

**WGG Meeting
August 5, 2019**

Women for Good Government held the August 2019 meeting at **First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin**.

Our guest speaker was **Ms. Royce Brooks, Executive Director, Annie's List**. Since joining Annie's List as its Executive Director in July 2018, Fort Worth native Royce Brooks has led the organization to its most successful election cycle ever, with over 1000 women trained, a record 37 women endorsed, and a record 31 women elected, including every Annie's List incumbent on the ballot. *annieslist.com*

Ms. Brooks us a brief history of Annie's List being a 16 year old organization of progressive women who *recruit, train, support and elect progressive women who are dedicated to advancing the self-determination, health, safety and financial security of Texas women and their families.*

Priorities include

- Flipping Party control of the Texas Statehouse – need 9 more seats in addition to the 12 flipped in 2018 (extremely important to redistricting)
- Flip Party control of SBOE – 3 seats (the first topic post-election will be Science) District 5, District 6, District 10
- We are 1 seat away form breaking the super majority in the State Senate

Annie's List programs include:

- Candidate 101 includes finding candidates long & short term
- Run to Lead is by invitation for endorsed candidate mapping a campaign which includes Camera Ready, Executive Preference Editorial Board Prep and Debate Prep
- Campaign School behind the scene skills and strategies training for campaign staff
- Annie U. provides college internships

Issues at Hand:

- Increased time to vote because there will not be straight party voting – it will take at least 11 minutes to vote even if the voter knows in advance exactly who and how they are voting. This will probably increase wait time at the polls on election day
- Solutions to above: *Vote by mail, vote early*
- Make sure messaging is good

Q: Do mail in ballots count?

A: YES! Reassure people that there is already a reliable system in place for mail-in ballots and they are counted as they come in during the designated time. They are akin to early voting. (should not be confused with provisional ballots which require remedy by the voter)

Announcements:

- Dana DeBeavoir, Travis County Elections Division, will talk to us about new voting machines with demonstrations and let us practice voting. Jeremy Smith with Map the Vote
- Treasurer's Report: July income was \$40.00. No expenses in July. Balance \$2121.98. 8 people joined today
- August 17th 10:30 First UU VDR training

Candidates:

- Selena Alvarenga – 460th District Judge *selenaforjudge.com*
- Valinda Bolton Travis County Commissioner pct. 3