

# October 2023

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Friends:

Welcome to our first edition of the GCRP Newsletter! In this and future newsletters, you'll hear from our various committee chairmen and women regarding what they are doing to support the Galveston County Republican Party, our Republican elected officials, and you our fellow Republicans and citizens.



From my perspective, the big news is that last year, following the 2022 elections, the County Executive Committee approved a permanent GCRP Party Headquarters. That is located at 801 W. Main Street in League City. I want to recognize our Party Secretary, Roxann Lewis. Roxann has transformed this space from a bland retail storefront to vibrant, comfortable, welcoming office. She has also recruited volunteers to help staff the office and has created a series of community events there. Please stop by and visit!

Another big news item was our Lincoln Reagan Dinner. Dawn Buckingham, MD was our guest speaker. Dr. Buckingham is the Commissioner of the General Land Office, a former state Senator, and a real friend of Galveston County. See: <https://www.glo.texas.gov/>

The event, which was at the Trolley Stop in Galveston was a great success. Over 200 people attended.. The Live and Silent Auctions raised funds to support our very important mission. We are grateful for those that supported that effort. I am especially grateful for all the hard work of Chairwoman Della Brown and the numerous volunteers that made this event a success.

As the GCRP Chairman, I've purposefully tried to empower the committee chairs to be innovative, creative and effective. I trust that will come through in the updates provided herein. Earlier this year, we held a Leadership retreat at the HQ. This was facilitated by former Senator Larry Taylor. This took the better part of a Saturday morning and afternoon and I think was a great team-building exercise.

Finally, the 2024 election season is fast approaching. In preparation for that, Roxann Lewis and I attended the Texas Republican County Chairs Association meeting recently. See our picture (to the right) with Governor Abbott! In September I attended the Election Law Seminar training session conducted by the Texas Secretary of State office.

If you are considering a run for elected office, important filing dates are as follows:

- Precinct Chairs: Began September 12, 2023 and runs through December 11, 2023.
- Public Candidates and County Chair: November 11, 2023 to December 11, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Thank you for your continued support of the Galveston County Republican Party.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. McGinnis MD

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**October 2023**

# Important Dates

## OCTOBER

**23** EARLY VOTING BEGINS FOR  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION, [CLICK  
HERE](#) FOR VOTING LOCATIONS AND HOURS

**24** PRECINCT CHAIR TRAINING

**27** MAIL BALLOT APPLICATION DEADLINE

**28-29** NO EARLY VOTING

## NOVEMBER

**3** EARLY VOTING ENDS FOR  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
ELECTION

**7** ELECTION DAY VOTING FOR  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, 7AM-  
7PM, [CLICK HERE](#) FOR VOTING LOCATIONS

### ***GCRP 2023 OFFICERS***

#### **Chairman**

Dr. Patrick J. McGinnis

#### **Vice Chairman**

Gabriel Allen

#### **Treasurer**

William Hoffman

#### **Secretary**

Roxann Lewis

### ***COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS***

#### **Communication**

Jane Elbert

#### **Education and Outreach**

Mark Brown

#### **Get Out the Vote**

Gabriel Allen

#### **Rules, Resolutions, and By-Laws**

Linda Liechty

#### **Precinct Vacancy**

Loretta Roberts

#### **Precinct Chair Training**

Don Pollock

#### **Scholarships**

Devon Lovelady

#### **Election Integrity**

Dave Wilson

#### **Candidate Evaluation and Recruitment**

David Smith

#### **Finance and Capital Campaign**

Bill Hoffman

#### ***NEWSLETTER***

Jacqueline Irwin

# October 2023

## Ballot Order for the November 7 Constitutional Amendment Election

**Proposition 1** – HJR 126 "The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."

**Proposition 2** – SJR 64 "The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."

**Proposition 3** – HJR 132 "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."

**Proposition 4** – HJR 2 from the second special session "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."

**Proposition 5** – HJR 3 "The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."

**Proposition 6** – SJR 75 "The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."

**Proposition 7** – SJR 93 "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."

**Proposition 8** – HJR 125 "The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."

**Proposition 9** – HJR 2, regular session "The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."

**Proposition 10** – SJR 87 "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."

**Proposition 11** – SJR 32 "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."

**Proposition 12** – HJR 134 "The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."

**Proposition 13** – HJR 107 "The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."

**Proposition 14** – SJR 74 "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."

# October 2023

## GCRP PATRIOT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Galveston County Republican Party is proud to announce the four recipients of our 2023 Patriot Scholarship.

