



Bellaire Democrats

Newsletter

September, 2004

General Meeting - Thursday, September 2, 2004

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. - Bellaire Civic Center – 7008 South Rice Avenue – Light Supper

Come and learn how you can help the Democrats take back our state and our country in November. We will discuss ways the Club can support the Democratic candidates in the upcoming election, fund raising activities, and future events.

6:30 Social: Deli sandwiches and drinks will be provided (\$10 donation appreciated). Contact Nancy Lomax at 713-668-7075 or nlomax@houston.rr.com to help us estimate how many sandwiches to order.

Bumper Stickers and Yard Signs will be available - (donations will be appreciated)

Officers for 2003 - 2004

President:
Nancy Lomax
Phone: 713-668-7075
nlomax@houston.rr.com

First Vice President:
Phil Donovan
Phone: 713-664-9416
m072965@aol.com

Second Vice President:
Open

Secretary:
Ellen Safier
713-665-0342
esafier@aol.com

Treasurer:
Guyleene Ebersole
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Parliamentarian/Ex Officio:

Newsletter Editors

Judy Viebig
jviebig@att.net

Jane McNeel
mcneelj@yahoo.com

Fellow Democrats,

This will be our last newsletter before the November elections – and **we have work to do!**

Many of us believe that this is the most important election in our lifetime... possibly since the Civil War. The Republicans are waging a fierce and nasty campaign; there seems to be no limit to what they will do to win re-election. We watch their behavior and study their policies, and wonder what has happened to the democracy that we have known and loved.

We have just over two months to ensure a change in leadership. I ask each of you to stretch your energy, time, pocketbooks, and hearts as much as possible to help us get America back on the right track.

Democratic officeholders are needed at all levels for government to change direction—in Congress, the State Legislature, and local positions—as well as in the White House.

Volunteer to work for Democratic candidates—Kerry/Edwards or others in offices closer to home. Our candidates need your dollars. If you can, travel to a "swing state" and assist in the campaigns in those critical states. Organizations like America Coming Together (ACT) and the Kerry headquarters can tell you how. Join the Bellaire Democrats and/or the Harris County Democrats in our grassroots efforts by volunteering to telephone voters or working at our garage sale or holding office. (We need a vice president to help with Bellaire Democrats. We need a Bellaire Democrat Chair for Dougherty, Martinez, and Gorczynski.)

And—**VOTE!** Make sure your friends, relatives, and neighbors vote! Volunteer to drive them to the polls. Offer them information on America's critical issues (see our website for information on these issues). Inform those who are not informed on the issues. Most people get their information from the mainstream television networks, those networks that are owned by Bush contributors. At their best, they provide only brief sound bites, not full information.

It's going to be a busy two months—but if Americans all pull together to support our country, we can do it. Call me at 713-668-7075 if you have questions or want to help.

Nancy Lomax, President

GARAGE SALE TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2004

4709 MAPLE - BELLAIRE - 8 am to 3 pm

Volunteers Needed!!

Donations Requested!!

Donations can be dropped off at 4801 Maple after September 2nd. Items should be clean and in working condition: clothing, toys, household and decorative items, furniture, electrical and technical items. Volunteers are needed to:

- Help set up Friday, Sept. 10 – 5 – 8 p.m.
- Make signs, put them up and take them down on Saturday
- Work Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sign-up at the general meeting or call Nancy Lomax at 703-668-7075

The Executive Committee for 2004-2005

Elections for the Officers for 2004-2005 were held at the General Meeting May 13, 2004. Nancy Lomax graciously agreed to continue as President during this important time, Phil Donovan and Ellen Safier will remain as first Vice President and Secretary, respectively, and Guyleene Ebersole was elected Treasurer.

Anson Barnes was elected Second Vice President and did a brilliant job organizing our entry in the July 4th parade and festival. Unfortunately, he is unable to continue, and that position is now open. Contact Nancy at 713-668-7075 to volunteer or suggest a replacement.

