



Jeff Davis County Democratic Party

July 2024 Newsletter

New Website Posts

We would like to draw your attention to **new posts on our website** -- <https://www.jdcdp.org>. New posts have been added on the *Home*, *Events*, *News & Views*, *Take Action!*, and *Partners, Friends, & Resources* pages. Other pages have also been updated.

Home page: On the **Home page**, you can click on buttons to *Message Us*, *Subscribe to our Newsletter*, *Volunteer*, and *Join our Facebook Group*. The button, **Checkout New Website Posts**, summarizes the latest website updates. The button, **Set the Record Straight: New Truth Posts** takes you to our latest poster collection, which is intended to compare truths and facts with falsehoods and fictions in a hopefully entertaining and informative manner.

The last five buttons are new additions:

The **Character Matters: Biden-Harris 2024 Ad** video contrasts Biden's presidential actions with Trump's multiple criminal indictments.

The **Biden & Trump Presidential Accomplishment Index**, from The Washington Monthly, provides a comprehensive list of what Donald Trump and Joe Biden have achieved in office.

Firearm Violence: Public Health Crisis in America links to U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy's landmark Advisory, declaring firearm violence in America to be a public health crisis. The advisory outlines the devastating consequences that firearm violence poses, and describes strategies for firearm injury and violence prevention, with a focus on the health and well-being of children, families, and communities.

Biden's New Actions to Keep Families Together announces that the Department of Homeland Security will act to ensure that U.S. citizens with noncitizen spouses and children can keep their families together.

In the new video ad, **Adam Kinzinger Endorsement of Biden**, Kinzinger states that he has "always put America's Democracy and our Constitution above all else," and for that reason is endorsing Biden over Trump.

In another video link, **30 false claims at the Thursday debate**, CNN's Daniel Dale fact checks the false claims made by former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden during the CNN Presidential Debate.

What's New section:

New on the **What's New** section of the **Home page** is a thorough **Debate Analysis**, with commentary by MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell, Simon Rosenberg in his *Hopium Chronicles*, and Rosenberg and Marc Lotter on *Amanpour and Company*. Barack Obama offers an afterthought.

Also new in the **What's New** section is the announcement of our July public meeting:

Public Meeting: Texas Legislature 2025 -- An Owner's Manual

Jeff Davis County Community Center

Saturday, July 13, 11 am

Speaker: Jason Sabo

Founder of Frontera Strategy

Public Interest Lobbyist at the Texas Capitol

Jason Sabo is a part-time resident of Jeff Davis County. He has worked as a public interest lobbyist at the Texas Capitol for 25 years. His clients are all nonprofit organizations working to make Texas a better place for children and families to grow and thrive. This session will offer a nonpartisan look at what Far West Texas can expect from the upcoming legislative session and how recent elections will impact rural communities statewide. All are welcome at this free event. Join us to laugh out loud at some serious stuff.

Another part of **What's New**, **Speeches at the Texas Democratic Convention**, links to video talks by Beto O'Rourke and Eddie Morales.

These speeches are followed by a new anti-Trump video ad from **Liz Cheney**, and new videos from **The Lincoln Project** on the Trump threat and Project 2025.

Also featured in **What's New** is **Learn more about our Democratic candidates in the November General Election**, which provides logo links to quickly access the websites of Democratic candidates in the upcoming November General Election. Links are available now to the websites of Biden-Harris, Colin Allred, Santos Limon, Cesar Blanco, and Eddie Morales.

Our Home page can be accessed here: <https://www.jdcdp.org>.

Events page: We had an excellent turnout for our **Presidential Debate Watch Party** at the Butterfield Inn, and Cecilia Riley got some excellent photos at the event that have been posted on our Facebook page.

At present, the only new event scheduled is our public meeting on July 13, 11 am, at the Jeff Davis County Community Center. See above in the **What's New section**.

Our Events page can be accessed here: <https://www.jdcdp.org/events>.

News & Views page: Our **News & Views page** has three sections: **Spotlight, Texas,** and **National. News & Views** articles discussed below, and many others, can be accessed here: <https://www.jdcdp.org/news-views>. Please visit our **News & Views** page!

The **Spotlight section** of the page draws attention to news, views, or new book releases that merit more consideration from democrats of all stripes. In the spotlight this month is a remarkable new work by Barbara McQuade, [Attack from Within](#), a New York Times bestseller. Legal scholar and analyst McQuade shows us how to identify the ways disinformation is seeping into all facets of our society and how we can fight against it.

A closely related new effort is [The Unraveling: Reflections on Politics without Ethics and Democracy in Crisis](#), by Bob Bauer, with a foreword by Jon Meacham. Available from the New-York Historical Society, this book has been described as "part memoir, part rumination on the declining moral compass of the American political class," and "the first book to place restoring political ethics at the center of the renewal of American democracy."