### \$1,000 Awards for Trade Certification

Raiden Kukendall is a graduate of Hitchcock High School and is attending College of the Mainland. Raiden is working toward a Welding Certification.

Kameron McDade is a graduate of Hitchcock High School and is attending Universal Technical Institute in Houston. Kameron is working toward a Welding Certification.

### \$1,500 Awards for Undergraduate Degree

Anja Zetterstrom is a graduate of Clear Springs High School and is attending Baylor University. Anja is majoring in Business Administration.

David Zhang is a graduate of Clear Falls High School and is attending the University of Texas. David is majoring in Computer Science.

We awarded a total of \$5,000 in scholarships. These students were chosen based on their application and essay topic. Patriot Scholarship applicants are eligible graduating high school seniors pursuing an undergraduate degree or a trade certification. Through the essay, students have the opportunity to learn about a political, historical, or government related topic and express their views.

Pictured here are fathers of two of the scholarship recipients accepting their awards from State Senator Mayes Middleton.



**October 2023**

## **GALVESTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY HEADQUARTERS**

### **Did you know that the Galveston County Republican Party Headquarters is open year-round?**

Prior to opening in our current location, the GCRP spent lots of time and resources to search for a reasonably-priced, prime location for our headquarters.

We also had to find a commercial real estate property owner willing to do a short-term lease every two years.

Every election cycle we had to move from the storage facility and back.

Every election cycle Republican Voters had to spend time looking for our new location, never knowing where it would be located from year to year.

### **Our Republican Party Headquarters is NOT only a place to hold our Committee Meetings, but is a place for like-minded voters to gather information.**

We have voter registration cards, and most days, have a voter deputy registrar available who can ensure the registration is completed properly and can even turn it in for voters.

We typically have guest lecturers once a month who speak about a variety of subjects of interest to Republican Voters, such as legislation, law enforcement and things happening with the Republican Party of Texas, just to name a few.

It is a place for people new to the county to come in and get names of their local elected officials.

It is a place to get information about candidates running on the Republican Party Ballot.

It is a place to speak to like-minded Republicans about your concerns.

It is a place to sign up and volunteer to work for the Galveston County Republican Party.

It is a place to learn about Republican Clubs and Upcoming Republican Events.

### **If you haven't stopped by our headquarters, please drop by and meet some of our local volunteers. Please note that the hours will change leading up to every election.**

#### **Location:**

Galveston County Republican Party Headquarters  
801 West Main Street, Suite 803  
League City, Texas 77573  
Phone: 281-554-8888

#### **Current Hours:**

Tuesday through Thursday: 10:00 AM - 2:00PM  
Evenings for Special Events

Roxann Lewis

Secretary, Galveston County Republican Party

# October 2023

## Precinct Chair

The position of a Precinct Chair is important for the continued growth and success of our Party. A Precinct Chair represents the Republican Party to voters in your neighborhood. You are a leader in your community and a voice advocating for our Republican principles.

As a Precinct Chair, you represent the Party and help organize and win elections for Republicans in your precinct. Republican precinct chairs are elected by the Republican primary voters in their precinct or may be appointed by the Galveston County Chairman. An unopposed precinct chair candidate is elected automatically.

How to find your Precinct Chair?

[Precinct Chairs](#)

How to become a Precinct Chair?