The following changes in the Club By-laws have been proposed and will be voted on at the September meeting:

It is recommended that Article IV.C be changed as follows: "The term of each office shall be (one year) **two years** beginning June 1 through May 31, or until a successor is elected."

It is recommended that Article IV.D. be changed as follows: Elections shall be held at the regular (June) **Spring** meeting of the organization."

The full By-laws and Constitution can be found at www.bellairedemocrats.org.

Texas... Fall 2004...Don't forget that the Republicans are still in control!

Just because Governor Goodhair didn't call another special session on school finance reform this summer and things seem quiet in Austin, we must not be complacent. If you listen, the mumblings of plotting and scheming for the biennial regular session in January 2005 can be heard. Lest you think nothing is in store for us, here are a few excerpts from the Texas Republican Party platform, compliments of the Texas Freedom Network.

- Republicans support health education that promotes only abstinence from sex "until heterosexual marriage with an uninfected person" and oppose any other instruction on methods of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
- The party calls for the Legislature to restore to the State Board of Education full authority to censor public school textbooks that "undermine belief in America and our Constitutional Republic, promulgate anti-American propaganda, and contain unchallenged biased viewpoints."
- The platform supports "covenant marriage" (which endangers battered spouses because it would allow couples to divorce only after a waiting period and counseling, even in cases of domestic abuse) and advocates rescinding no-fault divorce laws.
- The party supports laws that bar Child Protective Services from removing an abused child from his or her home, even in cases of "immediate danger to the child's physical health or safety."
- Defining marriage as a "God-ordained, legal and moral commitment only between a natural man and a natural woman," the platform supports a federal constitutional amendment that bans same-sex marriage.

Can't believe it and want to know more? The full Texas Republican Party platform is posted on www.hcdp.org, the Harris County Democrats website.

"When you see uncaring people in high places, everybody should be mad as hell."
Rev. William Sloane Coffin, long time activist for peace and social justice and one of America's most prominent and controversial ministers.

Want to Help Get Out the Vote?

We have been asked by Sue Schechter to volunteer through the Harris County Democratic Party to work on their phone bank. Volunteers will work from home, and need to have a computer and internet access.

Volunteers are needed between now and Labor Day, then again in October. The calls will be made only to folks who voted in the Democratic primary. Some of the calling may be done from the HCDP headquarters, located off 610 North around Ella Blvd. Call Nancy to volunteer: 713-668-7075

In 1960, when he was running for president, John F. Kennedy was asked, "What is a liberal?" and he defined it well: "I believe in human dignity as the source of national purpose, in human liberty as the source of national action, in the human heart as the source of national compassion, and in the human mind as the source of our invention and our ideas.

For liberalism is not so much a party creed or set of fixed platform promises as it is an attitude of mind and heart, a faith in man's ability through the experiences of his reason and judgment to increase for himself and his fellow men the amount of justice and freedom and brotherhood which all human life deserves. For the liberal society is a free society, and it is at the same time and for that reason a strong society."

Electronic Voting Machines - A Threat to Our Democracy?

As we saw again in Florida, which was forced to scrap a flawed list of felons scheduled to be purged from voter rolls - a list originally kept from the public, secrecy in election administration is often a cover for incompetence, or even partisan manipulation. Voters should be able to monitor every aspect of electronic voting, from the purchase of machines to the final tabulation of votes, and receive enough training so that they can understand what they are seeing.

