will not happen if all we think we need to do is go to the polls. We must influence every vote possible by displaying proudly the yard signs of the candidates we support, working in the campaign offices, distributing campaign literature, making phone calls and engaging our friends and families about what is important to us.

Should we not be asking more questions of our government and those who run our major corporations? Is it not wise to assure that we have looked at every option before considering sending our soldiers to war? Is something wrong when our deficit continues to grow and our economy continues to slide? Is it a coincidence that these happen under Republican control?

It is time that we start defending our positions around the water coolers at work, in the streets and among friends. It is time that we remind people that the Democratic Party is the party of the people and that it is the Democrats who have managed the financial resources of this country and provided more jobs, more productivity and thus a better economy. It is the Democratic Party who values the religious beliefs of all people and yet stands firm that no one religion should supercede the rights of every individuals freedom of choice, for which our ancestors fought and died to assure that we indeed are a government of the people and for the people.

I get angry when I watch the news these days or read the biased reports that many of our papers choose to print. I get more determined that my two sons are not going to grow up in a one party state where entire senatorial districts are redefined just to try to assure that Republicans can win. I get angry that Bellaire is considered Republican territory when I know that the people in Bellaire are to wise to the candidates who will sell out to big insurance companies, rob our public school system and support the misconduct that has been so apparent in cases such as Enron.

We are a great nation, and Bellaire is a great city. We have the power as the people and we must assure that everyone of us who support equality and fair government, a women's right to choose, separation of church and state, and assuring a safe environment for generation to come, goes to the polls to vote and remind everyone we know to do the same. I plan to vote a straight ticket because this is a great slate of Democrats that will represent all of us and make us proud!

Coy Tow, President

Are you better off than you were 2 years ago? Not many folks can answer yes to that question. So much for the tax cuts, eh? Here are some recent statistics from the first 20 months of the Bush-Cheney administration, so don't feel like you're alone...

Dow Jones: **Down 32.5%** Number of Families Living below the Poverty Line: **Up** Median Income:
Down
Unemployment Rate: 4.1% **now** 5.7% **Up 36%**
Budget: \$ 281 Billion Surplus **now** \$ 157 Billion Deficit (Squandered)

Democratic Leaders are Finally Speaking Out

Following are excerpts from recent speeches by former Vice-President Al Gore, President Bill Clinton and Senator Ted Kennedy. Please let them know whether you agree with their stand on Iraq, the war on terrorism, the economy, etc.

“On Monday, in San Francisco, Gore accused Bush of squandering the international goodwill that the United States had accumulated in the aftermath of the terror attacks by his increasingly hard line on Iraq.

Gore, who narrowly defeated Bush in the popular vote in 2000, challenged both the wisdom of targeting Saddam Hussein at this time and Bush's suggestions of unilateral U.S. action should he fail to win United Nations backing. The strong words of the San Francisco speech -- a rare direct challenge of Bush's conduct of the "war on terrorism" -- caught some Democrats by surprise. But analysts suggested it also emboldened others to speak out, and may have helped pave the way for harsh criticism of Bush on Wednesday by Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D“.

And Gore said "Highly questionable" decisions are being made in the criminal justice system under Attorney General John Ashcroft. "What's going on nationally, with the attack on civil liberties, with American citizens in some cases just disappearing without right to counsel, without access to a lawyer, I think that is disgraceful," he said.

"I think we need to stand up for our principles in this country and stand up for what this nation represents, even as we face the terrible dangers that we have to confront in the world today," he added. Gore also decried any efforts to portray Democratic critics of the Bush administration's homeland security plans and possible war with Iraq as unpatriotic or unconcerned about national security.” By Tom Raum, Sept. 26, 2002 | Washington (AP) --

‘America can lead the world, but not dominate and run it’

An edited version of Bill Clinton's speech, presented in Blackpool, England, on October 2, 2002. It can be found at: <http://www.labour.org.uk/clintonconfspeech/> It was on C-SPAN as well.

Kennedy Urges Restraint in Confrontation With Iraq

NEW YORK TIMES | September 27, 2002
By DAVID STOUT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27 - Senator Edward M. Kennedy said today that the United States should not go to war against Iraq until all reasonable alternatives had been tried, and that premature military action would weaken the worldwide campaign against terrorism.

"There are realistic alternatives between doing nothing and declaring unilateral or immediate war," Mr. Kennedy said, becoming the latest Democrat to split with the White House over Iraq. "War should be a last resort, not the first response."