[Precinct Chair Application and Information](#)

## Congratulations to our new Precinct Chairs!

Warren Holmes, precinct 193

David Barron, precinct 353

Sean Saunders, precinct 420

Thomas Pettit, precinct 203

John Schoellkopf, precinct 384

Justin Gripon, precinct 435

Brad Bricker, precinct 428

## *Want to become a Precinct Chair??????*

### Precinct Chair Duties

#### General Expectations

- ◆ Help promote and grow the local county party
- ◆ Work to elect Republican candidates to office
- ◆ Your #1 goal is to maximize the Republican vote in your precinct

#### Selection Process

- ◆ Elected for a two year term in the Republican Primary by filing with the County Chair to be on the ballot
- ◆ If the election has passed and the position is or becomes vacant the County Executive Committee (CEC) may appoint someone to fill the position

#### Duties within the County Party

- ◆ Participate in County Executive Committee Meetings
- ◆ Serve as an Officer, Committee Chair or Committee Member
- ◆ Recruit Precinct Chairs and Volunteers
- ◆ Help work precincts without Precinct Chairs
- ◆ Assist your County Chair as needed

#### Duties within Local Elections

- ◆ Place Signs at polling locations the night prior to the election
- ◆ Serve as or recruit voters as an Election Judge or Election Clerk

#### Duties with the Convention Process

- ◆ Conduct the Precinct Convention as the Temporary Chair and ensure that all precinct convention paperwork is returned to the County Chair
- ◆ Assist the County Chair as needed to hold the County or Senate District Convention



# October 2023

## Finance and Capital Campaign

2023 may be an off year for the Federal and State Elections but the Galveston County Republican Party volunteers were busy working to organize the largest of our fund raisers, the Lincoln Reagan Dinner which took place on September 30, 2023. We set a "stretch" financial goal this year for donations -- which we met and exceeded! Contributions in the form of tickets, sponsorships, and auction items put us over the top. This will fuel our outreach, get-out-the-vote and many other efforts to make 2024 an electoral success for Galveston County Republicans.

The event featured keynote speaker Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, MD, Texas Land Commissioner. There were some fabulous flapper dresses and zoot suits for our 1920's themed event. **For pictures of this event please check out our gallery in this newsletter.** You will see yourself if you were there, or see what you missed!

Thank you for your support.

William Hoffman  
Treasurer



[Link to Lincoln Reagan Dinner Photos](#)

*P.S. Do you have ideas and experience as a fundraiser? We'd love to have you join our Capital Campaign Committee!*



## Training Resources

The Leadership Institute provides training in campaign management, candidate development, school boards, fundraising, grassroots organizing, youth politics, and communications.

The Institute has on-line and on-demand training, some low cost, some free:

[All Courses - Leadership Institute On-Demand](#)

Currently they have the following FREE for a limited time:

[The Joseph U. Oswald Patriot Online School Board Training Program](#)

[How to Run For School Board and Win](#)

# October 2023

## GCRP Election Integrity Committee

The Galveston County Republican Party Election Integrity Committee is an ad hoc committee that was formed to assist the Galveston County Clerk Election Department have free and fair elections and for the voters to leave polling places confident that their vote counted and that they had a good experience.

The committee provides support for the Republican Election Coordinator, appointed by the County Chair, to staff polling locations with Presiding Judges, Alternate Judges and Clerks for Early Voting and Election Day.

Additionally, we work with the Galveston County Voter Registrar to review voter registrations and submit challenges to registrations that may be questionable.

The committee is comprised of Precinct Chairs as well as Republican volunteers interested in securing the integrity of our elections.

Dave Wilson  
Chairman

## MID-COUNTY REPUBLICAN NETWORKING GROUP

In January 2013, a couple Galveston County elected officials stated that there were several clubs in the north end of the County and several clubs on Galveston Island, where the officials could maintain contact and communicate with their constituents, but there was not similar venue in the middle of the County.

