



Jeff Davis County Democratic Party May 2024 Newsletter New Website Posts

We would like to draw your attention to **new posts on our website**. 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 buttons, ***Set the Record Straight: Truth Posts***, take you to some truths and facts, often overlooked, in a hopefully entertaining or informative poster format.

The last three buttons are new additions: ***Donald Trump is incapable of running anything*** brings you to a highly informative and entertaining video of North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey endorsing President Biden for 2024 and slamming former President Trump. ***Last Week in the Republican Party***, another video, features desperate efforts by MAGA and the MAGA media to defend Trump. The last button, ***Joe Biden and Howard Stern video***, links to a live interview by Howard Stern, in which President Biden offers insights about his family and what "family" means to him.

New on the **What's New** section of the **Home page** is a flyer advertising our May 11, 2024 ***Garden Gathering*** at Limpinia Crossing, a fundraiser held at the home of Madge Lindsay and hosted by the Precinct 1 Democrats. At the foot of Blue Mountain, we watched an assortment of beautiful hummingbirds and played bingo to raise money for JDC Democrats.

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. More website links will be added soon.

Lastly, attention is drawn to a valuable resource for the 2024 elections: **American Bridge 21st Century** is a research, tracking, and rapid response operation in the Democratic Party, focused on holding Republicans accountable and helping deliver Democratic victories. This cycle, American Bridge 21st Century is tracking Republicans' anti-abortion positions, protecting

democracy by focusing on extremist down-ballot Republicans threatening our elections, and touting the Biden administration and Democrats' record of results for families and businesses.

American Bridge has developed a robust [Donald Trump Opposition Research Hub](#) that should be highly useful to Democratic Party organizations and pro-Democracy groups this election year. Another essential tool in this upcoming election is American Bridge's [Repro-files.com](#), a mechanism for holding anti-abortion Republicans accountable. This site is meant to serve as a centralized research hub, containing tracking footage and information on Republicans who have taken positions to end abortion access and restrict reproductive rights and health care options.

Another feature of the American Bridge 21st Century website is [Republicans We're Watching](#), an online database that allows the user to target Republicans by selecting a state, a political office, and an issue. We tried it on Ted Cruz, and this tool returned a wealth of information: [Lyin' Ted](#) on IVF, abortion, and LGBTQ+ issues.

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

Events page: Recent posts include *Mothers for Democracy: Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Chapter*. The RGV Chapter wants to wake up civic participation, increase voter turnout, and educate the valley about Democratic candidates and issues most important to RGV families. Registering new voters by increasing the number of Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDRs) is a key goal. Another post focuses on the *American Climate Corps*, launched by President Biden to fulfill a promise to mobilize a new generation of clean energy, conservation, and resilience workers. A post from Causes.com, on *How to Help Civilians in Ukraine*, offers a mechanism – *Gravvy's Spread* -- for donating to reputable aid groups.

Protect Democracy: 2024 and Beyond is a post from Vote.org, a nonpartisan nonprofit funded 100% by tax-deductible donations. The website provides links for registering to vote, checking your voter registration, ordering absentee ballots, and signing up for election reminders. Texas Blue Action conducts *Texas Blue Action Network Weekly Trainings*, virtual events on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Network seeks to build a sustainable Democratic get-out-the-vote organizing infrastructure in Texas. The post from *Power The Polls* asks you to Be a Hero, Get Paid, and Help Staff Your Local Polling Place. This is a nonpartisan initiative to recruit the next generation of poll workers to ensure safe and fair elections. *Vote Forward* asks you to write letters to voters to increase election turnout, and you can do it from home. This nonprofit's voter contact program trains and supports volunteers writing personal, heartfelt letters to potential voters with an easy-to-use online platform.

Our Events page can be accessed here: <https://www.jdcdp.org/events>. **Note:** Some of these posts should have been placed on our **Take Action! Page**, and will be moved there in the future.

News & Views page: Our **News & Views page** has three sections: **Spotlight, Texas, and National**. *News and 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. This month we are spotlighting two new works focused on saving our democracy from impending threats. Robert Kagan, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and columnist for the Washington Post, brings us a “chilling and clear-eyed warning about the threats to our democracy posed by the increasing radicalization of the Republican Party.” The book, published by Penguin Random House, is **Rebellion: How Antiliberalism Is Tearing America Apart—Again**.

Unite America’s executive director, Nick Troiano, sets out to rescue our democracy from party primaries and partisan gerrymandering. His book, published by Simon & Schuster, is **The Primary Solution: Rescuing our democracy from the fringes**. Troiano argues that, in our divided America, party primaries fuel political extremism and dysfunction because of their exclusionary rules and low turnout. The result, in his estimation, is a Congress dependent on fringe elements in both parties. The solution: nonpartisan primaries that permit voters to vote for any candidate in every election, regardless of party.

