

**WGG Meeting
January 7, 2019**

Women for Good Government held the January 2019 meeting at the Old Quarry Library.

Our guest speaker was **Dyana Limon-Mercado, Travis County Democratic Party Chairwoman.**

Dyana opened by thanking WGG for contributing 4200 volunteer hours to TCDP Coordinated Campaign election efforts and also to the Precinct Chairs.

Dyana said TCDP is putting together plans for 2019 and invites our input.

Dyana said Democrats had successes up and down the ballot:

- Though we didn't get Beto elected it was very close and with resources being scarce he showed donors that Texas is worth investing in.
- In Travis county b
- Beto received 50,000 more votes than Hillary did in 2016. Travis county had 61% voter turnout (and 94.5 % voters registered, 74% of whom are Democrats).
- Austin City Council is now all "blue", gains were also made in the Texas statehouse
- Harris County's new voter Registrar is a Democrat
- In Travis County over 500,00 doors were knocked on by TCDP and the candidates

If we keep building on our successes we can probably turn Texas in 2022 and 2020 will be closer than initially thought.

Some of the issues to be addressed during this Legislative Session include: school financing, property taxes, transportation, voter rights improving and funding for election workers. Travis County Democrats will be an active presence (sometimes as part of coalitions such as One Texas Resistance) at the Legislature especially with social justice issues. TCDP will send out emails about happenings and will be posting events and volunteer opportunities on the website.

Texas Legislative Advocacy Training: January 19th 2019, 9:00 – 2:00 Texas State Capitol: Please join the Bastrop, Hays, Travis and Williamson County Democratic Party, along with the Texas Democratic Party, for a day-long legislative advocacy training designed to help prepare Democratic activists for the 86th Texas Legislature. The training will cover the basic process of the legislature, opportunities and strategy for advocacy, and we will hear from elected officials from the Central Texas delegation about their priorities this session. The cost to attend is \$15 which will allow us to provide

lunch, materials and the space for the day. Need-based scholarships are available. For more information go to info@traviscountymocrats.org.

Dyana also said the goal of TCDP Membership Drive is 2020 Sustaining Donors. This would allow for full time year round staff and 3-4 organizer positions. The organizer positions would also help to engage younger voters now and build on that.

Subjects touched on during questions and answers included:

- TCDP is working on improving the website as well as making online donating easier
- TCDP is working on building & resourcing & supporting college leadership (we cannot go into high schools as a political party)
- Dems need to be mindful of special ongoing elections – especially HD145, HD 1879 and HD125. The state party will be putting out more information.
- Data is still coming in on different campaign strategies. Will be working on best practices for texting.
- TCDP coordinates campaigns as much as the campaigns want or needs. Sometimes TCDP is the best messenger for candidates
- There are huge swathes of apartment in major metro areas that are inaccessible to door knocking. We are trying to find ways to gain access. Knock until you are asked to leave.
- Volunteer drivers expressed frustration that they were asked to do other tasks when they came to driver voters to polls. There was a bigger supply of drivers than demand so the campaigns asked them to do others tasks such as postcard writing or texting
- Year Round Civic Education is a dream of Dyana's using paid organizers for infrastructure building
- We do not know at this this what Beto's plans are
- Rumor has it that Cornyn is stepping down in 2020
- Compliments for the choice of venue for the coordinated campaign
- We need to position Dems to counter gerrymandering
- Vacancies at TCDP: 60 precinct chairs to be filled are posted on the website
- Permanent staff: Cindy Flint, Executive Director; Brian Stoller, Special Projects Manager; Jen Ramos, Communications. Dyana hope to fund as many organizers as possible

Announcements:

- February 4th meeting – Travis County Democratic House Delegation
- March 4th meeting – Dr. Emily Northrop, Professor of Economics; Environmental Studies Program
- VDR Training is taking place every Saturday, Sunday and Thursday in January. Mary Patrick will email the link to sign up

- Be thinking of what kind of projects can we do until we gear up more in 2020 – support HB 610 (online voter registration) with postcards, phones? Other legislation to support or defeat

Another thing ...

Think about becoming more involved in our community. Start with your neighborhood, then precinct. Think community organizing. Help people connect the dots between their daily lives and elected officials. (thoughts from Mary Patrick)