Karen Stephens heard this need and drew a number of Texas City residents together to address the issue. At the organization meeting, Karen volunteered to find monthly speakers and was deemed Vice President. Don Pollock volunteered to be Treasurer. Judge Anne Darring volunteered to be President. The Mid-County Republican Networking Group was born.

Anne Darring had her own Constant Contact list which we used to send our meeting notifications. As members signed up, their contact information was added to the list.

This is the Mid-County Republican Networking Group's tenth year, meeting the second Tuesday of each month at various restaurants in Texas City. The Group met at the Reef restaurant for several years, until it closed in 2021. We met at the Los Aztecas restaurant through July 2023, but things are changing. The Reef restaurant has reopened and we look forward to seeing you there, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Come see us at The Reef, 1301 31<sup>st</sup> 1/2 Street, Texas City.



# October 2023

## *Get Connected with the Galveston County Republican Party*

There are many ways to connect with the Galveston County Republican Party. Please stop by our headquarters to talk with our volunteers, pick up a new voter registration card, and get information provided by our elected officials and candidates. We are located at

801 West Main Street, Suite 803  
League City, TX 77573

We are open **Tuesday-Thursday from 10AM-2PM**. Check our [website](#) often for changes as we roll into the next election year.

You can also reach us by email [info@galvestoncnygop.com](mailto:info@galvestoncnygop.com) or phone 281-554-8888.

Please join our [email list](#) to receive information about upcoming events and volunteering opportunities. We need many volunteers to staff the headquarters, help with our community events, and help with get-out-the-vote activities such as phone banking and block walking.

Check us out on [Facebook](#).

## *Republican Groups*

[Clear Creek Republican Women](#) – Meets 1st Friday – LaBrisa Mexican Grille, 501 N Wesley Dr., League City, TX 77573

[Galveston Republican Women](#) – Meets 3rd Wednesday – The San Luis Resort, 5222 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77551 – Free or valet parking

[Republican Network](#) – Meets 3rd Thursday, Evening – Labrisa Mexican Grille, 501 N Wesley Dr., League City, TX 77573

[Bay Area Republican Women](#) – Meets 4th Tuesday – Bay Oaks County Club, 4545 Bay Oaks Blvd, Houston, TX 77059

[Mid County Republican Network](#) – Meets 2nd Tuesday, Evening – The Reef, 1301 31st 1/2 St N, Texas City, TX 77590

[Tri-County Republican Women's Club](#) – Meets 2nd Tuesday – Golfcrest Country Club, Pearland, TX 77581

[Texas Gulf Coast Republican Women](#) – Meets 3rd Monday Evening – La Escondida, 400 W. Parkwood, Friendswood, TX 77546

[Galveston Island Pachyderm Club](#) – Meets 1st Thursday – Coastal Grill, 1827 Strand Street, Galveston, TX 77550 – (meets more often on even years)

# October 2023

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Galveston Votes Elected Officials

### Voter Information

Borrowed from the Clear Creek Republican Women

### GOP Meetings & Resource Links

### State Government Resources

Acronyms – Ever hear an acronym and say, “What does that stand for?”

## Senate District 11 Committee Appointments

### Senator Mayes Middleton

- ◆ Higher Education, Subcommittee, Vice Chair
- ◆ Administration
- ◆ Business & Commerce
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Jurisprudence
- ◆ State Affairs

### Representative Greg Bonnen

- ◆ Appropriations, Chair
- ◆ Select Committee on Healthcare Reform

### Representative Briscoe Cain

- ◆ Agriculture & Livestock, Chair
- ◆ Insurance

### Representative Dennis Paul

- ◆ Higher Education, Vice Chair
- ◆ Insurance
- ◆ Local & Consent Calendars

### Representative Ed Thompson

- ◆ Appropriations
- ◆ Calendars
- ◆ Natural Resources, Vice Chair

### Representative Cody Vasut

- ◆ Business & Industry, Vice Chair
- ◆ Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

### Representative Terri Leo Wilson

- ◆ Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
- ◆ Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

## U.S. Congress Committee Appointments

### Congressman Randy Weber

- ◆ House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Call To Action with Toni Anne Dashiell – RNC National Committeewoman

88th Texas Legislature Zoom Series

Fridays at 07:00 a.m.