In the long run, electronic voting should not be allowed without unimpeachable and mandatory security standards, and machines that allow voters to see paper records and ensure that their votes are properly recorded. Unfortunately, a large part of the electorate will be using electronic machines this fall that lack these safeguards. Election officials have an obligation to act now to make the system as reliable as possible. (*July 23, 2004, New York Times*)

Find more articles at on this subject at www.nytimes.com/makingvotescount

INFORMATION

The White House:
Comments: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414
Fax: 202-456-2461
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/president@whitehouse.gov>
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

United States Senators
Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)
202-224-5922
Houston: 713-653-3456
Houston Fax: 713-209-3459
<http://www.hutchison.senate.gov>
John Cornyn (R)
202-224-2934
<http://www.cornyn.senate.gov>

U. S. Congressman for Bellaire
John Culberson, District 7
1728 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-4307
(202)225-2571 Fax:(202)225-4381
Houston: 10000 Memorial Drive, Ste. 620
Houston, TX 77024-3490
713-682-8828 Fax: 713-680-8070

U. S. Senate: <http://www.senate.gov>
U. S. House: <http://www.house.gov>

U. S. Senate Democrats site
<http://democrats.senate.gov/>

Texas State Senator:
Kyle Janek - District 17 (R)
713-272-8929
<http://www.senate.state.tx.us>

Texas State House Representative:
Martha Wong – District 134 (R)
512-463-0389
<http://www.house.state.tx.us>

State House Representative (adj. dist.)
Scott Hochberg – District 137 (D)
(512)463-0389 / 832-252-7336
<http://scotthochberg.com>

The Texas Legislature
<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

Harris County Democratic Party
713-739-7785
<http://hcdp.org>

Texas State Democratic Party:
<http://txdemocrats.org>
Independent economic and tax information:
<http://taxpolicycenter.org>
Moveon.org: www.moveon.org
TrueMajority.com: www.truemajority.com
(Ben Cohen's site)
Mother Jones: www.motherjones.com
Center for Public Integrity:
www.publicintegrity.org

Other Information Sources

KUHF - 88.7 FM: National Public Radio (NPR)

KPFT - 90.1 FM BBC News, Democracy Now with Amy Goodman on Pacifica

Channel 8: Public Broadcasting System (PBS) particularly NOW with Bill Moyers (Friday, 8 PM), Washington Week with Gwen Ifill (Friday, 7 PM), Frontline (Thursday, 9 PM)

New York Times online www.nytimes.com

The Guardian online www.guardian.co.uk

SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES!

Please don't dawdle on election day because you've heard that Texas is not a "swing state" for electoral votes! Vote. Provide information in this newsletter and on our website to your friends and relatives and to their friends and relatives. Contribute money and/or time to the candidates. Go to an identified swing state in October and help with the campaigns there. VOTE!

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 – too liberal for some, too conservative for others! (For more details, see newsletter archives at www.bellairedemocrats.org.) To contribute or volunteer: 713-526-2004 www.johnkerry.com or 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!

Remember to support our local Democratic candidates! Here are a few of them:

John Martinez for Congress – District 7 – Bellaire lost our Democratic Congressman Chris Bell and was redistricted into District 7, which has been represented by Republican John Culberson—a staunch supporter of right-wing causes. John Martinez is a 31-year Harris County resident, an oil and gas production engineering consultant with experience in international projects, a business owner, an adjunct professor at UH, and a youth and community leader. If you would be interested in holding a get-together for John Martinez, contact Kellen Wilson at bushoutnow@yahoo.com or Martinez at www.martinez-district7.com.

Jim Dougherty for State Representative – District 134 – Jim Dougherty is a Houston attorney, CPA, federal prosecutor, and mediator and is active in numerous charitable organizations. He supports revising the State Franchise Tax that allows corporations to avoid paying state taxes, reversing cutbacks to CHIPS/Medicaid, and requiring that all legislators' votes be recorded. He is running against Martha Wong who defeated Democrat Debra Danburg in 2002 and who has consistently followed the Republican party line in Austin. Contact Jim Dougherty at www.jimfortexas.com to make contributions or volunteer for his campaign.

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 when our own representative has not. Contact Scott Hochberg at www.scotthochberg.com to contribute.

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 to help with his campaign.