The last new book in the spotlight, adapted from the Peabody Award–winning podcast Southlake, is Mike Hixenbaugh's [They Came for the Schools: One Town's Fight Over Race and Identity, and the New War for America's Classrooms](#). Hixenbaugh recaps how the recent conservative war on the teaching of material concerning race, sexuality, and gender kicked off in Southlake, Texas. Acrimony surrounding the school district's proposed diversity plan faced opposition from conservative parents, who eventually funded a takeover of the school board. The new board scrapped the diversity plan, relaxed the anti-bullying disciplinary code, banned books, and sanctioned teachers. Southlake became a national model for the right.

The **Texas section** of this page focuses on events in and affecting our state and covers a wide variety of issues. Recent posts discuss school curriculum overhaul, vouchers, book bans, election disinformation, the Texas Republican Party Platform, Christian nationalism, out-of-state political donors, and Operation Lone Star.

A public school curriculum overhaul proposed by the Texas Education Agency would add teachings on the Bible to state reading and language arts lessons. This overhaul is discussed in an article in The Texas Tribune: [**Texas education leaders unveil Bible-infused elementary school curriculum.**](#)

Jeremy Schwartz, with ProPublica, focuses on Greg Abbott's crusade to bring vouchers to Texas: [**Texas Is the Largest GOP Stronghold Without Pro-School Voucher Legislation. Gov. Abbott Is on a Crusade to Change That.**](#)

In *The Texas Observer*, Lise Olsen draws attention to the valiant efforts of a Llano County librarian to resist book ban orders and censorship: [**A Small-Town Texas Librarian's Big Stand Against Book Bans.**](#) She was fired, but library patrons filed a lawsuit supported by the Author's Guild.

The *Global Disinformation Lab at the University of Texas at Austin* has constructed a unique resource library to help us learn, understand, and detect disinformation: [**Election**](#)

Disinformation Resource Library. The information is organized into easy-to-follow learning tracks, and augmented with fun, interactive quizzes. We all would be advised to investigate this resource.

Bridget Grumet, in the *Austin American-Statesman*, spotlights new elements in the Texas Republican Party's platform and rules that would seriously challenge our state's voting rights and democratic processes: **Cherish your vote and our democracy.** Republicans regularly attack Democratic donor George Soros as interfering in the politics of the Lone Star State. However, Alexandra Samuels, in *Texas Monthly*, points out that the two biggest political donors in Texas favor Republicans and hail from Nevada and Pennsylvania: **Meet the Out-of-State Political Donors Messing With Texas.**

The *True Texas Project*, an influential grassroots group with close ties to Texas Republican lawmakers, is hosting a conference next month that encourages its attendees to embrace Christian nationalism and resist a Democratic campaign "to rid the earth of the white race." Speakers include Paul Gottfried, a far-right writer who has for years collaborated with white supremacists. Robert Downen and Juan Salinas provide details in *The Texas Tribune*: **"War on white America": Influential Texas group hosting pro-Christian nationalism conference.**

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The *American Civil Liberties Union of Texas* has produced a new report on Gov. Greg Abbott's Operation Lone Star (OLS): **Operation Lone Star: Misinformation and Discrimination In Texas Border Enforcement.** The conclusion: OLS spends billions of dollars to racially profile and arrest people who pose no threat to public safety, then forces them into a separate and unequal legal system run by the state.

The **National section** of the **News & Views page** contains many thoughtful articles on a wide range of subjects – firearm violence, keeping immigrant families together, a comparison of Biden and Trump presidential accomplishments, separation of church and state, public schools, corporate political donations, Trumponomics, abortion bans, Supreme Court accountability, Trump, Ken Burns address at Brandeis University, Project 2025, and much more.

These are the most recent articles:

Already discussed on the **Home page** and repeated here in the **National section** of **News & Views** are **Firearm Violence: A Public Health Crisis in America**, from the U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory 2024; **FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces New Actions to Keep Families Together**, from The White House briefing room; and **The Monthly's Presidential Accomplishment Index**, by the editors of Washington Monthly.