[Click here to see past TAD Talks and Subscribe to Receive Emails to Register for the Zoom TAD Talks.](#)

# October 2023

## 2022 Texas GOP Priorities

These priorities were chosen by over 5,000 voting delegates at the state convention, June 13-18, 2022 in Houston, Texas. Delegates were presented with a [list of 15 topics selected by the Legislative Priorities Committee](#) after a comprehensive review of resolutions passed at the precinct and senate district levels of the convention process. Delegates were allowed to vote on 8 topics, which became the official Legislative Priorities of the Republican Party of Texas.

### 1. Protect our Elections:

Restore felony penalties and enact civil penalties for Election Code violations, which shall be enforceable by any Texas jurisdiction, including the Texas Attorney General. Require citizenship verification of each voter. Restrict the distribution of mail-in ballots to only disabled, military, and citizens that are out of state. Reduce the time allowed for early voting, and eliminate the three-day gap between early voting and election day. Establish closed primaries in Texas. As technology evolves, we encourage the passage of legislation that ensures the security of our elections.

### 2. Secure the Border and Protect Texans:

Texas shall immediately deny all taxpayer funded services and subsidies to illegal aliens. We call upon the Governor to assert his duty under Article 1, Section 10, Clause 3 of the US Constitution to declare an invasion on our Texas border and do everything in his power to protect Texans from this invasion. The legislature shall direct the Governor to enter into an Interstate Compact with one or more states for Border Security.

### 3. Ban Gender Modification of Children:

Texas must ban chemical castration, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, genital mutilation, bodily alteration surgery, psychological/social transitioning, and any other methods applied to or performed on children.

### 4. Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids:

Repeal Texas Penal Code "Obscenity Exemption" 43.24(c), which allows children access to harmful, explicit, or pornographic materials and 43.25(f)(2 3), which allows sexual performance by a child. In addition, prohibit teaching, exposure, and/or discussion of sexual matters (mechanics, feelings, orientation, or "gender identity" issues), and prohibit use or provision of related books and other materials using criminal, civil or other enforcement measures.

### 5. Ban Democrat Chairs:

To ensure all legislative Republican priorities are given a fair opportunity to become law, the Republican-controlled Texas legislature shall adopt a rule that would end the practice of awarding committee chairmanships to Democrats.

### 6. Abolish Abortion in Texas:

Abolish abortion by ensuring the right to life and equal protection of the laws to all preborn children from the moment of fertilization, including adopting effective tools to ensure the enforcement of our laws to protect life when district attorneys fail to do so.

### 7. Defend Our Gun Rights:

Protect our gun rights against threats, such as red flag laws, federal, state or other restrictions, by strengthening and preserving our inalienable rights under the second amendment to protect our life, liberty and property. The Texas Legislature should eliminate gun-free zones.

### 8. Parental Rights and Educational Freedom:

Parents are the primary decision makers for their children in all matters. This authority shall be protected as an inalienable right. This shall include the choice of schooling where the money follows the child without strings attached, and enforcement and penalty mechanisms when parents' rights are violated. The right to education shall be free from any social theories.

[Link to All Pictures](#)

**GALLERY**

**Lincoln Reagan Dinner 2023  
The Trolley Stop – Galveston**



**General Land Commissioner  
Dawn Buckingham  
Keynote Speaker**



**Steve Munisteri  
Senior Advisor to Greg Abbott and  
previous Republican Party of Texas Chairman**



**Event Chairwoman Della Brown**

# October 2023

## GALLERY

Lincoln Reagan Dinner 2023

The Trolley Stop – Galveston



# October 2023

## GALLERY

Lincoln Reagan Dinner 2023

The Trolley Stop – Galveston

