



Cy-Fair Republican Women Newsletter

www.cfrw.net



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VOLUME 9
SEPTEMBER 2015



A
Minute
With
Millie

Texas, Our Texas

A brief look at Republican Politics in our home state

As time draws closer to the elections, I thought it would be insightful to offer some **Texas** data which will give some encouraging information about **Texas** Politics. It is important to ME that we realize what a struggle the Republicans have come through to reach our current "successes."

I will forego the history of the Republican influence in **Texas** and stick to more recent information. Our history is sometimes pretty dark and not our finest hour, but I believe it's important to know so I will list some references at the end where YOU might go and read some of the background. (This information is an installment of a requirement for the John Tower Goodman State Award. There will be more about Federal election process in coming months as we get closer to the presidential election.)

Republicans control all statewide **Texas** offices, both houses of the state legislature and have a majority in the **Texas** congressional delegation. This makes **Texas** one of the most Republican states in the U.S.

Despite overall Republican dominance, however, there are some cities and regions with strong Democratic power. [Austin](#), the state capital, is a Democratic stronghold and a center of progressive political activism. El Paso and the [Rio Grande Valley](#) also remain loyal to the Democratic Party. In addition, the mayors of most major **Texas** cities, though running in "nonpartisan" races, are affiliated with the Democratic Party. The cities of Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Austin, and El Paso all presently have elected mayors with Democratic ties, and have voted Democratic in recent statewide and federal elections.

However, the suburbs of these cities remain heavily Republican.

Historically the Republicans first broke Democratic [Solid South](#) dominance in **Texas** by making inroads in urban areas like Dallas and Houston. Today, the key to Republican strength in the state is winning sweeping majorities across rural and suburban **Texas**.

During the 2006 election cycle, the Democrats scored major successes by winning six state House seats (five in the general election and one in an earlier special election), cutting the Republican majority in the House by half. They also gained two federal Congressional seats. The Democrats failed to win any statewide offices, however, 2008 saw Democratic gains. Although the Republicans regained a congressional seat they had lost to the Democrats in 2006, the Democrats gained six state house seats (reducing the Republican majority there to a single seat) and one state senate seat.

The 2010 elections saw a reversal of this trend, with the Republicans taking a 101 to 49 supermajority in the State House. Republicans also captured 3 house seats, one central-Texas seat and two Hispanic-Majority seats in south Texas (one being the 23rd district lost in 2006.)

The majority of our 2015 elected officials are Republicans and won with sweeping victories. There are few remaining pockets of blue, but we're working on those.

Some "talking heads" and media reps believe the state's changing demographics may well result in a change in its overall political alignment. This would mean a change BACK to Democratic Blue. Although it seems like an impossibility for us---the die-hard Republicans---it should be a primary goal of every Republican and every Republican Women's club to foster and share the conservative goals of our Party. This can be accomplished by learning about the process, standing up for our values, and working together toward our goals.

Politics of Texas From Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Texas

Make your reservations early, and be counted in the fighters to keep Texas **RED**. ☺





Programs ~ by Jan Ott

2015 - 2016 CFRW Executive Officers

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SEPTEMBER 2015 GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 8th

*Come Learn More About Our Election
Process*

*with our speaker, Carolyn Hodges,
Immediate Past President of the Texas
Federation of Republican Women.*

Carolyn also serves as a member of the National Federation of Republican Women Board of Directors and is Chairman of the Campaign Committee whose focus returned the U.S. Senate to a Republican majority in 2015. In 2012, she was elected a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Tampa, FL and later served as an At-Large Presidential Elector at the meeting of the Texas Electoral College in December, 2012.

Carolyn currently serves as a member of the Texas State Cemetery Committee. She has held this post since December, 2013, when she was recommended by Lt Governor David Dewhurst and appointed by Governor Rick Perry.

On April 18, 2013, Carolyn was honored by House Resolution #1481 in the Texas House of Representatives for her contributions to the Republican Party and the Texas Federation of Republican Women. Carolyn is a past President of the Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women and was selected as one of "10 Outstanding" Republican Women in Texas in 2009. She served in many roles in her club, Village RW, including president.

Originally from Paris, Texas, she received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her Master of Science degree from the University of Houston. She taught Texas History and U.S. History/Government for many years in the Spring Branch ISD. She was honored with the Elizabeth Brand Teacher Excellence Award for Distinguished Service. Carolyn, who resides in Houston, Texas, is married to Tom Hodges, the CEO of Hodges Southwest, Inc.