Reginald McKamie for District Attorney – Reginald McKamie is a Houston attorney who also holds an MBA and a CPA. He is board certified in personal injury trial law and has extensive experience in civil, administrative, and criminal law, specializing in maritime law. He opposes Chuck Rosenthal in November. Contact his campaign at 713-263-9253, www.mckamie.com or mckamie@mckamie.com to add your support.

The more support we can provide for our candidates by volunteering to help or by contributing any amount to their campaigns, the greater the possibility of retaining or regaining political offices at all levels.

"Dissent is the highest form of patriotism." - Thomas Jefferson

Are you better off than you were four years ago? Is our country better off?

Most of you have your own answers to these questions, but we wanted to put together a few hard facts to support our position for a regime change in Washington. It turned out the reasons are endless...and compelling.

Maybe you know someone who is not yet convinced of the costs to this country of the Bush administration. For our full list, go to www.bellairedemocrats.org. Share it! We promise that it will be motivating!

Here are a few examples of "the facts." Which reasons scare you the most?

- **Electronic voting machines** bought by many states (and developed by Bush supporters) have proven inaccurate, unreliable, insecure to hackers, and providing no paper trail—making a recount impossible.
- **Taxes and tax cuts** – In 2003, half of Americans received less than \$100 from President Bush's tax cuts, while Americans making \$1 million or more received an average tax cut of \$93,500. In 2003, the Bushes' taxes were cut \$27,000 and the Cheneys' saved \$124,000 - while middle class taxpayers' savings averaged \$647.
- **The national debt** has increased from \$5.6 trillion in September 2000 to \$7.3 trillion in August 2004.
- **The total monetary cost of the war in Iraq** to date is \$191 billion, growing at \$5 billion per month.
- **Human cost of war in Iraq** includes 948 U.S. service members (as of 8/17), 127 other coalition troops, more than 10,000 Iraqis, and an unknown number of contractors, journalists, and citizens from other countries.
- **Jobs** – When Bush took office, 64.4% of adults had jobs. That number fell to 62.2% in August 2003 and has recently risen only to 62.3%.
- **Treatment of our military** – Our president has proposed slashing funding for military housing, combat bonuses, veterans' health care, the needs of ground troops – while lavishing enormous sums on costly futuristic gadgets like unjustified stealth fighters and missile defense systems.
- **Education and homeland security** have been touted as key programs by this president at the same time the White House has radically under-funded them.
- **Health care** – 44 million Americans (and increasing) have no health insurance as health care costs escalate.
- **Constitutional rights** are endangered as a result of the Bush administration and the USA Patriot Act—freedom of speech quashed, executive branch powers increased, judicial powers diminished, and peaceful protestors intimidated..
- **Help for the less fortunate** has decreased steadily under the Bush administration—weakening the ability of millions of Americans to buy food, have a place to live, be educated, get reasonable health care and a job.

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 _____

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

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.

D e m o c r a t i c P r e c i n c t C h a i r s f o r B e l l a i r e

Precinct 128	Lynn McBee	713-665-0557	lynmb@hal-pc.org
Precinct 182	J. Coy Tow	713-663-7200	jctow@hotmail.com
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	

FALL 2004 CALENDAR

September 2nd	General Meeting, Civic Center Side Meeting Room	6:30 Social - 7 pm Meeting
September 2nd - 10th	Drop off Garage Sale Items	4801 Maple
Saturday, September 11th	Garage Sale E-waste Recycling	4709 Maple - 8 am to 3 pm 4337 Edith - 9 am to 3 pm
August to September, October	Phone Bank Calling for HCDP	Nancy Lomax: 713-668-7075
Monday, October 4th	Last day to register to vote for the November 2nd Election	
October 18th - 29th	Early voting for November 2 Election	
Tuesday, November 2nd	Election Day	Vote 7 am to 7 pm

Bellaire Democrats
4801 Maple St.
Bellaire, TX 77401
www.bellairedemocrats.org