Become a Member of Bellaire Democrats, or renew your Current Membership

I wish to join the Bellaire Democrats. Annual Dues: \$ 15.00 Date: _____

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (h) _____ (w) _____ Personal email: _____

Occupation: _____
(Optional for contributions of less than \$50)

I will: (check each box that applies)

- Attend Meetings - add me to you notice list
- Give permission to receive email notices at home (not at employer address)
- Volunteer for Club committee work
- Volunteer for Democratic candidate campaigns
- Volunteer for Harris Country Democratic Party projects
- Serve as an Election Day precinct clerk in my precinct
- Other Interests or Skill _____

Please enclose your dues check made payable to Bellaire Democrats and send to:

Treasurer, Bellaire Democrats, 4401 Lafayette St., Bellaire, TX 77401

For more information, please contact Jane McNeel, Treasurer: 713-664-3316 or email: mcneelj@yahoo.com

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Texas Democratic Party is Debt Free! Malcolm's Announcement Exemplifies Fiscally Responsible Democratic Management

AUSTIN, Texas, September 26, 2002 -

Texas Democratic Party Chairwoman Molly Beth Malcolm announced Thursday that for the first time in at least 18 years, the Texas Democratic Party is debt free as it moves forward with the most comprehensive Get Out the Vote campaign in more than a decade.

"Four years ago, we said we were going to rebuild the Party, retire our debt, and field a strong statewide ticket again in 2002," Malcolm said. "Today, the Texas Democratic Party is debt free and we are on our way to historic victories in 2002."

"When Democrats were in charge in Austin, John Sharp started the Texas Performance Review and saved taxpayers billions of dollars," she said. "And when Democrats were in charge in Washington, we balanced the federal budget for the first time in a generation.

"Today the Republicans have left us a projected state budget shortfall of \$8-12 billion and Republicans are again running up deficits in Washington. By electing Democrats in 2002, we can get our state and national budgets in line and get the economy moving again. Sound fiscal management of the Texas Democratic Party makes it possible for every dollar to be used to elect Democrats," Malcolm said.

Cornyn Gets Reminder of Pro-Enron Opinion

HOUSTON, Texas, September 24, 2002

The Texas Democratic Party today presented a thank you card from Ken Lay to Attorney General John Cornyn at a morning campaign stop in Houston today, marks the one-year anniversary of a legal opinion by John Cornyn that shielded Enron from having to provide information requested by ratepayers proving that Enron's finances were in order before it could bid on a contract.

"When John Cornyn had the chance to shed some light on Enron's accounting scandals before they cost hard working Texans their jobs and their pensions, he instead chose to side with a company that had given him \$193,000," said Molly Beth Malcolm, Texas Democratic Party Chairwoman. "It's shameful that John Cornyn would pick his greedy contributors over Texas families, but that is exactly what he did on this very day just one year ago."

According to the Dallas Morning News, "Within weeks of Mr. Cornyn's opinion, reports of Enron's financial woes began to emerge. The company declared bankruptcy in December." Why would Ken Lay thank John Cornyn? A month after Cornyn's ruling that gave the company new life, Enron CEO Ken Lay cashed in nearly 500,000 stock options, pocketing over \$6 million dollars in the process. (Securities and Exchange Commission Annual Statement of Changes in Beneficial Ownership, Form 5, Received 2-14-02).

Don't rely solely on the American mass media for your news. This information will help you remain truly informed on what's going on in the world.

Amy Goodman and Democracy Now is broadcast on KPFT, 90.1 FM, weekday mornings.

Texas Democratic Party: <http://www.txdemocrats.org>

DemoDigest@yahoogroups.com

PollingReport.com

A great way to reach your representatives:
<http://www.congress.org/>

United Nations: <http://www.un.org/News/>
<http://www.truthout.org>

SALON.COM

donkirk@whc.net

http://usa.unaaction.org/z_unausa.asp

MoveOn, a terrific grass roots organization:
<http://www.moveon.org>

The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/0,6961,,00.>

Fairness in the media: <http://www.fair.org>

**Don't let the media go along with the "wag the dog" scenario of the Bush Administration
Contact them when they fail to report fairly and honestly. Demand equal time for all viewpoints.**

Early Voting Information: Vote Early at Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet

Saturday	October 19, 2002	1:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Sunday	October 20, 2002	1:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Monday	October 21, 2002	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Tuesday	October 22, 2002	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Wednesday	October 23, 2002	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Thursday	October 24, 2002	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Friday	October 25, 2002	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Saturday	October 26, 2002	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Sunday	October 27, 2002	1:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Monday	October 28, 2002	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Tuesday	October 29, 2002	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Wednesday	October 30, 2002	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Thursday	October 31, 2002	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Friday	November 1, 2002	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Texas Democrats Remember Billie Carr

Texas Democrats mourned the death of long time Democratic activist Billie Carr. Carr died on September 9th at the age of 74. Texas Democratic Chairwoman Molly Beth Malcolm said that Texans will continue to draw inspiration from her work over the past 50 years.