TIME:

10:30am til 1:00 pm

LOCATION:

**HEARTHSTONE COUNTRY CLUB
7615 Ameswood Rd, Houston, TX 77095**

**Please RSVP @ www.cfrw.net no later than Tuesday,
September 1st. No-shows will be billed.**





Capitol Update ~ By Representative Patricia Harless



I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. School has started again which hopefully means Fall, and cooler weather, is just around the corner. With Fall comes the November 3rd General election, so I wanted to provide you with the list of Constitutional Amendments that will be on the ballot. Additionally, I have included information on the bills that passed during 84th session that deal with changes to our election laws. Remember, Early Voting will run from October 19 to October 30.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Proposition 1 - SJR 1 by Sen. Jane Nelson

Increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$15,000 to \$25,000, providing for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for those purposes on the homestead of an elderly or disabled person to reflect the increased exemption amount, authorizing the legislature to prohibit a political subdivision that has adopted an optional residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation from reducing the amount of or repealing the exemption, and prohibiting the enactment of a law that imposes a transfer tax on a transaction that conveys fee simple title to real property.

Proposition 2 - HJR 75 by Rep. Dennis Bonnen

Authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran who died before the law authorizing a residence homestead exemption for such a veteran took effect.

Proposition 3 - SJR 52 by Sen. Donna Campbell

Repealing the requirement that state officers elected by voters statewide reside in the state capital.

Proposition 4 - HJR 73 by Rep. Charlie Geren

Authorizing the legislature to permit professional sports team charitable foundations to conduct charitable raffles.

Proposition 5 - SJR 17 by Sen. Charles Perry

Authorizing counties with a population of 7,500 or less to perform private road construction and maintenance.

Proposition 6 - SJR 22 by Sen. Brandon Creighton

Recognizing the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife subject to laws that promote wildlife conservation.

~ *Continued on Page 4*





Capitol Update ~ By Representative Patricia Harless (Conf'd)

~ Continued from Page 3

Proposition 7 - SJR 5 by Sen. Robert Nichols

Dedicating certain sales and use tax revenue and motor vehicle sales, use, and rental tax revenue to the state highway fund to provide funding for nontolled roads and the reduction of certain transportation related debt.

To read a full analysis of the proposed amendments, as well as comments by both supporters and opponents, go to:

http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/pubsconamend/analyses15/analyses15_condensed.pdf.

ELECTION BILLS PASSED DURING THE 84TH SESSION

HB 484 by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione

Requires that a candidate for public office must be registered to vote in order to be eligible to run for office.

HB 1114 by Rep. Larry Gonzales

Requires specific-purpose political committees that are created to support or oppose school district bonds to file their contributions and expenditures with the Texas Ethics Commission.

HB 1927 by Rep. Greg Bonnen

Changes procedures for applying to vote by mail in several ways: allows applications to be valid for runoff elections even if not received in time to vote in main election; adds offenses for witnesses who sign applications for more than one ballot in the same election cycle or year; and allows for electronic submission of applications.

HB 2027 by Rep. Greg Bonnen

Requires that all elections on uniform election dates in May and November use the regular county precincts and polling places as election precincts and polling places.

HB 2354 by Rep. Marsha Farney

Changes the date for general and special elections in odd-numbered years to the first Saturday in May.

HB 2366 by Rep. Craig Goldman

Requires the early voting clerk to enter "early voting voter" beside each name on the precinct list of registered voters who voted early and deliver to the presiding judge before Election Day.

HB 2721 by Rep. Cesar Blanco

Requires counties to post early voting times on their website, if they have one, and for the information to be posted on the Secretary of State's website as well.

SB 733 by Sen. Troy Fraser

Allows MUDs to move their May uniform election date to the November uniform election date.

SB 795 by Sen. Charles Perry

Requires the Secretary of State to cooperate with other states to develop a system to identify voters whose addresses have changed by comparing voters, voter history, and voter registration lists.

~ Continued on Page 5





Capitol Update ~ By Representative Patricia Harless (Conf'd)

~ *Continued from Page 4*

SB 983 by Sen. Paul Bettencourt

Requires Texas birth certificates to be made available free of charge if the person is obtaining it in order to get an election identification certificate.