Remaining in the spotlight for one more month is this compelling work by Rachel Bitecofer, political scientist, well-known pollster, and forecaster: **Hit 'Em Where It Hurts: How to Save Democracy by Beating Republicans at Their Own Game – Rachel Bitecofer, with Aaron Murphy, Penguin Random House**. This political treatise seeks to answer the question of why Democrats often fail to win voters to their side, and what they can do to develop new winning political strategies—especially as the very fate of democracy hangs in the balance in 2024?

The **Texas section** of this page focuses on events in and affecting our state and covers a wide variety of issues. Recent posts discuss border issues, the far right in the Texas House, abortion, a Samsung semiconductor plant deal orchestrated by Biden, and Ted Cruz-sponsored legislation.

In *The Border Chronicle*, Carlos Gutiérrez provides a more in-depth assessment of the “border crisis”: **The Border New Wave: How Texas Fronterizo Filmmakers Are Defying False Narratives**. As the November presidential election approaches, the border crisis narrative has taken center stage in U.S. politics. In response, a group of fronterizo filmmakers are confidently challenging the alarmist narratives through innovative and artistic cinematic representations.

Many are Mexican American women from Texas who have premiered films in the past year. Their work contrasts with the sensationalist headlines of border chaos and disruption, offering nuanced and sensitive portraits of the region’s people, their resilience, and the complexities of the bicultural and binational communities along the Rio Grande (or Río Bravo, as it’s known south of the border).

From Alexandra Samuels in *Texas Monthly*: **The Far Right Has Proposed a Twelve-Point Plan to Make the Texas House More Extreme**. Twenty-five prospective legislators have signed a pledge to block Democrats—who now hold 43 percent of the seats—from all influence in the lower chamber and neuter the next Speaker.

From a video at the Texas Democratic Party website: [Colin Allred on Abortion](#). Politicians have no place in your OB/GYN exam room. [Colin Allred](#) knows that, and he'll never stop fighting to defend your personal freedoms.

Khaleda Rahman covered a big Biden Administration win in Newsweek: [Joe Biden Touts Huge \\$40 Billion Texas Win](#). President [Joe Biden](#) has touted a deal with Samsung to build new semiconductor chip plants in Texas. The Biden administration has reached an agreement to provide up to \$6.4 billion in direct funding to the South Korean tech giant to develop a computer chip manufacturing and research cluster.

The funding comes from the [2022 CHIPS and Science Act](#), which Biden signed into law with the aim of boosting domestic production of advanced computer chips.

From Bess Levin in *Vanity Fair*: [Ted Cruz Proposes Legislation That Would Make It Harder to Photograph Lawmakers Jetting Off to Cancún While Their Constituents Freeze to Death](#). Three years after Cancúngate, Ted Cruz has proposed legislation that “would offer lawmakers a dedicated security escort at airports, along with expedited screening outside of public view.”

The [National section](#) of the **News & Views page** contains many thoughtful articles on a wide range of subjects – National security, propaganda wars, autocracies, border issues, congressional dysfunction, American values, bipartisanship, what kind of world we’re going to inhabit, and much more.

These are the most recent articles:

From Anne Applebaum in *The Atlantic* comes [The New Propaganda War](#), with stunning assertions that “Autocrats in China, Russia, and elsewhere are now making common cause with MAGA Republicans to discredit liberalism and freedom around the world. A part of the American political spectrum is not merely a passive recipient of the combined authoritarian narratives that come from Russia, China, and their ilk, but an active participant in creating and spreading them.”

Tom Nichols authored a companion piece in *The Atlantic*, arguing that [Autocracies Are Winning the Information War](#). “Today, the immune system of once-healthy democratic societies is compromised. Wild theories have become surprisingly easy for Americans to believe, a sign of a national gullibility that makes the United States an obvious target for outlandish propaganda. Governments alone cannot solve this problem. Individual citizens have to take the initiative—as exhausting as it might be—to confront one another over bad information.”

In *Vanity Fair*, Chris Smith takes us inside the Biden-Harris campaign: [“We’re Not Selling Hysteria”: Inside the Cold Calculation and Unyielding Optimism of the Biden Brain Trust](#). In Wilmington, Joe Biden’s reelection team is tackling stubborn polls, Gaza protests, and third-party threats as it assembles a sophisticated machine to defeat Donald Trump. And the stakes couldn’t be higher: “We could lose the thing that matters most to me,” says campaign chair Jen O’Malley Dillon, “which is a future for my kids.”

In *Vanity Fair*, Molly Jong-Fast focuses on the seemingly endless news cycle of the 2024 election: [How to Survive the Forever Election](#). “The past year and a half has been such an exhausting series of emotional ups and downs for those of us who worry about the fate of democracy, so it’s understandable why anyone would want to ignore the news cycle entirely.”

