

**Women for Good Government  
September 9, 2019**

Women for Good Government held the September 2019 meeting at the First Unitarian Universalist of Austin.

Our guest speaker was **Dana DeBeauvoir, Travis county Clerk (Elections Division)**. Since her election as County Clerk in 1986, Dana has devoted herself to bringing high ethical standards, effective and cost efficient management practices, the benefits of new technology, and high quality customer service to the office of the County Clerk. The Clerk's Office has a wide range of responsibilities including the conduct of elections; the filing and preservation of real property records; and the management of civil, probate, and misdemeanor court documents.

Ms. DeBeauvoir talked about the new voting machines and offered us an opportunity to use the new machines.

A brief explanation of the new machines can be found at the Travis County Elections Division website : <http://traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/Content.do?code=E.0>

*"The new system still requires voters to make their selections electronically, but those machines no longer store votes in memory. Instead, a human-readable paper ballot is produced for voters to verify their choices.*

*A voter would then insert the paper into an electronic ballot box which will automatically scan and tally their vote. The paper ballot will be secure inside the box and used to verify the electronic results. The previous voting system didn't produce a paper trail making it difficult, for example, to verify vote counts if there were voting irregularities.*

*Travis County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir said the county spent \$9 million for approximately 2,000 ballot-marking devices, 500 electronic ballot boxes, training and outreach. She said the change was needed to replace 18-year-old equipment and to have a system with a paper trail."*

**Blue Squad founder and COO Jeremy Smith and team** reviewed the updated **Map the Vote** program for use in the 2020 election cycle. Volunteers can help the effort with open records requests for the system.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Beginning Balance:	\$ 2,301.98
Income:	140.00
Expenses:	<u>(1,260.88)</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 1,181.10

**The following 2020 candidates each spoke for 2 minutes about their qualifications for office:**

- Jessica Mangrum, 200<sup>th</sup> District Court *jessicamangrum.com*
- Maggie Ellis, 200<sup>th</sup> District Court *maggieforjudge.com*
- Selena Alvarenga, 460<sup>th</sup> District Court (New) *senaforjudge.com*
- Amy Meredith, 460<sup>th</sup> District Court (New) *amymeredithforjudge*
- Maria Cantu Hexsel, 53<sup>rd</sup> District Court *mariaforjudge.com*
- Kennon Wooten, 53<sup>rd</sup> District Court *kennonwooten.com*
- Ann Howard, County Commissioner Pct 3 *annforcommissioner.com*
- Erin Martinson, District Attorney *erinforda.com*
- Laurie Eiserloh, Travis County Attorney
- Liz Donegan, Travis County Sheriff *lizforsheriff.com*

The meeting concluded with announcements by Mary Patrick.