



# Bellaire Democrats

# Newsletter

Election Edition, 2004

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2004-2005

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## "The Audacity of Hope" .... Barack Obama

Fellow Democrats,

We indicated that our September newsletter would be the last before the election. But there is so much happening—so much possibility—that we wanted to make one last shout of encouragement during these last weeks.

We are all encouraged by the abundance of signs for Democratic candidates around town—we can and must take Harris County and Texas back from the Republicans! To do this, every Democrat must vote – for all Democratic candidates at all levels. Don't forget that the Republicans now control all branches of government in the nation and state; we must elect Democrats at the grassroots level to get our country back on track.

### There is still work for us to do before the election November 2:

-Assist with phone banks and block walking, and make monetary contributions to individual presidential and local candidates. See candidate contact information below.

-Support the Harris County Democratic Party--by volunteering in the Sharpstown satellite (713/272-8950); or assisting with calling, yard sign distribution, or data entry (demvols@aol.com). Provide ongoing support by becoming a sustaining member (www.hcdp.org or call 713-802-0085).

-Display yard signs and/or bumper stickers; get them from the Lomaxes at 4801 Maple - 713-668-7075.

-Work the polls or as a poll watcher on Election Day – Contact Lynn McBee at 713-665-0557.

-Talk to friends, colleagues, relatives—especially those in battleground states. Encourage activism in them with the key facts about America's current situation (see talking points in this newsletter).

-Write letters to the newspapers and government representatives, making clear statements regarding key issues.

-Contribute time and/or money to local grassroots activist groups--Move On.org (www.moveon.org); The True Majority (www.truemajority.org); America Coming Together (www.act4victory.org); Common Cause (www.commoncause.org ).

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world! Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." (Margaret Mead)

Together, we can and will take back our country!

Nancy Lomax, President

**BELLAIRE DEMOCRATS – Post-Election Pot Luck Supper**  
**November 7th - Lomax Residence - 4801 Maple in Bellaire**  
**Bring a dish and come to celebrate and make plans – 5:00 - 7:30 PM**

"The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government." *Thomas Jefferson*

**ELECT DEMOCRATS AT ALL LEVELS BY VOTING THE STRAIGHT DEMOCRATIC TICKET!**

**John Forbes Kerry for President** – Previous newsletters have provided details on John Kerry's service to our country – decorated war veteran, U. S. Senator from Massachusetts since 1984, smart and experienced. (For details, see [www.bellairedemocrats.org](http://www.bellairedemocrats.org).) Contribute/volunteer: 713-526-2004 [www.johnkerry.com](http://www.johnkerry.com) or [www.johnkerry.com/states/tx/](http://www.johnkerry.com/states/tx/) .

**John Edwards for Vice President** – Senator from North Carolina, John Edwards is an attorney, smart, disciplined, charming, hardworking, able to master complex issues and communicate in plain language to ordinary people—and son of a mill worker—a living example of achieving the American Dream.

**John Martinez for Congress – District 7** – Bellaire was redistricted into District 7, which has been represented by right-wing Republican, John Culberson. John Martinez is a 31-year Harris County resident, an engineering consultant, business owner, adjunct professor at UH, and community leader. Contact Martinez at [www.martinez-district7.com](http://www.martinez-district7.com) .

**Jim Dougherty for State Representative – District 134** – Jim Dougherty is a Houston attorney, CPA, federal prosecutor, and mediator active in charitable organizations. He supports revising the State Franchise Tax, reversing cutbacks to CHIPS/Medicaid, and requiring recording of all legislators' votes. He is running against Martha Wong. Contact Jim Dougherty at [www.jimfortexas.com](http://www.jimfortexas.com).

**Scott Hochberg for State Representative – District 137** – Scott Hochberg has represented an adjacent SW Houston district for 11 years, has been recognized among the best legislators by Texas Monthly magazine, and has been a good friend to Bellaire Democrats. Contact Scott Hochberg at [www.scotthochberg.com](http://www.scotthochberg.com)

**Richard Morrison for Congress – District 22** – Richard Morrison is an attorney who supports sunsetting the USA Patriot Act, revisiting NAFTA and GATT, and responsible federal spending. He's running against Tom DeLay for Congress--need we say more? Contact Richard Morrison at [www.RichardMorrisonforDistrict22.com](http://www.RichardMorrisonforDistrict22.com)

**Reginald McKamie for District Attorney** – Reginald McKamie is a Houston attorney with an MBA and a CPA; is board certified in personal injury trial law; and has experience in civil, administrative, and criminal law, specializing in maritime law. He opposes Chuck Rosenthal. Contact [www.mckamie.com](http://www.mckamie.com) or [mckamie@mckamie.com](mailto:mckamie@mckamie.com) or 713-263-9253.

**For detailed information on all candidates**, see [www.lwvhouston.org](http://www.lwvhouston.org) or the League of Women Voters guide in libraries and other public locations.

<b>Bellaire Polling Locations</b>	<b>Election Day – Tuesday, November 2, 2004</b>	
Precinct 128	Bellaire Civic Center	7008 South Rice Avenue
Precinct 182	Horn Elementary School	4535 Pine @ Ave. B
Precinct 214	Bank of Texas N.A. Activities Center	5217 Cedar
Precinct 215	Faith American Lutheran Church	4600 Bellaire Blvd.
Precinct 268	Bellaire Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall	4925 Bellaire Blvd.
Early voting October 18 – 29, 2004	Bayland Park	6400 Bissonnet

- Last day to apply for ballot by mail – October 26, 2004 - 713-755-6965 or [www.harrisvotes.org](http://www.harrisvotes.org)
- For additional early voting locations and times, see [www.lwvhouston.org](http://www.lwvhouston.org) or [harrisvotes.org](http://harrisvotes.org) or call 713-755-5792
- For Harris County Democrats activities, see [www.hcdp.org](http://www.hcdp.org)
- Important Resource to keep handy: 1-866-OURVOTE – to report voting irregularities

## Why Americans are worse off than we were 4 years ago ... just a few reasons to elect Kerry/Edwards

**National Debt has increased** from **\$5.6 trillion** in September 2000 to **\$7.4 trillion** in September, 2004. This includes a record **\$415 billion deficit** for fiscal year ending September 30.