“Billie Carr was a strong and vigorous voice for all Democrats who believe in fairness and equality and giving every hard-working Texan an opportunity to live the American dream,” Malcolm said. “As Billie Carr worked her way up to positions of leadership on the state and national levels, she never forgot the grassroots where she got her start as a precinct chair.

John Sharp Takes Stand to Protect Texas Military Bases

John Sharp this week released a plan aimed at protecting Texas military installations when the federal government weighs possible base closures in the coming years. The Democratic nominee for Lt. Governor also backs assistance for Texas-based families of soldiers stationed at home and abroad. Noting that a Texas legislative committee zeroed in on base closings in an urgent hearing three weeks ago, Sharp criticized Republican opponent David Dewhurst for dismissing possible base closings as "a federal matter."

A Thank You Note...

Our heartfelt thanks to Leslie and Hedley Karpas for graciously opening their lovely home to the Bellaire Democrats for our September meeting. Thanks also to those candidates who attended, including Chris Bell, David Bernsen, Diane Feiler, Robert Hinojosa, and Ronnie Ellen Harrison. We appreciate the efforts of everyone involved, and are even more determined to support our hard working candidates.

Sanchez Says Perry Takes Pharmaceutical Donations While Consumers Feel Bitter Pill of High Drug Prices

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tony Sanchez declared this week that Rick Perry has done little to make prescription drugs more affordable for senior citizens.

But Sanchez's campaign noted that pharmaceutical companies under investigation for illegal influencing doctors and price gouging have made Perry's run for Governor more affordable by pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into his campaign. Pfizer was particularly generous, flying Perry to a spring fundraiser in New York only two months after he encouraged senior citizens in Texas to join the company's program, according to the Sanchez campaign. A study by the Sanchez campaign shows that Texas consumers have been hit hard by "predatory pricing practices" by pharmaceutical firms.

Election Dates

October 2002

Monday, October 7 - Voter Registration Deadline

Last day to register to vote for the November General Election

Saturday, October 19 - Early Voting Begins

First day of Early Voting for the November General Election

Tuesday, October 29 - Ballot by Mail Ends

Last day to receive applications for ballot by mail

November 2002

Friday, November 1 - Early Voting Ends

Last day for early voting by personal appearance for November general election

Tuesday, November 5 - General Election

Polls are open from 7a.m.-7p.m.

**Harris County Democratic Party Candidates Guide Election Dates for November 5 General Election
IT'S EASIER TO VOTE STRAIGHT DEMOCRATIC - THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT ELECTION YEAR!!!!**

The November 5, 2002 election promises to be interesting! Not only will you elect our Governor, but you also will be electing members of Congress, statewide officials, and county officials

The following is a list of important election-related dates and deadlines.

- ◆ September 6th First day to submit an application for an early voting by mail ballot
- ◆ September 29th Last day to submit an application for an early ballot by mail
- ◆ October 7th Last day to register to vote in the November 5 general election.
- ◆ October 19th First day of early voting by personal appearance
- ◆ November 1 Last day of early voting by personal appearance.

Statewide Candidates

Ron Kirk, U.S. Senator • Tony Sanchez, Governor • John Sharp, Lieutenant Governor • Kirk Watson, Attorney General
Marty Akins, Comptroller • David Bernsen, Land Commissioner • Tom Ramsey, Agriculture Commissioner
Sherry Boyles, Railroad Commissioner

Supreme Court of Texas

Richard Baker • Linda Yanez • Jim Parsons • William E. Moody • Margaret Mirabal

Court of Criminal Appeals

John Bull • Pat Montgomery • J.R. Molina

1st Court of Appeals: Austin O'Toole • Mary Thompson
Crawford

14th Court of Appeals: Denise

State District Courts, Civil

Lee Arellano • Frank Svetlik • Antonia Martinez Ingversen • Rick Molina • Tasso Triantaphyllis • Diane Feiler

State District Courts, Family

Bill Connolly • A. Robert Hinojosa • Allette B. Williams • Mary Kay Green
Richard L. Moore • Donna Kohlhausen

State District Courts, Juvenile

Teresa V. Ramirez • Walter Boyd • Sandra Peake

State District Courts, Criminal

Grant U. Hardeway, Sr. • W. Robert Voigt • Bennie House • Wayne B. Slaughter

Herb Ritchie • Lydia Clay-Jackson • Ruben Guerrero • Ron Johnson

County Courts at Law, Civil

Bruce Mosier • Dinah Weems • Mitchell Contreras • Diana R. Musslewhite

County Courts at Law, Criminal

Richard Frankoff • Sylvia Pubchara • Blanca E. Lopez • Alfred G. "Al" Leal • Randy Roll
Yolanda D. Coroy • Leslie Ribnik

County Probate Court

Martha Failing • James "Jim" Downes

You can make the difference - Vote Early and Vote the Straight Democratic Ticket - but most of all, Vote!!