Other new articles:

Thou Shalt Not Violate the Constitution: Public schools should not be Sunday Schools – Dan Rather and Team Steady, Substack

Arizona is sending taxpayer money to religious schools — and billionaires see it as a model for the US – Casey Tolan, Rene Marsh and Nelli Black, CNN

Debunking Myth #4: “Corporate Political Donations Are Free Speech.” Bunk! – Robert Reich, Substack

The Flimsiness of Trumponomics -- Charles Sykes, The Atlantic

Abortion bans are changing what it means to be young in America – Julie Maslowsky, The Conversation

More Than 85 Advocacy Organizations Urge Senate to Confront Corrupting Supreme Court Influence & Issue Subpoenas to Harlan Crow & Leonard Leo – Court Accountability and United for Democracy

Trump’s Unhinged Press Conference Remarks ‘As Prepared For Delivery’ -- The Lincoln Project

Let's Not Elect a President Who Hates America – Mary L. Trump, Substack

Undergraduate Commencement Address -- Ken Burns, Brandeis University

Letters from an American 5-30-2024 – Heather Cox Richardson, Substack,

The Party of Huge Nothingburgers – Robert Reich, Substack

Project 2025 is a threat to democracy – Steve Corbin, The Fulcrum

Statement from President Joe Biden on Confirming 200 Federal Judges – The White House

Majority of Americans wrongly believe US is in recession – and most blame Biden – Lauren Aratani, The Guardian

The Shamans and the Chieftain – Timothy Snyder, Substack

Trump Verdict Highlights Supreme Court’s Obstruction -- Michael Waldman, Brennan Center for Justice

News and Views articles discussed above, and many others, can be accessed here:

<https://www.jcdp.org/news-views>. Please visit our *News & Views* page!

Take Action! page: The purpose of this web page is to keep you informed of how you can contribute to specific efforts to fight for our values, stay informed of legislation affecting our lives, influence legislators, and help create a better, more democratic society.

Our **Take Action!** page can be accessed here: <https://www.jcdp.org/take-action>.

Some recent posts should be highlighted. **Vote411.org** has been updated.



VOTE411.org is gearing up for the Texas General Election November 5, 2024!

Election Information You Need: Brought to you by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. In English or Spanish. Enter your address to get started.

Register to Vote!

Did you know it only takes an average of two minutes to register? Enter your address to get started.

Get Other Personalized Voting Information:

See What's On Your Ballot

Find Your Polling Place

Discover Upcoming Debates and Forums in Your Area and much more!

Texas General Election

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Registration Deadlines:

By Mail: Monday, October 7, 2024 (postmarked)

In Person: Monday, October 7, 2024

Resources to explore now:

We've got additional resources for you even when there are no current elections in your district.

Find out more about voting in Texas:

Such as voter registration, ID requirements, absentee voting, voting machines, and more!!

Learn more:



Action Network

Fight Book Bans!

Become a Grassroots Co-Sponsor of the Resolution to Defend the Right to Read

The core of democratic discourse is under a brutal assault as an escalating wave of book bans sweeps across the United States. The numbers are alarming: There have been 6,000 book bans since July 2021, with a 33% increase in bans since just last year.

This includes classic and award-winning books that have been a part of school curriculum for decades. Titles like *Brave New World*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic*

Adaptation, The Color Purple, and To Kill a Mockingbird are being yanked from libraries and banned from schools.

Now, Congress is finally taking action. Senator Brian Schatz and Representative Jamie Raskin have introduced a resolution to stop book bans and defend the right to read.

Defending freedom is popular. NPR reports, the majority of Americans, including the majority of Republicans, are against lawmakers banning books.

Become a Grassroots Co-Sponsor of the resolution to Fight Book Bans and Defend the Right to Read by adding your name now.



Building Bridges for America
Organizer Story: Decide to do
Something — Find Help Knowing How

A group of friends formed a support group for themselves and for their community and found help knowing how to take action.

Cheryl Nix (co-founder of Michiana Alliance for Democracy, and a member of the Indivisible Network) and her friends wanted help to take action. They turned to **Building Bridges for America**. They attended online training sessions taught by volunteers. The training is free to grassroots organizers and others who want to know how to take action. Online trainings are every Thursday for a month. With a computer or mobile device, anyone who signs up for a training can join from anywhere. **Find out more here!**



**Disagree
Better**
NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

National Governors
Association
Disagree Better!

Disagree Better is an effort to show that as Americans, we can work through our differences to find solutions to the most difficult problems facing our states and our nation. This effort includes a series of public-facing efforts, assisted by NGA and chosen from a toolkit of interventions that are customizable for each state/governor.

The goal is for Governors to model how to disagree better, setting an example and creating the permission structure and template for other public officials at every level to follow. Dozens of

groups across the nation are involved in depolarization work, and the Disagree Better NGA Initiative will work to elevate their research and resources.

Partners, Friends, & Resources page: We are proud to work together with many organizations to promote democratic values locally and nationally – these are our newest partners, friends, and resources. [Click on the logos to visit the sites.](#)

Or our **Partners, Friends, & Resources** page can be accessed here: <https://www.idcdp.org/partners-friends-resources>. Do some searching!





REPUBLICAN VOTERS
AGAINST TRUMP



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