**Monetary cost of war in Iraq:** Allocation to date: **\$191 billion** – expended **\$120 billion**.

**Bush's tax cuts** went mostly to **richest 10% of families**; over one-third went to those with average incomes of **more than \$1 million**. Low income families were **denied the child tax credits** granted to other income groups.

**Fewer adults have jobs.** When Bush took office, **64.4%** of adults had jobs; in September 2004, that percentage was only **62.3%**. Current job growth is the worst since BLS began tracking unemployment in 1939.

**Rich are richer; middle- and low-income families are losing ground.** The richest 1% now own more than the bottom 90% combined. The middle class is shrinking; the lower class is growing. Between 2000 and 2003, **median family income fell** by \$1,535 while **living costs increased**. **4.3 million** additional Americans fell below the poverty level, bringing the **total to 35.9 million** or 12.5%. Number of **children living in poverty increased** by 11%, while the TANF aid declined 10%.

**As military casualties mounted, benefits dropped.** Over **1,000 military** have died in Iraq—and the President proposed **cutting billions of dollars** from military housing, veterans' health care and administration.

**Security? We are not safer.** The majority of Americans believe that the Iraq war has **increased** the threat of terrorism. **Republicans voted "no"** on a Democratic initiative **to boost spending** for homeland security by \$2.5 billion, including \$1.2 billion for **under-funded firefighters, police, and medical personnel**.

**Environmental regulations affecting air, water, health and wild areas have been gutted** quietly and systematically by the Bush administration through regulatory changes and bureaucratic directives. They have **opened 58 million acres** of public lands to commercial interests, and **lowered standards** of the Clean Water Act.

**Health care in America deteriorates as costs soar.** One study ranks U.S. health care **12<sup>th</sup> in the world** of 13 industrialized countries. **45 million** Americans have no health insurance; increases in employer cost for health care over three years have resulted in **9 million Americans losing** their health care. A confusing **Medicare prescription drug bill** provides few benefits except to drug companies.

**Education:** The Bush administration passed the "No Child Left Behind" education initiative then **underfunded** it (to date) by \$26 billion. White House 2006 budget **cuts education \$1.7 billion** and **cuts Head Start program \$177 million**.

**Higher education:** Over a decade, average tuition and fees **have risen 47%** at public 4-year colleges and **42%** at private ones. Cost for in-state public college students increased **14.1% in one year**, mainly from federal funding cuts or unfunded federal requirements. -Bush's budget proposes **cuts in federal scholarship/grant programs** of \$270 million, **excluding 84,000 students** from Pell Grants and **reducing awards for 1.5 million students**.

**Judicial appointments:** President Bush has appointed **198 federal judges** during his presidency. Democrats have blocked **ten** Bush judicial nominees (compared to **more than 60** blocked by Republicans nominated by Clinton). In an unprecedented move, Bush appointed **two rejected nominees** (Charles Pickering and William Pryor) in recess appointments to the federal bench.

**Election reform:** Congress passed the Help America Vote Act after the 2000 elections, **promising \$800 million** for election reform; the president's budget provided only **\$40 million**. Electronic voting machines have proven **inaccurate, unreliable, insecure** to hackers, and providing **no paper trail**, making a recount **impossible**.

**The USA Patriot Act,** passed hurriedly after 9/11, has resulted in **losses of personal freedoms, denial of due process, and erosion of freedom of speech**. **Peaceful forms of dissent** have been quashed.

**Social programs have been cut,** weakening the ability of America's poor to function – to buy food, have a place to live, be educated, get reasonable health care and a job. The number of families having to turn to food banks increased as much as **44-46%** in some cities between 2002 and 2003.

**Conflicts of interest abound:** **Bush family's** relations with the Saudis and former Halliburton CEO **Dick Cheney's** "coordination" of at least one no-bid contract with Halliburton estimated at **\$18 billion**, on which they admit to millions of dollars of overcharges.

**Annual Membership runs from June 1st through May 31st - Dues are Payable now for 2004-2005**

A starburst on the address label of this newsletter indicates that your membership is current. If you wish to renew or to join, please return your dues check made payable to Bellaire Democrats to  
Guyleene Ebersole, Treasurer, 4301 Bissonnet, #9, Bellaire, TX 77401  
For more information, please contact Guyleene Ebersole, Treasurer: 713-665-6470 or email: guyleber@sbcglobal.net.  
Your support is greatly appreciated!

**Become a Member of Bellaire Democrats, or Renew Your Current Membership**

I wish to join or renew my membership in the Bellaire Democrats. Annual Dues: \$ 15.00 Per Year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ Personal email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Skills \_\_\_\_\_

**P r e c i n e t   C h a i r s**

Precinct 128	Lynn McBee	713-665-0557	lynmb@hal-pc.org
Precinct 182	Patrick Durio	713-667-5508	patrick.durio@durio.cpa.pro
Precinct 214	Helen Fisher	713-664-3887	helenfisher@hal-pc.org
Precinct 215	Guyleene Ebersole	713-665-6470	guyleber@sbcglobal.net
Precinct 268	Fred Cook	713-660-9116	

**Bellaire Democrats**  
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