SB 1115 by Sen. Donna Campbell

Expands the pilot program allowing US military members overseas to participate in the voting process by electronic means from solely Bexar County to several counties as determined by the Secretary of State.

I hope you all find this information helpful. Remember to vote on (or before) Election Day!

High Heels and High Tea (H3T) Luncheon and Fashion Show

by Edith Gibson

The High Heels and High Tea Luncheon and Fashion Show is fast approaching! The purpose of this biennial fundraiser which will be held on Friday, October 23rd, 2015 at Shirley Acres is to generate funds to donate to the campaigns of Republican primary candidates for the very important 2016 election cycle. Ticket sales have begun for both individuals and sponsor tables.

Although we already have several great items for the auction and S.W.A.G. (Stuff We All Get) bags, we need more. A reminder to everyone that we cannot accept donations from corporations. Please contact Micheline Hutson at 713-825-7720 with any questions or comments about either project or to arrange for pick-up or delivery to her home. You may also bring items to the monthly general meetings or our Board meetings.

We would also like to recruit more sponsors for ads in the event program. Anyone who is interested in this opportunity and to get information on dimensions of art work and price, please contact Mary Moss 281-550-9415 or Moss311@sbcglobal.net or Edith Gibson at 832-724-6133 or egib@sbcglobal.net.

We are happy to report that we have filled all the spots for vendors. This will be the perfect opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts or a little something for yourself. We are excited about the progress on our Fashion Show which will present several political and community stars. Clothing will be provided by Scruples Boutique and Joseph A. Banks.

The next High Heels and High Tea committee meetings is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2nd at 11:30 a.m. at Hearthstone Country Club. If you are not yet engaged in working on this project, please consider joining us at our committee meetings or contact Edith Gibson at 832-724-6133 or egib@sbcglobal.net.





Legislative - by Rita Parrish

Politicians Starting Debates and Appearances in Advance of 2016 Primaries and General Elections

There are so many candidates for the 2016 Presidential Race that it seems certain is that there will be enough energy and controversy to keep everyone entertained this fall and throughout the next year.

The 1st Republican Party debate on August 6 on Fox News started off with candidates in the bottom 7 position of the polls scheduled in a separate debate earlier in the afternoon. Not only were they separate from the top polling candidates but also to make things worse for them there was an almost empty auditorium and no enthusiasm generated for their equally important debate.

In contrast the Top 10 Candidates were treated to a large crowd in the same arena in Cleveland, Ohio with much fanfare and excitement from the crowd and the emcees. The questions were directed at all candidates but of course some stood out from the rest. Disagreements between the more outspoken candidates became a little nasty at times but did allow viewers to see some more of these candidates' personalities.

With so much time remaining until the Primaries and General Elections in 2016 there should be plenty of opportunities to hear more from all of these eager candidates for President and branches of our US, State and Local Governments. Hopefully when the time comes we will be able to choose the most qualified persons to serve our country, states, counties and cities. Below is some information about the Primary Process and rules which the RNC has put in place for 2016.

(The following information was published on the Wikipedia website and includes their links to further articles of reference.)

Schedule of Primaries and Caucuses

The Republican National Committee has imposed strict new rules for states wishing to hold early contests in 2016.^[58] No state will be permitted to hold a primary or caucus in January; and only Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada are entitled to February contests. States with early-March primaries or caucuses must award their delegates proportionally. Any state that violates these rules will have their delegation to the [2016 convention](#) severely cut: states with more than 30 delegates will be deprived of all but nine, plus RNC members from that state; states with less than 30 will be reduced to six, plus RNC members.^[58]

As of June 2015, the tentative schedule for 2016 is as follows

- February**
- Monday, February 1: Iowa caucuses
 - Tuesday, February 9: New Hampshire
 - Saturday, February 20: South Carolina
 - Tuesday February 23: Nevada caucuses

- March**
- Tuesday, March 1: Alabama, Arkansas,^[59] Colorado caucuses (pending legislation exists however);^[60] Massachusetts; Oklahoma; Tennessee; Texas; Vermont; Virginia
 - Saturday, March 5: Louisiana
 - Tuesday, March 8: Hawaii caucuses; Mississippi; Michigan
 - Sunday, March 13: Puerto Rico (the last contest in 2016 required to be [proportional](#).^[61])
 - Tuesday, March 15: Illinois; Missouri; Florida; North Carolina; Ohio^[62] (contests on or after March 15 can opt to be [winner-take-all](#).^[58])
 - Tuesday, March 22: Arizona; Utah caucuses ^[63]