Her conclusion is: “The only way to keep democracy going is to participate in it. The cold reality is that the [Great Tune-Out](#) is the opposite of what we need in order for democracy to survive. If there is one way of sinking Donald Trump’s political prospects, it’s by getting more Americans to appreciate the fact that this year’s forever election could be its last.”

In the *New York Times*, David Brooks writes about his search for a decent society: [How to Create a Society That Prizes Decency](#). “In 2020 Joe Biden ran on the theme of saving the soul of America. Once he was president, he used the power of his office to help direct hundreds of billions of dollars through the infrastructure law and the CHIPS Act to the people and places that had been left behind.”

“These policies were successful in economic terms, sparking a torrent of additional investment and lifting real wages, but American society, at every economic level, is still plagued by enmity, distrust, isolation, willful misunderstanding, ungraciousness and just plain meanness. So how can we create a society in which it is easier to be decent to one another?”

[Kennedy Family Endorses Joe Biden \(video reel\)](#)

More than a dozen members of the Kennedy family [endorsed](#) President [Joe Biden](#) for a second term Thursday, passing over family member Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

"We want to make crystal clear our feeling that the best way forward for America is to re-elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to four more years," Kerry Kennedy said in remarks announcing the endorsement at a campaign event in Philadelphia.

Samuel Breyer, with the Brennan Center for Justice, assesses the approach taken by some justices on the U.S. Supreme Court to Trump’s arguments for immunity from prosecution: [Spinning Hypotheticals, Justices Forget the Grim Facts of Trump’s Alleged Crimes](#).

“Many of the justices seemed uninterested in addressing the facts of Trump’s case. Over the course of the nearly three-hour argument, multiple justices speculated on possible scenarios involving future presidents and the hypothetical prosecutions they could encounter. Mostly absent from their comments were the actual allegations against former President Trump and the very real federal prosecution he currently faces. All this future-tripping made an easy question unnecessarily hard. We know from over two hundred years of history that, under any reasonable reading of the Constitution, Trump can’t be immune from criminal prosecution for trying to deny the democratic vote and upend the peaceful transfer of power.”

Josh Dawsey and Maxine Joselow, in *The Washington Post*, critique [What Trump promised oil CEOs as he asked them to steer \\$1 billion to his campaign](#). Donald Trump has pledged to scrap President Biden’s policies on electric vehicles and wind energy, as well as other initiatives opposed by the fossil fuel industry.

As [Donald Trump](#) sat with some of the country's top oil executives at his Mar-a-Lago Club last month, one executive complained about how they continued to face burdensome environmental regulations. Trump's response stunned several executives in the room: You all are wealthy enough, he said, that you should raise \$1 billion to return me to the White House. He vowed to immediately reverse dozens of [President Biden](#)'s environmental rules and policies and stop new ones from being enacted, according to people with knowledge of the meeting. Giving \$1 billion would be a "deal," Trump said, because of the taxation and regulation they would avoid thanks to him.

In The Guardian, Edward Helmore directs our attention to a Saturday rally speech by Trump: [Trump praises fictional serial killer Hannibal Lecter during rally speech](#). Ex-president calls Hopkins's cannibalistic Lecter 'late, great' while condemning 'people who are being released into our country.' [Donald Trump](#) on Saturday praised the fictional serial killer Hannibal Lecter "as a wonderful man" before segueing into comments disparaging people who have immigrated into the US without permission.

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 Primary Runoff Election May 29, 2024 and 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 Primary Runoff

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Registration Deadline: April 29, 2024 (expired)

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.

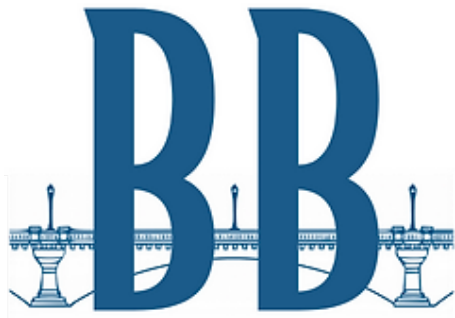
This includes classic and award-winning books that have been a part of school curriculum for decades. Titles like *Brave New World*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation*, *The Color Purple*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird* are being yanked from libraries and banned from schools.

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.jcdcp.org/partners-friends-resources>. Do some searching!

BIDEN
HARRIS



COLIN ALLRED
FOR SENATE
COLINALLRED.COM

SANTOS
LIMON
★ Democrat for Congress ★

UNITE
AMERICA



POWER
THE POLLS
BE A HERO. GET PAID.
Go to powerthepolls.org now to sign up!



VOTE
FORWARD



AMERICAN
CLIMATE CORPS
ESTD 2024



AMERICAN
BRIDGE
21ST CENTURY



**YOUTH SAVE
DEMOCRACY**



THE BORDER
CHRONICLE

If you like our website, please consider a donation to help us keep it going. Just click on the Donate button at our website: www.jdcdp.org or you can click here:



And don't forget to visit our Facebook page:

