

# Sun City Democrats

[www.suncitydems.org](http://www.suncitydems.org)

May 2009

## General Meeting

The General Meeting is typically on the first Saturday of each month. The meetings are free and open to the public. For additional information on the Sun City Democrats, please contact President **Jodi Salyers** at 864-2812 or Communications Chair **Carol Flynn** at 864-3544.

## Saturday, May 2

**9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 AM Speaker**

**Place:** Sun City Activities Center Atrium

**Program:** **Judy Hetherly**, the first woman mayor for the city of Lampasas, will speak on the topic of the Texas Education Agency and how it relates to the Texas Board of Education.

Ms. Hetherly is chairman of the Lampasas Economic Development Corp. and serves on the Preservation Lampasas Inc. Board, which is heading up revitalization of the historic Lampasas Colored School.

A native of Texas, Mayor Hetherly graduated from high school in Lampasas and Southwest Texas State. She then earned her Master of Arts degree from Texas Woman's University.



NOTE: Candidates for Sun City CA Board will not be speaking to us. It was decided that there are many venues where they will all appear, and that it would take too much time away from our speaker.

## Saturday, June 6

**9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00 AM Speaker**

**Place:** Sun City Activities Center Atrium

**Program:** **Marsha Sharp**, Education Specialist, LBJ Library. Her subject will be the legacy of Lyndon Baines Johnson. Marsha is also the sister of John Sharp, current candidate for Governor of Texas.

**Summer Hiatus:** There will be no regular first Saturday morning meetings in July and August. Have a great summer! See you in September . . .

## SUN CITY DEMOCRATS OFFICERS

President: Jodi Salyers 864-2812 [jodotcom@aol.com](mailto:jodotcom@aol.com)

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Special Events: Nancy Danley 864-1544 [nrdanley@suddenlink.net](mailto:nrdanley@suddenlink.net)

## VOLUNTEER and Help Make a Difference

Volunteers are needed on all committees; please help us make the Club the best that it can be. To volunteer for a committee, please contact the chair of that committee listed above.

## Please SUPPORT Your Local Club

As a Political Interest Group, the Sun City Democrats must pay for rental of Sun City facilities, as well as for the coffee, cookies, and printed items that are provided at our free General Meetings. Most of our Social Events and Earth Day are free as well. Our Club can only afford to do this if **you** join as a member. Please help us continue these activities by paying annual dues.

Dues are **\$20** per member. You may pay at the sign-in table at the meetings or mail a check made out to Sun City Democrats to our Treasurer: **Margaret Donaldson**, 107 Rosecliff Drive, Georgetown TX 78633.



Sun City Democrats

DEMOCRATS — YES, WE CAN!

## Support the Sun City Democrats POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

~Don Lelong

Our PAC is known as **IMPACT: Informed Members Political Action Committee of Texas**. **IMPACT** is the way that the Sun City Democrats organization can legally contribute to candidates. Send donations to **IMPACT** Treasurer, **Don Lelong**, 101 Crosby Street, Georgetown TX 78633.

**IMPACT** 's goal is to raise **10 Grand By 2010**, just after the primaries. That's about the same as we raised during the last election cycle. We are shooting for broad participation and modest, frequent contributions (of course large ones will be gratefully accepted too). Be on the watch for **IMPACT** mailings, fundraisers, and other opportunities to support Democratic candidates.



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY INFORMATION

### Texas Democratic Party

**Boyd Richie**, Chairman. [www.txdemocrats.org](http://www.txdemocrats.org)  
707 Rio Grande Street, Austin, TX 78701  
Telephone: (512) 478-9800

### Williamson County Democratic Party

**Richard Torres**, Chairman. **NOTE: New Phone #:**  
**512-964-5054** or [www.williamsoncountymocrats.org](http://www.williamsoncountymocrats.org).

**Monthly meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Party headquarters, 110 South I-35 (corner of I-35 and Hwy. 620 behind McDonald's in Round Rock).

**Williamson County Democratic Headquarters** needs volunteer workers. Address: 110 North Interstate 35 (at Hwy 620) Phone: 512-388-1993

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri: 11 AM to 6 PM  
Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM

**Williamson County Obama Store** is located at the Williamson County Democratic Headquarters, featuring T-shirts, hats, posters, calendars, etc.



## Eye on Williamson County

Reporting from deep in the heart of Texas, "**Eye on Williamson County**" casts a light on the corruption and incompetence of local and state government. Once a quaint, rural community, Williamson has vastly outgrown its infrastructure. As one of the nation's fastest growing counties, our population has doubled in the past decade. With progress has come modern headaches: traffic, crime, pollution and overcrowded schools. Our elected officials who insist on funding their campaigns with contributions from owners of companies that do business with the county, see nothing wrong in their behavior. The influence peddling at the county courthouse puts the interests of these few ahead of that of the voters. Yet cycle after cycle, they continue to use their bloated campaign war chests to deceive voters and win re-election.



Although the Republicans have held a commanding majority in all countywide elections held since 1994, their margin of victory was reduced by 70 percent in the 2008 campaign. **Diana Maldonado** became the first Democrat to represent Williamson county in the state legislature since pro-business conservative Democrat **Parker McCollough** left office in 1992.

The labels "Democrat" and "Republican" in 2008 certainly bear little resemblance to their 1992 meanings. What is common is that there has always been one party in power. Back then it was Democratic. Now it is Republican. But what has been accomplished, as reported and hopefully in some small way *influenced* by this site, is for the first time the establishment candidate has been defeated. Opposed by more than a quarter million dollars of "swiftboat" **Bob Perry** and Speaker **Tom Craddick** money, **Diana Maldonado's** message of investment in education and insurance reform resonated with voters and produced a victory that few could have imagined a few years ago.

We are a group of Democrats, the party of 44 percent of the county that, so far, has been unable to break the headlock by Republicans on county government. <http://EyeOnWilliamson.org> is approaching its fourth year on the Internet and is the leading source of liberal news from Williamson county. More than 40,000 visited the site in the past year (absolute unique IP visits, according to SiteMeter). This site continues to be a purely amateur hobby for our editors, wcnnews and dembones. We entertain ourselves during our precious-few leisure hours by pointing out the scandalous ineptitude and corruption of our local government. Whether you agree with our politics or not, we hope you are amused.

## PRECINCT 381 NEWS

~Kay Walker, Precinct Chair

864-2874 [klwalker@suddenlink.net](mailto:klwalker@suddenlink.net)

On April 17, 2009 THE TEXAS SENATE PASSED **SB362, the Voter Photo ID Requirement** bill. All Republicans voted for and all Democrats voted against. This goes now to the Texas House. This bill has primarily been a ploy by the Republican Party to keep the legislature from attending to important needed legislation.

Two Elections are coming up in May: The **Georgetown Independent School District (GISD) Board Members** and the **Sun City Community Association (SCCA) Board Members**.

First on **May 9th** is election day for Municipal, County and School Board positions. However, the only candidate for whom Precinct 381 residents may vote are two GISD Board Members. Residents in Jarrell School District have no one for whom to vote. Early voting will take place on May 4th and 5th. On all dates, you may vote at the Sun City Ballroom. For early voting, you may vote at any polling place in Williamson County, but on election day you can vote only at the Sun City Ballroom. Regardless of where you vote, your precinct number printed on your voter card will indicate which ballot you are to use.

As this election is classified as non-partisan, you will not see the political party designated by each candidate. Here is the ballot:

### Georgetown ISD, Trustee, Place 6:

- **Linda D. Larsen** (Incumbent & Board Secretary)
- **Gregory B. Eady**

### Georgetown ISD, Trustee, Place 7:

- **Bradley D. Smith** (Incumbent & Board President)
- **Nicholas B. Brumder**

Second is the Election of three new board members for the Sun City CA Board of Directors. Pulte appoints the majority of board members, but the residents get to elect four other members. A board for managing a community association is somewhat like a board running a corporation. With a transition from being under the control and guidance of Pulte to taking sole charge of our community, the situation becomes much more complicated. We need to look for appropriate experience in these three new board members, and we can ill afford to select an amateur. To help you determine who has the best qualifications for this job, there will be a **Candidate Forum on May 7th at 9:00 a.m. in the Sun City Ballroom** (or you can view it live on channel 79). To read campaign literature for each candidate, go to [www.sctxca.org](http://www.sctxca.org) and then select **CA Board Campaign**. You will immediately see that some candidates list myriad positions of experience in the SCCA, such as Neighborhood Representative, Emergency Management Committee member, Home Warranty Committee, Finance Committee, Special

Projects Committee. Others have lobbying experience or have served on boards of Pulte Communities in other parts of the country. If a candidate does not list experiences such as these, you might deduce that they have none. Just as in the School Board Election described above, this election is designated as non-partisan, so you will not see a political party designated by each candidate. Your household will get three votes. Your ballot will arrive in the mail about April 22, but you have until **May 29th** to submit it to the SCCA office.

### The candidates for Sun City CA Board are:

- **Bill Cobb**
- **Earl Kilbride**
- **Kim Moran**
- **Diane Nagy**
- **Bill White**



## PRECINCT 396 NEWS

~Billie Reaney, Precinct Chair

868-0098 [billie\\_reaney@msn.com](mailto:billie_reaney@msn.com)

**News about the Democrats in Williamson County:** Get ready to help celebrate the first 100 days of the Obama administration. We are planning a **party on the 100th day (April 29)** at our party headquarters in Round Rock. I will send an invitation in separate email.

**Watch for it!**



Georgetown's civic festival, **Red Poppy Days** will happen on **April 25 and 26th**, with a street dance on the evening of the 24th to kick off the celebration. **WCDP** will have a booth on the square both days of the festivities. We will be asking festival attendees who drop by our booth to help out the party by volunteering and/or become donors for the Democratic Party. We will have some Obama merchandise to sell. We will be registering voters and making sure that we demonstrate a big and growing presence in Williamson County. We can use your help in staffing the booth. Just call me at 868-0098 to help out. A couple of hours at the booth on one of the days would be greatly appreciated.

And finally, regarding the **May 9th** municipal election, there is no ballot for those of us who live precinct 396, which is the Jarrell School District. That is because our school district does not have a contest, and our city mayor and councilman are also not up for election. **We have nothing to vote on!**

## PRECINCT 394 NEWS

~Don Mohr, Precinct Chair  
868-2850 [donmohr@netzero.net](mailto:donmohr@netzero.net)  
No report this month.

## PRECINCT 399 NEWS

Precinct 399 is currently without a chairperson. If you go home by crossing the White Wing Bridge, you live in Precinct 399. If, however, you continue so far as to cross the Cowan Creek bridge, you would be in Precinct 394. If you live in precinct 399 and are interested in becoming a Precinct Chair, please speak to one of the other Precinct Chairs.



## HAROLD STEADMAN had the following letter published in the Williamson County Sun newspaper on April 22, 2009:

"It's really nice to learn that about 500 people in Georgetown have incomes of at least \$250,000 a year. They all came downtown to let President Obama know that they didn't like having to pay increased income tax on all that money that they worked hard to get. The President has already stated that those of us who earn less than \$250,000 a year (about 95% of Americans) will NOT have tax increases."

President Obama took office facing a huge debt left by the Bush Administration and a situation very similar to the one President Roosevelt inherited from another Republican president in 1933. Mr. Obama has only been in office about three months, but a few good signs have already appeared; and if all of us poor folks making less than \$250,000 a year will pull together, we'll be OK."

~ Harold Steadman, Sun City Resident



## TEA PARTY FALLOUT: Independents Turned Off, Some GOPers Worried

It's been several days now since angry conservatives hosted a series of tea parties across the country, and the fallout has some Republicans nervous.

While the anti-tax sentiment of the protests may have been sincere, the images pulled from the events have often been offensive, embarrassing, or politically problematic.

It is a development that has tripped up the GOP before. The rallies outside McCain-Palin events included some of the same bile that was seen at the tea parties: charges of fascism, terrorism and other malicious criticisms leveled at Barack Obama. And it did the Republican ticket little good in its efforts to bring moderate voters to the cause.

Not everyone sees the connection. But some Republicans and Independents do view the fallout between the tea parties and the McCain-Palin rallies in a similar way: bad for the GOP.

"It is not clear-cut that the tea-party phenomena helps the GOP, unless they have a specific measure or policy (like Prop. 13 in 1978, and income tax cuts after that) to coalesce around," said Steven Hayward, a scholar at the conservative American Enterprise Institute. "Right now it reminds me a bit of the free-floating 'angry moderates' of 1992 who fueled the Ross Perot candidacy, and that is the hazard for Republicans I think. I think the crazies at the rallies are a problem, but probably out of proportion (they always get the media attention) to the real breadth of sentiment underneath, which I think is largely authentic."



Self-professed middle-of-the-road political types were even more biting in their critiques.

"My own sense that is I don't see anything going on that is good for Republicans," said Doug Bailey, a longtime Republican consultant who helped co-found the centrist reform movement Unity08. "I just don't get it. It may be, and I don't doubt this, that there is a large segment of the American public that can and is riled up about taxes and can be riled up about one thing or another. But a large segment, in terms of numbers, doesn't amount to a couple hundred people demonstrating in Washington or wherever. That's a non-event ... Nobody likes taxes. So, of course, I'm sympathetic myself. I might throw a tea bag myself. But the fact is, that it is particularly ineffective for the Republican Party when it is Rush Limbaugh and the likes stirring it up. That just doesn't speak to the middle."

Of course, because the series of nationwide tea parties were geared towards a specific day (Tax Day), the political ramifications of the events seem naturally limited. "Those tea parties will be long forgotten by, oh, say tomorrow," said Stu Rothenberg, of the Rothenberg Political Report. "Do you really think that next November, when people go to the polls, the April 15 tea parties will be on their minds?"

That said, plans are in place for a next wave of protests in July. More significantly, as the GOP continues to stake their future on a wave of populist anger at the government and economy (witness: Texas Gov. Rick Perry talking about secession), the likelihood only increases that the most vocal and offensive elements of that anger will come to personify the party.

"Conservatives are finding out why I generally don't like protests on my side," Daily Kos founder Markos Moulitsos said in a post-tea party tweet. "They bring out the wackos."

~ Sam Stein, Huffington Post