April 16, 2019

Hello everyone,

Yesterday was Tax Day and while was not a pleasant day for many us, it is a day to remind ourselves how lucky we are to live in a country where we are free to live productive lives and not be wholly dependent on government. This day should remind us how important elections are to ensuring our freedoms are protected.

We have several local elections across the county coming up which include City Council and School Board. When we change things at the local level it will reverberate up to the national level. So please remember to vote on May 4th for City Council and School Board places. Those folks may very well be the next State or Federal Representatives.

Sincerely,

Dianna Greenwood

Chairman

**STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:**

[**House Bill 1**](https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/86R/billtext/pdf/HB00001I.pdf#navpanes=0) – The Texas Budget Bill

* Appropriates less money than the Comptroller’s projected revenue
* Projected Texas budget growth over two years is 7.3%

[HB 2 – Texas Taxpayer Transparency Act](https://legiscan.com/TX/text/HB2/id/1981835)

* Cities, counties and certain school districts would need voter approval to raise property taxes more than 2.5%
* However, the bill excludes school districts ability to tax which is a big part of our property taxes. A way to fix that is to amend this bill on the floor.

[HB 3 – The Texas Plan](https://www.legiscan.com/TX/bill/HB3/2019)

* Passed out of the House on April 3rd.
* $6 billon on schools and provides $3 billion in property tax relief.
* It is now advanced to the Senate where they have an incomplete School funding bill.

Property Tax:

* Texas is ranked 3rd worst in property tax burdens behind Illinois and New Jersey. This is unacceptable. There will be a Property Tax Relief Rally at the State Capital on April 16th starting at noon.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Monthly Meeting** **April 22nd from 7-9 pm**.  We will be meeting at First National Bank in Smithville.

Our featured speaker is **Christie Williams** a Pro-Life activist. She will be giving a presentation followed by a question and answer session. Light refreshments will be served.

**April 18, 2019 – Bastrop Votes BISD Place 5 Forum**. It will be held at Bastrop City Hall from 6 – 7:30 pm. Come out and hear what your candidates for City Council Have to say.

**INTERESTING ARTICLES:**

[Representative Krause’s Property Tax Bill](https://www.dallasnews.com/news/watchdog/2019/04/04/smart-way-show-texans-property-tax-system-honest-transparent)

[Controversial Religious Freedom Senate Bill](http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2019/04/05/controversial-religious-freedom-bill-passes-texas-senate-faces-backlash-from-lgbtq)

[House Democrats Open Office In Texas](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/house-democratic-campaign-arm-to-open-texas-office)

[How Primary Polls Predict Elections](https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/what-more-than-40-years-of-early-primary-polls-tell-us-about-2020-part-2/)

**Miscellaneous Items**

**Congressman Michael Cloud** has created a coffee club for those interested in participating in his campaign and hearing what the Congressman has been up to. For more information [click here](https://www.facebook.com/events/2851899811701709/).

\*\*\*We have BCRP Shirts with our logo on it for a $25.00 dollar donation.

The *Bastrop County Young Republicans* currently have a food drive going on and have collected approximately 100 bags of food for the Bastrop County Food Bank as well as food for our animal shelter. If you’re interested in donating food please contact them at bcyr1234@gmail.com

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION INFORMATION**

**May 4, 2019 Municipal Elections -** Some important dates to remember:

1. *Monday, April 22, 2019* - First Day of Early Voting By Personal Appearance
2. *Tuesday, April 23, 2019* - Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)
3. *Tuesday, April 30, 2019* - Last Day of Early Voting By Personal Appearance
4. *Saturday, May 4, 2019* (election day) at 7:00 p.m. - Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

We need volunteers for our Boots and Barbecue Fundraiser on September 7th. We will also need volunteers for our office. The more volunteers we have the more days we can be open.

If you’re interested, please contact us at bastropctyrepublicans@gmail.com.

FOUNDER’S QUOTE:

“Government is instituted for the good of the community and not to gratify avarice or ambition; therefore, unnecessary increase of debt… are abuses in government.” Edmund Pendleton *The Danger not Over (1801) Printed by the Richmond Examiner October 20, 1801*