- April**
- Tuesday, April 5: Washington, DC; Wisconsin
 - Tuesday, April 19: New York
 - Tuesday, April 26: Maryland; Connecticut; Delaware; Pennsylvania; Rhode Island

- May**
- Tuesday, May 3: Indiana
 - Tuesday, May 10: Nebraska; West Virginia
 - Tuesday, May 17: Idaho, Kentucky; Oregon

- June**
- Tuesday, June 7: California; Montana; Tuesday, June 7: California; Montana; New Jersey; New Mexico; South Dakota

July
July 18–21: [2016 Republican National Convention](#)

- States with no firm dates:**
- Georgia
 - Kansas
 - Maine
 - Washington
 - Wyoming
 - Minnesota
 - Idaho
 - Alaska





Cy-Fair Republican Women

2015 Membership Application



DATE: _____ OFFICE USE: IN PERSON MAIL/ EMAIL

PRINT FIRST AND LAST NAME: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION	PUBLISH IN DIRECTORY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Home Address: _____	Cell Number: _____
City, St, Zip Code: _____	Work Number: _____
Precinct #: _____	Home Number: _____
Occupation: <i>(Required for PAC Report)</i> _____	Email Address: _____
Position Title: _____	Spouse Name: _____

BEST WAY TO REACH YOU	NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL? YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/>
Cell: <input type="checkbox"/> Work: <input type="checkbox"/> Home: <input type="checkbox"/> Email: <input type="checkbox"/>	HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?

CFRW REFERRALS – WOULD YOU LIKE SOMEONE TO KNOW ABOUT US?					
Name	Email Address	Tel #:	Newsletter by Email:		Relationship to New Member
			Y	N	
			Y	N	

MEMBER TYPE				
Name Badge Order	<input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement	\$15.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Active	<input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	\$30.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Associate Woman (Active member of which Rep. Women's club?)	<input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	\$20.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Associate Man	<input type="checkbox"/> New or <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	\$35.00		<input type="checkbox"/>

GETTING INVOLVED! - - CHECK ANY MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Campaign Activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> Historian	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact me with more information on activities at CFRW

Please list talents/skills you possess: (Computer skills, presentation/speaking, meeting/event planning, etc.)

Please make check payable to **Cy-Fair Republican Women** **Total Amount Due:**
Mail check and this form to: Please circle Cash or enter Check #:
 Alice Bennett Date Received:
 7311 Muirfield Valley Lane
 Houston, TX 77095

For more information regarding membership, please contact Alice Bennett at 713-412-0141

Political Advertising Paid for by Cy-Fair Republican Women, PAC – Corporate Contributions are not permitted.
 Contributions are not deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal Income Tax purposes.



Solicitations made by Federal candidates and officeholders at this event are limited by Federal law. The Federal candidates and officeholders speaking tonight are soliciting only donations of up to \$2,400 from individuals and up to \$5,000 from multi-candidate political committees. They are not soliciting donations in any amount from corporations, labor organizations, national banks, Federal contractors, or foreign nationals. "This is not a club endorsement, club president endorsement or campaign chair endorsement, only candidate information to help you make an informed decision and get involved with the candidate of your choice."

**National Federation of Republican Women
Texas Federation of Republican Women
Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women**

Affiliations:

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**CY-FAIR REPUBLICAN WOMEN
14723 Shorebrook Drive
Houston, Texas 77095**

IMPORTANT LINKS:

<http://www.CFRW.net> - Cy-Fair Republican Women

<http://www.ghcfrwpac.org> - Greater Houston Council

<http://www.tfrw.org> - Texas Federation of Republican Women

<http://www.thomas.loc.gov> - Texts of bills are updated several times a day

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us> - Updates on what is going on in the Texas Legislature

<http://www.texaspolicy.com> - The Texas Public Policy Foundation produces academically sound research on important issues

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us> - Texas Secretary of State Web site offers more information on proposed constitutional amendments



Share the Vision...Join Republican Women

